

# Portfolio Task 1 - Harvesting Data From the Web

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## 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.

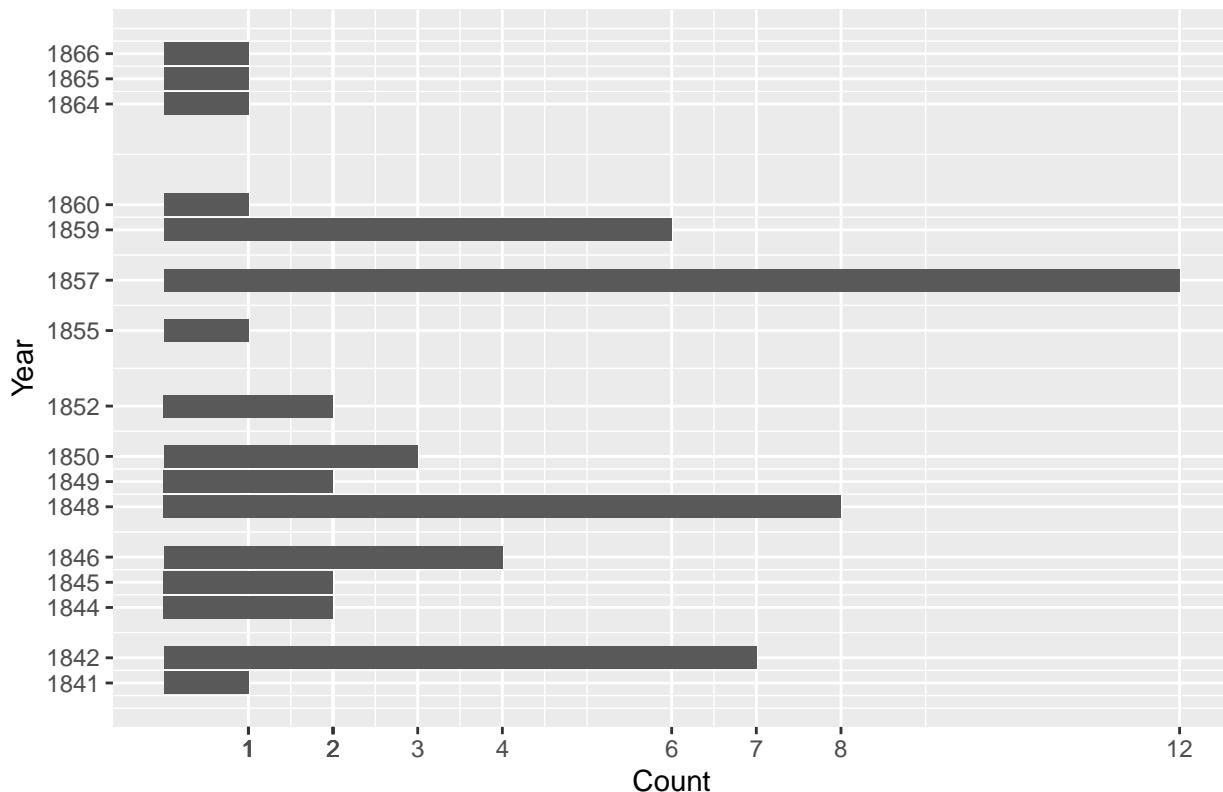
The area of interest for this project is the location of Kempton, which was previously known as Green Ponds, in the Southern Midlands of Tasmania.

## 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. The following bar chart shows the number of historic deeds for each year contained in the dataset.

## Count of Land Grant Deeds by Year



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).

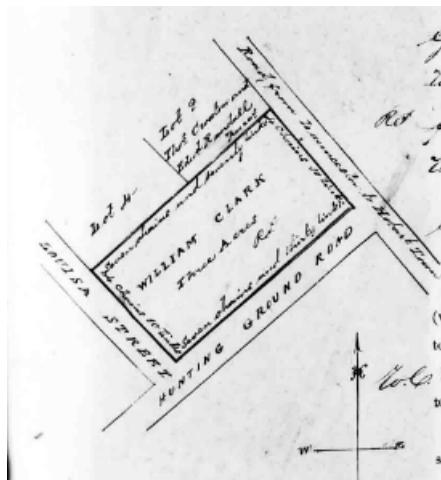


Figure 1: Figure 1: Diagram in the Margin, RD1-1-18P24JPG, William Clark

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.

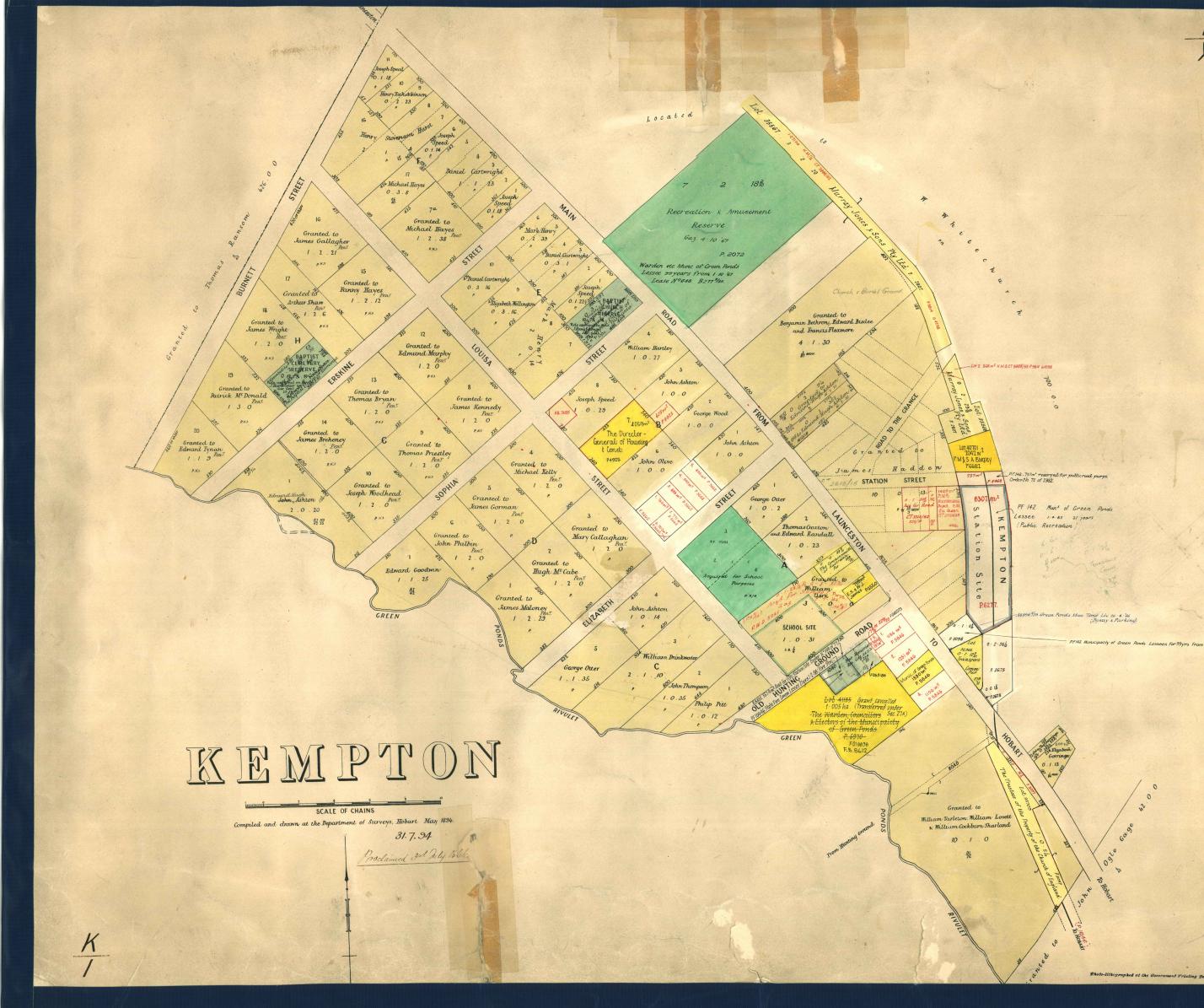


Figure 2: Figure 2: AF819-1-149.jpg (Libraries Tasmania - AF819-1-149 n.d.)

## 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 and a timeline could be produced.

### 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)

**Workflow** 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).
- thus the share of land has been transferred from Croxton to Randall.

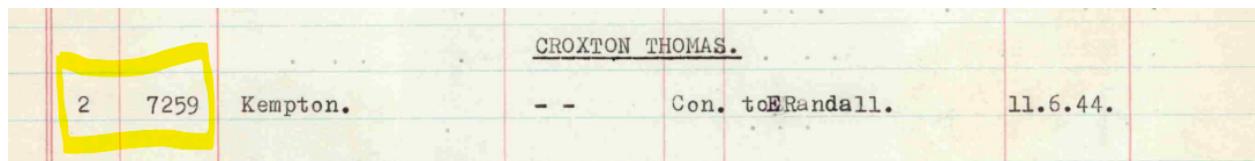


Figure 3: Extracting the deed number

## Appendix

### Measurement Conversion

Length:

	<span style="font-size: 2em;">Memorial</span> of an Indenture & Release to be Registered Pursuant to the Act of Council in such Case made and provided	<span style="font-size: 1.5em;">739</span>
Date of the said Indenture.	The first day of June in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty five	
Changes and Additions of the parties to the said Indenture.	Thomas Crofton formerly of the Green Sconce in the County of Lancashire Baker but now of Pen Arden in the County of York the party and Edward Randall of the Green Sconce aforesaid Stone Mason of the other party	
Changes and Additions of the witnesses to the said Indenture.	The witness to the execution of the said Indenture by the said Thomas Crofton is Willoughby Thomas Chapman Esquire of Ards, Fisher.	
Witness and object thereof.	The new indemnifying Indenture is an Abolish Conveyance from the said Thomas Crofton to the said Edward Randall and his heirs of all that the unexpired debts or charges half past one year of the said Thomas Crofton of and in the Elliburn or piece of Land hereinafter described to hold the said unexpired money or equal half part or share of the said Thomas Crofton of and in the Elliburn or piece of Land hereinafter described to hold the said unexpired money or equal half part or share in the said Settlement of Land hereinafore held 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.	I did that the unexpired money or equal half part or share of the said Thomas Crofton of and in the Elliburn or piece of Land containing by advertisement One acre and twenty three perches in the ancient parish and being in the Township of Skipton in the County of York having Land and Boundaries on the North East commanding from the Eastern end of Lot One by two hundred and thirty six links along the High Road leading from Skipton to Skipton Town. On the South East by nine hundred and fifty links along an Attachment located to Captain Clarke. On the South West by three hundred links along Lot Two and on the West by three hundred and eighty eight links across Lot One to the point of commencement or otherwise where the said attachment of Land is or may be bounded described as distinctly as the same is delineated in an Plan drawn in the margin of certain Robert Paton dated the twentieth day of September in the fifth year of the Reign of her present Majesty together with the said Indenture or Settlement and continuing back to the said Indenture.	

Figure 4: 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)