

What you should know

■ The CSU Regional Archives is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Located in the Blakemore Building at the South Campus of the university, access can be gained via College Avenue or Hely Avenue.

■ Members of the public are welcome to visit the search room, where professional archival staff can assist with enquiries. For those people unable to visit the archives in person, staff can provide a research service for straightforward enquiries for a fee of \$55 per hour, including copying and postage.

■ For further information, phone 6925 3666, email archive@csu.edu.au or visit the website at www.csu.edu.au/research/archives for a full listing of holdings and more detailed information.



A section of the 1849 plan by Thomas Scott Townsend, highlighting a portion of the early street layout for Wagga.

Wogga Wogga?

How the town of Wagga came to be

at the
archives

Wayne Doubleday



Wogga Wogga?

One of the early surveyor-generals of NSW was Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell. Mitchell had learnt the art of surveying while serving in the British Army, where he was employed to obtain

topographical intelligence.

Between 1831 and 1846 he led four expeditions to explore the interior of NSW. On the return journey of his third expedition in 1836, Mitchell passed through the Wagga area, which was only just beginning to be populated by European settlers.

A few years before, the Thompson family had taken up "Eunonyharenyha" on the north bank of the Murrumbidgee and the Best family had "Wagga Wagga" on the south bank.

Other runs followed and the area was soon permanently occupied by squatters, their employees and their families.

By 1847, some major changes had begun to take place.

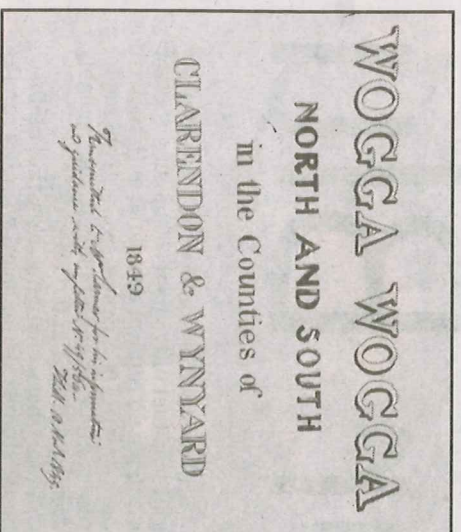
In April, a court of petty sessions was proclaimed at Wagga and a number of magistrates, a clerk of petty sessions and a chief constable were appointed. A courthouse and lockup were constructed on the south bank, near the ford of the river.

Other buildings included several huts that were occupied by the police constables, one store, and Henry Collis's Royal Hotel.

All these buildings were also located near the ford.

John Franklin's blacksmith shop was located on the land that is now Tony Ireland Park.

Before Wagga could be officially gazetted, the proposed site was required to undergo a survey. The survey for Wagga was undertaken by



A section of the 1849 plan by Thomas Scott Townsend, showing an alternative spelling for Wagga Wagga.

Thomas Scott Townsend, who left Sydney for the Murrumbidgee and Monaro districts in December 1847.

Townsend recommended the reservation of nine sections for the town, with settlement on both sides of the Murrumbidgee.

On the south bank a small number of streets were marked. These were later to become Gurwood, Kincaid, Crampton, Travers, Fitzmaurice and Trail streets.

North Wagga streets today bear little resemblance to how Townsend envisaged them. Swan, in his *A History of Wagga Wagga*, commented that Townsend had stated that all of the allotments he had marked were "beyond the reach of the highest floods".

However, as Swan pointed out, this confident declaration was disproved time and again.

The final plan for the township of Wagga was submitted to Mitchell, in his capacity as surveyor-general of NSW, on April 27, 1849.

Mitchell subsequently decided to name a number of the proposed streets after men he had served with in the 95th Regiment during the Peninsular Wars.

These men were Thomas Sydney Beckwith, John G Fitzmaurice, Richard Bruin Freer,

William Johnston, John Kincaid, Daniel McKinnon, George Simmons, Charles Peter Traill and James Conway Travers.

The plan was approved by the Governor and the executive council on September 18, 1849.

The township of Wagga Wagga was finally proclaimed on November 23, 1849.

The CSU Regional Archives has a copy of the plan made in 1849 for the proposed town of Wagga Wagga (or Wogga Wogga), available for viewing in the search room.

The original is held by State Records NSW at Kingswood.

■ **References:** DWA Baker, Mitchell, Sir Thomas Livingstone (1792 - 1855), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Online Edition; W Ellis (1990) *The Street Names of Wagga Wagga*; S Morris (1999) *Wagga Wagga - A History*; K Swan (1970) *A History of Wagga Wagga*

THROUGHOUT regional and rural NSW are a number of community access points for state archives that are usually held at the State Records offices in Sydney.

The CSU Regional Archives is one of the 39 access points in NSW.

As part of the "access for all" initiative, State Records has put together the Archives Resources Kit, which consists of the most heavily used and popular colonial records.

The records have been copied onto both microfilm and microfiche and can be easily accessed within our search room.

The Archives Resources Kit is a comprehensive source for genealogical enquiries covering the whole of NSW.

The kit includes births, deaths and marriage indexes, convict records, shipping/immigration records, electoral rolls, naturalisation papers, the Colonial Secretary's papers, land and surveying records, coroner and inquest indexes, census records, probate indexes, musters and indexes to professions.

The CSU Regional Archives also hold other genealogical sources and limited records for Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.

For a full listing of sources, contact the archives or visit www.csu.edu.au/research/archives/collection/genealogical.htm.