

Portfolio Task 1 - Harvesting Data From the Web

Sandy Pullen

2022-06-03

Introduction

The Tasmanian Land Records (1832-1935) dataset contains over 23,000 records relating to deeds of land grants under General Law, which is a system of land title based on common law used up to 1862 in Tasmania.

The Land records dataset, each record contains links to digital objects available at the Tasmanian Names Index held and maintained at Libraries Tasmania (Tasmania n.d.). The nature of these links is as follows:

1. The URL of the person in the Names Index, which then links to the next two URLs listed here,
2. The URL to the index page containing the index record,
3. The URL of the digitised image of the deed of land grant relating to that record.

The area of interest for this project is the location of Kempton, which was previously known as Green Ponds, in the Southern Midlands of Tasmania.

Results

For the 55 records relating to Kempton, there were 54 unique images downloaded from the Libraries Tasmania website, as described in the Research Methodology for Task 1. One image was repeated due to the land being owned in partnership. (i.e. Thomas Croxton and Edward Randall were joint owners, so there is one record for each person, linking to the same image.)

One record had blank year information, this was visually checked on the deed image, and confirmed as missing. ‘missing’ was entered into this cell in the data entry phase.

Not all images had monetary values included, and the format of the document changed over the years.

Only one image had a useful diagram in the margin (Figure 1).

Many of the historic deed images relate to parcels of land shown in Figure 2 and it would be useful to use QGIS to link the images to the map locations.

Additional Task

Automating the subsequent steps of data collation was beyond the scope of this unit, however they are recorded here for future use. This process will facilitate downloading of historic deeds recording the sale of land in Kempton so that ownership can be traced.

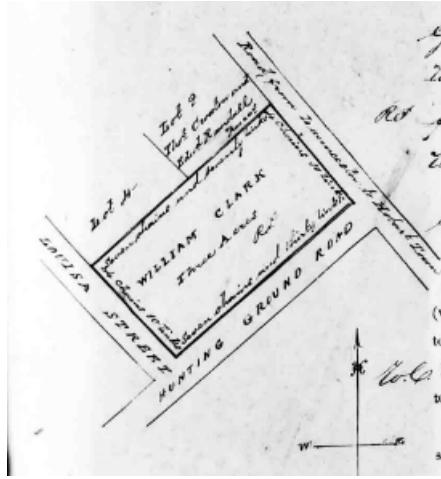


Figure 1: Figure 1: Diagram in the Margin, RD1-1-18P24JPG, William Clark

The Historic Deeds

The Land Information System Tasmania website contains information on historic deeds at <https://www.thelist.tas.gov.au/app/content/property/property-search>

(Note: requires an account to login)

The manual process involved these steps:

- search for surname and year in the list map site
- download the index pdf covering the appropriate period
- search for the correct name, and extract the deed number
- download the deed and save the image.

as outlined here [Historic Deeds General Law User Guide](#)

Example

- searching for Croxton and 1842 returns a link to a set of pdfs: 1827-1926_CRO-CRO-1.pdf, 1827-1926_CRO-CRO-2.pdf, 1827-1926_CRO-CRU.pdf
- the entry for Croxton is in the third pdf, giving a deed number of 02/7259 (see Figure 3).
- return to the historic deeds website and enter the deed number to download a digitised image (see Figure 4).

Appendix

Measurement Conversion

Length:

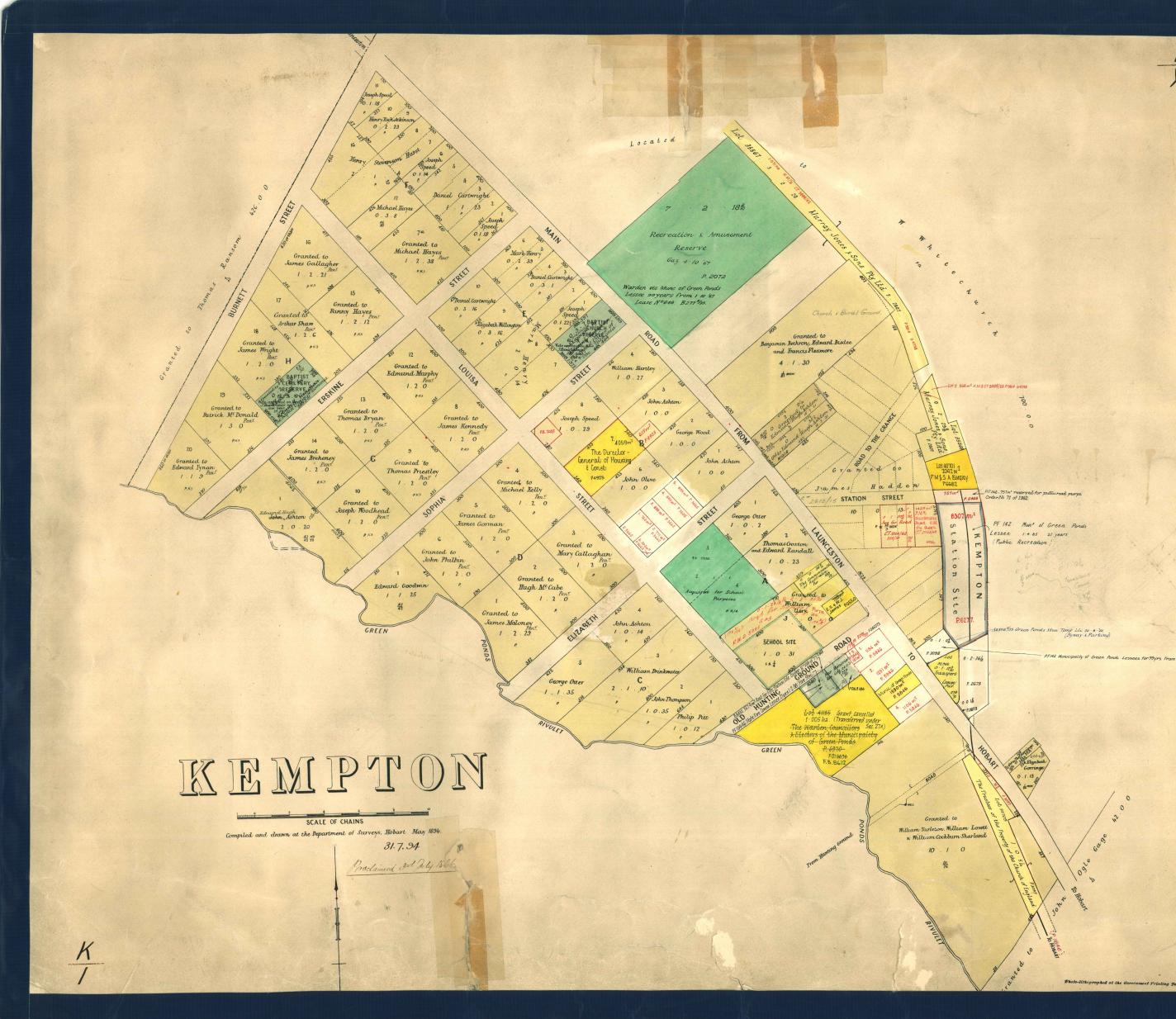


Figure 2: Figure 2: AF819-1-149.jpg (Libraries Tasmania - AF819-1-149 n.d.)

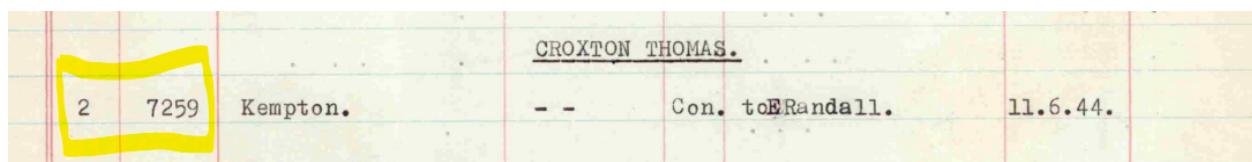


Figure 3: Figure 3: Extracting the deed number

7259

Deed of an Indenture of Sale to be Registered Pursuant to the Act of Council in such Case made and provided	
Date of the said Indenture.	the first day of June in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and forty four
Names and Additions of the parties to the said Indenture.	Thomas Crofton sonnyn of the said Thomas Crofton in the County of Lancashire and Robert Collier son of Robert Collier in the County of Lancashire of the one part and Edward Randall of the said County aforesaid partie to the said Indenture of the other part
Names and additions of the Witnesses to the said Indenture.	The Witness to the Recitation of the said Indenture by the said Thomas Crofton is William Thomas Raffee Chancery Serjeant at Law & Justice
Value and object thereof.	The sum aforesaid is an Absolute Consideration from the said Thomas Crofton to the said Edward Randall and his heirs of All that the undivided eighth or equal half part or share of the said Thomas Crofton of and in the following piece of Land hereinafter described to have the said undivided ninth or equal half part or share of and in the said attachment of Land heretoforewards and furnished with the appurtenances unto and to the use of the said Edward Randall his heirs and Assigns forever
Description of the Land or property conveyed in or affected by the said Indenture.	That the undivided ninth or equal half part or share of the said Thomas Crofton of and in All that Elevation or piece of Land containing by admeasurement One acre and twenty three perches or Metres square and being in the Township of Skelmersdale in the County of Lancashire Land and bounded on the South East by a road running from the Castle, angle of Lot one of three hundred and thirty six links along the High Road leading from Skelmersdale to Hutton Town on the South West by three hundred and fifty links running along an Almshouse towards Captain Clarke - On the North West by three hundred and six links and on the East by three hundred and eighty links area Lot one to the point of commencement or boundary between the said allotment of Land so it may be bounded described to distinguish, and as the same is delineated in the Plan drawn in the margin of certain Letters Patent dated the nineteenth day of November in the fifth year of the Reign of her present Majesty together with the enclosure or entenant and outbuilding erected on the said Almshouse

Figure 4: Historic deed 02/7259 (extract)

- 1 foot = 12 inches
- 3 feet = 1 yard (Feet to Metres = multiply by 0.3048)
- 1 chain = 22 yards
- 10 chains = 1 furlong
- 100 links = 1 chain
- 1 mile = 8 furlongs
- 1 link equals 0.2 metres (Links to Metres = multiply by 0.2012)

Area:

- 40 perches equals 1 rood
- 4 roods equals 1 acre
- 1 acre equals 0.4 hectares (Acres to Hectares = multiply by 0.404686)

(Source: Historic Deeds General Law User Guide)