UQFL348
Zoe O'Leary Collection

Size: 1 box

Contents: Poems, letters, newspaper cuttings, photographs, birth certificates and other research material gathered by Zoe O'Leary in writing the biography of her father Alfred Midgley, and a typed, annotated draft of *The Little Byron: The Life of Alfred Midgley, Queensland Poet, Parliamentarian and Methodist Pioneer.*

Biography: Zoe O'Leary was born in Corinda, Queensland in 1902, the youngest child of Alfred and Sarah Ellen Midgley. Her father Alfred Midgley was one of Queensland’s earliest poets and M.L.A. for Fassifern from 1883 to 1887. Zoe O’Leary wrote three books, *Girl Fridays in Revolt* (with Joan Clarke), *The Little Byron: The Life of Alfred Midgley, Queensland Poet, Parliamentarian and Methodist Pioneer*, and *The Desolate Market: A Biography of Eric Lambert*, as well as many poems, articles and short stories which were published in newspapers and magazines.

Notes: Open access

Box 1

Folder 1
- Alfred Midgley, ‘The Retort’ [poem], 31 Oct 1868, 1 p, handwritten
- Alfred Midgley, ‘The Talking Gum’ [poem], 5 pp, typewritten (2 copies) [Note at top of poem: ‘The old gum tree which stood in Roma Street and was looked upon as one of the landmarks of Brisbane, was at last removed to make way for the electric trams’]
- *Helen Young and Other Verses* (Toowoomba, Qld.: Printed by White and Stephens, 1873) [Damaged copy—the complete book contains 91 p—this copy is missing pp 1-11 and pp 88-91] [‘Helen Young’ was written by Alfred Midgley and this book was the fourth volume of poetry to be published in Queensland]
- Alfred Midgley, ‘A Dream of Earth and Heaven’ [poem], newspaper clipping from *The Weekly Advocate* (3 November 1877), 3 p
- H.A. Kellow, extract on Alfred Midgley from *Queensland Poets* (1930), pp 64-71, photocopy
- Zoe Midgley, ‘The Call to Prayer’ [poem], 1912, 1 p, typewritten with handwritten note
- Alfred Midgley, ‘The Bird of Paradise’ [poem], newspaper clipping, nd, 2 pp
- Alfred Midgley, ‘Observations of an Observatory’ [poem], 3 pp (2 copies), typewritten
- Alfred Midgley, ‘Observations of an Observatory’ [poem], 2 pp, typewritten [shorter version of above]

Folder 2
- Entry for Alfred Midgley from D.B. Waterson’s *Biographical Register of the Queensland Parliament, 1860-1929* (1972) with other information, 7 pp, photocopies
• Extracts from the *Queensland Parliamentary Debates* [covering the period when Alfred Midgley was M.L.A. for Fassifern, 1883-1887, and giving examples of his speeches], 21 pp, photocopies
• Extracts from Charles Bernays’ *Queensland politics during sixty years* (1859-1919), pp 101-103, 128-135, 194-195, photocopies
• An exchange of letters from *The Weekly Advocate* (1877) dealing with controversies in the Methodist Church [two letters by Alfred Midgley], 25 pp, photocopies
• Extracts from William Osborne Lilley’s *Reminiscences of life in Brisbane* (1913), pp 56-57, 64-69, 82-83, photocopies
• Heber A. Longman, ‘The Late Professor S.B.J. Skertchly’, from *The Queensland Naturalist* (April 1926), pp 70-72, photocopies [Skertchly was a personal friend of Alfred Midgley]
• Entry for Sydney Skertchly from *Who’s Who in the Commonwealth of Australia* (1922), 2 pp, photocopies
• Extracts from the *Toowoomba Chronicle* [including letters and speeches by Alfred Midgley], 8 pp, photocopies
• *The Royal Historical Society of Queensland Bulletin* (June 1982)

**Folder 3**
• 8 photographs:
  o Footballers at Sherwood State School, 1897 [including Alfred Midgley’s son William]
  o The Brisbane Observatory, circa 1926
  o 6 pictures of an old Queensland home [possibly the Midgely family home in Corinda?]
• Label: “Forwarded with compliments, John Faulkner” [Letterhead: Australian Labour Party, New South Wales Branch]
• *The Central Methodist Mission, Ipswich: The Family Link*, 18 Nov 1973 (2 copies) [contains a poem by Alfred Midgley]
• ‘History of the Markets in Outline’ [newspaper clipping mentioning that Alfred Midgley was the first Brisbane trader in farm produce], 1 p
• ‘Alfred Midgley: A Queensland Poet’, *The Age*, 20 Jun 1929, pp 13-14
• Alfred Midgley, ‘Observations of an Observatory’, *The Christmas Boomerang*, 2 pp, photocopies
• Obituaries of Alfred Midgley from *The Courier Mail* and *The Brisbane Worker*, Feb 1930
• ‘A Brisbane Poll’, letter to *The Brisbane Worker* from an admirer of Alfred Midgley
• Folder of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates:
  o Certified copy of Alfred Midgley’s birth certificate
  o Certified copy of a marriage certificate for Alfred Midgley’s first marriage to Sarah Elizabeth Vowles
  o Certified copy of a marriage certificate for Alfred Midgley’s second marriage to Sarah Ellen Baron
  o Certified copy of a birth certificate for Alfred Midgley’s daughter, Evangeline Lillian (born 1876)
  o Certified copy of a birth certificate for Alfred Midgley’s son James Airdale (born 1879)
  o Certified copy of a birth certificate for Alfred Midgley’s daughter, Marguerite Victoria (born 1887)
  o Certified copy of a birth certificate for Alfred Midgley’s son, Alfred Norman (born 1890)
- Certified copy of a birth certificate for Alfred Midgley’s daughter, Nellie Florence (born 1891)
- Certified copy of a birth certificate for Alfred Midgley’s daughter, Sara Dorothy (born 1894)
- Certified copy of a birth certificate for Alfred Midgley’s daughter, Zoe (born 1902)
- Certified copy of Alfred Midgley’s death certificate

**Folder 4**
Zoe O’Leary, ‘The Little Byron: A Biography of Alfred Midgley’ [annotated draft], 250 pp, typescript

**Folder 5**
Correspondence, 1971-1982, 115 letters