Patterson Letters & Tax Stamps

Personal papers retained by John Patterson until his death

- Transcriptions of the 4 letters and a scanned sample of each original
- Scanned samples of tax stamp and employment records, with transcriptions of details (p.8)

1. Envelope:

No post mark

Addressed to:

Pt J Pattersons No 3 Comp A.S.C. 1st Australian Divisional Train France

1. Letter:



Notes written at right angles over start of letter: 2 views



This has nothing to do with the butter factory or S House. We hear a fresh wouldn't be allowed to continue ..illing there

Apl 7th 18

My dear Jack

Had rather been hoping to get a line but can't worry at not doing so in these busy and sad times but should be glad to know you are all right but it's an anxious(??) time for

Well now I have some news and we hope you will be pleased to hear it. That is that we have sold up house & business with the little garden across & the two buildings attached (which you may have noticed have got very dilapidated) for £1000 to & D Enslow (??) that is Hiram Bakers nephew for knew him in the Market house.

He married Katie Giles & lived at Marmsbury as his uncle did, Well we knew for some time that he would like to get here.

So Father offered it to him after H Dunkings refused, at least he said much as he should like the house which of course comes within his own property he couldn't see his way to make the at our valuation & he was quite willing for us to try and sell to D Enslow (??) who as he said it was worth more to & he wanted to buy not rent so there it is. We feel it a pretty fair price indeed especially in these times when no other butcher would of taking on.

You see it has been so dreadfully worrying since Xmas & now the rationing starting this week. We felt we absolutely could not carry it through but father didn't at all like the idea for a long time but now it's done I think he feels very glad, DEnslow (??) takes on to the shop tomorrow the 9th & will take on our cards and their owners.

You would never believe all the writing it has meant introducing every man, woman and childs name and full address used to filling up the cards. Harry Clark very kindly helped do 3 long sessions and all Good Friday afternoon, then we thought we should have to hold on as D only decided end of last week of course we shouldn't put up the shutters and then try to let or sell because boys would be gone anyhow.

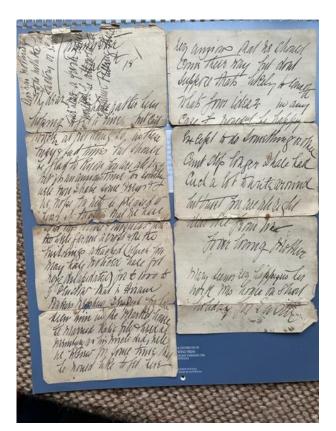
I am very thankful he will the shop but.. I rather hoped for the time F will milk the second cow if he can & he will be busy with his allotment also the Bristol people have been very anxious that we should come their way but don't suppose that's likely to come off.

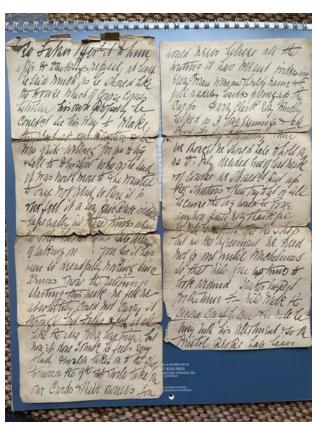
What's your idea? In any case F wouldn't be happy except to do something or other. Can't stop longer I have had such a lot to write around but trust you are alright dear love

From me, your loving Mother.

Mary seems very happy in her work was home on short holiday for Easter

Page 1 page 4 page 2 page 3





2. Envelope:

Post mark:

Original stamp and postmark - removed
One other postmark: 15Au33 Sth Australia

Addressed to:

J A G Patterson c/o R V Hannaford

Hallett South Australia Try c/o Bon Accord Hotel Aberdeen

SA

2. Letter:

Axminster May 18th 1929

I was very glad to get a.....

......last week it was such a......

I could not write not.......

......to write, I wish you had a

......something...

....time now you are letting your best days slip along

I can't help think.....a chance for you (if you try)

Approx 1/3 of first page missing, damaged

as well as others I saw on a paper there are over a million unemployed in England.

One half are those who don't want to work but live on the Dole (let others keep them, loaf and grumble, it seems to be spreading over the world laziness and strikes.

Suppose by now you are looking for Winter and we for Summer. I can assure you Old England just now is looking beautiful Flowers Grass and Trees and Birds.

I still keep on the field and go out most days but am afraid it will not be very profitable this year. Cattle are so dear my 11/2 year old steers cost £16 each last March. I could have had 5/- (shillings) each profit when I bought them I am afraid against I have them fat theh cost will not leave much for rent but if it gives me an interest in something. I can't do much only walk out there so don't know if I shall go up to Loudon (?) this year. Home seems to suit me best.

I think Norman and family are going in Cornwall this summer for their holiday. They have had a big disappointment. Their house which they built at Coulsdon was badly built rotten....quite a sell. Norman has not been too well for some time. The girls are grown. Gwen the eldest is as tall as Lucy. Billy still holds his job at Glenvills.

Old Charl is having a hard struggle to make ends meet at Herve Bay. He works and struggles with no holiday for five years and can't make any headway. Their two children both have scholarships and nice children and his wife does her

best. The fact is trade is quiet all over England. Money tight to get. There is such a lot spent in frivolities tradesmen suffer.

Bob is still at Cape Town I don't think doing anything his Father keep them (two Children).

Marion and Victor.....very well just holding their own......has not been good these past few years. Their little boy is a sturdy lad able to walk to Axminster (not on his own).

I don't think I can write you much more. Kate and family are living at Sydenham. He is doing some House Agency business just living from hand to mouth. I am afraid lost their chance.

Now goodbye God bless you.

Love from Father

PS Old Mr McPaul buried today 85.

Aunt keep well about much alive as ever. I think very contented her lot. Come to me every other Sunday. Dinner and Tea. Lives in a cottage in South Street.

3. Envelope:

Addressed to:

J.A.G. Patterson C/o Patterson Esq Pysent St Horsham Victoria

c/o Hon Sec Returned Soldiers Mortlake

3 Post marks:

Croydon Surrey 1 Sep1935 (England) Horsham 7 Oc 35 Murtoa 14 Au 36

3. Letter

Australia

Gu silve weddig this years do go remember to the spiner.

The Spiner, Shirley Church Road, The Spiner, Shirley Church Road, Addington, Nr. Croydon.

They dear Jack to the above made a move to the above address & I hope this will be the address & I hope this will be the Suppose whe home retires while suppose whe home retires while suppose whe home retires while all to Offord the Spinning as at a least to go the food the Spinning as at a fairly big & has 12 and to grand that to you that is rotting in this tradical to you that is rotting in this tradical to you that is rotting in this fair but as the form places go it is fair but as the form places go it is fair but as the about I miles from tray do I have Sepairoels rightingales to place the sources all on our our Speat

Our silver wedding this year. Do you remember Father's & Mother's I do dear old souls they were pleased that day

Printed letterhead address -occurs on each page

The Spinney
Shirley Church Rd
Addington
Nr Croydon
(year uncertain) June 10

My dear Jack

As you will see we have made a move to the above address and I hope this will be the last one for some time at least. I suppose when Norm retires which he is due to do we shall not be able to afford the Spinney as it is fairly big and has 1½ acres of ground. To you that is nothing in Australia but as the home places go it is fair. We like it very much & are quite rural about 3-4 miles from Croydon and have squirrels, nightingales and blackberries all on our own spot.

I am afraid I have been a long while in writing but have been a bit on the sick list and have only just returned from a month at the seaside. None of the four of us ever seemed to be too fit, the girls are just too much like their Father and Mother, nervy. Both of them work quite hard in their different ways and while Betty who is only just 17 & has not left school yet, Gwen was 21 last year and would very much like to earn her own living but it is very difficult to find suitable jobs unless one is terribly clever these days.

Nearly a year ago next month dear old Father passed out and it has been a very unsettling time home here with one and another. As the dear old soul used to say you can't please everybody Luce. Somebody is sure to be put out, so I should leave em alone. If it was not for dear old Fred's hard savings as you will have seen by now Father had nearly come to the end of his & we were beginning to wonder how we could best keep it from him. He had always been so good giving and denying himself to do so too.

I wish you had known him better, there is no-one today anywhere near like him & the older he got he seemed to be more understanding & a great love for us all. He so often talked of you & never a hard or unkind word.

Just as dear Mother would say don't go and be a goose & get rid of the little nest egg before you have got it Jack.

Home here times have been very bad & poor old Bill has had to keep his business going. Charl was gone because he owed it to others who lent him money when he started at Herve Bay. Kate has put most down to provide a home & I have tried to fill up a few gaps for others here & there & I believe you are the only one who has the amount to make good with. So after dear old Fred's hard work and Fathers don't let it slip through your fingers. I know I believe we all love spending & how jolly hard it is to keep any these days, still the rainy day may come.

At last I believe Bill is beginning to get on his feet again & as you may have heard Bob is home with his wife and family & C Harry has fixed them up with a nice home & Bob is in with Bill, Harry's money in it. The old folk were up a few weeks ago & never felt so pleased with Bob in their lives & he has settled down much more of late years. So as you can imagine there is nothing that Harry will not do for Bob & Bill. He feels Bill is a steadying hand on Bob. Jennie has altered beyond words & idolises her two grandchildren & cannot do enough for them all which helps to make it better all round.

I do not think Charl finds many plums about & has been having a very hard time, of course the season is on just now but they have very bad winters there and it is still a very uphill job. He never grumbles & keeps plodding on.

What are you doing with yourself. I suppose a bit of all sorts as you would say, but we don't hear of you settling down to a home of your own & can picture you smiling at the very thought of being tied up, like George but we have heard rumours of him lately. He always was a bit secretive wasn't he & never seems to think his own people worth bothering about silly old chap still we all know him.

I do not seem to have much news so can only keep you up in the family tit bits which isn't much, for we all seem to go our own way now-a-day.

Am hoping to run down to Axminster next month to see how things are. Mary does not keep us up in home news much but there she never was a great writer. It is strange how in such a short time we have so lost touch with our home of 50 or more years standing. I have got the sideboard which used to be in the upstairs drawing room at Victoria Place and the Grandfather clock & that is good to look at sometimes.

Well Jack cheerio for now & I shall look for a letter to know how you are soon.

All the very best with much love Your affec sister Luce

4. Envelope:

Pale blue with RSL emblem in top LHS corner Original stamp & post mark removed Another post mark: Streatham 18 Au36

Addressed to:

Mr J A Patterson c/o Gordon Chirnside Esq Carranballac Skipton

4. Letter

Copy of report of Matron Commonwealth of Australia Darwin Medical Service 5 July 193...

Dear Mr Patterson

Your brother Frederick Patterson was very ill with pneumonia and pleurisy when he was brought to us at 4:00 PM on the 6th of December 1930. He was a wonderful patient and was given all the attention that could be given.

The nurses all liked him. He did not improve at all and died very suddenly on the 20th of January 1931 at 4:00 PM. The sister on duty was with him. He did not speak. He collapsed and died in less than 5 minutes. He told us that he had had a turn of hard luck.

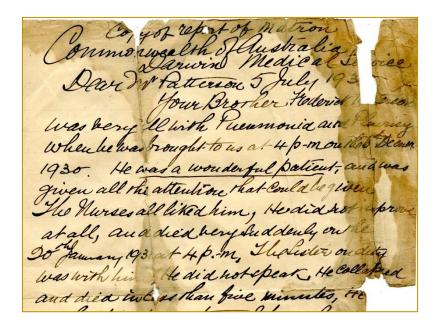
I had a letter from a Mip Turnour some time ago wanting to know all particulars as they had been corresponding with one another for years.

Mr Patterson had no friends here that I know of. He gave your name and address as his nearest relative when asked for a telephone address of a friend or relative near by.

Yours faithfully,

J Ashbourne

(Matron)



Tax stamps

Jack Patterson had kept some 'Tax Deduction and Wages Records' dating from the 1940s amongst his few personal items.



Sheet 1 Financial Year ended 30 June 1945

Employer: Edward Walford Manifold

Address: Mondilibi, Mortlake

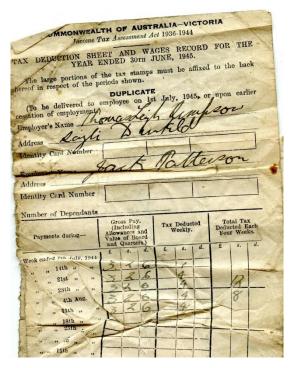
Employee: John Patterson

Address: Hamilton

2 weeks worked in April @ £4/-/3^d per week. Total tax deducted is 8/6 per week (total 16/12^d). 2 stamps 12/- and 5/- (total 17/-) appear on the reverse.

Sheet 2 shows **Jack** Patterson worked for Thomas Leigh Simpson of Sazli, Dunkeld. 5 weeks July- August, 4 weeks Dec – January. He earned £3/2/6^d with 4/- deducted for tax.





<- reverse of sheet 2 - this record contains a number of stamps signed by T Leigh Simpson.

Sheet 3 - a separate remnant of tax stamps signed and dated April & May 1942.