
Community voices – transcript – D 4318/2

Carl Messner

Extract of a letter from Rowland Flat dated 31 December 1856, 24 March and 27 April 1857 to his sister Caroline and his brother-in-law in Germany, in which he describes his farm.

... We did not experience any great damages during our sea voyage. Only the food, treatment and comfort was not of the best. Nevertheless we landed here sound and well for which we should thank the Lord and for his goodness and wonder he bestows on mankind.

Our first place of abode in this new land was called Kensington 2½ miles from Adelaide where during the first year I was a shoemaker and my wife went and did washing for English people. She received 2/6 per day.

I however was frequently ailing at my occupation. I therefore left the locality and purchased 20 acres of land. I was however able to keep only 10 acres on account of a shortage of labourers.

This land we sow with wheat and it has provided us yearly with bread and some to sell.

In our garden are 400 vines in bearing, 2 almond trees and 2 fig trees without the other planting of vines, apples, cherries, plums, peaches and such like. Water and sugar melons are a beautiful fruit in this land which everybody enjoys.

Our cattle comprise 4 oxen, 2 cows and there are several young cattle, 2 pigs. This every year approximately comprises the extent of our farming. We have no food worries and every industrious worker if he is not slovenly can make ends meet comfortably...