

WILLOUGHBY DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Thomas Saywell (1837–1928)

Early Willoughby Brickmaker

George Janes

Early Willoughby Brickmaker

John Ingham Aspinall (1837-1897)

Foreman Brickmaker

With reference also to Richard Hayes Harnett Snr. and Alexander Stuart

Terry Fogarty
2016

THOMAS SAYWELL (1837 – 1928)

Thomas Saywell was an English merchant and developer who arrived in Australia in 1848. He first went to the goldfields then set up as a Tobacconist in 1863. By 1871 Saywell had invested in coal and brick production. ([Australian Dictionary of Biography](#)).

Saywell was an owner of the Queens Park Estate in St Leonards.¹ The Estate was within the current confines of the **Municipality of North Sydney** in the vicinity of current day Cammeray (refer Figure 1). At the time the area was probably known as the Township of St Leonards and is not to be confused with the current suburbs of St Leonards part of which is within the City of Willoughby and part within the Municipality of North Sydney.

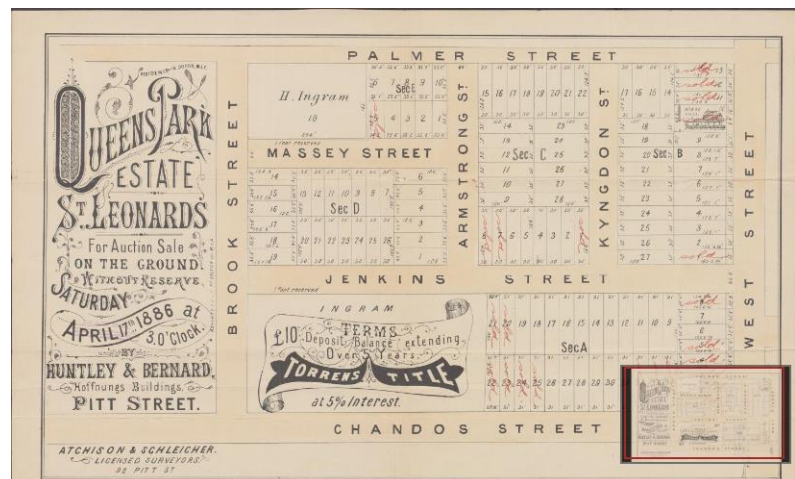


Figure 1 Queens Park Estate – Cammeray
<http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-230483064/view>

¹ Mary Saywell, via email, July 2016

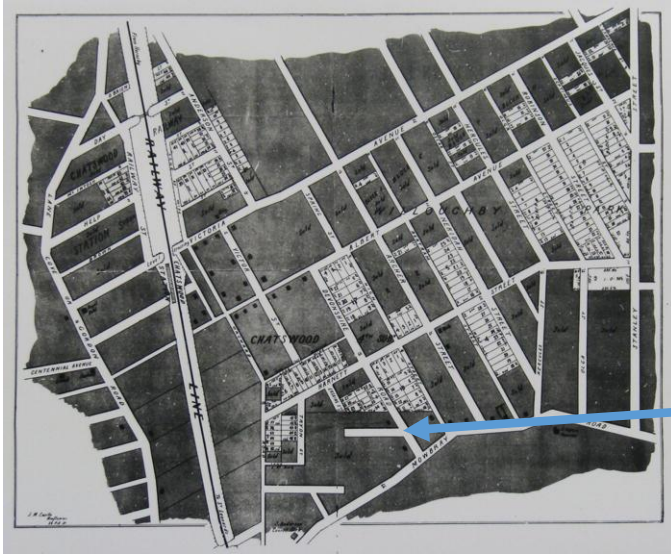


Figure 2 Willoughby Park Estate c.1890s
Picture Willoughby 0011/0011205

In the 1883, Thomas Saywell, Brickmaker purchased land in North Willoughby². He bought 5+ acres³ from the brickmaker George Janes for 1,600 pounds. On the same day Saywell purchased more land from [Richard Hayes Harnett Snr.](#), Broker, [Alexander Stuart](#), Merchant⁴ and

Current day Saywell St

George Janes, Brickmaker for 15 ponds plus 76 pounds. This was for Lots 9, 10 & 11 of Section 3 on Deposited Plan 260 in the Parish of Willoughby (Vol. 336 Folio 6 and 7). This land was identified as being within the Willoughby Park Estate.

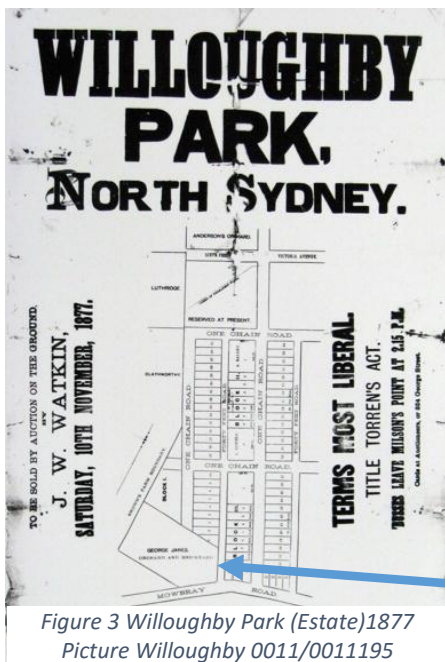


Figure 3 Willoughby Park (Estate)1877
Picture Willoughby 0011/0011195

Note the Estate Plan calls this Willoughby Park but the area is actually part of the Willoughby Park Estate (as shown above in Figure 2).

Note also that the area is referred to as 'North Sydney'. In 1877 this area was clearly within the Borough of North Willoughby. However, the area was also within Lithgow's 'Township of North Sydney' (Fig. 5)

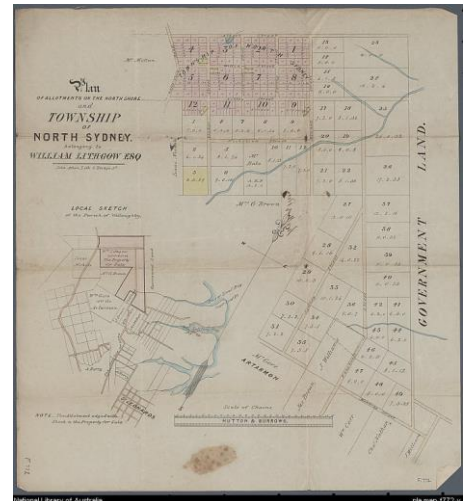


Figure 5
Lithgow's Township of North Sydney

Large allotment with orchard & brickyard owned by Janes

It should be noted that Saywell Street was named after Thomas Saywell in 1891. Formerly the street was called Station Street because a branch railway line was planned in the area but never built. It is reported that Saywell had a brickfield in the area (Booker & Bennet p.49). This is consistent with a brickyard having occupied the site when it was owned by Janes. It is not known if the planned branch railway line was related to the location of the brickfield.

² This would be the Borough of North Willoughby, not the current day suburb.

³ Certificate of Title 28th March 1879 Volume No. 280 folio 217 in being Lot 1 of Section 4 in Deposited Plan 260 Parish of Willoughby

⁴ Harnett and Smart appear to have held the mortgage of the land owned by Janes.

GEORGE JANES

At this stage, little is known of George Janes. We know that he owned more than five acres of land in two holdings within the Willoughby Park Estate in current day Chatswood. He sold these parcels of land to Thomas Saywell in 1883. There was an orchard and brickyard on the larger of his two parcels in the vicinity of current day Saywell Avenue and Mowbray Rd.

JOHN INGHAM ASPINALL (1837-1897)

Aspinall was referred to as being a Foreman Brickmaker. It is also reported that by 1884 Aspinall had moved to Orchard Road, North Willoughby (current day Chatswood) ⁵ It appears that there was a connection between Aspinall and Saywell. Possibly Aspinall was a foreman at Saywell's brickyard?

⁵ Mary Saywell, email to author, July 2016