

The Promise of Oatley James Oatley's 300 acre Grant - Sequence of Images

Presentation to Oatley Heritage and Historical Society 24th February 2023

Images

- 001** Title page **The Promise of Oatley**
- 002** Philip Gidley King
- 003** A view of Oatley and Georges River
- 004** Robert Townson
- 005** A comprehensive map of Oatley showing the Townson estates, the Oatley grant and modern Oatley
- 006** Governor Thomas Brisbane Oatley's conditional pardon was issued by Governor Macquarie on 25th October 1821. Governor Macquarie replaced Brisbane on 1st December 1821.

Gov. Brisbane decreed that with each grant 100 acres would attract the labour of one convict. Between May and December 1825 Brisbane released 500 000 acres of land for grants or sale at 5 shillings an acre. That would value Oatley's estate at £75. Gov. Brisbane and Dr Robert Townson had common scientific interests. But Brisbane was not strong enough to control the colony. "There are many brave men not strong enough to be governors of colonies" (Wellington)
- 007** The Oatley promise August 1825 (poster). In 1824 Oatley was promised 40 acres along Belmore (King Georges) Road
- 008** The Governor Bourke letter of 1833. Note - Gov Darling had authorised the publication of the grant in the Government Gazette of October 1831. The land was 58 chains along the north west boundary of Dr Townson's land (later Boundary Road) then 73 chains south down to Gungah Bay. On the east the distance waws 32 chains along Townson's boundary (Hillcrest Avenue) to the north west arm of the creek entering Oatley Bay.
- 009** The Oatley Grant Note The promise and the required **redemption** payment Of £50
- 010** Governor Richard Bourke
- 011** Early locality map showing high ground and creeks Also Oatley's land at Wolli Creek; and the line of Forest Road.
- 111** 1883 map showing remains of the corner post and evidence of fencing.
- 112** The Oatley Grant walk – **scenes from then and now**. Townson plaque in Oatley Memorial Gardens – near the corner post. And the start of the perimeter walk

- 114** The steep railway climb up Morts Hill from Oatley's platform
- 115** The walkers gather at the Renown Park tunnel
- 116** An arial view of the north west arm of Oatley's grant
- 117** The approximate position of the corner of the Oatley Grant at the creek
- 118** The creek as it is today leading to Oatley Bay.
- 119** Oatley Bay as it appears today, after extensive dredging.
- 120** The rough and steep coastline of the Oatley Grant. The "Kitchener Steps". Never forget the war.
- 121** The Oatley Pleasure Grounds. Always a beach? Harry Linmark ran a boatshed and there were places of amusement. Linmark bought several acres of bush around the beach from the Oatley Estate Company in 1902 and added to this in 1910. It became Kogarah Council property and a reserve in 1938.
- 122** The Pleasure Grounds from across the Bay Queens Hall hidden in the distance behind the trees on the right.
- 123** The walk to Oatley Point. Never alienated but did James often or ever walk these tracks?
- 124** The walk continued
- 125** Oatley Point A fishing spot since forever.
- 126** The steep steps up to Algernon Street. Perhaps 1930s?
- 127** Down Cecil (Wyong) Street to secluded Neverfail Bay. Is this the freshwater creek that never failed?
- 128** the limited remains of the oyster industry. Very much part of the history and prehistory of Oatley. Oyster shell remains make a modern midden
- 129** The train that made a difference.
- 130** Here is the other freshwater stream at Neverfail Bay – in great green pipes.
- 131** The way to the bridge. Could Mr Oatley envisage this?
- 132** The Como bridge – a fine example of late Victoria engineering and construction
- 133** The old and the new bridges -technology ninety years apart
- 134** An orientation map dated 1920s. The Oatley Grant area is well defined. But evidence of various estates are remnants of the Oatley Estate Company sell off. Note - Peakhurst Park Road.
- The direction is set for the rest of the walk.
- 135** Charlie Simpson Reserve. The 1905 estate - no sign of Victory Road

- 136** Victory Road
- 137** Waratah Street branches down to Myles Dunphy Reserve
- 138** Myles Dunphy walking track
- 139** Looking across Gungah Bay
- 140** Gungah Bay Road and the Townson corner. The corner of Townson's original estate. A steep descent to Gungah Bay
- 141** The long decline to the Oatley boundary to Dairy Creek– Gungah Bay Road.
- 142** The boundary between Oatley's grant (right) and Townson's "farm" (left)
- 143** The "new" rail line 1905. The cutting allow the track to go round Mort's Hill, not over it.
- 144** The route of the walk
- 145** Photograph - The evolving Oatley grant – Oatley in the 1930s or early 40s
- 146** Oatley in 2020
- 147** A tale of four governors – Governor Macquarie 1821
- 148** Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane 1821 – 1825 Successful soldier Major General Committed to expanding the colony. Trouble with Exclusives and Emancipists. Regulated land grants requiring improvements of properties with one convict allocated to each 100 acres at the grantee's expense.
- 149** Governor Sir Ralph Darling 1825-1831 Lieutenant General, he ruled with military simplicity and a zeal for efficiency but was not in tune with the growing push for a more free colony. He was an able administrator but not popular. Darling approved the listing in the colony's Government Gazette of approved grants.

In October 1831 there was such a list in the Government Gazette including James Oatley's 300 acre grant. It was one of the largest.

150 Governor Sir Richard Bourke 1831 – 1837 Irish born (like Darling) Previously governor of the Cape Colony. A committed Whig. He combatted inhuman treatment of convicts and granted rights to emancipists.

In 1832 J Oatley Watchmaker of George Street appeared in the Almanac produced by the Post Office. There were 2500 names listed in Sydney. The colonial population was estimated to be 50 000.

And in 1833 the Oatley Grant was formalised by the Governor.

151 Statue of Governor Bourke (1842) the first of its kind in the colony, the man who signed off on Oatley's grant. Funded by public subscription in praise of the governor. He looks to the future.

