

RW290: Clarence James 'Jim' Daley Collection

Charles Sturt University Regional Archives

Summer Scholarship Report

2010-2011

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Introduction

Clarence James 'Jim' Daley deposited 24 boxes and 31 items to the Charles Sturt University Regional Archives (CSURA) on May 5, 1983. The deposit, RW290, comprised diaries, financial records, stud sheep classing and mating reports, correspondence, subject files, publications, sheep sale catalogues and posters, photographs, maps, a pair of leather leggings and sheep ear tags. The records and items were the accumulation of Jims working life, beginning when he was appointed Junior Sheep and Wool Officer by the NSW Department of Agriculture in 1926 and continuing on throughout his 'retirement' when he established himself as a Stock & Station Agent in 1952. This accession was listed without arrangement according to series and was available in hard copy only.

On March 4, 2003, at the age of 99, Jim made a second deposit to CSURA. This deposit, RW2191, comprised 10 boxes and 1 large framed photograph. The items in this second deposit ranged from 1950 to 1999. The types of records and items deposited in this accession complemented the earlier accession but had not been listed.

Administrative History

Clarence James 'Jim' Daley was born in Forbes on October 7, 1903. He attended Cowra and Auburn Public Schools, and Parramatta High School followed by two years studying at Wagga Experimental farm. In 1923, Jim was accepted into the Trangie Experimental Farm as a special Sheep & Wool student then qualified in Sheep & Wool at Sydney Technical College the following year. Over the next two years Jim worked in shearing sheds as a wool classer.

Jim's career with the NSW Department of Agriculture began in June 1926 when he was appointed Junior Assistant Sheep & Wool Officer, stationed at Temora Experimental Farm. His duties included overseeing sheep trials and the Border Leicester stud flock. During the next two years, stationed at Trangie and Yanco Experimental Farms, Jim trained as a lecturer in sheep and wool practices. In December 1928 Jim and the Yanco Dorset Horn stud flock and lamb trials were transferred to the Wagga Experimental Farm where he continued his work with prime lamb development and began competitively showing livestock.

During World War II, Jim was seconded to Rural Manpower (NSW) to organise labour resources for the wool and meat industries, including shearing and slaughtering, under Wartime Emergency Regulations. After the War he was appointed to an inter-departmental committee which investigated the feasibility of decentralising the slaughtering industry in NSW. Recommendations

that slaughter houses operated by local government authorities be located in Wagga, Goulburn, Dubbo and Gunnedah were made to the Federal and State Authorities. As Abattoir Officer, Jim was instrumental in the construction and establishment of abattoirs at Goulburn and Wagga and the commencement of construction at Dubbo and Gunnedah before his retirement on December 7, 1951, after the Wagga abattoir official opening.

Jim retired from the NSW Department of Agriculture after 25 years of service, to set himself up in private business as an auctioneer, stock & station agent, specialising in sheep classing according to breed standards and stud stock sales. In this private capacity he expanded his repertoire of breed specialities to include Merino and provided services beyond the Riverina.

In conjunction with the Australian Society of Breeders of British Sheep, Jim introduced annual spring auction sales of classed, purebred flock rams and was instrumental in popularising 'ring selling' which became a prominent feature of his career. His services expanded to include travelling to New Zealand in the late 1950s and Tasmania in the early 1960s to purchase stud rams for his local clients.

Handling and close inspection of many hundreds of sheep each year prompted Jim to develop the Daley Sheep Classing Race which he patented in June 1956. Eventually manufacturing costs became prohibitive and Jim allowed the patent to lapse in June 1971.

He regularly contributed to industry publications and local newspapers, including *The Daily Advertiser*, *Country Life* and *Pastoral Review*, voicing his opinions on the need for breed development, diversity, prime lamb production and pasture improvement. He was instrumental in the development of the dual purpose Bond/Commercial Corriedale, Poll Dorset and South Suffolk breeds.

Jim was actively involved in the Wagga Wagga Apex Club, the Riverina Branch of the Australian Society of Animal Production and the Wagga Wagga College of Technical and Further Education Committee along with numerous sheep breed societies and pastoral & agricultural associations.

Renowned in Australia and New Zealand as a sheep and wool instructor, judge, classer and buyer of Australasian and British sheep breeds, Jim judged many sheep classes at major shows including Sydney, Melbourne and Albury. He was instrumental in developing the sheep and wool industry of NSW, particularly the Riverina and Wagga district, to meet the changing market demands throughout his lifetime which ended on May 2, 2007, at the age of 103.

Arrangement & Description

As the earlier accession, RW290, had already been listed but not entered into the database, it was decided that the two accessions could be amalgamated and the data entered into the database as one collection. This meant updating the accession description for RW2191 so that it could be amalgamated with RW290 and updating the RW290 description to include items from RW2191.

I assumed that I could use the RW290 list, which had not been arranged by series, to determine series and 'slot in' the items from the later accession, RW2191. Working on this theory, I began by browsing the 10 RW2191 boxes to get an idea of their contents and then spent some time working through the RW290 item list. Within the first few days it became quite apparent that these records held significant information about the development of many sheep breeds, several breed societies and related associations, sheep, wool and fat lamb production and marketing, and sheep shows and sales. From the information on the RW290 list and what I had discovered in the RW2191 boxes I was able to compile a list of possible series titles to work with. The next task was to begin the piling system to determine the appropriateness of my draft series titles.



Piling on shelves according to proposed series with the 'too hard' piles left on the tables.

Initially determining a list of series titles seemed relatively straight forward. *Financial* and *Personal Files* were readily identified as were *Classing & Mating Reports*, most of which were in RW290 and had already been listed. It then seemed obvious to divide the remaining items according the functions of *Breed Development; Production, Export & Marketing; and Sales*. On closer inspection it became apparent that Jim had begun his Stock & Station Agent filing system according to sheep breed and that the development of individual breeds was a very important aspect of his life's work. For this reason I felt it was important to arrange the records by breed as well as by function. When previously compiling finding aids I have been able to use subseries and thought this would have been ideal for this collection, however the CSURA database doesn't readily support subseries to the extent that I am used to so I opted for a large number of series so that the breed development records could be arranged by sheep breed. Determining series was a complex and ongoing process, sometimes being amended several times a day. Eventually a list was decided upon and the process of listing and numbering began, however this was not straight forward.

The diaries represented a significant portion of the collection, with 65 volumes dating from 1936 – 1999, filling 2 type 1 boxes, which resulted in them being arranged into a series of their own; *Appointment Diaries*. As this was to be the first series and I knew I wouldn't find any more diaries I began entering the data, applying item numbers and packing the diaries into boxes before continuing with the rest of the collection. This gave me an opportunity to spend some time working with the database while entering straightforward data. This was the easiest series to process.

Next came the *Financial Management* records, most of which were from the earlier accession and had already been grouped together in the RW290 list – or so I thought. I eventually found that many of the files entered in the RW290 list as 'Classing & Mating' were invoices for classing & mating – financial records – rather than classing & mating reports to be listed in the series *Classing & Mating Reports*.

It was very difficult to include a series for *Personal Files* as the few personal records, including a driver's licence renewal, an aerogram letter from his daughter in Israel, a letter from his son's dentist and quotes for modernising his home in Johnston Street, were all found in administrative files. This led to the creation of the series *Personal & Administrative Papers*.

A few files throughout the RW290 list contained article contributions, although their item titles didn't really indicate this. A couple of similar files were found in the RW2191 accession. As the

articles referred to a very wide range of subjects, it was too difficult to arrange them into the existing functional series so the series *Article Contributions and Addresses* was created.

When determining subject terms in the item descriptions I endeavoured to include property/stud names and sheep breeds wherever possible to facilitate comprehensive retrieval. I also attempted to keep subject descriptors consistent, using combinations of terms such as 'beef', 'development', 'experimental', 'export', 'lamb', 'livestock', 'marketing', 'production', 'statistics', 'survey' or 'wool' as appropriate. Format descriptions included brochure, catalogue, leaflet, map, pamphlet, photograph, poster, prospectus and volume.

Arranging the catalogues by breed became difficult as most included multiple breeds. For this reason the catalogues were arranged as one series, *Sheep Sales, Shows, Fairs & Field Days*. The catalogues were grouped together according to event, with the Annual Albury Sheep Show and Fair catalogues being listed first as the most prominent and comprehensive item containing 30 catalogues spanning 40 years. Eventually the catalogues were ordered alphabetically by location for multi-breed events, then alphabetically by breed for single breed events. Arranging the entire collection of catalogues chronologically would have meant separating runs of catalogues for annual events.



Just a few of the 31 Albury Annual Stud Sheep Sale catalogues, which are not the same item as the 30 Albury Annual Sheep Show & Fair catalogues.

Gathering together all the catalogues for each event took several days as many of the catalogue covers and titles changed over the years. For consistency, I titled the items with the location first, town or stud, followed by the sheep breed and type of event. Entering the catalogue titles as they appeared on the covers would not give this level of consistency and the wording on many catalogues changed over the years.



A sample of the range of catalogue covers and titles for Dorset Horn sales.

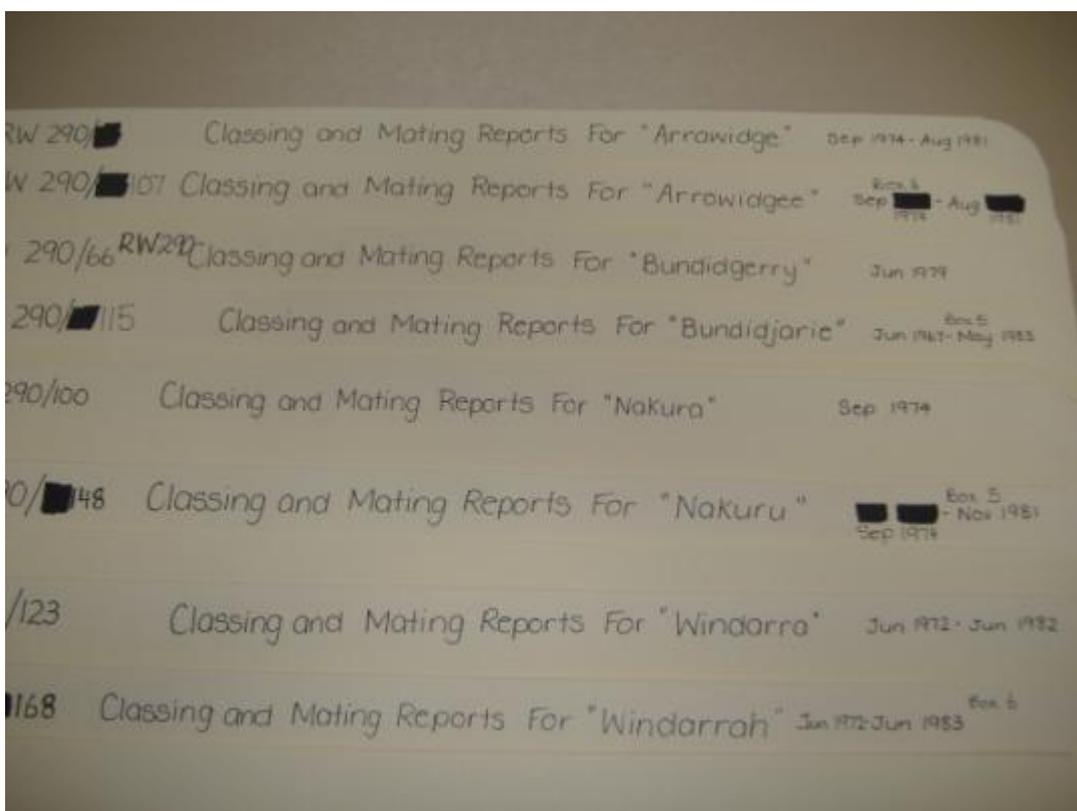
Difficulties Encountered

Many difficulties, including series arrangement, determining dates, resolving spelling anomalies and identifying photographs were encountered while processing the collection. Some of these difficulties were resolved satisfactorily while others had to be left unresolved. Either way, these difficulties provided learning opportunities even though they were time consuming and often frustrating.

Spelling variations, particularly of property or stud names caused some confusion. The RW290 list included over 80 *Classing & Mating* files for properties or studs such as 'Windarra' & 'Windarrah'.

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The RW2191 accession included an additional 20 or so *Classing & Mating* files, some of which appeared to be spelling variations of existing files. Using appointment diaries, classing & mating notebooks and invoices I was able to determine if similarly spelt property/stud names were in fact different studs or simply spelling errors. Research confirmed that all but one pair of names which at first appeared too similar to be mere coincidence were in fact spelling or typing errors. Confirming the correct spelling of stud names and consistently using one spelling will make keyword searching by stud/property name more accurate and reduced the total number of *Classing & Mating* files to 73 along with 6 notebooks.



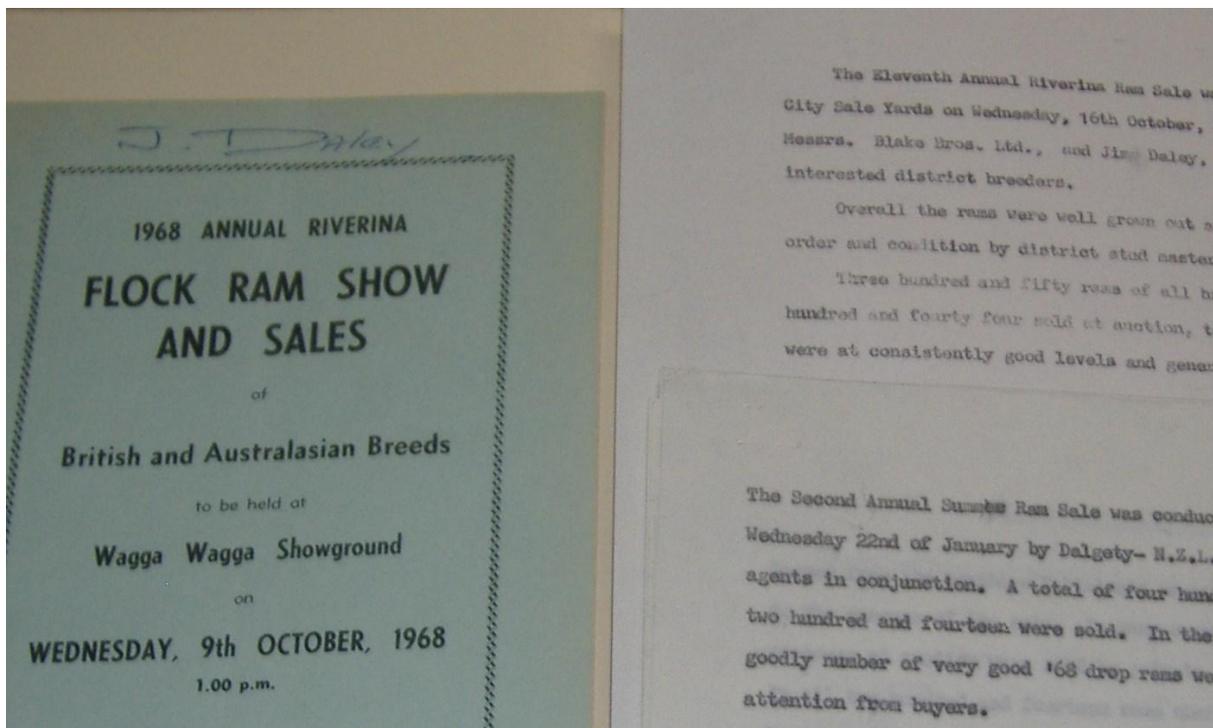
Spelling variations and typing errors caused confusion.

Processing took longer than originally anticipated as a few of the file titles were misleading due to Jim's habit of reusing folders and occasionally forgetting to change the file title. Four files previously listed in RW290 as *Miscellaneous Files* were found to be from Jim's days as the NSW Department of Agriculture Sheep & Wool Officer. These were arranged into a separate series, *Department of Agriculture Officer – June 1926 – Dec 1951*. Having these files listed in the collection provides a more complete view of Jim's entire career.

When listing flock books such as those of the Australian Society of Breeders of British Sheep (ASBBS), I had hoped to be able to record the volumes as one item with volume numbers listed, but the

volumes took up the space of 3 boxes and the database wouldn't allow for multiple box numbers to be entered for one item so each box of volumes was treated as an item. This meant that the 29 volumes could be listed as 3 items rather than 29. Initially I had thought to tie booklets such as sale catalogues together with white cotton tape and list as one item. It soon became apparent that bundles would be more space expensive when boxing and difficult to remove from boxes unless the bundles were wrapped in archival paper. For these reasons I decided to number each individual booklet with the same item number and pack them into boxes in volume order. This way the volumes are packed next to each other but listed with a single number, making the list shorter without reducing the quantity or quality of information available on the database.

Determining date ranges can be quite tricky when the year hasn't been included on documents. For example, the 1968 Annual Riverina Flock Ram Show and Sales held on October 9, 1968 is not the same event as the Eleventh Annual Riverina Ram Sale held on Wednesday October 16 (report written by J Daley). The former was held at the Wagga Wagga Showground while the latter was held at the Wagga City Sale Yards. Using a perpetual calendar I was able to determine that the latter was in fact held in the same year, 1968. This method is only useful if you have a possible date range of less than 6 years.



The year on the sale catalogue was matched to the date on the typed report using a perpetual calendar.

Identifying photographs was very difficult especially when the item itself did not reveal any usable information. Some photographs had photographer or publication stamps on the back which could assist with identification. Some photographs were located in newspapers while others depicted prominent local personalities and could be identified, or at least partially identified. Other photographs did not reveal any clues and had to be left unidentified.

Preservation

Basic preservation is an important task undertaken during processing to retard the rate of deterioration. This collection included numerous metal fasteners and large quantities of newsprint. As newsprint degrades so quickly, it is normal practice to photocopy them onto archival paper for preservation. Due to the prolific nature of Jim's news clipping habits, preservation of items would have been too resource expensive. For this reason, only articles by or about Jim Daley were copied. This still took quite some time; however I did become quite proficient with the photocopier having to resize many of the large news print pages.

Adhesive tapes, which cause discolouration and deterioration, were moved wherever possible. Often adhesive vinyl tape had been used to bind loose leaf pages together. This was removed wherever possible, without causing further damage. The residue was then prevented from sticking to other documents by covering with a folded sheet of archival paper.

Photographs were stored in acid free photo sleeves and albums. The large paper items such as maps and sale posters were encapsulated with mylar, apart from 4 canvas backed, rolled maps which were too fragile to be handled and flattened. These remain rolled and are stored in the rolled map area. Encapsulating the 28 items provided some opportunities to experiment with different methods; the results largely depended on the size and condition of the item. Mylar adhesive tape is very strong and must never come into contact with the paper item as removal will cause damage to the item.



Encapsulating posters in mylar.



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The common practice of metal removal included replacing folders containing metal clips with new folders and removing metal fasteners. Not every staple from RW290 had been removed so it was necessary to check these items thoroughly as well as the items in RW2191. The Daley Sheep Classing Race patent certificate is fastened with metal eyelets tied with green ribbon which is held down with red seal. The metal eyelets were left in place as removing them would have meant cutting the ribbon or breaking the seal, ruining the aesthetics of the item. The metal eyelets are not displaying any visual signs of rust at this time.



Patent certificate.

The task of removing staples from the 460 odd catalogues took many days and was rather hard on my fingers. Some staples could not be removed as they were covered with securely fixed adhesive tape. Others were difficult to straighten and the catalogues were thick enough to require segments to be removed from the staple before the staple could be removed, rather than simply pulling the staple from the pages. Some of the catalogues had folded covers enclosing the inner pages, however others had individual sheets for the front and back covers. In these cases a sheet of archival paper was folded to enclose the loose pages and keep the catalogue together once staples had been removed.



Removing staples from the Albury Sheep Show & Fair catalogues.

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Other objects in the collection included leather leggings (shearer's leg guards), metal ear tags, a large framed photograph and fabric pendants. The leggings were stored in a type 1 box along with the metal ear tags which were enclosed in their original boxes or plastic bags. The framed photograph was placed inside an oversized box with other items including the pendants which were wrapped separately in tissue paper first.

At The Archives Article

From what I learnt about Jim's lifetime dedicated to the sheep and wool industry, I was able to compile an article for CSURA which was published in *Riverina Weekender* section of *The Daily Advertiser* on January 15, 2011. As little of Jim's personal life could be determined from the collection, other sources such as obituaries and news articles were consulted.

Conclusion

Processing this collection proved a challenging and rewarding experience. Many of the difficulties of determining arrangement and description of private collections (as opposed to government records) were encountered. The collection included a good range of materials which I had not had the opportunity to work with before. Had I not been restricted by time constraints I could well still be improving the series arrangements. Often meeting the ideals of archival theory was impractical or unobtainable due to time or financial constraints. These are issues that archivists face every day and can only be learned through practical experience.

Apart from documenting the working life of Clarence James 'Jim' Daley, this collection would provide useful information for those researching sheep breed development in Australia and especially the development of Australasian breeds such as the Bond/Commercial Corriedale, Coopworth or Poll Dorset. Researchers seeking information on agricultural production in the Riverina and Wagga Wagga district, fat lamb production, experimental breeding or dual purpose breed development, genetics, abattoir development, sheep stud histories, importing sheep from New Zealand, or agricultural production during WW II would find this collection useful.

Statistics

The combined accessions of RW290 & RW2191, the CJ 'Jim' Daley Collection is comprised of:

- 27 Type 1 boxes containing 65 diaries, 73 Classing & Mating files and over 460 catalogues
- 1 Oversize box containing a framed photograph, 2 pendants and large newsprint publications

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- 1 Photo album (part of) containing 64 photographs
- 1 VHS video
- 4 Rolled maps
- 1 Map draw (part of) containing 28 items including posters, plans and parish maps.