

UQFL495

Diane M Perkins Collection

Size	2 boxes
Contents	CDs of interviews, research notes, photographs
Date range	1983 to 2010
Biography	Diane M Perkins received her Masters of Arts from the University of Queensland in 1994. Her thesis was titled <i>Crime in the north-west 1925-1950</i> .
Notes	Unrestricted access

From the donor

These interviews were conducted by Di Perkins as part of her research for a Masters of History thesis at the University of Queensland, 1984. The following notes were provided by Di Perkins in an email to Fryer Library, August 2010:

'Initially my thesis choice was 'Women of the North West 1925-1950' as I was proactive with women's issues in the North-West area and we had four daughters so it was pertinent. During the initial stages of the Masters, we had to prepare a biography of a woman in the area. My choice was Mrs Alexander Kennedy because she was the wife of Alexander Kennedy, explorer, settler, the owner of 'Bushy Park' then 'Devoncourt Station' near Cloncurry. Kennedy's story was written up by Hudson Fysh in *Taming the North*. He was the first paying passenger of Qantas. Looking at this frontier life from Mrs Kennedy's perspective was my objective and Ansett offered me a ticket to Sydney's Mitchell Library to research the collection.

To augment this research, I undertook extensive interviews with local folks, wrote to others of interest. Not only was my interest in Mrs Kennedy but in all other types of women who lived in the North-West, including prostitutes, property-owners, victims of crime, etc. The interview with George Thorpe was especially important in my work on Mrs Kennedy because he was effectively brought up in the Kennedy household and had many good things to say about Mrs Kennedy. Effectively she saved his life as he had been seriously burned in a fire down at the camp. Alexander Kennedy was renowned for his harsh treatment of Aboriginal people, in stark contrast with Ernest Henry who discovered many mines north of Cloncurry. Jack Kennedy, Alexander's son, discovered the rich Duchess Mine south of Mount Isa. The interviews with Granny Topsy Harry and Kookaburra were all to augment the work on Mrs Kennedy. The ambience as I interviewed Granny Topsy with the magpies choralling, the children playing and the dogs gambolling around as we sat on blankets in the winter warmth in Camooweal, was memorable. George Thorpe was a favourite of mine with his throaty laugh, his manners and his honesty.'

The Woman Behind the Man was published by the Mount Isa and District Historical Society, printed by Harrisons of Toowoomba, and launched in 1988. Mrs Custy Brown, Mrs Kennedy's grand-daughter became a special friend of mine and, when the 3000 word assignment on the biography was completed, I conjectured putting the research work together into a book format. This was really exciting and it was essentially a personal mission to finish it before Custy died.

My thesis soon changed direction as I was given the opportunity to peruse court records up to 1950 and Professor Ross Johnston advised me to make capital of this rare opportunity. Thus the thesis topic became 'Crime in the North-West 1925-1950' to capture the essence of the Great Depression and World War II and encompass the broad expanse of country from Normanton to Hughenden, down to Winton and across to the Territory border. My aim was to examine the differences in the social milieu in the mining vis-a-vis the pastoral communities, using a yard-stick of how the "least" people in that society were treated, as to the egalitarian measure of that community. Naturally women came within this parameter, as well as Aboriginal people, the Afghans, the outsiders such as prostitutes etc. It was such a buzz reading the old newspapers on micro-film from Queensland Uni, looking through the rate books in Mount Isa (which were subsequently deemed not important and scandalously taken to the dump), Richmond, Hughenden and Winton. Many of the other interviews were from this era and pertained to crimes discovered. The work from this part of the thesis was published in *Outback Insights* in 1996 and incorporated much of the social research work I had completed on women.'

Box 1

CD no.	Interviewee	Interviewer	Duration	Date
1	Bradshaw, Mrs	Di Perkins	47.07 min	No date
2	Cummins, Norman	Unknown	54.56 min	No date
3	Doyle, Bart	Di Perkins	31.21 min	11 Oct 1984
4	Harry, Topsy	Di Perkins	44.76 min	10 May 1984
5	Levinge, Tom	Di Perkins	58.12 min	No date
6	Mabb, Fred	Di Perkins	31.25 min	29 Jul 1985
7	McConachy, Norma	Di Perkins	43.46 min	30Apr 1986
8	MacNamara, Mrs Holly	Unknown	61.40 min	No date
9	Newman, Mr	Di Perkins	31.26 min	5 Sep 1984
10	Ogilvie, Mrs Queenie	Di Perkins	13.33 min	20 Nov 1983
11	Ogilvie, Queenie	Di Perkins	31.27 min	20 Nov 1985
12	Polkinghorne, Martha; Kyte, Hazel; Roberts, Audry; Edmonds, Nell	Di Perkins	38.13 min	22 Apr 1985
13 – 14	Smith, Norm	Unknown	92.18 min	No date
15 – 16	Thorpe, George	Di Perkins	63.31 min	No date

Box 2

Folder 1

'Teaching from the heart' by Diane Perkins (typescript)

Folder 2

'A miracle of research : footsteps directed ' by Diane Perkins (2pp typescript)

'Accidental research' by Diane Perkins (1 p. typescript)

Folder 3

Arthur Vise's photos Isa (including some thesis/book photos)

Folder 4

Correspondence

Folder 5

Newspaper articles pertinent to thesis work

Folder 6

Positions vacant : *North Queensland Register*

Folder 7

Will records from ecclesiastical files, Archives, pertaining to NW QLD

Folder 8

Court records from NW QLD, 1925-1950

Folder 9

Interviews/conversations NW QLD

Folder 10

NQ Register records pertaining to NW QLD 1925-1950

Folder 11

Extracts from rate books Mt Isa & Cloncurry

Folder 12

Photographs

Folder 13

Photographs (in plastic folder labelled 'End p41- just before "Starting afresh"')

Folder 14

Photographs from Arthur Vise

Folder 15

Photographs from Ben Smith

Folder 16

Photographs from C Fewings[?]