

MN 0071  
Acc 7273A

**DURACK FAMILY (Papers of Mary Durack Miller)**

Michael Patrick Durack, (1865-1950), and John Wallace Durack, (1867-1936), were sons of Patrick Durack and his wife Mary, nee Costello. After their family's 1882-83 overland expedition from Queensland to the Kimberley, they were sent to Argyle Downs station in 1886, arriving just in time for the Halls Creek goldrush.

The Durack family were leaders in the Kimberley beef industry from the 1890's, opening up new markets for beef both locally and overseas. In 1897 they merged with their shipping agents to form the firm of Connor, Doherty and Durack Ltd. Over the next fifty years, this firm was the major influence in the Kimberley pastoral industry, controlling properties totalling nearly 6000 square miles on the Western Australian-Northern Territory border, and largely dominating the Wyndham export trade.

From 1917 - 1924 M.P. Durack was a member of State Parliament, firstly as a Nationalist, then a Country Party member of the Legislative Assembly for Kimberley. In 1909 he married Bessie Johnstone (1883 - 1980). Their four sons and two daughters included Kimberley Michael (1917-68), a notable pioneer of agriculture in the Kimberley, Dame Mary Durack Miller (1913-1994), a distinguished author and historian, and Elizabeth Durack Clancy (b.1915 - ), a noted painter.

J.W.Durack assisted in establishing Argyle Station and was business manager in Wyndham and later manager of his company's interests in Kalgoorlie and Perth. He never married.

**The Papers**

The papers were purchased by the State Library of Western Australia from Patsy Millett in 2008 (Acc 7273A)

The index below is a broad guide to the collection.

The collection is in the process of being made available to researchers. Ms. Millett has created in-depth indexes for all files in the collection and these will added to this page as checking and processing is completed.

To access items in the collection, quote the accession number (e.g. ABAG/1), and brief subject description.

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