

Bulletin of Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

(Established March 1977)

Affiliated with Royal Australian Historical Society and
Museum and Galleries Hunter Chapter



Elizabeth St from Lyons' Terrace, the path leads to Bathurst St, 1842 by John Rae

Volume 33, Number 3

August 2026

*The Aims of the Society are to
Discover, Record, Preserve, Advise on and Teach the History of Maitland and the
District*

Maitland and District Historical Society Inc.

Cover: The image is courtesy of the Mitchell Library.

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Location: 3 Cathedral Street Maitland (opposite Bishop's House)

Lecture meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30-7.00pm as a forum for lectures, talks and presentations.

Committee meetings are held on the third Tuesday of even months from 5:30-7.00pm.

General meetings are held on the third Tuesday of odd months from 5:30-7.00pm.
Members are invited to attend all monthly meetings.

Meetings are held at the Society's rooms, 3 Cathedral Street Maitland.

Membership fees : \$25 (single) and \$35 (double / family)

The rooms are open between 11 and 3 on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Patron: Dr AC Archer AM

Current Office Bearers :

President : Jennifer Buffier **Vice President :** Janece McDonald

Treasurer : Kevin Short OAM **Secretary :** Steve Bone

Bulletin Editor : Lisa Thomas **Consultant Editor :** Jennifer Buffier

Bulletin contributions are being sought. Please contact the Society via email
maitlandhistorical@gmail.com

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Editor's Notes:

The artwork reproduced on the cover of this Bulletin was by John Rae. I have special regard for Rae as he jointly owned (with James Forbes Beattie) the central Lochinvar estate in the 1840s. His descendent is the Australian actress and comedian Celia Pacquola.

Several years ago I purchased Geoff Cannon's book *The First Titleholders of Land in the County of Northumberland in New South Wales*. The amount of work which went into that book is staggering. For this Bulletin Geoff has written of his research into the nineteen counties of New South Wales. Geoff is a previous president of the Maitland and District Historical Society and a long time member. I asked Geoff for a biography and he sent me the following:

I was born at Nurse Hanks's Maternity Hospital opposite Les Darcy's mother's house (now Jennifer Buffier's) I grew up at 130 High Street East Maitland. I did my Apprenticeship as an Auto Electrician then went into mechanics. In 1977 I saw a notice in the Mercury for a meeting to start an Historical Society and came away from the meeting as the Secretary.

In that same year, at a meeting, after a casual conversation with Stan Parkes (local historian) about the founding landowners of the town of Maitland, I bought a Parish Map. It started off a project that led me to compile the First Title Holders of Land in the Nineteen Counties of New South Wales.

First the names were listed on six inch (15.24cm) by four inch (10.16mm) cards in pencil then transferred to computer.

These were progressively self published on CD disc, microfiche, Book, and Flash Drives.

Cumberland and Northumberland were first published in 1997 with a grant from The Royal Australian Historical Society through the Department of Urban Affairs and Planning's New South Wales Small Grants Program.

I realised the enormity of the project and broke it up into the following:

Series Two, comprised Camden, Cook, Hunter, Durham and Gloucester and was self published in 2004.

Series Three, comprised St. Vincent, Argyle, Westmoreland, Roxburgh, Phillip and Brisbane, self published in 2010.

Series Four again self published consisted of Murray, King, Georgiana, Bathurst, Wellington and Bligh in 2015.

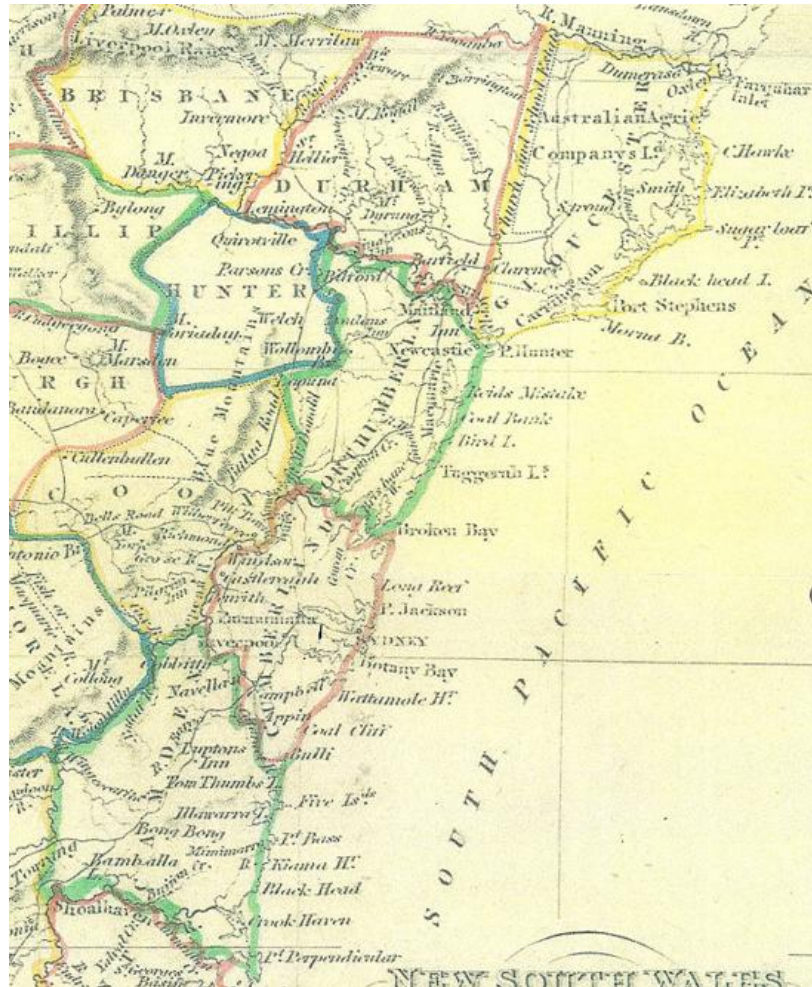
Project completed within Forty years.

Geoff Cannon

First Titleholders of Land in the Nineteen Counties of New South Wales

By Geoff Cannon

The Nineteen Counties were set up to be the “limits of location” in the colony of New South Wales. They were set up by Governor Ralph Darling in 1826 by orders of Lord Bathurst, Secretary of War and the Colonies for England. Further orders in 1829 extended these boundaries.



From an offhand question at one of the earliest meetings of the Maitland and District Historical Society (1977), the prominent local historian Stan Parks, asked “who were the early land holders in Maitland.” I was sent on a journey of discovery.

I compiled a list of landholders around Maitland from the Parish map, bought locally from Lands Board Office.

Portions of land are identified by the Portion number, the Plan number, the location, the Volume and Folio number or the Date, the Area and the Purchaser.

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Most early Plan numbers had an "H" prefix, the assumption being that it meant the old Hunter land rolls. As the "H" prefix appeared around the borders of the first map, I bought the parishes around Maitland and compiled those landholders. During this time the Date or Volume and Folio number being more important to identify the land parcels.

The project snowballed until I completed the County of Northumberland, which extends from the Hawksbury to the Hunter River including the Private Town Singleton and Howes Valley in the West.

I decided to record the copious amounts of information on the Parish maps, other than the Named Portions of landholders. I called them Supplementary Lists of other landholders e.g. Financial Institutions and Companies and Other Landholders. Also Public Facilities dated prior 1900 such as Cemeteries, Churches, Schools, Historical Features, Recreation and Public Parks, Reserves, Private Towns, Dated Grants and Registered Grants plus an Index.

I did the County of Durham next adjoining Northumberland because my wife came from the area and became part of future research.

I was running out of maps available from the local Lands Board District office and was advised to go to the Lands Board Map Sales office in Bridge Street Sydney.

I told the manager what I was doing. He thought I was mad, but became very supportive from then on. He advised me to do the County of Cumberland, virtually the Sydney basin, because of its population base and of its first settlement site.

The project was now huge. It had transitioned from six by four cards and pencil to a Microbee computer. Making this information available to others became an option.

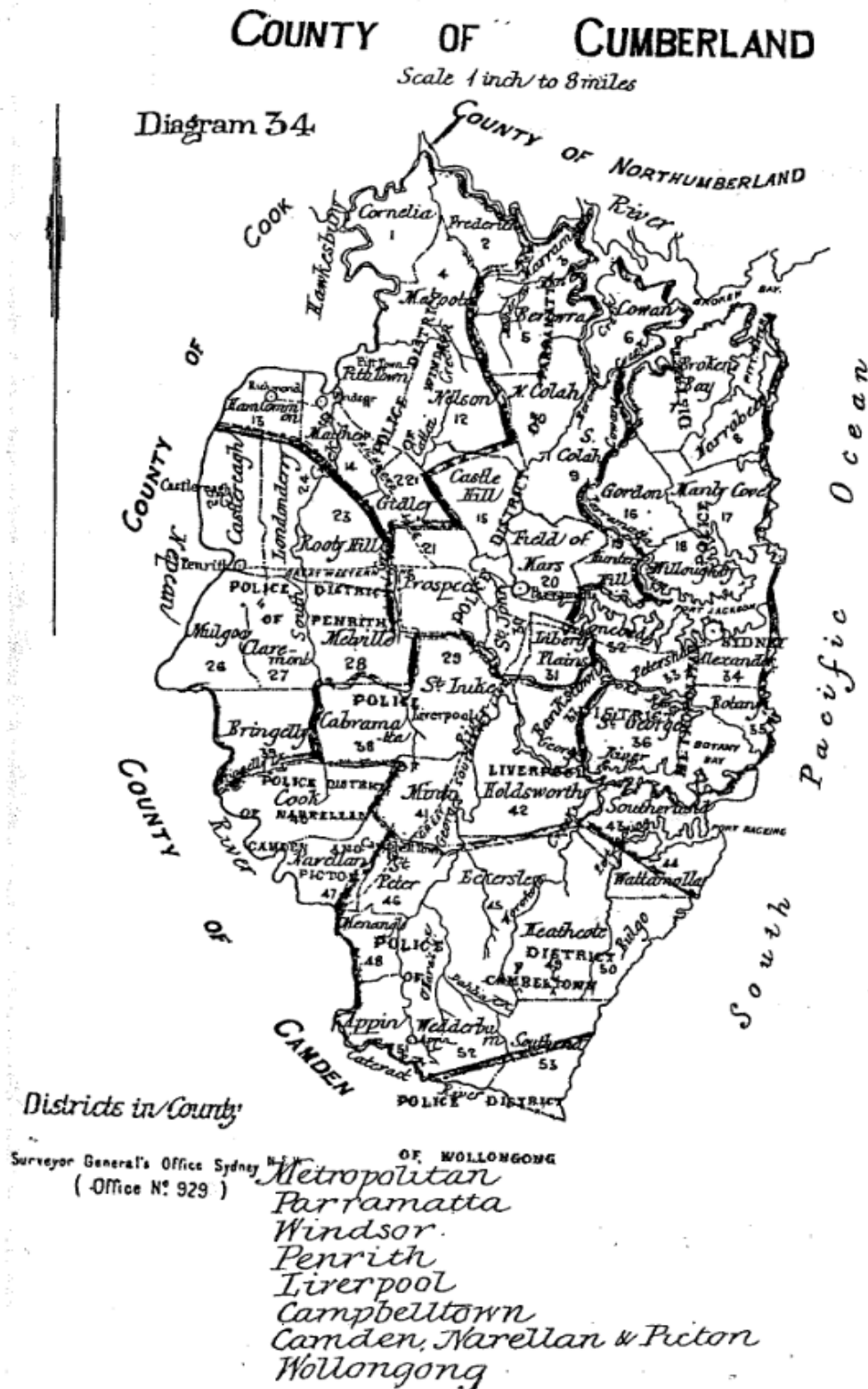
Self publishing in book form was out of the question at this time, but the new age technology of compact disc was affordable.

A dollar for dollar grant from the Royal Australian Historical Society enabled the first publication - CD and microfiche, with the heading *The First Titleholders of Land in the Nineteen Counties of New South Wales* containing the Counties of Cumberland and Northumberland. Released in 1997, it became Series one of a continuing project.

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Cumberland includes Wisemans Ferry and Brooklyn in the north, Richmond and Penrith in the west with Campbelltown, Liverpool and Parramatta and the Royal National Park, Botany Bay, City of Sydney and Manly on the east.

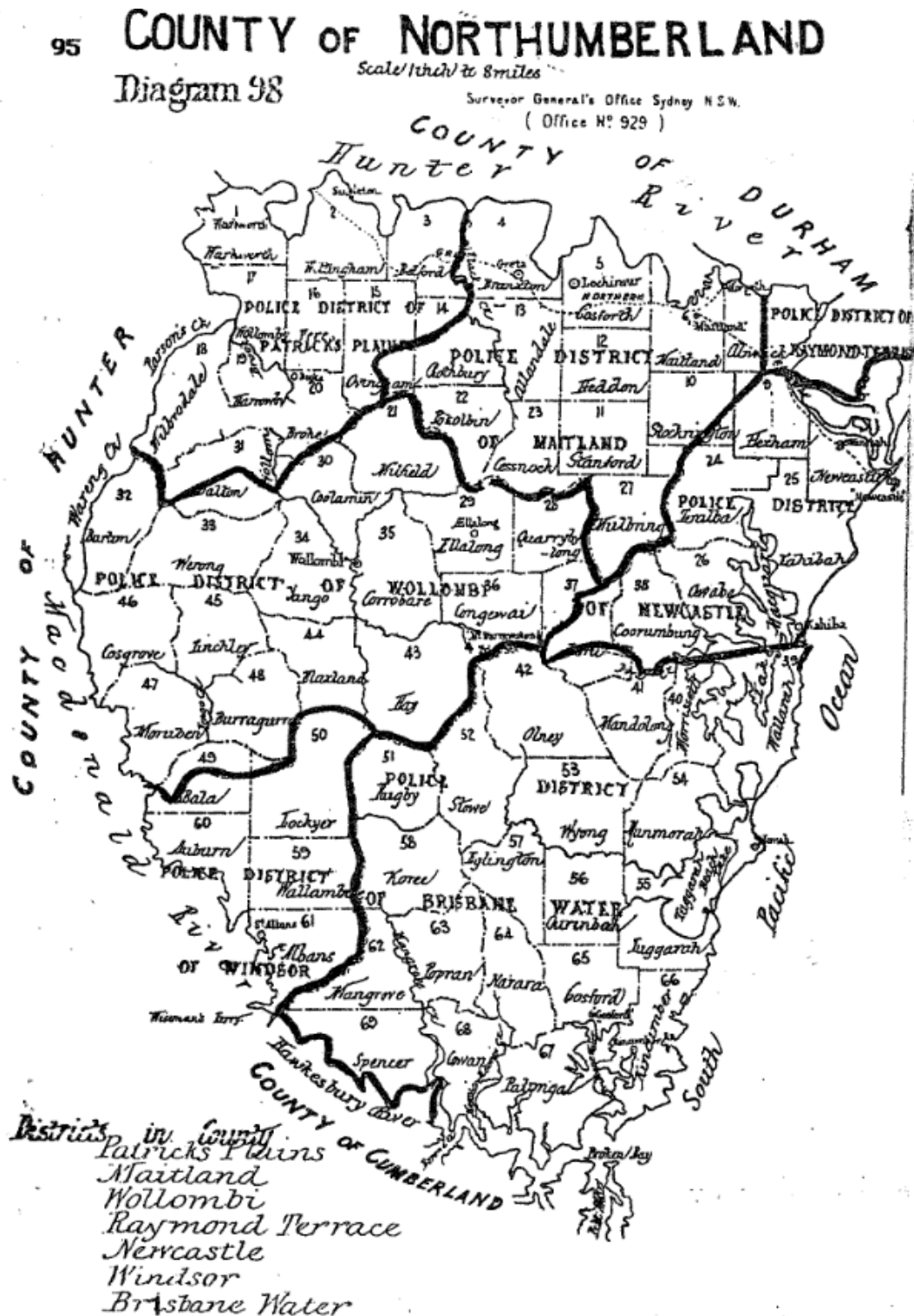
There were 59 First Titleholders to Land dated 1792.



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The County of **Northumberland** includes the major centres of Newcastle, Maitland and Singleton in the north with Warkworth, Howes Valley and St. Albins on the west, Patonga on the South Tuggerah Lake, Swansea, Lake Macquarie and Newcastle on the East.

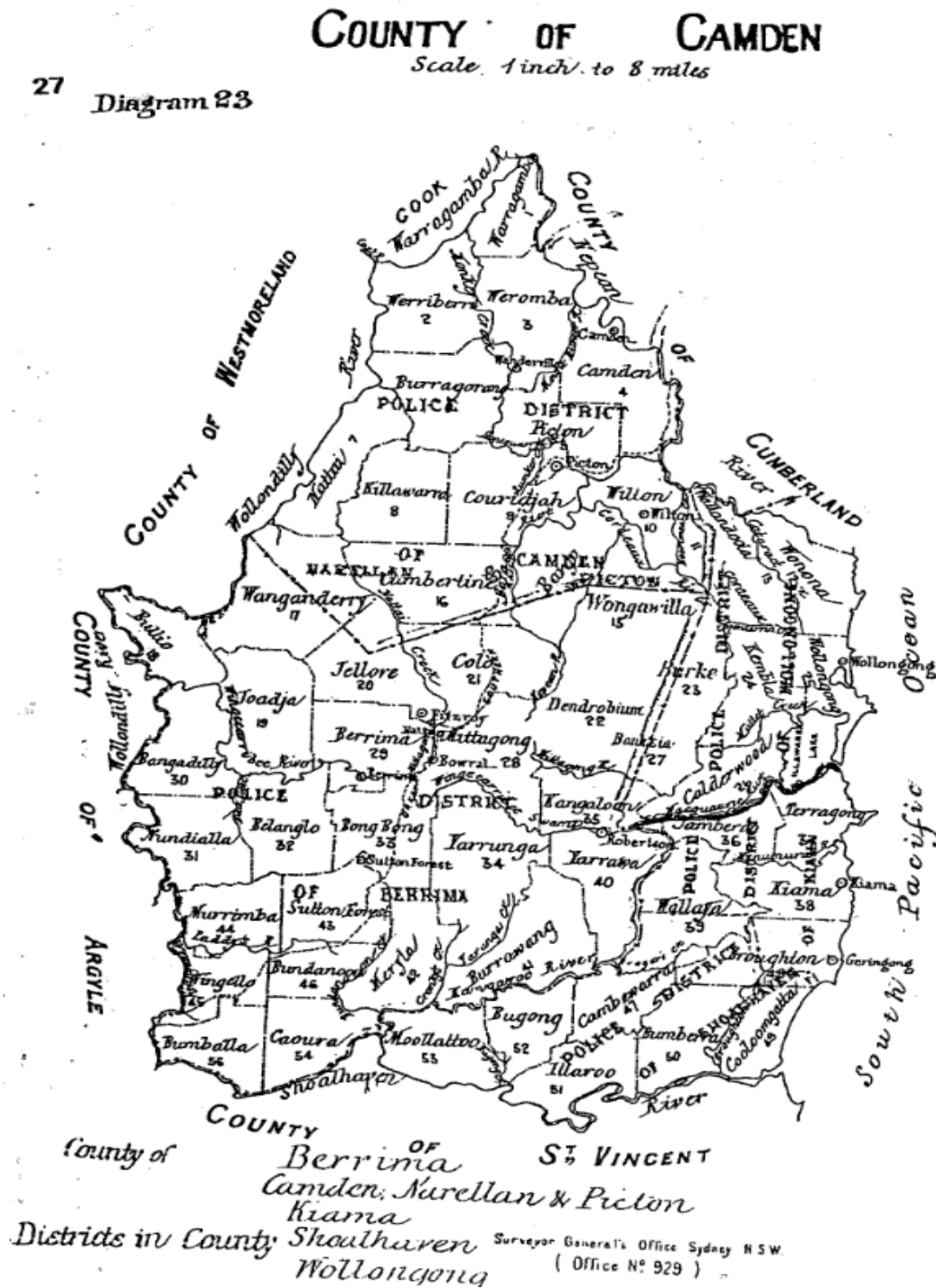
There were 15 First Titleholders to Land dated 1823.



Encouraged by the well received release of Cumberland and Northumberland I deciding to continue the next project radiating clockwise from the first two counties, Cumberland and Northumberland (Publication one). Surrounding counties were **Camden, Cook, Hunter, Durham and Gloucester** and they became Series Two published in 2004.

The County of **Camden** encompassed the Warragamba in the north, southern highlands, in the south and the Cowpastures, Shoalhaven and Kiama on the coast.

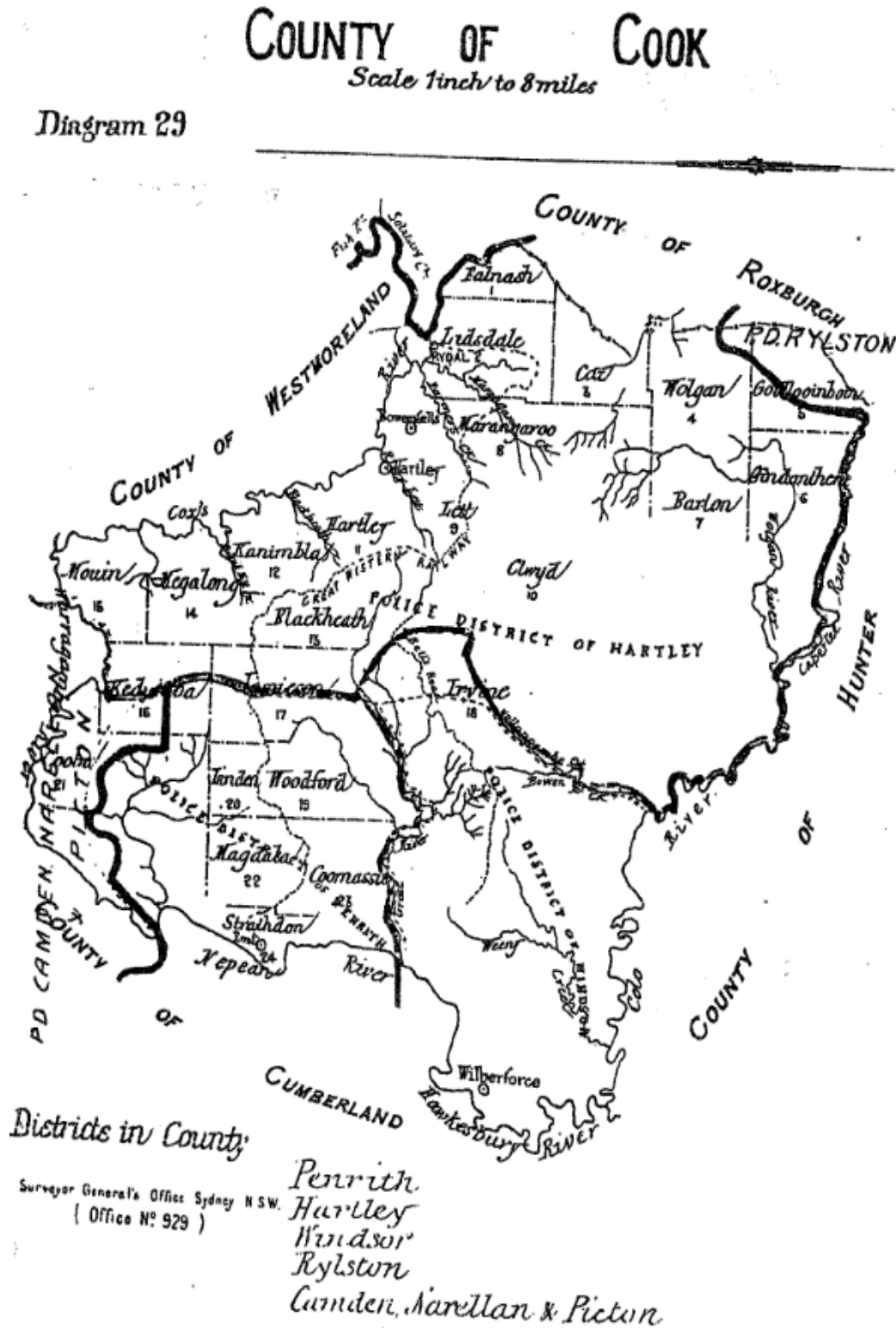
There were 5 First Titleholders to Land dated 1817.



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The County of **Cook** contains the Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Katoomba, Wilberforce and Kurrajong.

There were 8 First Titleholders to Land dated 1794.



The County of **Hunter** contains St. Albans, Jerry's Plains, Glen Alice, Warkworth and Bulga.

There were 5 First Titleholders to Land dated 1804.

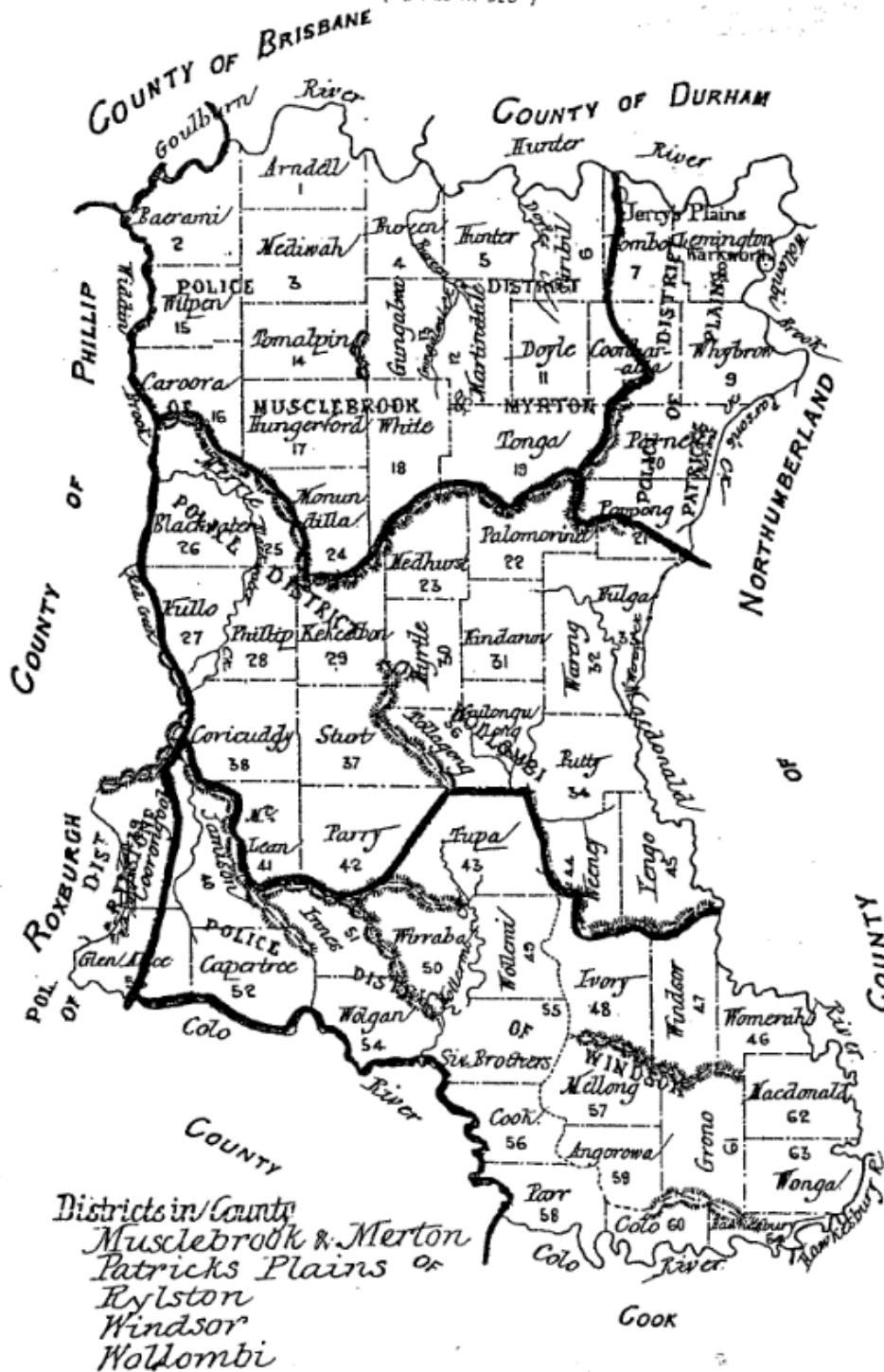
COUNTY OF HUNTER

Scale 1 inch/to 8 miles

70

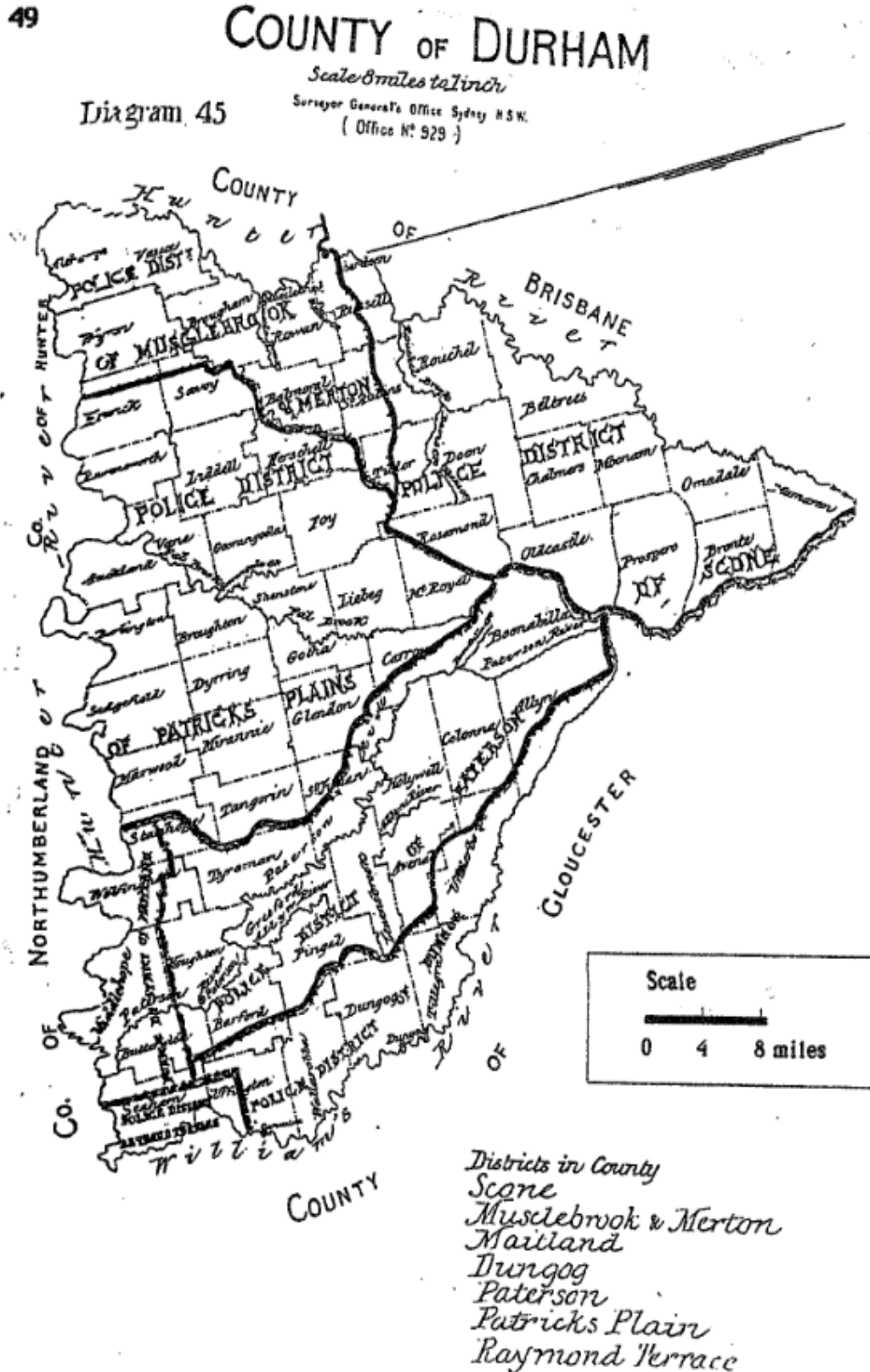
Diagram 70

Surveyor General's Office Sydney N.S.W.
(Office No 929)



The County of **Durham** is in the valley between the Hunter and the Williams River and extends to the Barrington Tops in the North.

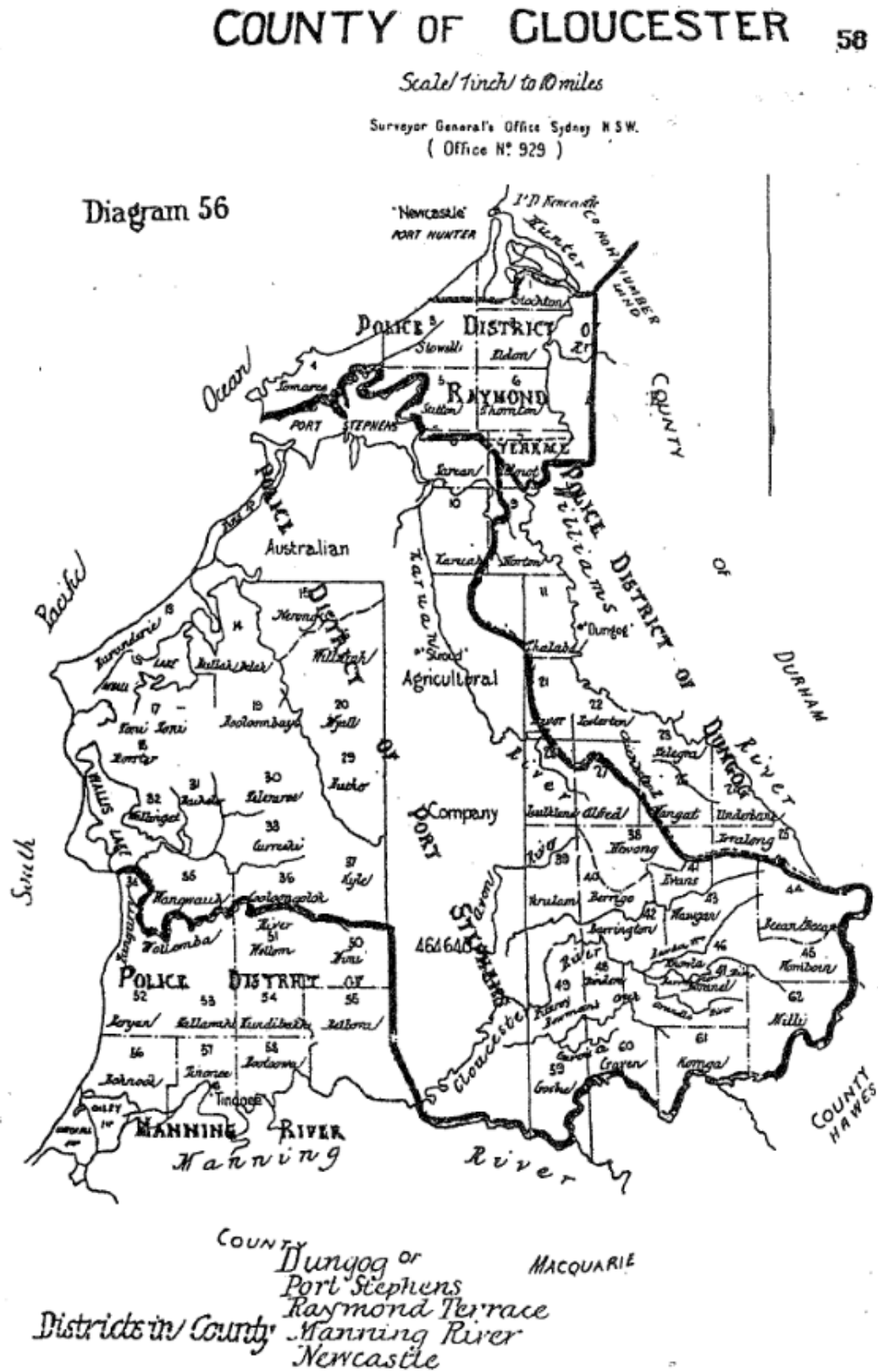
There were 13 First Titleholders to Land dated 1823.



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The County of **Gloucester** includes Barrington, Forster, Gloucester, Karuah, Raymond Terrace, Stockton, Taree, and Thornton.

There were 2 First Titleholders to Land dated 1823.



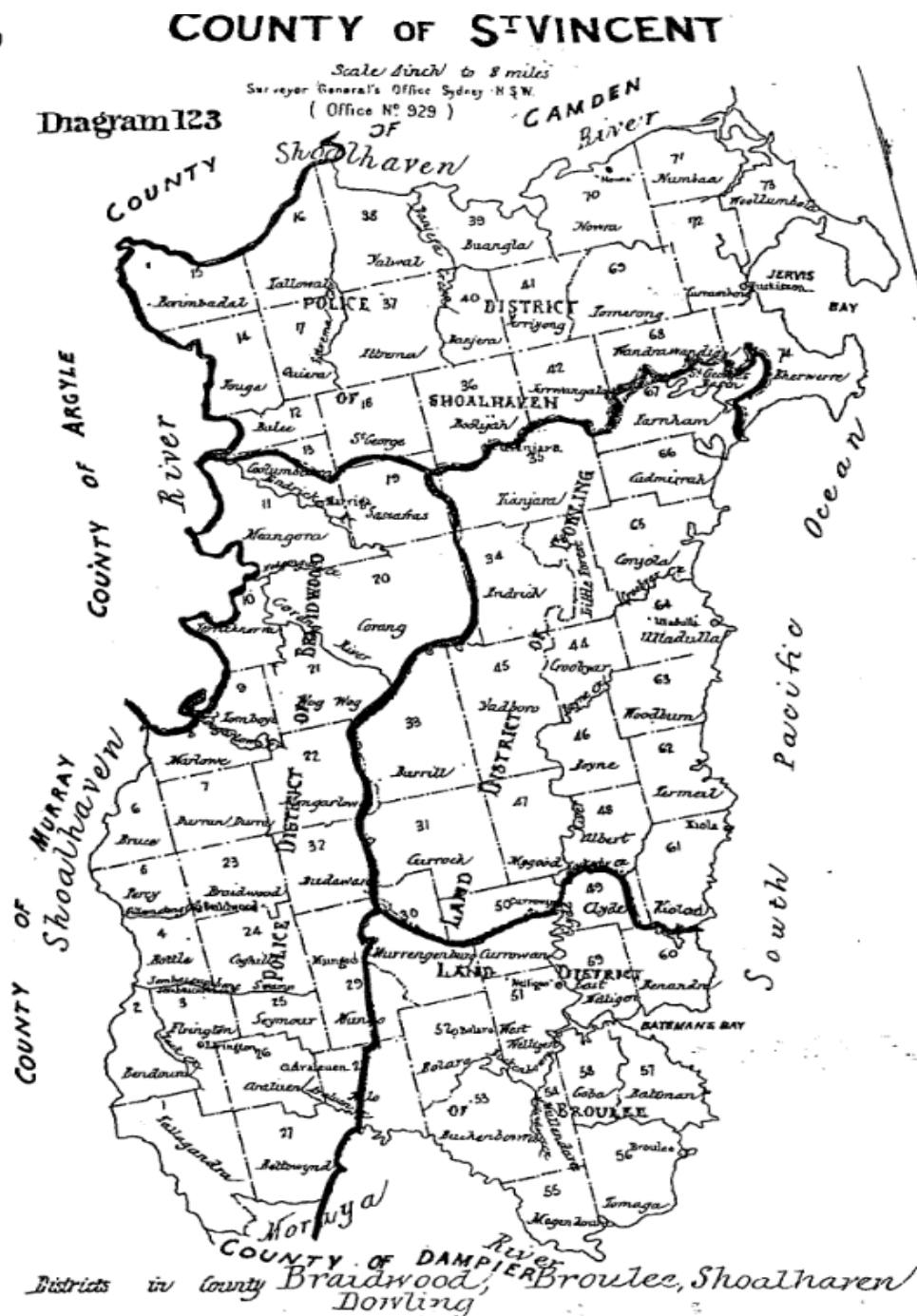
By 2006 I had found a publisher in Sydney that could print at a reasonable price and publishing in book form became possible.

The next Series was **St. Vincent, Argyle, Westmoreland, Roxburgh, Phillip and Brisbane**, being Series Three published in 2010.

The County of **St. Vincent** the Eastern Coast line includes Jervis Bay, Batemans Bay, and Ulladulla. The Shoalhaven forms the northern Boundary and Moruya River on the South with Nowra, Braidwood, Batemans Bay, Jervis Bay and Broulee in its borders.

There were 2 First Titleholders to Land dated 1833.

109



The County of **Argyle** has the City of Goulburn at the Centre of the County.

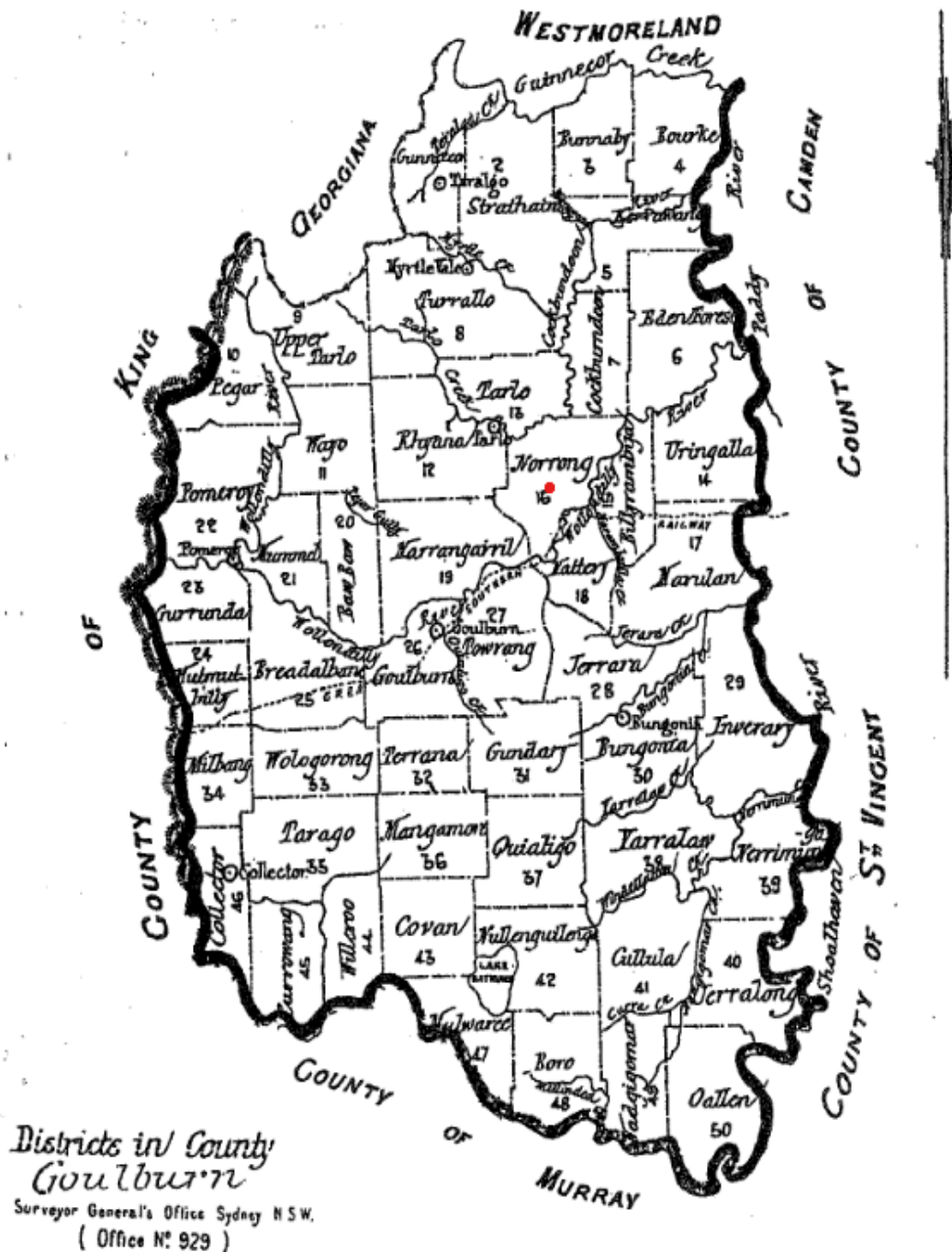
There was 1 First Titleholder to Land dated 1825.

7

COUNTY OF ARGYLE

Scale 1 inch to 8 miles

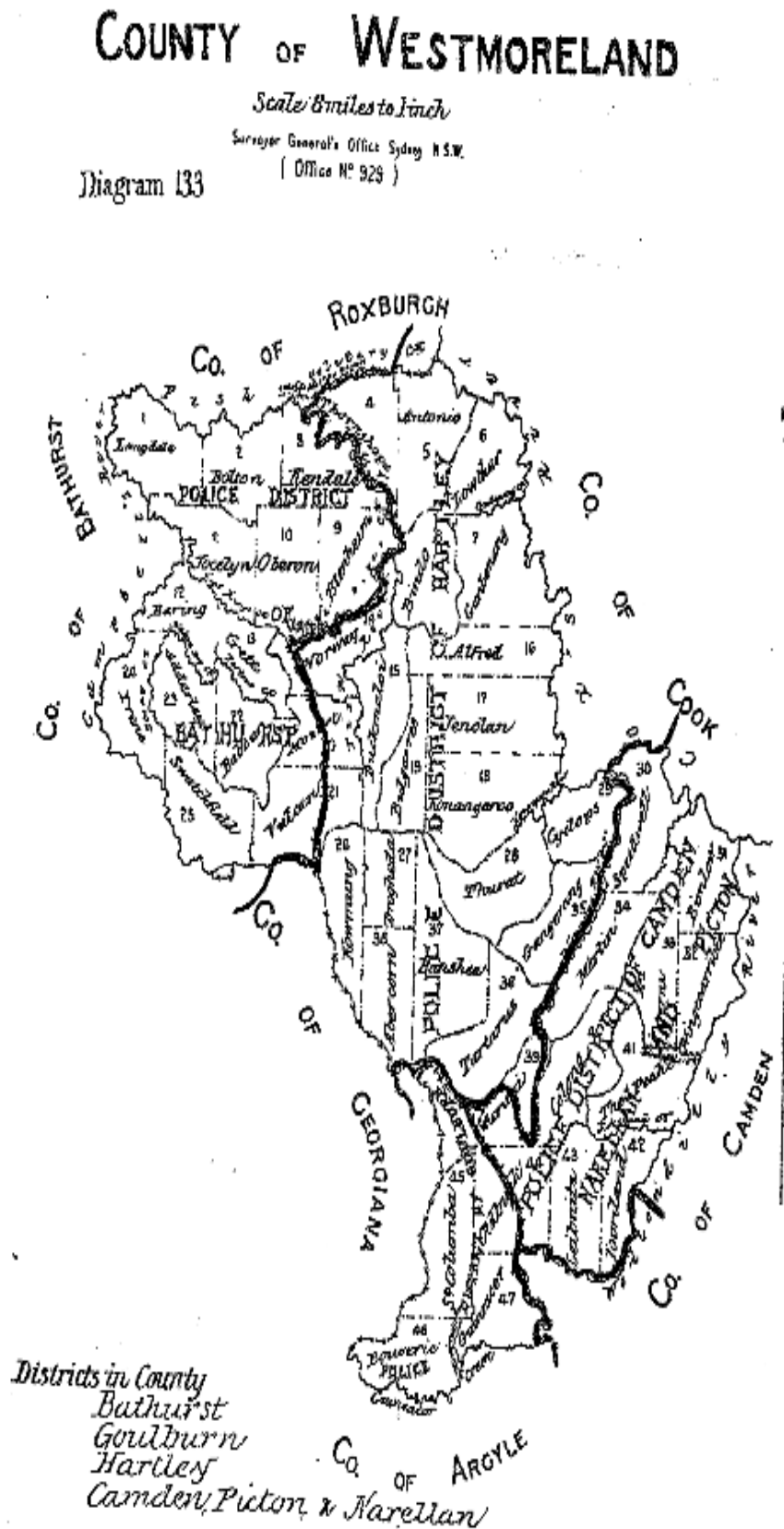
Diagram 1 POLICE DISTRICT OF GOULBURN



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The County of **Westmoreland** contains Oberon and Jenolan within its boundaries.

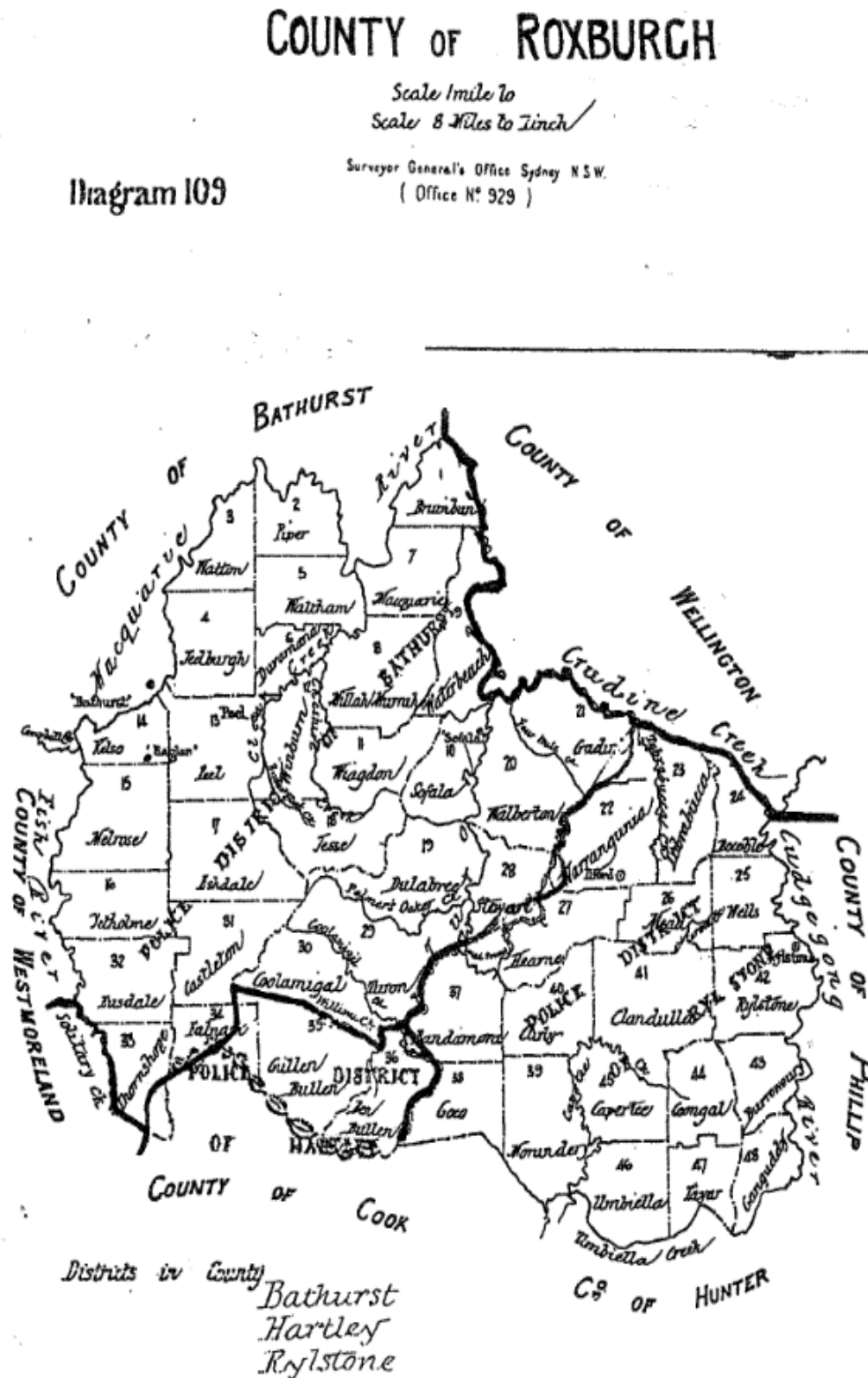
There were 15 First Titleholders to Land dated 1823.



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The County of **Roxburgh** includes Rylstone, Sofala, Sunny Corner, Capertee and Glen Alice.

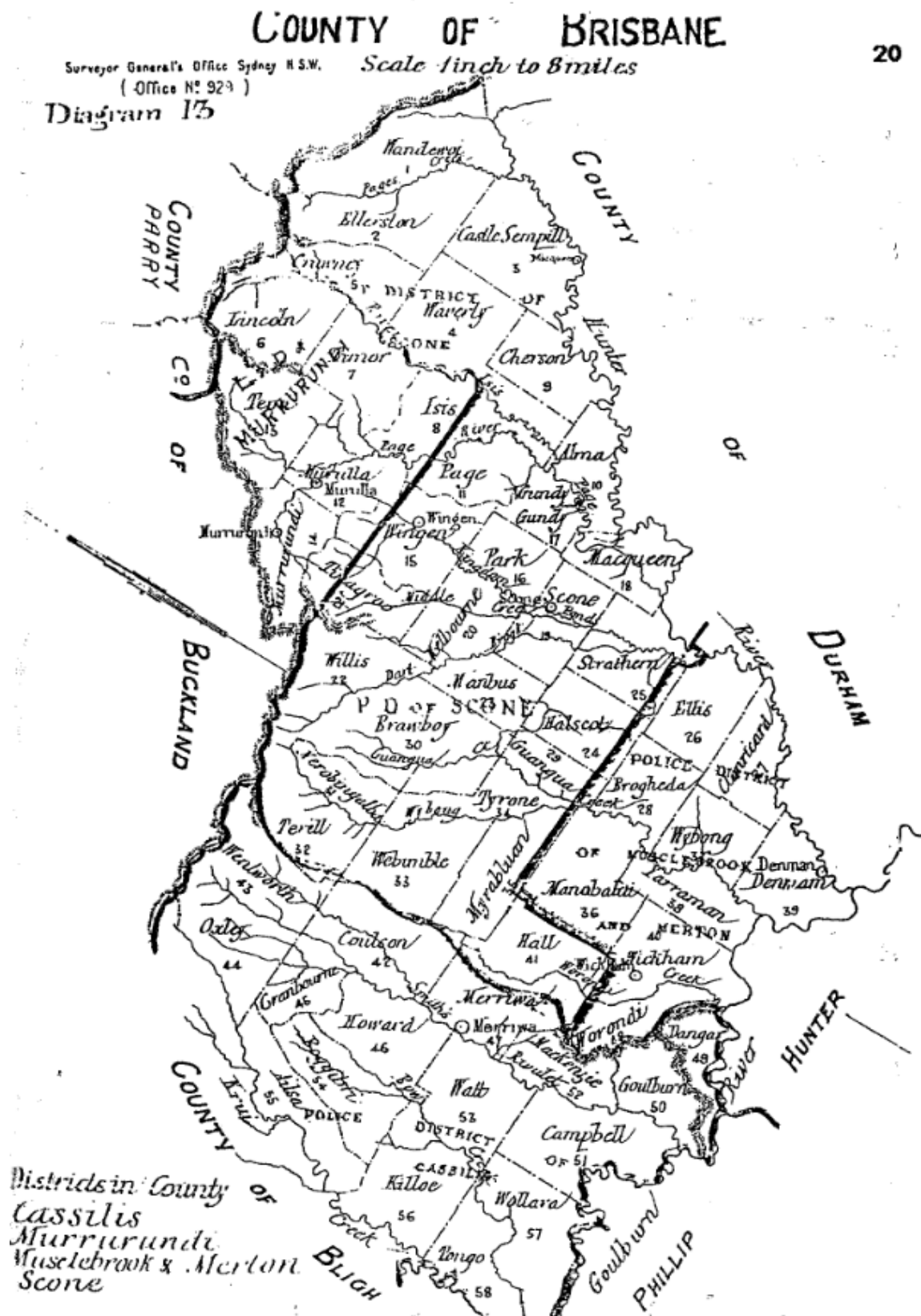
There were 58 First Titleholders to Land dated 1823.



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The County of **Brisbane** contains Gundy, Denman, Murrurundi, Merriwa and Yarraman.

There was 1 First Titleholder to Land dated 1832.

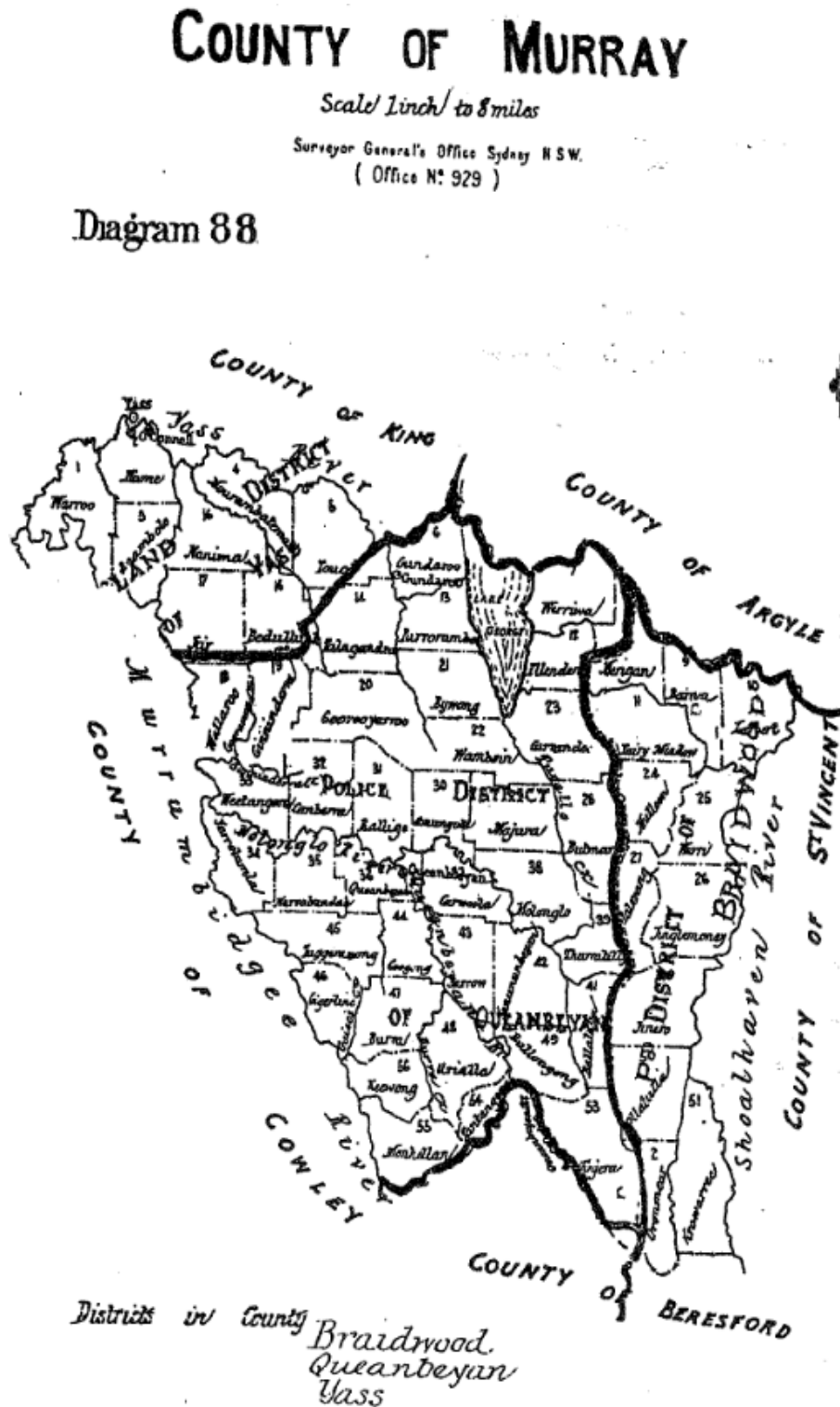


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The Final Series had **Murray, King, Georgiana, Bathurst, Wellington and Bligh** and was published in 2018.

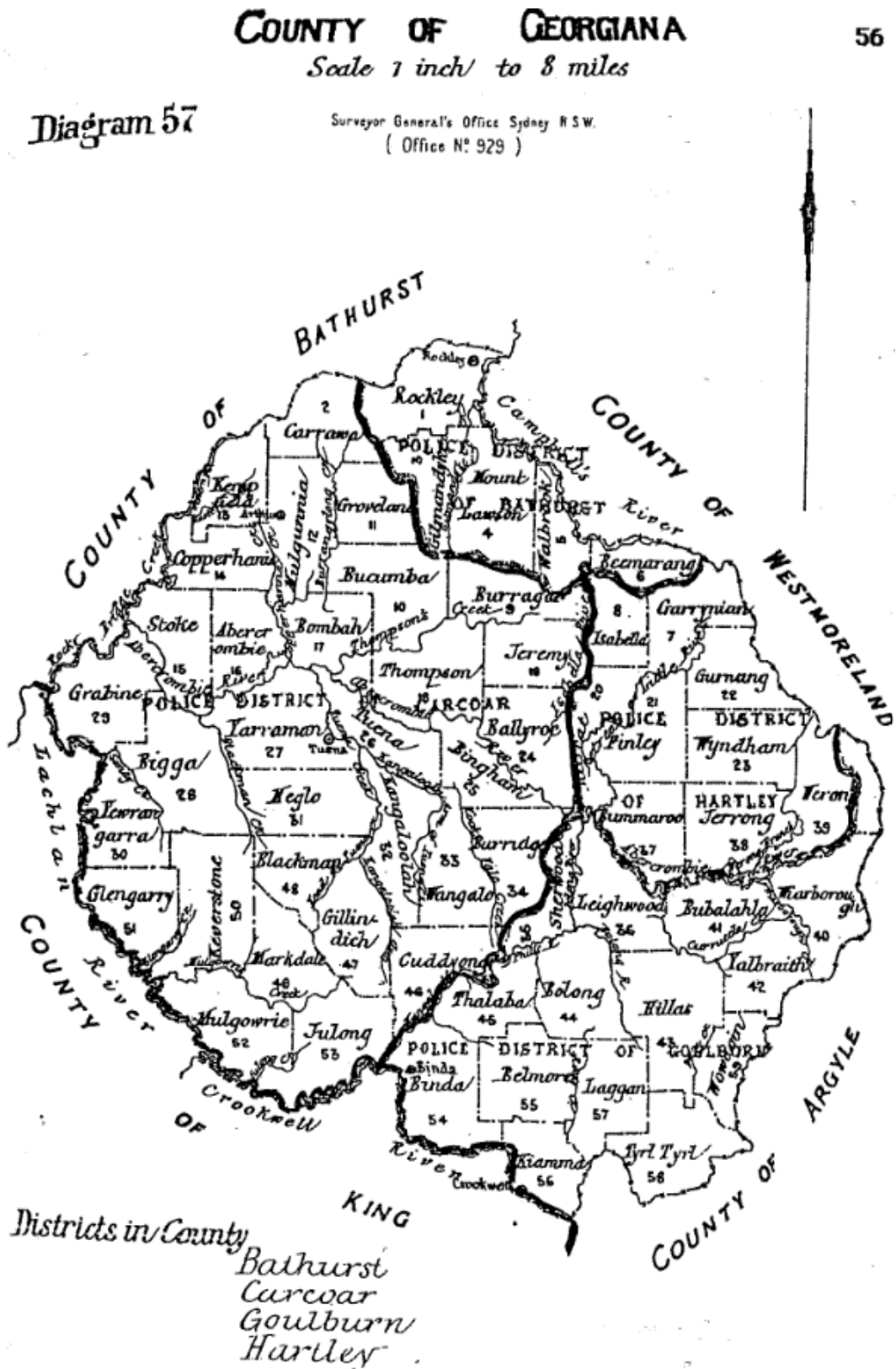
The County of **Murray** includes Canberra, Queanbeyan Morumbateman and Tuggeranong.

There were 3 First Titleholders to Land dated 1832.



The County of **Georgiana** includes Finley, and has the Lachlan River as its Southern Border.

There was 1 First Titleholder to Land dated 1831.



The County of **Bathurst** contains Bathurst, Carcoar, Orange and Canowindra.

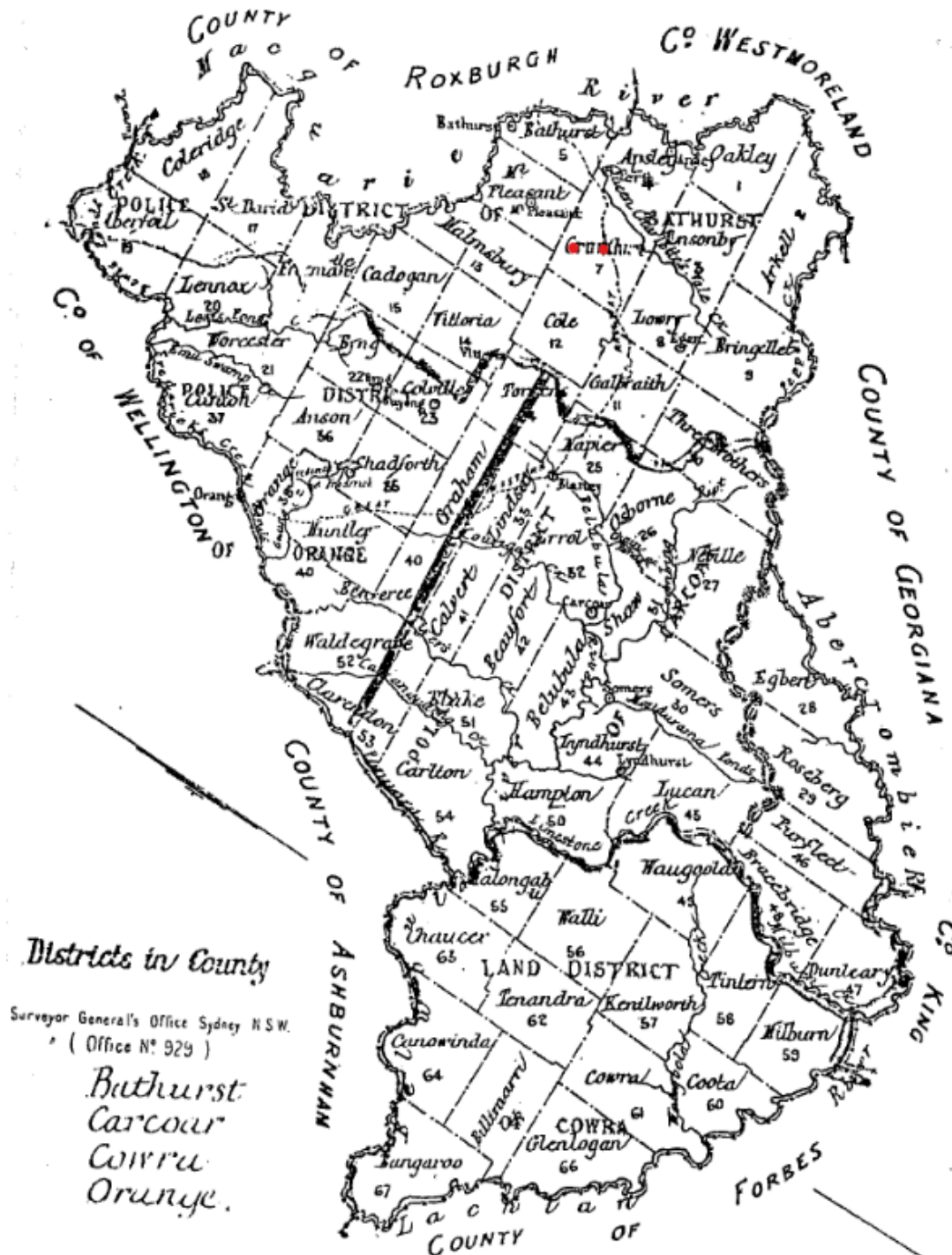
There were 2 First Titleholders to Land dated 1830.

COUNTY OF BATHURST

12

Diagram 5

Scale 1 inch to 8 miles



The County of **Wellington** contains Mudgee, Hill End, Macquarie River Goldfields, Forbes and Orange.

There were 2 First Titleholders to Land dated 1833.

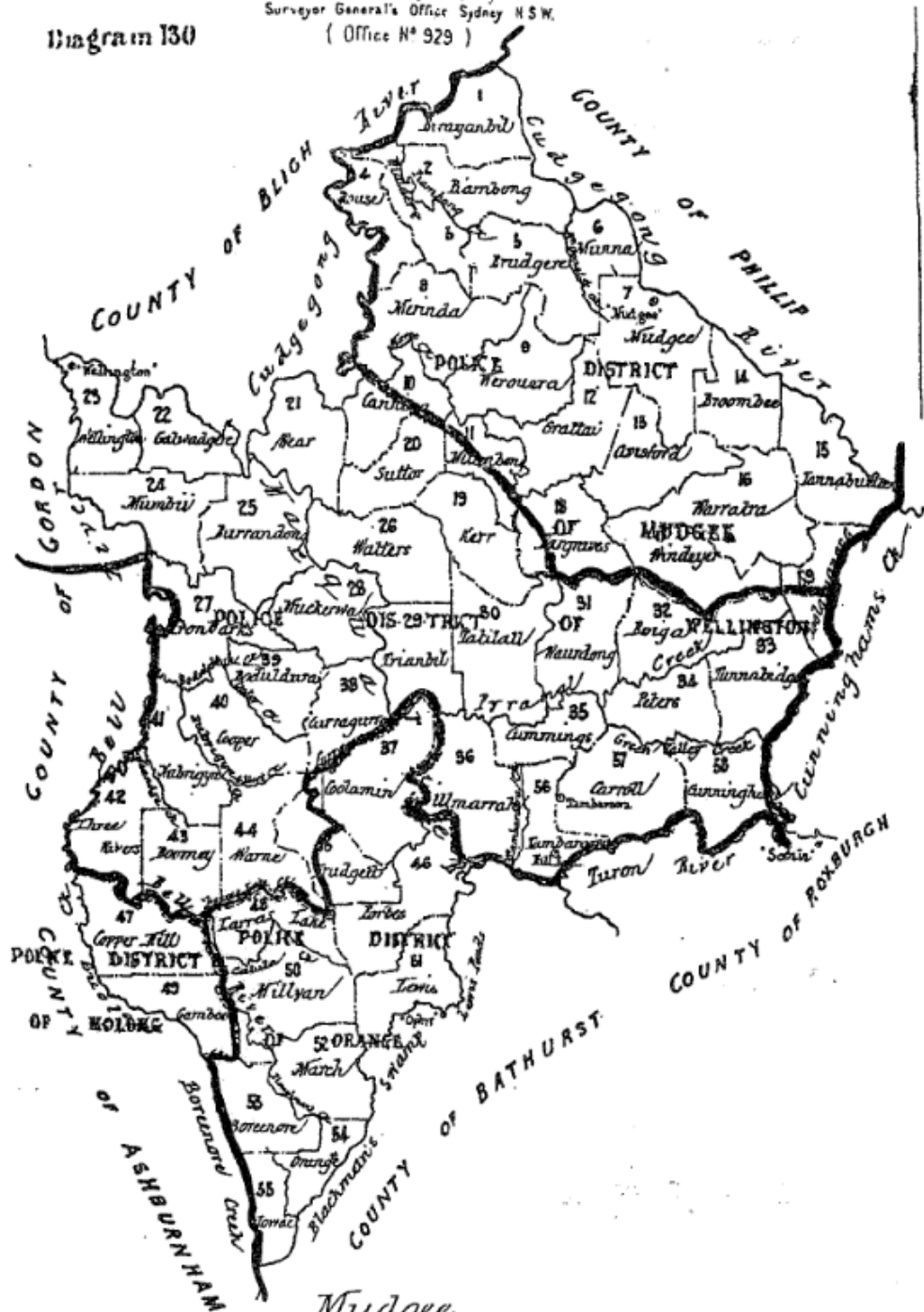
123

COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

Scale one inch to 8 Miles

Surveyor General's Office Sydney N.S.W.
(Office N° 929)

Diagram 130



*Mudgee
Wellington
Orange
Molona*
Districts in County.

The County of **Bligh** contains Bulga, Ulan and Wellington.

There were 11 First Titleholders to Land dated 1834.

