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<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Brisbane Water, Gosford & Kincumber, New South Wales
Church of England parish registers 1838-1856**

This collection of datasets comprises full transcripts of Church of England baptisms, marriage and burials for Brisbane Water, Gosford & Kincumber, New South Wales, for the following years:

Baptisms 1838-1845**Marriages 1838-1856****Burials 1839-1856**

The stated residence and occupations of parents at baptisms and of persons buried in the years 1838-1856 are a useful guide to this early period of settlement in the region:

Residence: Avoca, Bangalore, Blue Gum Flat, Booker's Farm near the Heads, Brisbane Water, Broadwater, Cabbage Tree, Cockle Creek, Colcaroan, Cooranbong, Dapto, Doncaster, East Gosford, Emily, Erina, Ettalong, Glenrock, Gosford, Green Point, Hawkesbury River, Hendersons Point, Kincumber, Lake Macquarie, Lisarow, Maiden Brush, Mangrove, Mangrove Creek, Mosquito Town, Narara Cottage, Newport, Point Clare, Reids Mistake, Steam Saw Mill, Teralba, Terrigal, Webbs Reef, Walleroo Park, Waterfall, Wyoming, Wyong, Yambo/Yamboo.

Stated occupation of fathers of children baptised 1838-1856: Boat Builder (2), Brickmaker (1), Bricklayer (1), Butcher (1), Carpenter (8), Clerk to the Police Bench (2), Constable (4), Dairyman (3), Farmer (10), Gentleman (12), Labourer (42), Overseer (1), Police Magistrate (3), Pound Keeper (2), Publican (1), Sailor (3), Sawyer (37), Schoolmaster (1), Servant (1), Settler (56), Shipbuilder (1), Shipwright (2), Shoemaker (1), Stonemason (1), Storekeeper (2), Surgeon (2), Tailor (2), Teacher (4).

Stated occupation of persons buried 1838-1856: Cabinetmaker (1), Clergyman (2), Clerk (5), Clerk of Petty Sessions (1), Farmer (5), Fisherman (1), Labourer

(12), Law Writer (1), Mariner (1), Policeman (1), Sawyer (9), Settler (4), Settler's wife (1), Shipwright (1), Shoemaker (1), Shopman (1), Stock Keeper (1), Tailor (1), Teacher

Background

From the 1820s the Brisbane Water district stretched from and Mangrove Creek and Ettalong/Woy Woy in the south to Cooranbong/Morissett and Swansea in the north. Its first permanent European settler was James Webb, who had arrived as a soldier in the New South Wales Corps in 1790. In 1823 he was granted a temporary right to occupy land at Brisbane Water where by August 1824 he had built a house, enclosed a large garden, grazed cattle and carried on his trade as a boatbuilder. He was granted 100 acres at Blackwall Point where he carried on his trade as a shipbuilder. He died at Webbs Reef (The Rip) in 1848, with his burial recorded at Gosford on the 27th.

A strong impetus to the area's growth was the grant of 1,346 acres at Narara to Frederick Augustus Hely (1794–1836), the colony's Principal Superintendent of Convicts. As a powerful Sydney-based bureaucrat he used the property as a country estate, centred on a farm he named 'Wyoming', from which the suburb derives its name.

From 1825 the area's population slowly increased as smaller grants of land were made and farmers and shipwrights employed a convict workforce. The Brisbane Water estuary provided good water transport links to Sydney and Windsor.

In January 1838 the Rev Edward Rogers and his wife arrived in Sydney from England in the ship Layton. Soon afterwards he was appointed as the first Anglican clergyman to be permanently based in the Brisbane Water District.

Initially settlement was focused on four nodes:

- Around Hely's estate at Narara, and an embryonic village known as West Gosford at the mouth of Narara Creek fronting Brisbane Water. A survey plan for a village called Gosford on the site of the modern Gosford CBD was drafted in 1839.
- At East Gosford near Peek's Point. This was a private township surveyed in 1840 being developed by Sydney merchant Samuel Peek

on his land grant. Boasting three hotels by the late 1840s it had a much larger population than West Gosford.

- At Kincumber (parts of which were later known as Saratoga), where a stone church was begun in 1841 and completed by 1847. Known as St Paul's, it still stands on Avoca Drive, Kincumber. In 1824 Robert Henderson (c1797-1869) settled on a 100 acre grant west of the church site called "Veteran Hall". Born in the colony, Henderson was the son of convicts. The property was evidently named in honour of his father-in-law Patrick Geary, a veteran of the New South Wales Corps who was buried on the property in 1827, aged 63. His headstone can still be seen in Veteran Hall Cemetery, Henderson Road Saratoga.
- At Mangrove Creek where the residents of Mangrove Creek built two small timber chapels at the upper and lower ends of the creek valley. Evidently Rogers visited them by boat rather than taking the rough bush road across a rugged range on horseback.

West and East Gosford each had a wharf and a place of worship and school for Anglicans. From 1841 the private township of East Gosford promoted itself as a tourist destination based on the Victoria (later renamed Queens) Hotel offering accommodation, dining, boating and swimming facilities. West Gosford, connected to Maitland by a rough road catered to local farming and timber industries. In 1842 Edward Hammond Hargraves (famous in the following decade as a gold discoverer) opened a hotel in East Gosford known as the Fox under the hill.

Before the churches were built, the minister conducted services and ceremonies in private homes, schoolrooms, barns or storehouses as he travelled on a regular circuit. The distances involved did not allow services to be held in each place every Sunday.

From 1838 Rogers referred to his parish as the 'District of Brisbane Water'. In the mid-1840s he began keeping separate registers for Gosford and Kincumber. A stone parsonage was built at West Gosford at some point around 1840 or earlier. A story put about that the house had been built as a holiday home for Governor Brisbane in the early 1820s was discounted by later local historians as apocryphal. Rogers lived in this house with his family in the 1840s. An adjacent timber school house was used as a temporary church for services.

East and West Gosford were in effect twin villages less than 1.8km apart and each had a church reserve. Initially East Gosford seems to have benefited from providing a better wharf for steamships. The wealthy merchant Samuel Peek boosted East Gosford, which prospered under his sponsorship.

A stone church at East Gosford was nearing completion when Peek and his entire family died in the wreck of the ship Dunbar near Sydney's South Head as they were returning from England in 1857. Christ Church, East Gosford was completed in 1858 at the corner of Webb and George Streets, Peek's Point.

As East Gosford declined after the death of Peek, West Gosford prospered, especially after its railway station (1887) became an impetus for development. The village came to be known simply as Gosford. In about 1903-1904 the 1858 church at East Gosford, by then derelict, was disassembled and re-erected next to the timber church and school at West Gosford (the stone church was later renamed St Paul's, then St Mary's). The 1858 structure still stands at 3 Mann Street, Gosford.

Rogers served as minister until 1848 and was succeeded by the Rev Arthur Douglass (1848-1849) and the Rev Alfred Glennie (1850-1865).

An Aboriginal Mission

The Anglican baptisms of four Aboriginal people at Reids Mistake (modern Pelican/Swansea) were registered in 1845. They were members of a small Aboriginal community formerly associated with the Aboriginal Mission established there by the Rev Lancelot Edward Threlkeld (1788–1859) established there in 1825 with support from the London Missionary Society.

In about 1831 the mission settlement had been moved to Ebenezer (at Toronto, on the west side of Lake Macquarie). It closed in 1841. Threlkeld was a member of the Congregational religion and none of the Aboriginal residents were baptised, married or buried by an Anglican minister while the mission existed in the period 1825-1841. Threlkeld recorded valuable information about local Aboriginal language and folklore.

"THE ABORIGINAL MISSION." Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate 31 Jul 1912: 9. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article138329267>

"THE PIONEERS." Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer 7 Aug 1931: 8. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article166286390>

"FIRST CHURCH ON LAKE MACQUARIE" Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate 29 Apr 1939: 5. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article134192113>

"MISSIONARIES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN BLACKS, &o." Australian Town and Country Journal 27 Jul 1878: 17. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article70593462>

Niel Gunson, 'Threlkeld, Lancelot Edward (1788–1859)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/threlkeld-lancelot-edward-2734/text3859>
Published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 2 February 2025.
This article was published in hardcopy in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, (Melbourne University Press), 1967

Brisbane Water District in 1829

In 1934 a local historian published two articles describing the area's early settlement history based on a study of archives held in Gosford Court House. They include a 'census' [possibly copies of household returns from the census the previous year] of the local population dated 7 March 1829.

The list identifies 15 landholders in the Brisbane Water District and for 14 of them records number of acres held, cleared and cultivated. Numbers of free and convict employees and numbers of horses and cattle. They employed a total of 47 free men, 42 convicts working 14,850 acres, 281 of them cleared and 205 cultivated, stocked with 7 horses and 916 cattle.

LIST OF HOUSEHOLDERS 7 March 1829 Brisbane Water

Householders	Land acreage held, cleared and cultivated, number of free and convict (bond) employees & stock
John Slade	one free man, two bond;

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	640 acres, two cleared and one cultivated.
Jeremiah Warlters	4 free, 3 bond; 2520 acres, 30 cleared, 30 cultivated; 3 horses and 128 cattle.
James Mullen	1 free, 1 bond; 50 acres, 10 cleared, 10 cultivated; 26 cattle.
Robert Henderson	9 free, 7 bond; 500 acres, 30 cleared, 30 cultivated 115 cattle.
James Webb	3 free; 100 acres, 30 cleared, 20 cultivated; 112 cattle.
William Fitzgerald	2 free, 2 bond; 100 acres, 30 cleared, 25 cultivated 60 cattle.
William Booker	4 free; 300 acres, 6 cleared, 3 cultivated; 9 cattle.
Thomas Humphreys	2 free, 1 bond; 100 acres, 15 cleared, 15 cultivated; 16 cattle.
Henry Holden	6 free, 2 bond; 640 acres, 21 cleared, 5 cultivated; 13 cattle.
John Hill	2 free; 640 acres, 8 cleared, 8 cultivated.
Frederick Augustus Hely	2 free, 12 bond;

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	4060 acres, 40 cleared, 25 cultivated; 186 cattle.
John Lowrie	1 bond; 100 acres, 4 cleared, 3 cultivated.
James Byrne Richards	4 free, 2 bond; 1060 acres, 25 cleared, 5 cultivated; 43 cattle.
Willoughby Bean	7 free, 9 bond; 4020 acres, 30 cleared, 25 cultivated; 4 horses, 208 cattle.
William Cape	[blank entry]

See:

"One Hundred Years Ago" Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 30 Aug 1934: 5.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article166951504>

"Blacks Threaten to Burn Settler" Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 6 Sep 1934: 5. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article166942447>

Notes on the registers

The original Anglican registers for Brisbane Water, Gosford and Kincumber Anglican parish registers covering the years 1838 to 1856 (and beyond) are held by the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. They were microfilmed with support from the National Library of Australia and have in recent years been made publicly available online through the Special Collections section of the Library of the University of Newcastle, New South Wales.

The collection called 'Baptism, Marriage and Burial Registers - Archives of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle' can be viewed online at this location:

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/>

This resource has been used for transcripts of registers for 1838-1856.

Transcription: Paul Gunning 2024

Editing: Michael Flynn and Malcolm Sainty 2024

Clergy Returns

These are copies of the church registers sent by the minister of a parish to Anglican authorities and the end of every year and later transferred to the New South Wales Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Select sources

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages indexes:

www.familyhistory.bdm.nsw.gov.au

State Archives New South Wales, Births, Deaths & Marriages Registers, 1787-1856:

<https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/births-deaths-and-marriages-registers-1787-1856>

Gwen Bates, *The Anglican parish of the Brisbane Water area : pioneer church*, c2010 [not used for this transcript]

Anglican Community Church Kincumber: 'History of St Paul's Anglican Church 1847'

<https://kincumberanglican.com/history-of-the-parish/>

A. F. Pike, 'Hely, Frederick Augustus (1794–1836)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University,

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/hely-frederick-augustus-2177/text2797>

Published first in hardcopy 1966. This article was published in hardcopy in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 1, (Melbourne University Press), 1966.

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Vivienne Parsons, 'Scott, Thomas Alison (1777–1881)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University,

<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/scott-thomas-alison-2644/text3677>

Published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 2 February 2025.

This article was published in hardcopy in Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, (Melbourne University Press), 1967

'Historical Records of the Central Coast of New South Wales: Bench Books & Court Cases:1826-1874.' Collected records of the District of Briaben Water to 1891, Gosford District Local History Study Group. 1990.

https://issuu.com/gosford_council/docs/bench_books___court_cases___1826-187

'Historical Records of the Central Coast of New South Wales: Rev Alfred Glennie Journals 1855-60' Gosford District Local History Study Group. 1987

https://issuu.com/gosford_council/docs/rev_alfred_glennie_journals_1855-60

St. Thomas' Anglican Church - Mangrove Creek

https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:St._Thomas'_-_Mangrove_Creek

Central Coast Family History Society <https://centralcoastfhs.org.au/>

Central Coast Libraries <https://libraries.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au/history/local-history>

Select news items

In the District of Brisbane Water - Mr. Robert Anderson (free), to be Chief Constable.

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser 21 Apr 1825: 1.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2183957>

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SYDNEY GAZETTE.

Sir, As an individual personally interested, I felt much pleasure in the perusal of that paragraph in your last, which is headed "Coast Roads," and alludes to the grand and beautiful scenery of Broken Bay, and its numerous ramifications,

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whence it has, I presume, derived its name. Among the latter, the most beautiful is the North-east arm, latterly known by the name of Brisbane Water (in honour of HIS EXCELLENCY the present GOVERNOR of these Territories,) which, for varied beauty, cannot be excelled; and whether to the guide of the pencil or the plough, will ever repay the trouble of an excursion to its romantic waters. On its immediate shores good land is to be found only in small patches, from sixty to one hundred acres generally, which will make uncommonly desirable farms for what are called "small settlers;" as they are generally well watered, and boats of large carriage have access to their very doors; of this class there are now about four one hundred-acre farms located. But it is at the Northern extremity of these waters that the land becomes really available for large agricultural establishments; and in that direction will be found land of a quality equal to any in New Holland, and superior to most for tillage of every description, consisting of thick brush and forest land, all heavily timbered. The grass land in the vicinity of the lake is indifferent in quality, and insufficient in quantity to support large herds; for sheep it is at present totally unfit.—But, at about fifteen miles further to the North it improves, and will in time become a desirable grazing country. On the whole it may be said, that this part of our Country will be to Sydney hereafter, what Sicily was to Carthage and Rome, the granary whence she will draw her main supplies, for herself, her shipping, and I hope her exports. That the settlers of this district will always be able to undersell their contemporaries in the market you will readily believe, when I state, that a schooner is now lying within one hundred yards of my growing wheat, which is capable of carrying away between two and three thousand bushels of grain, and arriving within eight hours after loading in Sydney Cove, with her cargo. When I visited Brisbane Water first, little more than twelve months ago, I found it in lone and silent beauty; the stillness of which was interrupted but by the scream of the curleu, or the loud laugh of the feathered jackass—there was but one being of my species and colour who had made any thing like a settlement on the shores, and he was merely what our neighbour Jonathan would call a squatter, who had set himself down there as a boat-builder, but to whom the Governor has since, on the recommendation of one or two Gentlemen, awarded a grant of one hundred acres. Now its calm bosom is daily ruffled by the busy oar of the settler, the blue-gum cutter, and the lime-burner each pursuing his own vocation—and as often happens, that opportunities of communication between it and Sydney offer three or four times a week. Since I first visited and explored the shores of this water, numerous individuals have been there, and orders are at this time out, from the proper quarter, for the location of three or four and twenty thousand acres of the same independent of the Missionary settlement at Reid's Mistake. The projected new line of road from Sydney to Newcastle (which it said is to cross the Hawkesbury

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at its lower branch), will bring the traveller within five and twenty miles of this district ;—did it cross the latter at Mangrove-creek (which I have been told was at first intended), it would bring him within twelve or fifteen; when a steam-boat, of forty or fifty horse power, begins to run between Sydney and Windsor, it will set him (if he is a Brisbane Water settler) almost at his own door. I do not despair of yet seeing a strong desire prevail with the wealthy cits, or burghers of Sydney, to obtain sites for summer residences and bathing lodges, on the shores of this beautiful lake, where they would be removed alike from the noise, bustle, dust, and other disagreeable et ceteras of the metropolis; two small steam-boats, of ten or twenty horse power, plying daily between, the cabin fare two shillings and sixpence per head;—and I feel fully persuaded, that such vehicles of communication need only appear to be most liberally patronized. A BRISBANE WATER SETTLER. June 20, 1825.

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser 30 Jun 1825: 4.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2184185>

NOTICE.---Whereas a Wild Bull, without any brand marks, has joined the herd of the undersigned, at Bungaree's Nora, in the District of Brisbane Water, to the great injury of the same;—This is to give Notice, that if he is not owned and withdrawn within the next calendar month ensuing, from the date hereof, he will be shot, and his carcass sold to pay such Expences, as may have been incurred. He is a brindled Bull, and the off hindleg lame. ROBERT HENDERSON. Beon Beon, Brisbane Water.

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser

17 Nov 1828: 4. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article2191354>

The district of Brisbane Water thrives amazingly, and the crops are very promising. Mir. Henderson, formerly district constable, has a vessel of 90 tons on the stocks, building by a native of America; and another. Mr. Webb, has two others of about 20 tons each in a state of progression.

Sydney Monitor 23 Nov 1831: 3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32076368>

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Brisbane Water Church meeting. At a GENERAL MEETING of the SUBSCRIBERS to the Brisbane Water Churches, for the purpose of nominating Trustees agreeably to the 7th Section of the Act of Council, 7th William IV., No. 3, held at the Court-house, the 8th day of March, 1838, Alfred Holden, Esq , in the Chair, it was resolved unanimously that the following Gentlemen be nominated Trustees of the Funds for the Erection of the two Churches which it is proposed to build at Brisbane Water, viz:-Mr. Henry Donnison, Mr. Willoughby Bean, Mr. Henry Watson, Mr. R.Henderson, and Mr. Alfred Holden.
Alfred Holden, Chairman.

Sydney Herald 21 May 1838: 1. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12864788>

ORDINATION - The impressive ceremony of ordaining to the holy office of priesthood according to the rites of the Church of England, took place in St. James's Church [Sydney], on Sunday last. After the Liturgy had been read by the Rev. G. N. Woodd, M. A., the Bishop preached a sermon on the duties of the members of the ministry towards the people, and the people towards the ministers, taking his text from the seventeenth verse of the Fourth chapter of St Paul's Epistle to the Colossians, " Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it ". After the Sermon, his Lordship proceeded to the altar, and having taken his seat, the Rev. Mr. Woodd presented John Troughton late of St. Bees' College, but now of Parramatta, as a candidate for the office of Deacon, and answered the usual enquiries respecting the qualifications of the candidate. The Reverend Gentleman then introduced the Rev. Edward Rogers, of Brisbane Water, Deacon ; the Rev. Edward Smith, B.A., late of Magdalen Hall Oxford, now of Queanbeyan, Deacon ; and the Rev. Hart Davis Draper Sparling, B.A., late of Pembroke College, Oxford, now of Appin, Deacon, as candidates for the Holy Office of Priesthood, and certified that he had examined them, and believed them to be fully qualified for the office. The candidates then underwent the usual examination, and having answered the prescribed questions, His Lordship appointed Mr. Troughton a Deacon, and then proceeded to the ordination of the other candidates, being assisted in the imposition of hands by the Rev. Mr. Woodd, the Rev. Mr. Forrest, Master of the King's School Parramatta, and the Rev. Mr. Turner, a recently arrived minister, who is officiating at Kissing Point during the illness of the Rev. Mr. Dickenson. After the Ordination, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to

the Reverend Gentlemen and such of the congregation as remained to partake of it.

Sydney Herald 27 Feb 1839: 2. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12860132>

THE TOWNSHIP OF EAST GOSFORD.-We have seen a chart and plan of the township of East Gosford, which Mr. Peek, of George-street, has laid out at Brisbane Water. The situation of the town is peculiarly suitable, as the shipping, port, and capital of that populous, fertile, and flourishing district. There are extensive wharfs in process of being run out for the steamers to come alongside of with ease in all weathers. The greater number of the allotments have been taken already by parties connected with the district, who know the advantages that are sure to accrue from this township, and the value to which such allotments will eventually rise. The settlers of the district are of the opinion that EastGosford is far more eligibly situated than the place originally intended as the chief town of the district; and we think the Government will see the property of adopting it as the capital.

The Colonist (Sydney) 18 Apr 1840: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article31724898>

We are happy to see that effective measures are about to be taken for the erection of a Brisbane Water. The clergyman of this district, has, hitherto, been compelled to preach at East Gosford in a private out-building, without the slightest accommodation either for himself or congregation. We hope the gentlemen who compose the committee will lose no time in erecting a suitable building, as there are at least five hundred persons belonging to the Established Church, who would, in all probability, regularly attend.

Sydney Herald 4 Sep 1840: 2. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12865526>

[New road from Maitland to Gosford via new settlement at Newport Lake Macquarie]

The Australian (Sydney) 4 Feb 1841: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article36850425>

[Allotments for sale at Newport Lake Macquarie on the Maitland to Gosford road under construction, to go through Newport which is to be connected to Sydney by steamer] The Temperance Advocate and Australasian Commercial and Agricultural Intelligencer (Sydney) 28 Apr 1841: 10.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article228132067>

MORE STEAM WANTED FOR BRISBANE WATER. TO THE EDITOR OF THE Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser. SIR,—An article, headed as above, has appeared in your paper of to-day. If it suits Mr. Grose to lay on a boat for that place, of course, he is at liberty to do so ;—my business is with the 'William IV.' That vessel, at present loads and discharges, at East Gosford, and calls off Veteran Hall for passengers: she used to go alongside of the Wharf at the latter place; but, in consequence of the water at the upper end being shoal, and the wharf itself being in an un-finished state, damaging the copper and paddles, it was deemed advisable not to go alongside. An individual would not send his vessel where the risk and expence, certain and probable, were greater than the profit;—and surely, no one will find fault with the Managers of the Company for paying attention to the interest of their constituents. Horses cannot be conveniently landed at Veteran Hall—although it has often been done when there was not a better place ; in fact, all were once shipped and landed there, but now that the Victoria Wharf, at East Gosford, is so far completed, that the steamer goes alongside with ease and safety, and a good stage, has been provided for shipping and landing horses, there is no necessity to incur risk or inconvenience. All goods are now landed there. No doubt, every man wishes the steamer to stop at his own farm; but it is impracticable—consistent with the general good. At this moment, I am erecting, at my own expence, pens for the reception of cattle, sheep, &c., before or after landing. It cannot be denied, that the 'William IV.' is generally full and frequently is compelled to leave out goods; but it does not thence follow that there is profitable employment for another. If the Directors saw that it would answer they would run oftener, as it is, she leaves great profit on the capital embarked, and affords great accommodation to the whole of Brisbane Water, and they think it is best to let well enough alone. I am, Sir, Your most obedient servant, E. H. HARGRAVES, Secretary to the Brisbane Water Steam Company. June, 23, 1841.

Sydney Monitor and Commercial Advertiser 25 Jun 1841: 2

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article32189653>

QUEEN'S FAMILY HOTEL, EAST GOSFORD. THIS commodious and really elegantly fitted up Hotel is now ready for the reception of ladies and gentlemen who may desire to enjoy the most picturesque and diversified scenery in the colony. The air is clear and invigorating, peculiarly suited to persons of nervous, bilious, or consumptive habits. A very commodious bathing-house is appropriated exclusively to the use of visitors, free of charge, and pleasure boats and riding horses may at all times be obtained at a moderate hire. The distance from Port Jackson to Broken Bay (the entrance to the Brisbane Waters) is only eighteen miles, and performed always in the day time, so that families may leave Sydney after breakfast and dine at the Queen's Hotel, without exposure tonight air, or the annoyance of being penned up with all sorts of people in a close cabin, during a tedious night trip. Ladies, gentlemen, or families can be accommodated with separate sitting and bed rooms, and every attendance. The charge to regular Boarders, including every thing except wine, is Two Pounds per week. A good cellar of the choicest wines, including Port, Sherry, Claret, Hock, Madeira, and Champagne, together with Cider, Perry, Ale, Porter, Cordials, and Spirits. The favorite steam-boat William the Fourth plies regularly twice every week between East Gosford and Sydney, so that persons may shorten or prolong their stay according to circumstances, uniting economy with recreation, and enjoying the comforts of home, with the variety of a country life. J. R. FRAZER, Queen's Hotel. Peek's Point, East Gosford.

Sydney Morning Herald 10 Aug 1842: 1.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12410769>

FOR BRISBANE WATER (a regular packet) The fine fast-sailing new clipper-built schooner, ECLIPSE will start from the Albion Wharf, Sussex-street, on Saturday, the 7th instant, at ten, a. m., calling at East and West Gosford, and the various wharfs in the river and creeks ... Application to be made to C. Stevens, agent, on the Wharf...

Sydney Morning Herald 6 Dec 1842: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12425781>

BRISBANE WATER. To the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald. SIR, - It is not generally known, and I fear hardly known at all, that the Black Swan, a smart little steamer, affords the smoke-dried, dust-bespattered, careworn citizens of Sydney one of the pleasantest, most recreative and recruitive trips that steamer ever made. Leaving at present the Phoenix Wharf every Saturday at one p.m. and reaching Brisbane Water in three and a half or four hours; and returning on Monday morning, at eight am, reaching Sydney between eleven and twelve, thus affording them, without much loss of business time, an opportunity of visiting one of the most unknown, but most romantic and beautiful districts in the whole colony. I have visited Brisbane Water, and language cannot do justice to the fairy scenes presented to the eye, nor to the rich but undeveloped resources of this much neglected spot of gardens, orange groves, and banana plantations. Yes, within four hours' trip lays this land of almost unexplored grandeur and magnificence. East Gosford, too, is highly adapted as a watering place; situated at the head of Brisbane Water, resting as it were in its shadowy beauty on the bosom of the placid wide expanse of waters, and destined, at no distant period, to become the Scarborough or Brighton New South Wales. There are three inns, affording very comfortable accommodation to visitors, as well as two public houses at West Gosford; among these I may mention Spear's as the first, and secondly Lloyd's as also affording good cheer. One of the most surprising and entertaining persons at this unknown but pretty village is Mr G. Ventiman, storekeeper, who exerts his utmost energies to improve and bring into public estimation and appreciation this gem of all colonial coast or lake scenery. Nor are its resources to be overlooked - timber: its almost interminable forests have supplied the Sydney markets for the last twenty years, without any perceptible diminution as yet. There are steam saw mills in operation; thus its capabilities are being developed. With fish the waters abound; oysters, and endless stock; as also shells for lime. The rich capabilities of the soil are hardly brought to light; certainly as a fruit district and vinery it is unsurpassed and must become the orchard of New South Wales. The oranges, lemons, citron, banana, and every kind of fruit trees succeed better even than on the Parramatta River, and opens out opportunity for thousands of enterprising agriculturists and horticulturists to apply themselves with unflinching success to this pleasing branch of industrial occupation. I therefore invite, nay, urge my fellow-citizens to shake off the cares of commerce and enjoy, as I certainly did, a romantic trip to Brisbane Water. A DUSTY CITIZEN.

Sydney Morning Herald 10 Nov 1855: 8.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12978513>

DEATHS On the 11th instant, at his residence, Veteran Hall, Brisbane Water, after a long and painful illness, Mr. **ROBERT HENDERSON**, sen., aged 73 ; an old and much respected native of the colony.

Sydney Morning Herald 19 Nov 1869: 1.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13195430>

On the 16th November, the death took place of the Rev. Edward Rogers, of Holy Trinity Church Sydney, with which he has been connected her Something like a quarter of century The reverend gentleman suffered from a very serious illness about eight months ago, and was at that time given up by his medical advisers but recovered to such an extent as to be able to resume his ministerial duties. Latterly, however, he has been in failing health. He carried on his clerical duties up to a month ago, when he was compelled to take a change of air. His age was 68 years.

Sydney Morning Herald 24 Nov 1880: 7.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article13483585>

As far as the writer has been able to ascertain, the first ministrations of the Church in the Brisbane Water district were afforded by the occasional visits of the Rev. Thomas Sharpe, the clergyman stationed on the Lower Hawkesbury, and referred to as the "Catechist of Cornelia." During his stay there from 1831 to 1837, there are various entries in his registers from Brisbane Water and the Mangrove. There is also the possibility that Mr. James Chandler, who was appointed Catechist of the Lower Branch or Hawkesbury on August 1, 1826, may have ministered in the district. But it was in 1838 that the foundations of the Parish were laid. In January of that year the Rev. Edward Rogers, a deacon, who had just arrived from England, was appointed to Brisbane Water, and was paid as from January 20, though his license was not dated till March 31. He was

priested on February 24, 1839. By the 4th October, 1838, he was able to have licenses granted for the celebration of Public Worship and the solemnisation of marriages in temporary buildings at Brisbane Water, and at Mangrove, 30 miles away. In the former, it was at his own house, and in the latter in a building used as a chapel and schoolhouse. A week later he was appointed a surrogate of the Bishop of Australia for the issuing of marriage licenses. At about the same time subscriptions were entered into for the erection of two Churches, probably at the two centres named. In addition to the services in these two places, they were also held at five residences within the district; at Mr. Robert Henderson's, 12 miles from Brisbane Water, and situated a little beyond the present Kincumber Church; at Mr. Donnison 's, six miles out at Erina; at Mr. Mann's, one and a half miles away; at Wyong; and at Mr. Ferguson's, eight miles from Mangrove. Judge Burton (pp. 199-200), gives us a good idea of what this meant: "Every Lord's Day morning, excepting when he is at Mangrove, the Clergyman preaches at Mr. Henderson's. The road is through bush made by the people only in going from one place to another, and in general bad, being rugged and swampy, especially three or four miles of it, which is on the top side of a range of high hills. The congregation at this place is small, owing chiefly to the service being held at a private house, whither few people only like to go. On alternate Sundays in the afternoon, the Clergyman performs duty at Mr. Donnison's and Mr. Mann's; the congregation is not very large at either, owing to his preaching in this part of the district at two places; every sixth Sunday he preaches at Mangrove in the morning; the congregation there is about 50; and in the afternoon at the house of Mr. Ferguson; the congregation there is not above 20; to Mangrove Church the road is only a path, in some places hardly visible, through the bush, where there is no cultivation nor an inhabitant; a great part of it is also exceedingly rugged and mountainous. About every third week, on a week day, he officiates at Wyong, where there are four settlers' establishments. It is ten miles from Brisbane Water, having a cart road to it." A house was in process of erection at the central settlement to be used for a school. There were about 20 children in the neighborhood capable of learning, and but few of them could read. A School was also contemplated at Mangrove, but funds were at the time lacking. In this centre the Church held 30 acres of land, about five of which was a grant from the Crown to the Bishop of Australia for school purposes, while the remainder was purchased by him. According to the statements of some old residents, Mr. Rogers at first lived for a while in Sydney, visiting his "cure," by boat; then he settled with his wife at Toorigal (Terrigal), Kincumber, but not for long, for in 1839 he was dwelling in a bark hut on Narara Creek, then called Hely's Creek after Major Hely, who had a grant on its banks. It was there that Mr. Rogers' first wife died. This situation was certainly more central than Kincumber, seeing that

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Mangrove, Wyong and Blue Gum Flat lay to the west and north of Narara Creek, with Kincumber and other parts to the east and south. It is possible that he only resided at Kincumber because of the lack of houses in the more central part, but there were quite a number of settlers along the eastern side of Brisbane Water, whose spiritual needs required attention. Even in 1842 a license issued to Mr. Rogers on September 28, to take the place of the one licensing him to Brisbane Water, describes his charge as "Gosford and Kingcumber." Moreover, in 1839, a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Malcolm Colquhoun, was residing near Mr. Henderson's, and endeavoring, though unsuccessfully, to get together congregations in various parts of the district; and further, the Roman Catholics made their centre near the site of their present Orphanage at the southern end of the Kincumber Broadwater; their resident priest held services at first in a private house, but by the end of 1842, in a stone Church which still stands; in the cemetery near the latter, gravestone inscriptions going back to 1839 are preserved. They also had a school nearby. The first two Baptisms entered in the Brisbane Water register and taken by Mr. Rogers were of two children from Mangrove Creek, on July 8, 1838. The second of these was A. Craft, a name now very familiar from Mangrove across to Cessnock. A baptism on February 7, 1838, was that of Martha Scott, who is still living, daughter of T. A. Scott, Clerk to the Police Bench, Brisbane Water. The first marriage, like a number of later ones, was solemnised with the consent of the Governor and a local Magistrate. It was on June 25, 1838. The second one, July 11 of the same year, is of great interest historically, both in Matcham district and in connection with the story of Australia's part in the war of 1914-1918. It is that of Willoughby Bean and Harriet Battley, by Edward Rogers, Chaplain. The first burial was Sarah Woodward, of Kincumber, on March 13, 1838. Incidentally of the thirty-five burials during 1838-1845 only one was a woman. In some of the burial entries up to 1844 the name of the ship by which, and the year in which, the deceased came to Australia are inserted, thus, Eliza (ship), 1820, Adrian, 1830, and others. It is interesting to notice that in the entries of the first four years there appear almost all the names of places which are still current. Amongst them are Liseroe, Narara, and Torigal, probably all cottages originally, Wye Wye Bay (the Bay was dropped by 1860), and Ellalong or Ettalong (the writing is uncertain, but was originally Etymy-long). (To be continued.)

"Diocesan History." The Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 4 Jun 1925: 5. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article166835699>

Diocesan History. GOSFORD OR BRISBANE WATER. (Continued from last issue.)
Written by Rev. A. P. Elkin for "The Newcastle Diocesan Churchman":—About three weeks before this Roman Catholic Church was opened, a license was granted on December 1, 1842, by Bishop Broughton on the petition of Mr. Rogers, to use for all Church services the school-house which had been lately erected at 'Kingcumber' on a grant of two acres from the Crown to the Bishop for a Church and School. Before this date, services had been held at the house of a Mr. Norman (information from the late Mrs. Rocke Davis). The early teachers at this Church-School were first, Mr. William Davis, whose daughter-in-law, the late Mrs. Rocke Davis, of Blackwall, was informed by the Lands Department, Sydney, that he was a "Priest in Holy Orders." The school was situated "within a stone's throw" on the southside of the present Church. The fees were £2 10s a quarter, and the attendance from 20 to 40. The day's work was commenced with prayer and Bible reading by Miss Davis, who assisted her father in teaching. He died in 1846, but apparently had retired a little before that, for, according to an old resident, Mrs. Frost, a Mr. Perrett was the master in 1844; he was followed by a Mr. Lee, under whose direction the boys cleared the Church land. Another teacher was Mr. Benjamin Davis, son of the first teacher, who read the burial service if no minister were present, and always prepared the school for service — this included finding the places in the Bible — and kept the records. The last teacher at the school before it became a "National" institution was Mr. H. H. Lane. One old informant says that, in addition to the frequent visits from the Church of England clergyman, the Roman Catholic Priest visited it weekly. Another reminiscence (Mrs. McMaster, senior, Blackwall), is that of a visit to the school by the Captain, Doctor, and others of the "Sir Robert Peel," which was wrecked near Avoca at the end of the "forties." The four hundred soldiers who were on board coming from New Zealand, got off safely and were camped just across the creek from Kingcumber School awaiting their turns to go to Sydney in batches of ten on the "William the Fourth," the first steamer to enter Brisbane Water. After examining the children, the visitors gave them a threepenny-piece each, the first silver money seen by them. To return to what became the centre of the Parish. We find that on October 22, 1841, a license was granted for Public Worship in the school-house which had been but lately built near Peek's Point by private subscriptions aided by the Colonial Government. As late as 1854, Miss E. Battley, later wife of Canon John Shaw, and seven daughters of Mr. Thomas Scott, who introduced sugar growing into the district, were confirmed in this building. At the time the school was finished a Church was in course of erection a little further from the Point on a site comprising two acres. This was given in 1841 by Mr. Samuel Peek, a Sydney merchant with interests in East Gosford. Unfortunately, he, with his papers, went down in the wreck of the "Dunbar" off

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Sydney Heads on the 20th August, 1857, and although all knew the circumstances of the gift, yet, as a title could not be found, the Church had to purchase the site. In February, 1843, Bishop Broughton wrote to the S.P.G. that the main difficulties in the progress of the Church at East Gosford were past, though lack of funds were now causing delay. It was not for another fifteen years that the work was completed. At first the plans were too ambitious. Some of the old residents, still living in 1918, could remember playing on the foundations and walls, which were raised to a height of three feet. Mrs. Shaw says that the shape of the foundations was not very Church-like. Eventually, a smaller building was erected alongside. The first three teachers in the East Gosford Church-School were Messrs. Cheyne (afterwards ordained in Ireland), Prince and Elkington, and later, from 1865 to 1870, the post was held by an old army tutor named Rudkin. In the early forties it was found difficult to find the master's salary, and, for example, in 1843, in spite of help from the Diocesan Committee, it was closed for a time. Some time during the "forties" Mr Rogers moved into a stone building in West Gosford, which was to be the Parsonage for over sixty years. It was originally built as a country residence for Governor Brisbane (1821-1825), but now, in some way not yet ascertained, passed into the hands of the Church. The title for the land, which consists of a Crown Grant of four allotments, was only completed in 1902. The Parsonage, with its fine Norfolk pines, planted about eighty years ago, was a prominent and pleasing landmark for very many years. On the ground where the present Rectory stands the first incumbent grew English raspberries, something to be remembered. Just before the arrival of Bishop Tyrell in January, 1848, and the passing of Brisbane Water to his oversight, the Rev. E. Rogers was transferred, and on January 1 of that year was licensed to Camden. But he must have seen before this, the completion of the substantial stone Church, Christ Church, which still stands at Kincumber. It is claimed that the first Baptism in it was that of Ephraim Ward, on April 4, 1847, when however, the building was not quite finished. In the previous year the Diocesan Committee had granted Bibles and Prayer Books to the Churches at Gosford and Kincumber. Later, in 1858, the S.P.C.K. presented the Bible and Prayer Book which are still in the Kincumber Church. The Prayer Book contains "141 Constitutions and Canons," Brady and Tate's Psalms, and also 15 Hymns. A third gift was a Book of the Offices according to The Use of the United Church of England and Ireland. The first burials in the Kincumber cemetery date from the "forties"; before that the bodies were interred at Saratoga, near Woy Woy. The little cemetery there containing about fourteen headstones, is thus described by an inscription which appears on the wall: — "This land enclosed by wall of stone, is bequeathed and willed by me, to the dead who sleep within its walls, during eternity. — Robert Henderson, Brisbane Water, September, 1869." Assigned and free are lying

there, including the donor and his wife. The oldest, dated 7th January, 1827, is that of Patrick Garey, who is thought to be the father of Mrs. Henderson. The Point Frederick cemetery at East Gosford was dedicated on July 27th, 1874.

At the time of Mr. Roger's departure Gosford, that is, West Gosford, consisted of but 53 souls and 16 houses, but East Gosford, out towards Peek's Point and Erina Creek, was much larger. It could boast of two wharves with deep water frontage and three hotels, one of which, "The Fox," was kept by the gold discoverer, E. H. Hargraves, before he went to California, while another, at Peek's Point, had 52 rooms with all accessories and beautifully laid-out grounds. The Roman Catholics had a large school in which "Mass was performed" every Sunday. The members of the Church of England had their school, and were watching the growth of their stone Church, the walls of which were now ten feet from the ground. Another entry of interest is the marriage of Edward Rogers, widower, to Eliza Donnison, by license, on November 30th, 1847, by Thos. Steele, Chaplain, in the presence of Thos. E. Battley, of East Gosford, and Hanna Donnison, of Erina. (To be continued.)

Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate (NSW : 1906 - 1954) 11 June 1925: 13. Web. 2 Feb 2025 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article166837242>

The oldest settlement was at Kincumber, Gosford, being established later at Peek's Point, near the Erina Creek. When the railway line was constructed, and the Hawkesbury Bridge opened in 1889, the town was moved to its present site, a mile or so westward. The first church, St. Paul 's, was built at Kincumber in 1842 [sic, completed 1847], but the cemetery attached thereto dates back to 1839. Previous to that, there were fourteen interments at Saratoga, on the opposite side of the Water. An inscription on the wall states: —"This land, enclosed by wall of stone, is bequeathed and willed by me, to the dead who sleep within its walls, during eternity. (Signed) Robert Henderson, Brisbane Water, September, 1869." The oldest date in this cemetery is that of Patrick Carey, father of Mrs. Henderson, 7th January, 1827. The donor of the land, with his wife, was subsequently interred at the same place. Another cemetery, at Point Frederick, East Gosford was dedicated on the 27th July, 1874. The site of the church at East Gosford, had been promised by Mr. Samuel Peek, a Sydney merchant, but he was drowned in the Dunbar, on the 20th August, 1857, before the transfer was made, and Bishop Broughton subsequently purchased the land. E. H. Hargraves, the gold discoverer, kept an hotel at East Gosford, before he went to California. It was called "The Fox," and, during his absence, his wife kept a small store at the

same place. The first religious services in this district were conducted by Thomas Sharpe, Lay Reader, who was stationed on the Lower Hawkesbury (1831-1837). He was afterwards Chaplain at Norfolk Island, and became Rector of All Saints', Bathurst, in 1845, where here remained until his retirement nearly 30 years later. The first permanent appointment of a clergyman to Brisbane Water was that of the Rev. Edward Rogers, a deacon, who had just arrived from England. His first residence was at Terrigal, but in 1839 he lived in a bark hut on the Narara Creek, then called Hely's Creek, after Major Hely, who had a grant on its banks, and there his first wife died. He was married to his second wife at East Gosford, in 1847, by the Rev. Thomas Steele, chaplain. Mr. Rogers about this time moved into a stone building at West Gosford, which had originally been the country residence of Governor Brisbane (1821-1835). This picturesque building, surrounded by Norfolk pines, was used as a Parsonage for sixty years, but it has now disappeared and a modern building, the residence of one of the local doctors, has taken its place. The first school was at Kincumber, and was conducted by Mr. William Davis, whose descendants still attend the school and church. The Bible and service books at St. Paul's, Kincumber, were presented by the S.P.C.K. in 1858, and are still in an excellent state of preservation. In the porch there is an interesting memorial to James Dunlop, Government Astronomer, who arrived with Sir Thomas Brisbane in 1821, and died in 1848. One of his descendants still lives on the original grant at Boora Boora, Brisbane Water. Another memorial in the church is a handsome reading desk made of local cedar. The present Rector of Gosford is the Rev. A. Renwick, M.A., who has been in charge of the parish for many years. The Rev. D. R. May, who lives in Terrigal, includes Kincumber in this parish. Church building still goes on, the latest foundation stone being laid recently at Narara, a name of our Australian poets. Fagan's Farm, where Henry Kendall lived for four years, is only a few miles from Gosford.

"Brisbane Water History" The Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 4 Nov 1926: 5. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article161109842>

PAGES FROM THE PAST Did Governor Brisbane Ever Live At Gosford? BY C. SWANCOTT There is a persistent belief in Gosford that Governor Brisbane built a stone residence for a country house, which was later used as a Church of England Parsonage from 1843 to 1900. The story was printed in Lyle Wilson's "The Church of England in the Brisbane Water District", written in 1939; by Father O'Donovan in his "Centenary of the Catholic Church in Brisbane Water",

published in 1942; by "Waratah" in his book "Red' Cedar", and in the special issue of "The Gosford Times" of November 29, 1946. "Waratah" acknowledges that he took the story from "The Gosford Times" .Father O'Donovan told me that he had copied the story, but had not the time at his disposal to check it for correctness .The chief defender of the Parsonage story, the Rev Cyril Francis, Rector of Gosford and Rural Dean of the district, of course takes his stand on the story in Miss Wilson's brochure, based as it was on the work of Professor Elkin, and her further statement in the same work: "Thus this became the third settlement in the Colony. In the next ten years (1789-1799,C.S.) many grants of land were made and wheat and maize were grown with success. A boat service carried these pro-ducts to the tiny settlement of Sydney". The latter statement would apply to the Hawkesbury River, but there was no settlement of any kind at Brisbane Water before October, 1823, when James Webb settled on what is now Orange Grove, Woy Woy. In the "Sydney Gazette" of June 30, 1825, a visitor to Brisbane Water wrote: "When I visited Brisbane Water first, little more than twelve months ago ... I found it in lone and silent beauty . . .there was but one of my race and colour . . . who had set himself down as a boat build er". At the time the letter was written Governor Brisbane had returned to England. Though Governor Brisbane had made immense grants of land in the district, there is no evidence on record that Governor Brisbane ever visited Brisbane Water.

15 SETTLERS IN 1829 The Census of 7th March,1829, showed only 15 settlers in the Brisbane Water district, with 47 free servants and 42 bond servants. Thomas Alison Scott, in 1830, had occupied the land on which the town of Gosford stands, without permission, and erected a hut upon it. He was informed that the land was required for public purposes, but that he would be compensated for the expense he had incurred and be given 1200 acres of land elsewhere. Jonathan Warner, the district constable, applied for 20 acres at Gosford in 1835, as he wanted to be close to the "Court Lock-up House" which had been erected at the head of the Broadwater. He was residing in a bark hut on Crown land with his wife and family of eight children. The Surveyor-General noted on his application that the land applied for was that purchased from Scott. Later, Warner wrote that he would wait until the township was laid out. In 1838, A. Holden, the magistrate, was informed that his application to purchase six acres of land at the township reserve could not be complied with. The Surveyor-General was instructed to expedite the laying out of the township. Surveyor Dalgety reported on the 9th June, 1839, that he had completed the survey and transmitted the plan required. He had marked down various portions of land enclosed and occupied by Mr Holden and the chief constable and also one as a court-house. This plan was returned endorsed with the Governor's approval of the "Plan of the Town of Gosford" at Brisbane Water. Why he did so is not

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indicated on the plan or in the accompanying letter. There is a local belief, which has been printed in "The Gosford Times", that the name of Gosford was derived from John Edye Manning's grant of land at Brisbane Water, which was supposed to have been named "Gosford Park". The Deputy Registrar-General, Mr F. W. Syer, has advised me that "there is no mention of "Gosford Park" on either of our copies of the grants to J. E. Manning". No name for either property appears in the Record of Grants in the Lands Department, though it was usual, at that time to name grants. Manning's 2560 acres were advertised for sale in the "Australian" of January 27th, 1842; but no name was mentioned in the advertisement. The Rev Cyril Francis has asked me the following questions: 1. Why would a parsonage be erected at Gosford when the church was later erected at Peek's Point, nearly a mile away? 2. How could a young community afford to erect a substantial stone building which must have cost a considerable sum? 3. Was it not reasonable to suppose that the building had been erected (possibly by a Government department for some other purpose) and hand-ed over to the Church?

LAYOUT OF TOWN Well, in answer, I have carefully inspected the original plan of Point Frederick prepared and signed by Surveyor Dalgety in the archives of the Lands Department at Sydney. The plan shows the layout of the town of Gosford and specially notes: Holden's residence with fenced area encroaching on part of Holden Street and Georgiana Terrace. Court-house site. Constable's house and garden. Sec. 81, south of Georgiana Terrace and opposite the Court House. Proposed site for church, parsonage and schools— Lots 12 to 15, Sec. 9, facing Mann Street and Gertrude Place. Under a reading glass can be seen the surveyor's suggested apportionment of land for the church, the school and parsonage, written in pencil. There is no building on the site. Bishop Broughton had applied in this year, 1839, for aid towards the erection of a church and parsonage at Brisbane Water, and the Government agreed to subsidise the building. East Gosford, a private township built on 500 acres granted to Samuel Peek, was not surveyed till 1840. He presented two acres of land there in 1841 for the erection of a church. In twelve months, according to the "Sydney Herald" of May 12, 1841, two hotels, three thriving stores, besides smaller shops, a school, a bakery, a smithy, neat cottages had been erected at East Gosford and twelve other houses were in course of erection. Gosford remained at a standstill. The rapid settlement of East Gosford naturally suggested itself as the natural location for the proposed church. Regarding the cost of the parsonage, it must be remembered that plenty of stone was available on the site. Stonemasons at the time worked a twelve hour day for 5/- a day. Timber was only 8/- a hundred super feet, the cost of roofing shingles was very low, so that the whole cost

would be a modest figure. In 1870 the Parsonage was estimated to be worth £400.

Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 7 Aug 1951: 2.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167222828>

GOVERNOR REFERRED TO GOSFORD ON PLAN IN 1839 On January 9, 1839, Surveyor Dalgety reported to the Surveyor General that he had prepared a plan of the ground for a township at Point Frederick. The Surveyor-General forwarded the plan to Governor Gipps, who returned it as the Plan of "Gosford", although there was nothing on the plan to indicate why he did so. Mr C. Swancott said this in an address last week to the Brisbane Water Historical Society on the early history of Gosford .Mr. Swancott said that until 1839 the district was known as the North East Arm of Broken Bay and later Brisbane Water. Five weeks after the foundation of the colony in 1788. Governor Phillip with a party in a longboat and a cutter penetrated the North East Arm to the head of Cackle Creek. Heavy rain compelled the party to return to Sydney, incidentally discovering and naming Pittwater on the return journey. In June 1789 Phillip led a larger and better equipped expedition which thoroughly explored the North East Arm as far as the head of the creeks later to be known as Erina and Narara. On the return journey they set out to explore the river called "De-rub- ben" by the natives, which Phillip was to name the Hawkesbury. The discovery of so much readily accessible farming land on the banks of that river put the North East Arm completely in the background.

FORGOTTEN The hazardous bar at the entrance, the fierce ebb tide at the rip, the maze of shoals and mud flats that then abounded in the North East Arm and the densely wooded hillsides daunted the party. As a consequence, the North East Arm and its virgin forests were left forgotten by white men for the next 30 years. The only white men to pass through the district were a party, of fishermen cast ashore in bad weather near Port Stephens in 1796. Collins records that blacks "met the party and without much entreaty or any hope of reward readily put them in a path to Broken Bay and conducted them the greater part of the way." In 1818 a man named Weston first applied for a piece of land at the North East Arm, but did not proceed with the matter.

FIRST SETTLER The first settler in the area was James Webb, a boatbuilder of Sydney and of Scotland Island, Pittwater, who, in October 1823, was advised that Governor Brisbane had approved of his occupying temporarily an area on the

north east arm of Broken Bay. He settled on the 100 acres granted him. The land extended from the rip to Blackwall Wharf and is now known as Orange Grove. Webb later bought large areas of land comprising practically the whole of Woy Woy township. Until the '60's or later the area was known as Webb's Flat and the rip as Webb's Reef. Other settlers from Pittwater followed hard on the heels of Webb and there were soon so many applications for land in the area that the surveyors were called into action. Between 1825 and 1829 Surveyors Richards, Rolfe and McBrien conducted much survey work in the district and they contributed greatly to the early exploration and settlement of Brisbane Water. Brisbane Water was named after Governor Brisbane. The name first appeared in a letter of Surveyor Richards in 1825. ASTRONOMER Sir Thomas Brisbane was an ardent astronomer and his friendship with James Dunlop, who later settled at "Boora-Boora", Kincumber, possibly gave rise to the legend that the Governor built a stone country residence at Gosford, which was later used as the Anglican Parsonage for many years. There was no truth in the story.

The Brisbane Water census of 1829 showed that there were 15 householders in the district. William Cape, of Wyong, had not furnished a return. The other 14 settlers had 47 free men and 42 bond servants. Of their total grants of 14,850 acres, only 281 acres were cleared, and of the cleared area 251 acres were under cultivation. The stock on the area comprised seven horses and 916 cattle.

The 15 settlers were Willoughby Bean at Erina, William Booker at Booker Bay, Jas Webb at Orange Grove, William Cape at Wyong, Frederick Augustus Hely at Narara, Robert Henderson at Veteran Hall, Henry Holden at Toowoong Bay, Thomas Humphreys at Kincumber, William Fitzgerald at Daleys Point. John Lowrie at New Brighton. James Mullen at Hardy's Bay, Jas Byrne Richards at Palmer's Wharf, Jeremiah Warlters at Mangrove and John Hill and John Slade.

Robert Henderson settled at Veteran Hall in 1824. He was appointed district constable of Brisbane Water in May. 1824, at a salary of £25 a year. He is probably most remembered for the Henderson private cemetery at Veteran Hall.

Mr. Swancott said that in February 1824 Governor Brisbane promised Willoughby Bean a grant of 200 acres, which he selected at Erina. The grant extended to the ocean at Terrigal. Bean was appointed a magistrate and acted in the capacity till 1831, when he became bankrupt. His grant was taken over by the Donnisons in 1852 by right of "possession."... gradually look up vantage points on the foreshores of Brisbane Water— William Killcare, Fickett at Kincumber, Couche at Koolewong John Riley on Shell Island, the Murrays at

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Rileys Bay. William Davis at Kincumber Jonathan Piper at Cockle Creek, Wiliam Spears at Pretty Beach, Patrick Mulhall at Wagstaff Point, Alfred William Settree, at Davistown, Peter Fagan at Fagan's Bay and many others.

STILL RESERVED Manning had received two large giants towards Narara. Matcham, 2360 acres adjoining Bean's grant. John Moore had settled at Avoca, J. M. Gray at Terrigal, Robert Cox, beyond Hely's land towards Ourimbah. The site of the township of Gosford, had been reserved Frederick Augustus Hely arrived in Sydney in 1823 as an overseer of convicts and in 1824 applied for 1340 acres adjoining the Government reserve at Narara. On this grant he established a farm, "Eaghurst". He was later appointed principal superintendent of convicts and a member of the Land Assignment Board — the two offices carrying a salary of £700a year. He was also one of the foundation directors of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. According to the census of 1829 he had two freemen and 12 assigned servants working on his lands which carried 186 cattle. Mr. Hely died in Sydney, aged 42, and was buried at Wyoming.

In the next decade... Thomas Alison Scott, pioneer of the sugar industry in Australia, applied for a grant of land at Brisbane Water, to grow tobacco and occupied the land on which Gosford stands. In 1834 17 ½ tons of tobacco were grown in the district. In November 1830, the Surveyor-General reported to the Home Secretary that the land occupied by Scott was the most eligible site for a township in the neighbourhood, being on the best anchorage in Brisbane Water, and at the termination of a range which would connect it with new road at the head of the Wollombi. He suggested that as Scott had occupied the land and erected a hut without receiving permission, he should resign the land to the Government and receive a larger quantity elsewhere. Scott was compensated for expense incurred and given 1265 acres. He settled at Pt. Clare. He was appointed postmaster at Brisbane Water in 1836, and held that office until 1840. He was also Clerk of Petty Sessions from 1836 until 1843 at a salary of £100 a year.

LONG PENSION Scott later sought from the Government a grant of £5000 for services given in establishing the sugar industry. Instead he was given a pension of £5 a week for life, which he enjoyed to the grand old age of 105. In 1835, the district magistrate. Jonathon Warner and his eight children were living in a bark hut erected on Crown land. He applied for 20 acres of the land taken from Scott, to be close to the "court lock-up house" which had been erected at the head of the Broadwater. The Surveyor-General noted on the application that the land was that selected for the township, and Warner wrote that he would wait until

the township was laid out. In 1838, A. Holden was informed that his application to purchase about six acres at the township reserve could not be considered, and the Surveyor-General was requested to expedite the laying out of the township. Surveyor Dalgety reported on January 9, 1839, that he had fulfilled his instructions to prepare a plan of the ground for a township at Point Frederick and transmitted the plan for approval.

NOTED ON PLAN Mr. Swancott said Dalgety's plan specifically noted — (A) Holden's residence with fenced area encroaching on part of Holden Street and Georgiana Terrace. (B) Courthouse site. (C) Constable's house and garden on section 81, south of Georgiana Terrace and opposite Court House. (D) Proposed site for church, parsonage and school, facing Mann Street and Gertrude Place. Under a reading glass could be seen, written in pencil, the surveyor's suggested apportionment of land for the church, the school and parsonage. No building of any kind was shown on the site. Dalgety's plan was forwarded to Governor Gipps for approval, Gipps returned it as the plan of "Gosford". but there was nothing on the plan or the accompanying letter to indicate why he did so.

CHURCH, PARSONAGE Bishop Broughton applied, in 1839, for aid towards the erection of a church and parsonage at Brisbane Water. The Government agreed to subsidise the building and the parsonage was erected in the early '40's on the site suggested by Surveyor Dalgety.

East Gosford, a private township built on 500 acres shown on Dalgety's map as a grant to J. Robinson, was the property, of Samuel Peek and was not surveyed till 1840. According to the "Sydney Herald" of May 12, 1841, in 12 months Peek had erected two hotels, three thriving stores besides smaller shops, a school, a bakery, a smithy, some neat cottages and had 12 other houses in course of erection. He had presented two acres of land for the erection of a church there. East Gosford had two wharves with deep water frontages, where vessels loaded and discharged The William the fourth plied between Sydney and East Gosford every other day.

LOST IN DUNBAR Peek built a three-storey brick hotel on Peek's Point later in the '40's and took his family to England to buy furniture and equipment for it. They were returning in the ill-fated Dunbar when she was wrecked near The Gap at Watson's Bay, with only one survivor. As Peek left no heirs, their new hotel and cottages gradually fell into a state of ruin, and the bricks, doors and wood-work disappeared. Bricks from Peek's Hotel were used in the partition walls when the Royal Hotel at Gosford was built in 1878. The stone came from the old convict-built granary formerly on Hely's property at Wyoming. As a consequence of

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Peek's activities at East Gosford, the town of Gosford remained at a standstill. Wells's Gazetteer of 1848 recorded that Gosford had 16 houses and that its population was 53.

Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 7 March 1952: 3.

<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167229842>

See also:

"JOURNAL OF AN EXCURSION TO BRISBANE WATER. " The Australian (Sydney) 20 Dec 1826: 4. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article37071619>

"NEW LINE OF ROAD FROM MAITLAND TO SYDNEY" The Australian (Sydney) 31 Dec 1847: 4. <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article37130765>

"Historic Towns of N.S. Wales" Sunday Times (Sydney) 31 Jan 1909: 7
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article126581203>

"PICTURESQUE AND HISTORIC GOSFORD." The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser 13 Dec 1911: 31.
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article164331651>

"Romantic Early History Of Pacific Highway Is Reviewed"
The Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 8 Apr 1949: 3.
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167110514>

"The Church That Followed Its Congregation" The Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 3 Apr 1951: 3 <https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167225370>

"THE LIFE AND TIMES OF E. H. HARGRAVES." The Gosford Times and Wyong District Advocate 29 Jul 1952: 3.
<https://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article167229984>

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Information Page written by Michael Flynn 2025.

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