

MORE ON THE "SMITHS AND ANOTHER"

It is well recorded that Governor Macquarie granted 300 acres of Wollongong land to Charles Throsby Smith on the 1st December, 1821.

The land grants were not immediately formalized and that task was undertaken during Governor Burke's term of office in 1835. The Smith land was known then as "Bustle Farm" and included in the map of Wollongong.

It is also well recorded that C.T. Smith was to deal in his land by subdivision.

From the contents of a dealing that has recently come to notice, land immediately to the north of Crown Street and to the east of Kembla Street and in the vicinity of "an area" marked as open space and reserved for a church and west of a street leading to the site of the intended church (Coombe Street) land was acquired by Alexander Brodie Spark in 1839 from Mr C.T. Smith.

By 1843, Mr Spark was in financial difficulties and his estate was dealt with for the benefit of his creditors and in 1846 Henry Gilbert Smith acquired it and by 1856 was involved in the sale of part of that land, by then subdivided, to a George Organ of Wollongong, Farmer.

It is not clear if any of the Smiths carried out any building work but it can be presumed that both had a hand in testing the market and were uncertain as to the optimum lot size. When Mr Organ acquired his property the size of lots in the subdivision was very small. He acquired a number of them for 35 pounds in 1856 and was on the way to becoming a land baron himself.

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