

# UQFL357

## Brenda Martin Collection

<b>Size</b>	1 box
<b>Contents</b>	Material related to the Gibson family, founders of Gibson & Howes, one of the sugar companies that subsequently formed 'Bundaberg Sugar', and material related to the life and interests of Brenda Gibson Martin, a member of that family.
<b>Date range</b>	1914 to 1997
<b>Biography</b>	Brenda Gibson Martin was born in Brisbane in 1913. She grew up at Hawthorne and was educated at Somerville House, later residing in Moorooka for forty years. Her grandfather William Gibson and his three brothers formed the Bingera Sugar Mill in 1884, which later merged with the adjacent Fairymeade Sugar Mill and Millaquin Sugar Mill to become 'Bundaberg Sugar.' Brenda Martin made a significant contribution to Australia's war effort, was a member of the Australian Broadcasting Commission for 10 years and its Vice-President for 4 years, and was an Associate Member of the Bjelke-Petersen Welfare Committee for 20 years. She was also a member of the National Council of Women for Queensland for 33 years and had a close association with the Fryer Library.
<b>Notes</b>	Open access Some of this material was formerly catalogued at F658, F1209 and F1931, and PIC 290 – PIC 300.

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## Box 1

### Folder 1: Gibson Family

#### [formerly catalogued at F1931]

Copies of entries from the family Bible of the Gibson family, of Gibson & Howes Ltd [sugar company], also farmers in Southeast Queensland, 30 Jun 1959, 2p [2 copies]

'Men of the Soil', biographical sketch of the Gibson family from *The Australian Tropiculturist*, Vol 3, No 3, 20 Mar 1897, 1p, typescript with later note

Two photographs of members of the Gibson family [with accompanying negative] [William Gibson, Snr, Angus Gibson, William Gibson, Jr, James Maxwell Gibson, and John Gibson?], nd

Photocopy of a sketch of Gibson Bros 'Clydesdale Mill' at Hemmant, 1870

Photocopy of a postcard labelled 'Deportation of S.S. Islanders' [note on back: 'Kanakas being sent back to the islands, Burnett River, Bundaberg, S.S. Flinders?'], nd

Copy of a letter from Robert J. Douglas, Under Secretary for Lands, Brisbane re Charles Martin of Lands Dept, Townsville, 8 May 1914, 1p

Copy of *Courier-Mail* obituary of Charles Martin [Brenda Martin's father]

Newspaper cutting: 'Proud of Family Part in History', *The Observer*, 6 Jun 1973, p2 [2 copies]

Photograph of Bingera Mill sugar storage room with four employees, nd [size: 16 x 21 cm]

## **Folder 2: Gibson Family**

### **[formerly catalogued at F658]**

Photograph of Martin Residence, 'Bingera', Virginia Avenue, Hawthorne in the 1920s. Built in Aug 1911 for Charles and Margaret Martin, parents of Miss Brenda Martin. Information obtained from Miss Brenda Martin, 3 Dec 1981. [3 copies plus negative]

Photograph of the steam train engine 'Thistle Engine.' Three engines were produced in Glasgow in 1909 especially for Gibson & Howes, owners of the Bingera sugar mill near Bundaberg. The engines were named The Rose, the Thistle and the Crown. One of these engines has been given to the Redbank Museum. Information from Miss Brenda Martin, 3 Dec 1981. [2 copies plus negative]

'The Late Mr. William Gibson' [copy of obituary], Brisbane 1915, 2p, typescript [Brenda Martin's maternal grandfather]

Brenda Martin, 'Is Share Investment Worthwhile?', speech to Forum Club, 19 Oct 1959, 4p, typescript

## **Folder 3**

Brenda Martin, 'The sugar industry in Queensland', address given at meeting of Victoria League, Brisbane, 13 Nov 1973, 3p, typescript [2 copies] [formerly catalogued at F1209]

## **Folder 4**

Invitations, menus, entrée cards etc, 1968-1981 [formerly catalogued at F658]

## **Folder 5**

Correspondence, greeting cards, 1972-1982 [formerly catalogued at F658]

## **Folder 6**

Company reports from Gibson & Howe, material on the merger with Fairymeade Sugar Company, and other miscellaneous material [formerly catalogued at F658]

## **Folder 7**

Agendas and minutes from the following committees: Lady Mayoress' Social and Welfare Committee, Mrs Jack Pizzey Welfare Committee, Mrs Bjelke-Petersen Welfare Committee, 1968-1981 [formerly catalogued at F658]

## Folder 8

Photograph of Brenda Martin [colour photo damaged on left hand side, notation on the back 'Auntie Brenda, Melbourne Cup Party']

Letter to Brenda Martin from Paul Simons, Chairman of Woolworth's, acknowledging her good wishes on his retirement, 9 Nov 1995, 1p

Brief account by Brenda Martin of a concert in St. John's Cathedral, Oct 1996

Card sent to Brenda Martin from her niece Evelyn Pravaz, 19 Feb 1997

Resume of Brenda Martin, 18 Feb 1997, 3p [2 copies]

Resume of Brenda Martin, 1 Jun 1997, 3p

Brenda Martin's reply to Somerville House's Centenary History Survey, nd, 3p

Questions prepared for the Fryer Library's Oral History talk with Miss Brenda Martin, 6 Jun 1997, 8p

## Folder 9

Photographs:

- Photograph of Brenda Gibson Martin at the age of 16 [size: 9 x 14 cm] **[Former PIC 290]**
- Margaret Martin, Brenda Martin's mother, on her wedding day, 10 Aug 1911 [size: 10 x 15 cm] **[Former PIC 291]**
- Brenda Gibson Martin, taken when bridesmaid to her sister-in-law, Mrs Wallace Martin, 17 Mar 1949 [size: 6 x 20 cm] **[Former PIC 293]**
- 'Gwelda', Virginia Avenue, Hawthorne, Brisbane. Home of Mr. and Mrs. William Gibson [size: 15 x 11 cm] **[Former PIC 294]**
- Mrs William Gibson, on the verandah at the Bingera Home, 'Gwelda', taken circa 1897 [size: 20 x 12 cm] **[Former PIC 295]**
- Old World Dress Pageant, held at the Brisbane City Hall. Left to right: Brenda Martin wearing her mother's wedding gown, Dorothy Martin wearing Mrs Isiah Lahey's wedding gown, Gillian Larcombe wearing Mrs. Stanley Chapman's wedding gown [size: 19 x 14 cm] **[Former PIC 296]**
- Brenda Martin in Girls Brigade, a pageant of all nations, 8 May 1931 [size: 22 x 15 cm] **[Former PIC 297]**
- Sewing sugar bags by hand at Bingera Sugar Mill, Bundaberg, 1902 [size: 20 x 15 cm] **[Former PIC 298]**
- Mr and Mrs William Gibson, taken on their retirement from Bingera Sugar Mill, in 1908 [size: 24 x 19 cm] **[Former PIC 299]**
- Photograph of a house, 1936 [unidentified] **[Former PIC 300]**

**Folder 10**

Oral History interview with Brenda Martin, conducted by Robert Sheehy of Fryer Library, 20 Jun 1997 (1 cassette tape)

Oral History interview with Brenda Martin, conducted by Robert Sheehy of Fryer Library, 12 Sept 1997 (1 cassette tape)

**Folder 11****[formerly catalogued at F1085]**

Gibson & Howes Limited Chairmans' address – sixty eighth Annual General meeting 31 My 1972  
'1884 to 1908 : a memory retrospect of Bingera Plantation covering some 24 years of hard continuous work'. Bingera, 13 Jan 1908. (typescript) 3 p.

'A brief history of Bingera Mill and plantation which is owned and operated by Messrs. Gibson & Howes Limited' by Robert C. Gibson. Bingera 18 Oct 1960 typescript) 6 p

'Memories of Bingera'. Mr Robert Gibson. (typescript) 6 p.

'Brief history of Bingera Mill and Plantation' (unsigned typescript) 1954, 6 p

'Expansion of the Queensland Sugar Industry under the 1950 expansion scheme with particular reference to Bingera' An address to be delivered by Robert C. Gibson on 11 Nov 1955. (typescript) 3 p.

'Late Ms C. Gibson was link with sugar pioneering'. (typescript) 1 p.

Letter from Gibson Brothers to Mssrs H & J Howes 11 Jan 1908 (typescript) 1 p.

Bundaberg Sugar Company Limited Chairman's address 29 May 1973.

**Folder 12**

CV of Brenda Martin, *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry for Angus Gibson, and 1 b&w photograph of Brenda Martin at the Guineas Room luncheon Oct 6 1977 for the Bjelke Petersen Welfare Committee. Photograph shows Howard Ainsworth (compere), Flo Bjelke Petersen (President), Yvonne Herbert, Brenda Martin. Photograph inscribed 'To dearest Brenda, love Shirley, Ted, Mary (Stewart)