

William Sherburd's Farm

Ila Willing

William Sherburd, his wife Esther, two sons and four daughters embarked from Norfolk Island on the 3rd September 1808 on board the "City of Edinburgh". They brought with them property to the value of £60 and a recommendation from Governor King of Norfolk Island that they be granted land in Van Diemens Land.

William Sherburd was granted 60 acres of land in the Parish of Queenborough in the County of Buckingham. This was 2 acres for each acre of land relinquished on Norfolk Island. My grandfather told me that their home was situated on the water side of the public road, just south of the present Taroon Hotel.

The stock that he brought with him was conserved for breeding. On the 16th May 1817 William supplied the Government with 1000 pounds of meat and 30 bushells of wheat. By 1819 he was well established and produced 7 acres of wheat, ½ acre of peas and beans, 1 acre of potatoes as well as 14 cattle and 130 sheep.

In 1822 he sold 6 acres of the property to his daughter, Mrs Ann Hopwood, and thus reduced his property to 54 acres.

William Sherburd died on the 24th December 1822, aged 64 years. His wife, Esther, died on the 3rd November 1826, aged 56 years. Both were buried in St. David's Park, Hobart Town¹. The *Hobart Town Gazette* said, "William Sherburd had been an inhabitant of the colonies for nearly 33 years."

Upon William's death his son, John, being heir-at-law of the original grantee, inherited all his father's property, including the farm and properties at Davey Street, Hobart Town and Blackmans Bay in the county of Kingborough. John Sherburd farmed the property until shortly after the death of his mother in 1826. On the 30th October 1826, in accordance with his father's expressed wish, John made over the remaining 54 acres of land to William, his brother. William farmed the land for some time and then became a ship's master and went to sea. William Vince then became the tenant of the farm and remained until 1860.

In 1843 there was a dispute about the

ownership of the farm. William Sherburd applied for the survey title of the land, stating that the land had been in his possession for many years. John Sherburd stated that he had made the land over to William. The title of the land was given to William Sherburd on the 8th August 1848.

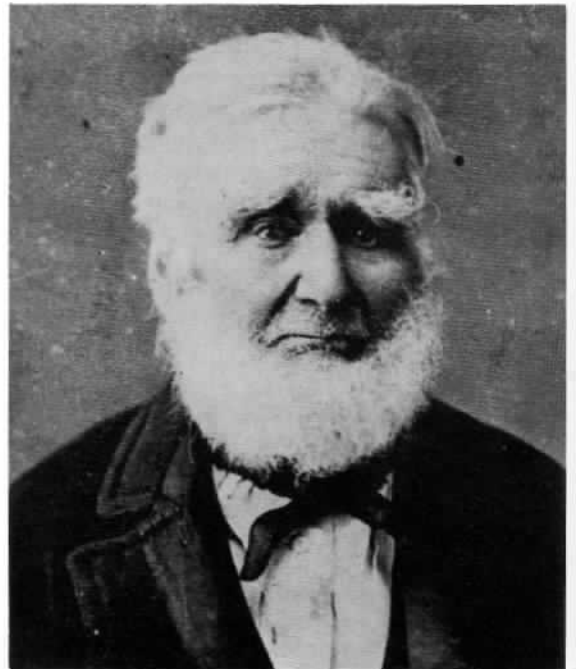
On the 2nd September 1856 William purchased the 6 acres sold to his sister, Mrs Ann Hopwood, in 1822. The property was then listed as 59 acres. I have not been able to trace the lost acre, but I feel this may have been acquired by the Government for the Brown's River Road. The annual assessed value of the land was £35.

The farm remained the property of William Sherburd until the 16th February 1860, when he sold it to Mrs Phillis (*sic*) Seal for £500. Mrs Seal was the wife of the late Charles Seal who was the owner of the ship "Pacific". William Sherburd was the ship's master.

This ended fifty two years of ownership of the farm by the Sherburd family.

References

1. Lord, R. *Inscriptions in Stone, St. David's Burial Ground, 1804-1872*, St. George's Church, Battery Point, Hobart 1976.



Captain John Sherburd who inherited the estate of his father, William Sherburd.

PHOTO ILA WILLING.