

# Guide to the Brocklehurst Family Papers

MS 1569



compiled by Nicole Becks

November 2000

Yale University Library  
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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Series I: Kameelfontein and Vergelegen Estates, 1871-1943 .....	5
Series II: Transvaal Land Owners' Association, 1905-1945 .....	7
Selected Search Terms .....	9

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
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(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1569

**CREATOR:** Brocklehurst family

**TITLE:** Brocklehurst family papers

**DATES:** 1871-1945

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2.5 linear feet

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The papers consist of correspondence, estate papers, maps and other materials which document the purchase and management of the Vergelegen estate near the Lydenburg goldfields, Northern Transvaal, by the Brocklehurst family. Charles Brocklehurst had purchased Vergelegen in 1882, amidst rumors of gold and silver discoveries. The papers provide evidence of "gold fever" in the Transvaal, as well as, surveying practices, land transactions, and estate management in the Transvaal in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Papers documenting the activities of the Transvaal Land Owners' Association, of which E. H. Brocklehurst was a member, and the acquisition of the Kameelfontein estate in the Nylstroom district of the South African Republic are also included.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1569>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1569>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the African Collection Curator, 1998.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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### Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

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### Preferred Citation

Brocklehurst Family Papers (MS 1569). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Scope and Contents

The Brocklehurst Family papers consist of correspondence, maps and plans, title deeds, and an extensive collection of other estate documents which record the purchase, management and sale of the Kameelfontein and Vergelegen estates by the Brocklehurst family from 1871 to 1945. This comprehensive corpus of material will be relevant to those seeking information and insight into the various aspects of land ownership in the Transvaal during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. From the large collection of letters and estate documents, such as power of attorney papers, title deeds, inspection reports, and land survey papers, to the small selection of maps and plans, newspapers and photographs, the researcher will find detailed information about surveying practices and procedures, land transactions, and estate management in the Transvaal during the span of approximately seventy four years. Furthermore, the papers provide evidence of the vastness of "gold fever" in the Transvaal during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

The large collection of Transvaal Land Owners' Association papers include a variety of business documents that provide further information about the transactions associated with acquiring and managing property in the Transvaal. The papers, which date from 1905 to 1945, include business correspondence, rent statements, memoranda, quarterly reports, and newspaper clippings. These documents not only illustrate the scope of the responsibilities that come with owning estate property, but also communicate the purpose and importance of this type of association during the time.

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## Arrangement

Arranged in two series: I: Kameelfontein and Vergelegen Estates, 1871-1943, n.d. II: Transvaal Land Owners' Association, 1905-1945.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Kameelfontein and Vergelegen Estates, 1871-1943

The series is arranged alphabetically by material type. It is comprised of materials relating to both the Kameelfontein and Vergelegen estates that document their purchase, management and eventual sale. Also included are descriptions of the physical geography of the two estates. Materials in the General folder are arranged chronologically, and include power of attorney documents, miscellaneous letters, land survey papers, inspection reports, and newspaper clippings. Correspondence is divided into two subgroups, Alphabetical and Topical. Alphabetical correspondence is comprised of outgoing letters arranged by the sender's last name. Topical correspondence is arranged alphabetically by subject matter, and contain numerous letters which document specific events and transactions that occurred in relation to the properties. In addition, there is a small collection of maps and plans, copies of the contemporary newspaper, *Staats-Courant*, two original photographs of the Pilgrim's Rest goldfields, and several original and translated title deeds.

b. 1, f. 1-9	General	1882-1943, undated
	Correspondence	
	Alphabetical	
b. 2, f. 10	Brocklehurst, Frank	1896
b. 2, f. 11	Brocklehurst, General J. F.	1890-1900
b. 2, f. 12	Caine, John	1885-1890
b. 2, f. 13	Derby, Lord	1884
b. 2, f. 14-15	Gill, Professor James	1881-1887
b. 2, f. 16	Simpson Schappert	1884-1894
b. 2, f. 17	Townroe, R. T.	1882-1883
b. 2, f. 18	Webster, Captain	1881-1884
	Topical	
b. 2, f. 19	Illovo township plots	1909-1926
b. 2, f. 20	Jane Furse Memorial Hospital	1919-1928
b. 2, f. 21	Mineral assay	1906-1908
b. 2, f. 22	Pasturage agreement	1885-1893
b. 2, f. 23	Payment dispute	1884-1885
b. 2, f. 24	Sale of Vergelegen to local natives	1906
b. 3, f. 25	Maps	1883-1884
b. 3, f. 26-27	Newspapers	1884-1925

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b. 4, f. 28	Photographs	undated
b. 4, f. 29	Title deeds	1871-1882

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**Series II: Transvaal Land Owners' Association, 1905-1945**

The Transvaal Land Owners' Association materials are arranged in chronological order, and record the functions and activities of the association during the time in which E. H. Brocklehurst was a member. Documents in the series include business correspondence, rent statements, newspaper clippings, memoranda, membership renewal notices, quarterly reports, land revenue receipts and association meeting notices.

## Transvaal Land Owners' Association

b. 5, f. 1	1905-1910	1905-1910
b. 5, f. 2	1912-1917	1912-1917
b. 5, f. 3	1918 English	1918
b. 5, f. 4	1919 English	1919
b. 5, f. 5	1920 English	1920
b. 5, f. 6	1921 English	1921
b. 5, f. 7	1922 English	1922
b. 5, f. 8	1923 English	1923
b. 5, f. 9	1924 English	1924
b. 5, f. 10	1925 English	1925
b. 6, f. 11	1926 English	1926
b. 6, f. 12	1927 English	1927
b. 6, f. 13	1928 English	1928
b. 6, f. 14	1929 English	1929
b. 6, f. 15	1930 English	1930
b. 6, f. 16	1931 English	1931
b. 6, f. 17	1932 English	1932

## Transvaal Land Owners' Association (continued)

b. 7, f. 18	1933 English	1933
b. 7, f. 19	1934 English	1934
b. 7, f. 20	1935 English	1935
b. 7, f. 21	1936 English	1936
b. 7, f. 22	1937 English	1937
b. 7, f. 23	1938 English	1938
b. 7, f. 24	1939 English	1939
b. 7, f. 25	1940 English	1940
b. 7, f. 26	1941 English	1941
b. 7, f. 27	1942 English	1942
b. 7, f. 28	1943-1944	1943-1944
b. 7, f. 29	1945 English	1945



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Geographic Names**

Limpopo (South Africa)

### **Families**

Brocklehurst family

### **Corporate Body**

Vergelegen Farm (Cape of Good Hope)