HISTORIC EVENT/AT PORT KEMBLA/OXLEY TABLET UNVEILED:

That heading stood in the Illawarra Mercury of September 30, 1927, above the story of the unveiling on Saturday September 24 of the plaque commemorating the locating of the first land grants to be made at Five Islands as Illawarra was then called "... on an area overlooking Lake Illawarra." The plaque was reported to have been unveiled on the spot where Surveyor-General Oxley was said to have marked out the location of the Crown Grants.

Visitors including members of the "Historical Society" travelled from Sydney to attend. They were met "at the station" (not specified) "with cars." Luncheon was held in the open air at "Mr. Thompson's", the visitors passing through the "Port Kembla Estate" en route. The report said the gathering was "at Mr. Thompson's residence adjacent to which the memorial had been placed on the butt of a tree ..."

Ald. Gorrell, Mayor of Central Illawarra, presided. After lunch Mr. P. H. Morton proposed the toast, "The Royal Historical Society ..." He said that Captain Cook attempted to land at Perkins Beach and that Bass and Flinders did land there. Mr. Morton said that he got his information from Mrs. McCaffrey, "an old resident." He "... made a search and found where they were standing the remains of the fireplace of the hut that sheltered Charles Throsby's stockman ..." Mr. Morton then traced the grant of Allan passing to Richard Jones who sold to W. C. Wentworth who passed it to his son and he to his until that day.

From what Mr. Morton said that day it may be concluded that the site was selected by him on hearsay from Mrs. McCaffrey.

Mr. Morton went on to say that Oxley's grandson and great grandson were present and traced the name first Five Islands and then Illawarra. He concluded saying, "... the function had been organised by private individuals and was not associated with Port Kembla Lands Ltd. in any way."

Captain (J. H.) Watson (J.P. president of the Royal Australian Historical Society) unveiled the plaque and P. H. Morton dedicated the land on which it stood "to the public of Australia" under the care of Roper, head of the Lands Department and of Matthews, the Surveyor-General. After some inspections nearby the party boarded the train for Sydney at Unanderra.

The article concluded, "Messrs. Morton and Jackson played a big part in achieving such a success." The account ended with a long list of visitors who had attended.