## **OGDEN, George**

George Ogden was born on 22nd March 1821 in Carlisle, Cumberland, England, the son of Joseph & Sarah (nee Tanner) Ogden.

In June 1836 he joined the Ordnance Survey in Ireland as draughtsman. He resigned in February 1839 – it was reported ‘conduct good, his maps and drawings neat.’

For 1839-1840 he joined Newton and Woodrow, land agents and surveyors, at Norwich, Norfolk, England.

He joined the Norfolk Constabulary in 1842 and was appointed Inspector in 1844.

On 6th May 1847 he married Emma Browne (1821-1871), at Norwich.

**George Ogden**



Between 1847 and 1851 he was Superintendent, Norfolk Constabulary.

In 1851 they were living with Emma’s three unmarried siblings, Frederick, Maria and Emily, in Norwich, Norfolk, England. George’s occupation is given as Superintendent of Police, aged 29 years.**1**

A son, George Edward, was born on 15 April 1853, at Loddon, Norfolk.

On 18th July 1853, the vessel *Albemarne*, from Plymouth, arrived in Sydney, via Melbourne – Intermediate passengers from England included Mr. and Mrs. Ogden and son George.

George Ogden, Major, had come out from England under engagement to the AA [Australian Agricultural] Company. He would initially be employed as an assistant surveyor.

Children of the marriage (born Australia) were:

Born 25th August 1854 - Emma Maria, at Stroud (died 1883)

Born 1856 - Sophia Catherine, district of Port Stephens

Born 1858 - Richard Montague, district of Port Stephens**2**

In 1858 a large portion of the Port Stephens Estate, owned by the Australian Agricultural Company, consisting of 437,000 acres, was opened for selection by the public, with leases for a term of ten years. Mr. George Ogden, the Company's Surveyor, at Stroud, Port Stephens, would accompany intending tenants, when their selections have been made, for the purposes of surveying and defining boundaries, etc.**3**

In 1859 he was living at Stroud House, formerly the residence of the Assistant General Superintendent who had moved to Gloucester.

During the 1870’s George Ogden was treasurer of the Stroud School of Arts.**4**

On 15th November 1871, George’s wife, Emma, died at Stroud House, Stroud, aged 48 years.

Her grave inscription reads “In memory of Emma, wife of George Ogden, Surveyor A. A. Coy, died 15th November 1871.”**5**

On 10th July 1873, at St. Paul's, Redfern, George Ogden, Esq., of Stroud House, Stroud, Port Stephens, surveyor to the A. A. Co., was married to Eliza, eldest daughter of Mr. Thomas G. Rodwell, of Sydney.**6**

Children of the marriage were:

1874 (12th May) - Thomas Arthur, district of Port Stephens [Stroud House, Stroud village]

1875 (1st December) - Sarah Emma Constance, district of Port Stephens

1877 (10th July) - Gertrude Augusta, district of Port Stephens [married 1902]

In 1877 he resigned, finding the amount of outdoor work difficult, and moved to Sydney where he worked for the Roads Branch, Department of Lands. He lived initially at Marrickville.

Further children followed:

1879 - Florence Laura Mabel, district of Glebe

1881 - Herbert Victor Rodwell, district of Newtown (died 1881)

1884 - Harold, district of Petersham (died 1884)

1885 - Harold Edgar, district of Petersham**7**

On 20th April 1878, at Newtown, Marie Pierre Charles, Comte de Gontaut Biron, eldest son of Vicomte de Gontaut Biron, was married to Emma Maria Ogden, eldest daughter of George Ogden, Esq., of Sydney.**8**

On 6th May 1878, at St. John's, Stroud, George Edward Ogden, of Dubbo, eldest son of George Ogden, Esq., surveyor, Sydney, late of Stroud, Port Stephens, was married to Emma Matilda, only daughter of the late George Taylor, and stepdaughter of John Williams, Esq., Stroud.**9**

On 29th November 1881, at Cavendish House, Cavendish-street, Stanmore, Herbert Victor Rodwell, the youngest child of George Ogden, late surveyor A. A. Co. died aged 5 months.**10**

On 4th February 1883, Emma Maria, eldest daughter of George Ogden, Roads Branch, Surveyor-Generals Office, and widow of the late Comte Pierre de Gontaut-Biron, died at her father's residence, *Willabah House*, Livingstone Road, Marrickville, Sydney, in her 29th year.**11**

On 7th April 1884, at *Willabah*, Livingstone-road, Marrickville, Harold, third son of George and Eliza Ogden, died aged 1 month and 1 day.**12**

On 24th July 1893 his daughter Miss Sarah Emma Constance (Constance) Ogden, opened a private scholastic establishment, “*Willabah*” School, in Copeland Street, Beecroft [her younger sister, Gertrude assisted her]. As a number of children travelled by rail to school in other places, mothers who submitted their children to her educational care would be relieved the anxiety consequent upon their having to take trips by train.

In October 1893 Miss Ogden, Principal, advertised that studies would resume on 6th October 1893. Studies again resumed after the Christmas break on 22nd January 1894.**13**

On 13th December 1897, at St. James' Church, Sydney, Thomas Arthur, third son of George Ogden of *Willabah*, Beecroft, was married to Annie, youngest daughter of George Watson.**14**

On 29th January 1900, at his residence, “*Willabah*”, Beecroft, George Ogden, formerly surveyor to the Australian Agricultural Company, died aged 79 years. He had been ailing off and on for some considerable time, and his death was due to a general breaking-up of the constitution.

‘He had been a resident of Beecroft for about three years. The remains were interred on 30th January at St. Paul's Cemetery, Carlingford. The Rev. Charles Baber delivered a short, but impressive address at the grave, in the course of which he referred to his long acquaintance with the deceased, who, when the church was first opened at Marrickville, many years ago, was appointed clergyman's churchwarden - a position which he retained until he changed his residence to Beecroft. He was one of the vice-presidents of the Kennedya Lawn Tennis Club at Beecroft. He was highly respected in Beecroft, leaving a widow and grown-up family. Miss Ogden, the principal of the *Willabah* private school in Beecroft, was one of his daughters.’**15**

In 1907 Mrs. Eliza Ogden, widow of George Ogden, was living in Castle Howard Road, Beecroft, on a property of 3a 3r 36p.**16**

In 1917 ‘Mrs. Ogden, of “*Willabah*,” Beecroft road, Beecroft, and her daughter [Constance?], had gone to take up their residence at Mudgee.’**17**

On 3rd December 1921, at her daughter's residence “Braeholme,” Mudgee, Eliza Ogden, widow of George Ogden (Surveyor Aust. Agricultural Co., and Roads Branch, Lands Department) died in her 79th year. She left three daughters and two sons, Misses Constance and Mabel Ogden, "*Braeholme*," and Mrs. Coates, wife of the Rev. Canon Coates, of Armidale, and Messrs. Arthur Ogden, Sydney, and Harold Ogden, South Africa.**18**

In 1943 George Edward Ogden, ex-inspector of the NSW Police, son of George & Emma, passed away at his residence, 1 Mount Street, Strathfield, on 9th March, aged 91 years. Deceased joined the police service, and towards the end of last century was the sergeant in charge of the Taree station. Subsequently he rose to the rank of Inspector.**19**

In 1953, another son of George Ogden, Thomas Arthur Ogden (born 1874), was living at 2 King Street, Newport. He wrote to ask the Dungog Council for a copy of the council's booklet, “Vale of Gloucester,'' as his father, the late George Ogden, was surveyor to the A. A. Company during the “fifties” and “sixties” of last century.

Mr. Ogden said that he himself was born in 1874 at Stroud House, Stroud village, which at that time was one of administrative units of the company and portion of a Government grant of 1,000,000 acres.

The company, he said, established a cattle breeding station at Gloucester and the young Durham cattle from here were driven over the Barrington Tops and thence by way of Nundle and Hanging Rock to the company's sheep station, “Warrah,'' on the Liverpool Plains.

This property had an area of 250,000 acres and was, he believed, acquired by the company in exchange for a similar area of the Gloucester grant.

Mr. Ogden said he was employed at “Warrah” for about five years and still had vivid recollections of the cattle which came from the Gloucester station. He said they rapidly fattened on “Warrah” station and generally topped the fat stock market at Homebush.**20**

**Bibliography**

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2 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages; Ancestry.com

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4 Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW), Sat 19 Feb 1870; Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW), Tue 4 Mar 1873; Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW), Thu 24 Feb 1876

5 Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 20 Nov 1871; Gloucester Advocate (NSW), Fri 11 Jul 1924

6 Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser, Sat 19 July 1873; Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 9 Aug 1873

7 NSW Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages

8 Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 22 Apr 1878

9 Sydney Morning Herald, Mon 3 Jun 1878

10 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 30 Nov 1881

11 Maitland Mercury and Hunter River General Advertiser (NSW), Tue 13 Feb 1883

12 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 8 Apr 1884

13 Cumberland Mercury, Sat 22 Jul 1893; Cumberland Mercury, Sat 14 Oct 1893; Cumberland Mercury, Sat 20 Jan 1894

14 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 8 Jan 1898

15 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 30 Jan 1900; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Wed 7 Feb 1900; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 11 Aug 1900

16 Hornsby Council Ratepayers List 1907

17 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 15 Dec 1917

18 Mudgee Guardian and North-Western Representative (NSW), Mon 5 Dec 1921

19 Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer (NSW), Tue 16 Mar 1943

20 Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser (NSW), Sat 28 Mar 1953

**NOTE**: Additional information contained within Beecroft Cheltenham History Group book ‘Beecroft and Cheltenham, the Shaping of a Sydney Community to 1914’.