

**THOMAS HOLT**  
**1811 - 1888**  
**A DYNAMIC PIONEER**



*Thomas Holt*

Reference Chronology of the Life and Enterprises of Australia's First Colonial Treasurer  
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**Title: THOMAS HOLT - A DYNAMIC PIONEER**

A Reference Chronology of the Life and Enterprises of Australia's First Colonial Treasurer



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Thomas Holt thanking residents of Newtown for their support in his 'personation' court case.

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## PREAMBLE

Thomas Holt (1811-1888) was an entrepreneur, a visionary, a speculator, a proud squatter. His interests encompassed almost every facet of colonial political, legal, industrial, fiscal, social and domestic life. Holt was the instigator, partner, financial backer or supporter of many innovative ventures during his 39 years in Australia (1842-1881).

Land procurement was only one component of his portfolio; he actually had very little sentiment for the land except as a means of increasing his prosperity and leaving a tangible inheritance for his heirs. Some of his estates throughout eastern Australia between Cape York and Point Hicks exceeded 1500 square miles and at one time he was the largest landholder in the colony.

But Thomas Holt was a city man delighting in his role of Country Squire. When his country manors were too distant to commute to Sydney to his counting house, he resided in his Macquarie Street Horbury Terrace or one of his other Sydney dwellings to maintain control over his myriad affairs.

Thomas Holt wanted a 'fair go' for his contemporaries and for future generations – his economic reforms and parliamentary bills confirm this.

It is not intended that this be a biography but for convenience as a reference chronology of his myriad endeavours and enterprises, innovations and initiatives which are reflected in just about every aspect of Australian life.

Thomas Holt was an inspired, motivated, insatiable, dynamic colonial pioneer.

## CHRONOLOGY – THOMAS HOLT 1811-1888

A Reference Chronology of the Life and Enterprises of Australia's First Colonial Treasurer

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
1811 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Thomas Holt born in Harrowgate, Horbury, Yorkshire to Thomas and Elizabeth (nee Ellis) Holt, eldest of 5 sons in family of 13 children. Since 17 <sup>th</sup> century the sole name Thomas was given to eldest Holt son. Thomas Snr was a Leeds wool merchant and manufacturer, with steadfast liberal views.
<i>England</i>	Thomas Holt Junior was educated in the non-conformist atmosphere by clerics from Pontefract & Wakefield. He was of stocky build with blue eyes and fair hair. He spoke with a lisp and was deaf in one ear; admitted to a fiery temper and he did smoke (he was fined \$2 for smoking in the street in Berlin).
1825	Thomas left school at 14, joined his father in business and worked for 3 years as a wool buyer in England.
1832	From age of 21, Thomas Jnr represented the family firm on the Continent for 10 years. Lived in Spain for 3 years; then Prussia, Austria, Hungary, Poland and Russia, purchasing wools and speaking all the languages fluently.
1835	Thomas Jnr returned to England and with his younger brother William and they became partners with their father.
1836 <i>Germany</i>	Thomas Holt Jnr and William set up a Berlin branch of the Leeds House for sorting and purchasing wools. They were very close, sticklers for fitness, proponents of hydrotherapy and homoeopathy, hated alcoholism and were proficient swordsmen - <i>Never look at the hand, look at the eye!</i> was his premise but there is no record of them ever participating in duels.
1841 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Thomas Jnr and William married sisters in Berlin - daughters of Christian Frederick Eulert, a merchant. Thomas married the younger daughter Johanna Maria <b>Sophie</b> Charlotte, born in Berlin on 12/1/1822. William married Marie. The double wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev Berduskeck.
1841	In Berlin Thomas read the first edition, German translation of Dr John Dunmore Lang's <i>An Historical and Statistical Account of New South Wales</i> . 30 years [living in Australia] later he wrote to Lang – <i>if I had not read that book, where should I be at the present time?</i>
1842	The Holt partnership dissolved early in 1842 when their father

DATE	EVENT
	retired; the boys took over the business. Amidst industrial unrest and mass unemployment, the Spinners in Britain and Europe were demanding quality Australian wools.
1842	Ambitious 31 year-old Thomas Jnr was unsettled with England and the Continent. He sold, leased and invested most of his interests.
1842 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Thomas Jnr and Sophie, Miss Sly, Sophie's maid, and two gentlemen employees, Messers Cormick and Flashburn, boarded HELVELLYN, at Downs. The ship weighed 368 tons, was ½ the length of a Manly ferry and smaller than Cook's ENDEAVOUR.
1842 16 <sup>th</sup> November	HELVELLYN, a dry ship – no alcohol on board, took 119 uneventful days to sail to Port Jackson, docking on a hot day (temp 70°F, high winds blowing dust) at Campbell's Wharf on western side of Sydney Cove – just north of international terminal – Customs & Police docks.
<i>Sydney</i>	Sydney had just been declared a city, Circular Quay recently built by 700 convicts, Hyde Park was a race course, reservoir and cricket ground. Sydney had no sewers; Pitt Street was mainly cottages with gardens and all of the streets were dusty. The Holt entourage spent their first days in Sydney in the Petty's Hotel at no.1 York Street, the building was occupied by the Red Cross Blood Bank in 1952. <sup>1</sup>
1842 16 <sup>th</sup> November	Thomas Jnr Holt arrived in Australia a wealthy man and on the day he landed met Thomas Sutcliffe Mort and Thomas Ware. Within days he was acquainted with Charles Kemp and John Fairfax. These 5 businessmen became closely linked in financial activities - mortgage, real estate, economic and community improvements.
1842	Bought property in Pitt Street South. He concentrated on buying wool, mortgages and land.
1842	Holt bought land and mortgages in Sydney, Wollongong, Raymond Terrace, Morton Bay, Chippendale, Darling Downs.
1843 January	Legislative Council of 36 members formed – 24 representatives elected by the people.
1843 <i>Banks failed Depression</i>	Holt suggested to the 'Monetary Confusion Committee' that they adopt the German genre of Government interest bearing debentures of negotiable notes and pledge certificates on the

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<sup>1</sup> An Energetic Colonist, Henry E. Holt

DATE	EVENT
	security of land – the resultant ‘Confidence Bill’ was not endorsed by the Governor, therefore failed to be implemented.
1843	Thomas and Sophie Holt resided in Pitt Street South between Bathurst and Liverpool Streets approximately site of Police Courts and Sydney Water.
<i>Horbury Terrace</i>	Bought an 8-house, 3-storey terrace on the western side of Macquarie between Bent and Hunter [opposite the now Mitchell Library] and named it ‘Horbury Terrace’ for his birthplace, paying £2556 - 146 foot frontage. Rear access to all 8 houses via a covered walkway to Hunter Street– the end house faced Hunter Street – cellar kitchens opened to the backyard. Lots 1-5 were demolished when ‘Wyoming’ built. No 6 now site of ANZ Bank, No 7 site of Bennelong Apartments. Passage at rear still remains. No 8 retained by Holt until 1857 – sold to Lyons for £2000 – demolished 1938 by Australia Club for their building which was replaced again 1970.
1843	Purchased property in George Street; also part of Chippendale Estate between City Road, Broadway, Abercrombie, Cleveland Streets for £177 – opposite Victoria Park.
<i>Strawberry Hills</i>	Acquired Lot 34 Strawberry Hill Estate in Elizabeth Street near Belvoir Street – surrounding Holt Place for £240 – boundaries Elizabeth, Devonshire, Waterloo, Fippax in Surry Hills.
1843	Purchased property at Haymarket on east side of George Street – 136 George Street between Liverpool St and Goulburn St – Swan Street – next door to Anthony Hordens new building – the site later taken over by Hordens. Holt built his 2-storey wool and general store from which he exported 1000 bales of wool to England in the next 12 months the returning ships brought goods for him to sell in the colony.
1843	Holt built two dwelling-houses adjoining his Queen’s Place (Dally Street) wool store as a residence and counting house, where he stayed overnight when conducting business in Sydney.
1843	Bought house ‘Narawa’ and 333½ acres of land at Liverpool for £1200 – situated 1 mile south of Liverpool Station and both sides of Cowpastures Road – now Hume Highway – part is now Mala-Casula residential area and Liverpool golf course – named it ‘Sophienburg’ at wife’s suggestion. <i>Sketch of Sophienburg by Caroline Calvert (nee Atkinson) is in Mitchell Library.</i>
<i>Sophienburg Liverpool</i>	Holt lived there for 10 years breeding sheep and growing grapes. Here their first five of their nine children were born – Elizabeth

DATE	EVENT
	(5/9/1844) died at birth, Frederick Samuel Ellis (22/6/1846), Thomas Edwin (6/10/1848), Alfred William (6/3/1851) and Alice Sophie (12/1/1853).
	Squatted on, then leased 1300 acres of Liverpool Common on Cabramatta Creek, then sub-leased part – now Warwick Farm Race Course, Jacquie Osmond Softball Centre, Durrant Oval, Dwyer Oval – it is still parkland.
1844	Imported linseed and castor oil, soft-goods, sugar, beer, gin, brandy, earthenware, soap, boxes of sovereigns, pianos, gigs etc for sale in his wool store.
1844	Elected as one of the three Councillor of Liverpool
1844	Caroline Chisholm and her entourage guests in Sophienburg. Holt later criticised her in 1846 for taking emigrants out of NSW to Victoria but defended her against criticism in the Legislative Assembly.
1844 September	Holt was co-founder of the Sydney Fire Assurance Company, 1 <sup>st</sup> in Australia; remained a director till 1865.
1845	Took his JP oaths and appointed Magistrate for Liverpool
1846 <i>railways</i>	Thomas Holt provisional director to survey and build railways to Goulburn, Hawkesbury and Nepean River, he also subscribed towards its costs. This private railway endeavour was aborted.
1846	Member of Australia's 1 <sup>st</sup> Select Committee on roads and bridges, Holt suggested government put on more toll gates at Cowpastures and Campbelltown for road repair funding.
1846 22 <sup>nd</sup> June <i>Frederick</i>	Frederick Samuel Ellis Holt was born at Sophienburg (Ludwig Leichhardt was Frederick's godfather) he and Edwin contracted scarlet fever in 1852, Edwin died, Frederick became deaf; he mastered lip reading. At 19 he was his father's partner, advisor and private secretary. Frederick married Lucy Florence Harris. They had 3 sons - Thomas, Frederick and Owen - and two daughters – Alice Sophie and Ruth.
1847	Thomas Holt was Member of the Tory influenced Australia Club.
1848	Holt, concerned about insolvency of a friend drew up a bill to protect a man's savings as an old-age deferred superannuation annuity without injustice to his creditors. This bill became law in 1850.



DATE	EVENT
1848	Holt on provisional committees for Sydney and Liverpool to establish a railway company.
1848 <i>1<sup>st</sup> meeting</i> 31/8/48 <i>formed</i> 15/12/48 <i>registered</i> 28/12/48	Visited at Sophienburg by Thomas Mort and Canon Walsh - enthusiastic about Holt's mutual provident bill initiative - had a meeting with solicitors and friends. The result was the Australian Mutual Provident Society – the AMP Society. Holt took policy 6. Holt's original goal of protecting both annuity and life policies occurred in 1857 – AMP was world first to do this.
1849 <i>AMP</i>	AMP Society registered under the Friendly Society's Act. At end of the first year 45 policies yielded annual income of only £361, before prospering, adding to Holt's reputation and income. He was a director of the AMP Society for 13 years and held policy No 7.
1849	Sydney Railway Company formed. Sold Railway Company to Government 1855.
1849 October <i>Railway</i>	Thomas Holt on the Board of Directors for Sydney Railway Company, the first private enterprise railway, with Charles Cowper, Thomas Icely, James Norton, John Oxley, Thomas Mort. It took until 1851 for Royal Assent and Government involvement and subsidy to start this first public railway in Australia.
1850	Henry Parkes began his newspaper – The Empire which was financially supported by Holt.
1850	Member of Australian Society and Australasian Philosophical Society – which became the Royal Society of NSW in 1866.
1850s	Close friends with fellow Congregationalists John Fairfax, George Allen, Joseph Thompson, George Allen, David Jones, GA Lloyd, Rev John West and Rev SC Kent.
1850 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	First sod for new private railway turned in the Cleveland Paddock– now Central Station, Holt director of the Sydney Railway Company.
1850 November <i>Alpacas</i>	Holt and Mort contributed £50 to fund Charles Ledger's private import of Australia's first alpacas, llamas and vicuñas for fleece. The 280 animals arrived November 1858. The animals failed to meet the reserve of £45,000 at auction – NSW government bought them for \$15,000 but left them at Marulan. There were no buyers at the 1864 auction so they were given to landowners including Holt.

DATE	EVENT
1851	Holt helped establish Royal Exchange Company in which he was a shareholder.
1851	Holt active in setting up Sydney Chamber of Commerce.
1851 <i>Organ</i>	Imported a hand carved organ from Germany for Sophie. Now in Sutherland Shire Historical Society Museum with Holt family Bible and Frederick's Congregational Hymnal in 1992.
1851	Instituted the issue of lithographic plans for land sales
1851	Holt bought 'Cudgee' (Cadgee, approx 13 km south west of Bodalla) from the Benjamin Boyd Estate near Eden. Sold it in 1852.
1851 December	Holt was one of 200 to petition Government to supplement Sydney's water supply in Hyde Park reservoir from Botany or Cook's River – the cost £30,000 to be raised by a loan.
1851 <i>Gold Rush</i>	In partnership with George Alfred Lloyd bought gold from the diggers, including <i>world's largest lump of gold</i> 'Brennan nugget', weight 27lb, measured 21"x9" for £1155.
1852 <i>Insurance</i>	Opened Sydney Fire Insurance offices at 123 Bourke Street Sydney and in Melbourne.
1852	Helped form the Sydney Gold Escort Company to bring gold to Sydney instead of Melbourne or Adelaide - to protect his mining interests.
1852	Bought 'Waterloo' near Glen Innes, Mackleay/New England. Transferred to Mort 1853.
1852	Holt held 1/3 of the total shares in the Sydney Railway Company first sod turned at what is now Central Station.
1852 18 <sup>th</sup> October <i>Joint Stock Bank</i>	Meeting in George Street Royal Hotel to establish the Joint Stock Bank to issue bank notes on gold deposits; Holt on the Provisional Committee, also a founding Director and shareholder of 500 shares. In 1931 it was taken over by the Bank of New South Wales.
1852 November	Four year-old Edwin succumbed to scarlet fever – Frederick recovered but became deaf from same illness.
1852 December	On committee to establish St Paul's College, Sydney University; modelled on Oxford and Cambridge. Holt subscribed £200 towards it. Foundation stone laid on St Paul's Day 25/1/1856.
1852 December	Holt and Mort Directors of the Great Nugget Vein Gold Mining Company near Mudgee, first company in Australia formed

DATE	EVENT
	exclusively for gold mining.
1853	In partnership with Mort bought gold dust and bullion direct from the goldfields.
1853 January	Mort, Lloyd and Holt on provisional committee to form the Sydney Gold Escort Company. Lloyd became chairman, Holt and Mort were shareholders. First escort carrying £10,000 to buy gold, left from Government House farewelled by Governor Fitzroy – returned to Sydney 5 weeks later with nearly £40,000 gold.
1853 24 January	Australian Joint Stock Bank opened at 397 Pitt Street North – Holt was founding Inspecting Director and shareholder of 500 shares, Mr Wrench was Manager. AJS bank was incorporated on 3/9/1853, Holt Chairman from 1855.
1853 February	Holt provided security for Mort from the Australian Joint Stock Bank to purchase gold dust from the Ovens gold fields in the Woolshed Valley near Beechworth, Victoria.
1853	Macarthur gave Holt 99-year leases of Pymont and Darling Harbour allotments.
1853	On return from Newcastle, relaxing in the Smoking Room of the Australia Club, Holt suggested to Bradley and Wentworth that a railway would be better than carts to carry produce and coal to ships at Newcastle. Wentworth proposed forming a company. The first official meeting of the Hunter River Railway Company was held in the Royal Hotel in April 1853.
1853	Holt member of a speculation partnership with T.S. Mort, T.W. Smart and A. Morris – Murrumbidgee Station with 43,000 sheep and 3,700 cattle for £50,287/10/- and sold it for approximately £70,000 – then purchased and sold Gipps Land.
1853	Resolved to live closer to his Sydney business centre which revolved around his counting-house and wool stores in Dally Street off George Street, north of Bridge Street at Circular Quay, looked for suburban Sydney property.
1853 March	After daughter Alice was born, Thomas and Sophie sold Sophienburg and his 1300 acre leases on Liverpool Common to James Henry Atkinson for £3000 in March 1853. Atkinson built abattoir, wool-washing plant, irrigation and piggery. Atkinson also bought adjoining 'Collingwood' where in 1856 he built a produce depot adjoining Liverpool railway station. <i>See sketch in of Sophienburg by Atkinson's daughter Caroline – Mitchell Library.</i>

DATE	EVENT
1853 March	At request of merchants and nominated by Mort, Holt stood for seat of Sydney in Legislative Assembly against Thurlow, Parkes and Driver for election in Parliament; Thurlow won.
1853	Holt and Thomas Rowntree acquired Balmain Estate as joint tenants – 20 acres – sold to Mort in 1854 – it is now Mort Bay.
1853 April <i>Hunter River Railway</i>	Meeting in Royal Hotel, George Street Sydney, with W C Wentworth and Bradley, Holt to form the Hunter River Railway Company between Newcastle and Maitland to carry coal and produce instead of by bullock cart or by sea. 20,000 £5 shares were allocated and 53,400 shares were sold – Holt nominated as chairman, he became director in September. Hunter River Railway Company was sold to Government in 1855.
1853 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Holt received the grant of Lot 61 – 25 acres at North Harbour Balgowlah/Manly Cove, north west of Balgowlah town – sold it in 1860 for £125 to David Parker and William Nicholson.
1853 September <i>Camden Villa</i>	Bought ‘Camden Villa’ for £4,000 (named for LMS ship ‘Camden’) on 10 acres NW of intersection of King and Camden Streets, Newtown on northern slopes of Cook's River. Holt improved the garden and orchard and grew grapes and bananas. They lived there for 10 years. 4 children born at Camden Villa - Walter Henry 24/8/1854, Florence Marie 20/11/1856, Anne Isabella 11/8/1858, and Emmeline Augusta 3/1/1862.
1853 7 <sup>th</sup> September <i>Arthursleigh</i>	Thomas Holt bought Arthursleigh in the Southern Highlands for £11,764/19/9. Originally 1000 acres in Eden Forest was granted in 1817 to Hannibal Macarthur (John’s elder brother) who named it Arthursleigh, developed it into a sheep station of nearly 20,000 acres (30.5 sq miles – 31 sq km) over the next 30 years before Holt purchased it. Holt exercised squatters rights on another 20,000 acres, leased that from the Government then sub-leased land to independent farmers keeping the bulk for himself. Arthursleigh incorporated Wingello Park, Detley, Lerrawarra, and Marulan.  Arthursleigh (7900 ha – 30.5 sq miles- 20,000 acres) bequeathed to the Sydney University in July 1979 from the estate of Eric Thomas William Holt. Today Arthursleigh, on the Ditley Fire Trail, straddling the Wollondilly River five kilometres west of Canyon Leigh and 16km north of Marulan is managed by Mr S Burgan for the University of Sydney as a working farm and research station. Operated commercially and used for teaching, pasture agronomy,

DATE	EVENT
	animal science research and as a teaching resource for Faculties of Veterinary Science, Agriculture, Aeronautics, Wildlife Health and Population Management courses.
1853	Acquired 'Rimbanda' (38,400 acres), New England/Maclay. Disposed of 1854.
1853	Acquired 'Barraba', near Armidale on the Liverpool Plains; sold it 1854.
1853	Thomas Holt on the Board of Directors for government subsidised Sydney Railway Company to build first public railway in Australia – work began 1851 but rails did not arrive from England until 1854.
1853 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov *	T.S. Mort auctioned six of Holt's Horbury Terrace houses in Macquarie Street for £8,600; Holt retained 2 for himself until 1857 – they are still standing with a plaque attached. Lots 1-5 demolished when 'Wyoming' built. No 6 now site of <b>ANZ BANK</b> , No 7 site of Bennelong Apartments and offices. Passage at rear still remains. No 8 retained by Holt until 1857 – sold to Lyons for £2000 – demolished 1938 by Australia Club for their building which was replaced again 1970.
1853 November	Purchased 82 acres at Banksia and 56 acres west of Rocky Point Road for £415 – he subdivided and auctioned it for farming in 1854.
1853 <i>Sans Souci</i>	Holt procured Rocky Point House and 100 acres from distiller Robert Cooper as investment – he renovated it and re-named it 'Sans Souci', after summer palace of Frederick the Great, Emperor of Germany. Sophie refused to live there. Sold to Rust who converted it into an hotel where Holt frequently entertained lavishly.
1854	Holt at 43 years of age was a colonial millionaire.
1854 March	Sydney Gold Escort Company folded due to lack of community support, the severest winter on record, high horse and feed costs and heavy financial losses.
1854	Bought mortgages of Wellingrove (50,000 acres), and Pindari (40,000 acres) in the New England and Cuba (153,600 acres – 240 sq miles) in the Lachlan district
1854 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Thomas' brother Joseph on behalf of the partnership of Thomas Holt, Thomas Smart, TS Mort and George Allen, bought 153 acres of Kingston Farm for £1000. Thomas re-named it North and South Kingston Estates. North Kingston bounded by

DATE	EVENT
	Parramatta Road and the full length of Australia Street, Denison, St Mary's and Ross Streets – South Kingston bounded by Liberty, Trafalgar, London Streets and Stanmore Road plus 5 acres east of Trafalgar Street – he subdivided it into 1000 allotments for re-sale – by 1861 all but 440 blocks were sold.
1854	Hunter River Railway Company was sanctioned by the government to bring 500 labourers from England to build the 29 kilometre track.
1854	Select Committee on Roads and Railways urged sale of Sydney Railway Company and the Hunter River Railway Company to the Government.
1854 <i>MLA</i>	Member of the first Legislative Council in the Australia's first Parliament.
1854	Holt sold his $\frac{3}{4}$ share for £10,000 and Rowntree his $\frac{1}{4}$ share for £2500 in Balmain Estate to T.S. Mort who built Mort's Dock.
1854	Government purchased the Hunter River Railway Company for £54,337.
1854 <i>Immigration</i>	Assisted the Select Committee for Immigration – Holt promoted lectures in England to publicise Australia's prospects in commerce and agriculture.
1854	First shipment of iron rails received by Sydney Railway Company at Cleveland Paddock (Central).
1854 <i>Kurnell</i>	Archibald Allardice mortgaged 1500 acres at Kurnell and 62 acres at Taren Point to Holt. Holt sold the mortgage to John Connell Laycock. Vol 588 Folio 42 Lands Dept Holt repurchased it from Connell Laycock 30 June 1882.
1854 December	Bought 'Kingston' between Parramatta Road and Australia St – subdivided it into 1000 allotments – 560 were sold by 1861.
1855 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Government bought the Sydney Railway Company for £161,245 and officially opened the Sydney to Parramatta line on 26 <sup>th</sup> September 1855. This was the 1 <sup>st</sup> railway in the British Empire to be Nationalised.
1855 March	Stood for Clarence and Darling Downs in Legislative Council elections – he was not nominated.
1855	Retired from Australian wool trade aged 44 and entered politics.
1855	Holt was Chairman and Inspecting Director of Australian Joint Stock Bank with custody of the key of the Gold Treasury.

DATE	EVENT
1855 <i>Library</i>	Shareholder and committee member for Australian Library and Literary Institute. Subscription was £3 to use the facilities or £25 per share.
1856	Holt's father, Thomas Holt died in England, until this time Holt referred to himself as Thomas Holt Junior.
1856 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Holt elected to Legislative Assembly representing his Queensland interests, Stanley Boroughs (Brisbane/Ipswich). Queensland was a constituency of NSW until 1859. MLA from 7 <sup>th</sup> April 1856 – 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1864.
1856 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Opening speech for Governor General addressing the Legislative Assembly, Thomas Holt presented the " <i>urgent necessity which exists for devising a comprehensive system of public education of the Colony ... maintained by two establishments ... National and Denominational</i> ".
1856 6 <sup>th</sup> June <i>Treasurer</i>	Elected Colonial Treasurer in the first parliament under responsible government – Treasurer until 25 <sup>th</sup> August 1856 – Holt remained an MLA until 19 <sup>th</sup> December 1857 when parliament was dissolved and a new parliament elected. Holt was not in the new ministry.
1856 June	Great Nugget Vein Company unsuccessfully trialled employing diggers at 1/- per day to give the Company one fifth of all gold mined. Holt held 500 shares in the company.
1856	Largely financed by Holt, the foundation stone for Newtown Congregational Church was laid by Dr Ross on land donated by John Fairfax.
1856 17 <sup>th</sup> July	600 dinner guests attended the national banquet in the Prince of Wales Theatre for 1 <sup>st</sup> elected parliament – Holt was Colonial Treasurer. The Prince of Wales Theatre, owned by JC Laycock, burned down 1860.
1856	As Colonial Treasurer Holt approved a grant of £30,000 for building a gaol and other public buildings in Brisbane thus establishing Brisbane as the seat of Queensland government.
1856	Resigned from AJS on his appointment as Colonial Treasurer.
1856-1859	Syndicate of Thomas Holt, Thomas de Lacy Moffatt and Robert Tooth procured 300 sq miles Darling Downs/Moreton District comprising of Winton, Dulhunty Plains, Rayleigh, Broomfield and 100 sq miles in New England comprising Pallaranga and Borango.
1856	Served 4 months on Customs Department Committee No.15

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	until 18 <sup>th</sup> March 1857
1856 8 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Member of Native Police Force Committee No.17 until 18 <sup>th</sup> March 1857
1856 November	As Colonial Treasurer, Holt proposed the issue of debentures with financial backing.
1856 November	Despite owning massive tracts of land in the Ipswich regions and declaring himself a separationist, Holt voted against New England being included in the proposed new state. Such was the Brisbane reaction that an effigy of Holt was set alight, he was slandered in the local newspapers and a petition containing 400 signatures calling on him to resign his seat was sent to him.
1856 December	Holt presented two speeches in parliament on education advocating school inspections and abolition of denominational boards.
1857 <i>Marrickville</i>	Bought 130 acres on Cook's River at Marrickville for £5000 – the previous owner Dr Wardell had been murdered by an escaped convict. Holt enclosed the grounds, except for river frontage, with a six-foot high sandstone wall paying his labourers 2/6d per day for labour, regardless of whether they had worked the full day.
1857	Bought 'Rio' (16,000 acres - 25 sq miles) 60 miles from Rockhampton in the Leichhardt District.
1857	Holt helped to establish the 'Month' magazine and contributed to every colonial periodical – he donated monetary prizes for essays on Australian improvement and advancement.
1857	Holt re-elected as Director and Chairman of Australian Joint Stock Bank.
1857	Thomas Holt, John Fairfax and David Jones attended Colonial Missionary Society conference and were donors to the fund to bring Congregational ministers from England.
1857	Rev Woolley suggested creating a free public library – Holt was on the committee to form it – their efforts were unsuccessful at this time, but it resurfaced in 1861.
1857	Construction commenced of 'The Warren' shooting retreat - bounded by the Cook's River, the Warren Road, Unwins Bridge Road and Old Illawarra Road, he sowed buffalo grass seed, it grew but did not go to seed.
1857	Maclay in Queensland accused Holt of opposing their separation



<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
June	from NSW and called on him to resign from their seat of Stanley Borough in Parliament. He did not contest his seat in the 1858 elections.
1857	Holt a trustee of Bank of New South Wales
1857	Holt was on the Provisional Committee to form the Union Club, formed to combine the Sydney based Australia Club and the Victoria Club – he was Trustee and committee member.
1857	Proposed in parliament to increase rents on pastoral leases in settled districts.
1857 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Served on Australian Gas Company's Light Bill Committee No.16
1858	Invited to stand for Cumberland in 1858 elections – defeated. At logger-heads with Parkes, who was elected. Parkes had failed to repay a loan and Holt refused to lend him a further £500 – bitter dispute followed and Parkes ventilated his views in his newspaper <i>The Empire</i> – they settled their differences and became friends again.
1858	Holt encouraged and financed Robert Richardson to commence land sales independently of TS Mort.
1858	Contributed to building Congregational Church in Newtown – foundation stone of the Sunday School laid by Holt's 9 year-old daughter Alice in 1862.
1858	In partnership with brother-in-law Edward Joy, Holt bought 30,000 acre - 47sq mile 'Bungaban Back' in Leichhardt district Qld. Sold it in 1861.
1858 July <i>Dams</i>	Holt suggested that Cook's River dam connect with a new dam on Georges River at Tom Ugly's or Taren Point to alleviate Sydney's water problems. Royal Commission found it too costly and would take too long to remove the salt.
1858	Holt on committee to buy alpacas
1858 November	Charles Ledger imported 400 alpaca ewes, 280 llamas and Vicuña sheep at cost of £2000 (all of the Vicuñas died by 1861). Holt cross-bred llamas and alpacas for their wool and venison-like meat at The Warren and Arthursleigh. Holt imported squirrels, elk, elands, and put salmon in Cook's River.
1858	Thomas Holt in partnership with John Berry granted lease of 25sq mile 'Boocalgopal' at Bundaberg on Hervey Bay; sold it in

DATE	EVENT
	1861.
1859	Persuaded reluctantly to stand for Newtown – unsuccessful.
1859	Holt was the first successful defendant in newly established Sydney District Court. District Court Act 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov 1858 remained in force until 1973.
1860 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Holt bought 40'x146' Pitt Street Sydney for £1500; leased it with a 99-year lease with option to buy, to Robert Richardson and Edward Wrench as an office site for £150pa then sold to them in January 1863 for £2000.
1860	JC Laycock mortgaged his Pitt Street land to Thomas Holt. This land had been occupied by John Connell since his arrival in Australia in 1801, then leased to him and granted in 1837. Described as lot 21 section 37 of the City of Sydney – northern boundary was the Mort's Gateway lane giving access to George and Pitt Streets over a Tank Stream bridge. It had a 60 foot Pitt Street frontage with Tank Stream at the rear – there was a row of weatherboard cottages fronting Pitt Street where Connell had lived since he came to Sydney. All was inherited by John Connell Laycock who in 1851 leased it to Mort. AMP Society leased 2 rooms of Mort's building. Holt bought the property in 1860 for £8325 – lot 21 was resumed by government 1889 for post office. 1970 it was occupied by Colonial Mutual Life Building on the corner Pitt and Martin Place, eastern half of Challis House, Martin Place and part of Angel Place occupy Lot 21 opposite Parliament House and Sydney Hospital.
1860	Prince of Wales Theatre, owned by JC Laycock, burned down.
1860	Sold his interest in Rio (16,000 acres - 25 sq miles) near Rockhampton in the Leichhardt District, but Holt held the mortgage.
1860	Holt bought Laycock's defaulted mortgages of Sydney properties it included part of today's Martin Place and site of Colonial Mutual Life Building.
1860s	Supported the Sydney Homoeopathic Dispensary and advocated in parliament that these principals be utilised in hospitals.
1860	Imported 60 rabbits from England, New Zealand and Tasmania <i>for the sport of the gentlemen and the delight of the children</i> , put salmon in the Cooks River and eland to graze with his alpacas and squirrels on Australia's first Buffalo grass, black birds and thrushes were kept in bush aviaries.

DATE	EVENT
1860	John Connell Laycock MLA for the County of Cumberland, mortgaged his Sydney, Holdsworthy, Queensland and Sutherland Parish properties to JT Neale.
1861 <i>Acclimatisation Society</i>	When proposed a member of the Council of the Acclimatisation Society of New South Wales, Holt made the Warren paddocks available to the Society for 5/- pa and hosted Governor Sir John Young and a large group of dignitaries at The Warren for an 'introduced and acclimatised' luncheon.
1861 <i>Sutherland</i>	Laycock was insufficiently insured when his Sydney Prince of Wales Theatre, the largest theatre in Australia (Theatre Royal site), burnt in 1860 and defaulted on his mortgages because of insolvency. He had to sell to pay his debts. Before the Sutherland auction Laycock and his son, future world champion sculler Elias Connell Laycock, showed Thomas Holt over the Holdsworthy and Sutherland estates, they crossed the Georges River on the government hand pulled punt and inspected the Birnie Estate including Cook's Landing place, Blaxland's Old Farm, Castle Connell and Holdsworthy.
1861	Holt was urged to stand for Ashfield in the fourth Parliament, but declined because he was travelling to Europe.
1861 June	Holt requested to stand as MLA for Newtown in by-elections – postponed his Europe trip and was elected – he held the seat until 10 <sup>th</sup> November 1864.
1861	Holt applied to Government for permission to extend his wharf into Darling Harbour – was refused because railway from Ultimo was proposed to run nearby, the railway was abandoned 1868; and Holt re-applied.
1861	Following the Lambing Flat riots against the Chinese, Holt proposed prohibiting the Chinese from the goldfields as this would stop their mass immigration and prevent them from taking the wealth away from Australian soil.
1861	War with Russia was rumoured and Holt pushed for increased defence for Sydney Harbour, in favour of <i>a boom gate between Sydney Heads defended by masked guns.</i>
1861 10 <sup>th</sup> August	Auction of Laycock land – Holt highest bidder - £3275 for the 4600 acres of irregular sized scattered allotments in Sutherland Parish and Holdsworthy then he bought another 40 acres from Laycock that were not auctioned. Mr Justice, Laycock's manager, stayed on for Holt.

DATE	EVENT
1861	Criticised Sydney University expending large sums of money of philosophers and fancy buildings such as St Paul's College while the poorer children had little or no education opportunities. (Holt had partially financed the building of St Paul's College).
1861 August	Purchased more property in Pitt St Sydney with frontage on the Tank Stream for £6,535. Angel Hotel plus stables, coach house, harness rooms, servant rooms, pigeon house – now Angel Arcade region.
1861 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Member of Rev W B Clarke Committee No.6 for water catchment
1861 27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Member of Benevolent Asylum Committee No.8 until 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1862
1861	Australian Library Society in financial trouble, as a shareholder Holt moved at a special meeting, that the books and building on the corner of Bent and Macquarie Streets be sold. Unanimously carried but a buyer could not be found until 1869 when the government bought the building and books.
1861	Proposed quickly-built, inexpensive horse-drawn trams between Sydney and Goulburn at £1500 per mile be implemented instead of expensive railways.
1861	Holt, still living in Camden Villa, bought another acre of Laycock land in Pitt Street, Sydney, this included the site of Australia Square, Martin Place and GPO.
1861	In partnership with W.B. Tooth bought 8 runs each 25 sq miles near Roma Qld for speculation.
1861	Curnell [sic] <i>"Close to the West side of the creek ... When the holes were sunk for the posts of this yard ... part of a Skull of a man was found; it is therefore supposed to be the burying place of Sutherland, one of Captain Cook's men, who died soon after he arrived here, and after whom the Estate is named."</i> Page 5 Robert Cooper Walker's Holt Sutherland Estate Report. Land grants of 1830s referred to Parish of Sutherland.
1861-65	Holt Spent £40,000 on labour alone on his Sutherland Estate.
1861 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Member of Presbyterian Church Temporalities Act of 1837 Committee No.17 until 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1862
1861 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Member of System of Railway Locomotion proposed by Mr E Bell Committee No.18 until 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan 1862
1861 November	Ringbarking, felled trees, running fires annually throughout Sutherland Estate to clear the land for stock and get rid of all

DATE	EVENT
	useless trees.
1861 25/12/61	Paid £586 for 286 acres on Towra Point.
1861 December	After the first vegetation control, Sutherland Estate was divided into 11 paddocks, fenced with split rail and wire strand fences each with a water supply - these were then divided into more than 60 smaller paddocks by brushwood fences.
1861-62	Holt consolidated Sutherland by securing all the land available; another 5400 acres at £1 per acre; Carters Island in Towra Bay was £2 per acre. Patrick Dolan refused to sell his Hacking land.
1862 February	Bought an acre of land between Pitt and Hunter Street for £5700.
1862	Having resolved enmity with Parkes, supported him as Immigration Commissioner in England.
1862	Torrens Land Title introduced – Holt on Select Committee for the Land Titles Declaration Bill.
1862	Supported a successful plan to remove tram tracks from Pitt Street because they were not as originally intended, carrying goods to the railway yards, they made the roads bumpy and depreciated the land values.
1862 February	Holt bought from Stuart Alexander Lot 2 Section 38 Sydney City with a 44-foot eastern Pitt Street frontage near Hunter Street, for £5700. He then leased its two buildings to Gibbs, Shallard & Co printers.
1862 February	Holt acquired 21 allotments (as his share of speculation partnership with Want, Smart and Allen) of Forest Lodge fronting on to Parramatta Old Road between Arundel Street and Pyrmont Bridge from David Jones – sold them in 1863.
1862	Newtown Congregational Church Sunday School room foundation stone laid by Holt's daughter Alice aged 9, under the stone was placed a bottle containing SMH, Henry Parkes' Empire newspaper and Holt's speeches on Education. The building was largely financed by Holt on land donated by John Fairfax.
1862	Holt unsuccessfully attempted to have prayer introduced in Parliament to commence business.
1862 April	Holt leased his Holt Building and store – 60 foot western Pitt Street frontage bounded by the Tank Stream – to auctioneer

DATE	EVENT
	Charles Moore and engaged architect George Mansfield to erect the Holt Building with show-room, stables, warehouse and sale-room for Moore's and Mansfield's use. Now Hooker House.
1862	Bought 100 acres on Kogarah Bay – he subdivided and sold it again.
1862	Holt purchased for £70, 1½ acres on the tip of Tom Ugly's Point from J.C. Laycock then leased it to A.R. Emerson in 1875 for 4/6 pw, sold to Emerson 1884. Thomas Huxley – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fleeter was caretaker for Captain John Townsend the original grantee of this land.
1862	Holt procured 25sq mile 'North Traverston' property in Bundaberg regions.
1862	Sutherland Estate now 12,000 acres - between Ocean Botany Bay, Georges, Woronora and Hacking Rivers.
1862	Sutherland Estate clearing: Ringbarked and felled <i>every useless tree</i> , running fires through estate to clear the land for stock brought in from his Queensland and Southern Highlands properties. <i>Trees are now well killed... couch is one of the best grasses... English Rib grass as well as Rye grass will grow very well with the couch.</i> Swampy paddocks were drained, cleared and planted with corn.
1862	In letter to Parkes, Holt wrote - <i>"I consider it to be a wise precaution for a capitalist to invest in a portion of his capital in the land, and in making that land productive."</i>
1862 21 <sup>st</sup> March <i>Advert. in SMH</i>	Rabbit Stealing Advert: £5 Reward – Whereas it has come to the knowledge of the undersigned that certain people are in the habit, on moonlight nights and early in the mornings, of shooting rabbits on his property, at the Cook's River, a reward of £5 is hereby offered for such evidence as will lead to the conviction of each person offending. As a caution, the undersigned thinks it right to mention that he is creditably informed that individuals, who ought to know better, have been seen in a boat on the Cook's River, with guns and trained dogs, and that he is determined to spare neither trouble nor expense in arresting such parties if the practice is repeated. The rabbits have been imported and taken care of at great cost, and if the experiment of establishing a rabbit warren be not wilfully and maliciously ruined in its infancy by thoughtless and unprincipled individuals, it will prove in a few years a source of amusement, and, if successful, may perhaps induce others to do the same.  It is, therefore, earnestly hoped that all who wish to see useful

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	and interesting experiments of this kind fairly tried in the colony, will assist in preventing its wanton destruction. <i>Signed Thomas Holt</i>
1862 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Member of Land Titles Declaration Committee until 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1862
1862 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Member of Liverpool and London Fire & Life Insurance Company's Bill Committee No.8
1862 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Member of Customs Bill Committee No.10
1862 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Holt resigned from AMP and helped set up United Fire and Life Insurance Company of Sydney as a Joint Stock Company with John Fairfax, Mort and Kemp – dealt mostly with fire insurance.
1862 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Member of Pawnbrokers Bill Committee No.35
1862 17 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Member of Fisheries Protection Bill Committee No.38
1862 December	United Fire and Life Insurance Company of Sydney was incorporated. It still operates as United Insurance Co Ltd.
1862-1865	Queensland leases of Winton, Rayleigh, Pallaranga, Borango, Frazer's Creek were transferred to Holt – sold again between 1866 and 1874.
1863 January	Holt sold Pitt Street 99-year lease on their office site to Robert Richardson and Edward Wrench for £2000.
1863	Appointed a member of the Council of Education after proposing that Education be vested in a responsible Minister. Donated sites for schools and Masters' dwellings.
1863 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Member of Payments made out of Public Funds without Authority of Parliament Committee No.4
1863 11 <sup>th</sup> August	Member of Commercial Banking Company's Act Amendment Committee No.19
1863 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Member of Parnell's Trust Bill Committee No.19
1863 -1865	Sutherland Estate - Gynea Lilies <i>Doryanthes</i> (like flax) sold for paper manufacture; cedar, mahogany, ironbark, blackbutt sold to the lumber industry - loaded onto boats by way of The Drain; dingoes and native cat eliminated with strychnine.
1863	Objected strenuously in debate on the Pawnbrokers Bill protesting that Australia's 40% interest was obscene.
1863	Sutherland Estate annual clearing: <i>The trees are now well killed,</i>

DATE	EVENT
	running fires through Sutherland estate to clear the land for stock: English Rib grass and Rye grass growing with the couch.
1863	Holt offered Camden Villa and nine acres of land to the Congregational Church for a theological college– value £8000, Holt asked church £4000. Deal taken up 1864, Holt returned their purchase money to them as a donation after he returned to England.
1863	Holt acquired another 2000 acres in Sutherland Parish for £1 per acre including £100 for 327 acres of Weeney Bay to grow oysters.
1863	Frederick returned from a world tour and lengthy stay in England accompanied by his tutor Rev Thomas Arnold under whose guidance Frederick’s speech improved and he mastered lip reading and furthered his general education.
1864	Newtown Congregational Church accepted Camden Villa and nine acres of land paying £4000, half of its retail value, to establish a theological college. Holt, Fairfax and David Jones were elected to its first College Council in April 1864 and the fees offset their purchase price by July. Holt returned their purchase money to them as a donation after he returned to England.
1864 12 <sup>th</sup> Jan <i>The Warren</i>	Sophie and five of their children left for Europe to visit her ailing mother but Thomas’ parliamentary, private and community commitments prevented his accompanying them. He and Frederick, aged eighteen and Alfred, aged thirteen, occupied Arthursleigh and The Shooting Box at Marrickville alternately while The Warren mansion was under construction.
1864	Sutherland Estate annual clearing of trees and running fires for undergrowth.
1864	The main structure of The Warren, designed as an ancestral German castle and built by architect GA Mansfield from stone quarried on the property, was completed in 1864.
1864	Holt acquired many of the 280 llamas, alpacas and vicuña sheep from the 1858 flock which the NSW government could not sell – he then bred them at The Warren and Arthursleigh and gave some to Sir Henry Parkes in 1871.
1864 <i>Buffalo grass</i>	Holt also imported Buffalo grass seed from North America for pastures; tied bags of the seed to the necks of selected sheep; when he rode around Sutherland Estate planted tussocks of grass



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	from his pockets and saddlebags.
1864 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Member of Mineral Land selected by the Hon Arthur Todd Holroyd Committee No.39
1864	Thomas Holt sold Camden Villa to the Congregational Church for half of its value. Thomas Holt was a member of the first Camden College Council set up as Grammar School for boys, fees being diverted to the newly established Theological College. He gave £4000 (his proceeds from the sale) towards the building of Camden College at Glebe.
1864	17 year-old Frederick was in training to run some of the properties, he and Frederick alternated supervising Arthursleigh.
1864 November	Holt took over the mortgage of Salisbury Plains near Brisbane.
1864	Sutherland Estate scrubbed and burnt again.
1865	At Arthursleigh Estate in Southern Highlands, he destroyed the native dogs with strychnine and enclosed the paddocks then put 9,431 Leicester, Cheviot, and Southdown sheep and alpacas.
1865 <i>Depression</i>	5,000 sheep on Sutherland Estate - Leicester, Cheviot, and Southdown breeds, (imported from England and Europe).
1865 December	Annual Sutherland Estate clearing: ringbarking, trees well killed, running fires.
1865 March <i>Litigation</i>	At the Glebe election, Holt was told that his name had already been crossed off as having voted and the Returning Officer on being convinced by Thomas that he had not voted advised him to vote. The allocated number had belonged to a Robert Holt, and consequently Thomas was charged with ' <i>personation of this man</i> ' and breach of the electoral laws. He was held in custody, bailed and brought to trial. The allegations and litigation dragged on for months. His indignation and embarrassment caused Holt to launch a campaign to have docks banished from all courts.
1865 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Following his prosecution for misrepresentation in the Glebe elections public sympathy and support were expressed for him by way of a banquet in the Newtown School of Arts and presenting him with an address signed by 1672 supporters piqued by the charges they considered 'vexatious, unchristian and without foundation.' <i>Cover illustration of this publication is a lithograph from the photograph by Hetler taken of Holt holding the 'vote of confidence address' at the function..</i>
1865	Sutherland Estate - <i>Timber is gum, Bang Alley, Honeysuckle, Tea Tree,</i>

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	<i>and Oak: it was scrubbed all over in 1863, but now grown strong again, requires to be redone &amp; scrub cut down and left on the ground until dead to form a good body for a running fire. Running fires kill and prevent all scrub from appearing from seed in the ground, and from the roots of Tea Tree, Custard Apple Tree, Stringy Bark and Geebung .</i>
1865	Before leaving for Europe he converted Weeney Bay into an oyster breeding ground by enclosing the bay with piles and setting up in timber frames to attract spat from oysters imported from Europe and from Cowan Creek, Pittwater, and Port Hacking. Here they were to grow before being put into Gwawley Bay claires [fattening trenches]. On his return <i>'the timber was covered with oysterlings as white as snow.'</i>
1865	Holt transported cattle to Sutherland from his Queensland properties by his own steamer, the DELAWARE. With the grass growing on the cleared land he brought in more sheep. He built his woolshed on Blaxland's Old Farm. Dingoes and footrot decimated the stock - he was had <i>1300 sheep effected with footrot destroyed and buried at Towra Point with a covering of seaweed to assist their decomposition and to procure fertilization of the soil.</i>
1865	Sutherland Estate clearing: Ringbarking, felled trees, running fires through estate to clear the land for stock; greater part <i>well killed</i> by ringbarking.
1865	Sold Sans Souci to become a licensed hotel and dancehall. Demolished 1920.
1866	Salsbury Plains in Queensland mortgaged to Holt for £29,000.
1866	Holt purchased the 180 acres of Gwawley Bay from the Crown paying £80 for fee simple. He paid £80 for 180 acres of Gwawley Bay freehold.
1866 21 <sup>st</sup> April Paris	Thomas and 15 year-old Alfred sailed for England on RMSS MADRAS to join Sophie and the children who had been overseas for 2 years. The Holts rented house in Paris while he represented Australia at Paris Exhibition where he bought bronzes, statues, base-reliefs, French engravings, oil and watercolour paintings for The Warren. Holt was the Australian President at the Paris Exposition.
1866	Toured Europe visiting oyster culture industries in France, Italy, England, and sheep farms in Germany and bought grass seed. He had an audience with the Pope arranged by Lord Talbot.
1866	During discussions on Sydney's water supply with Lord Talbot,

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<i>Water</i>	Holt told him of his efforts in this respect – raise a loan and supplement the Hyde Park reservoir with water from Botany Bay, from the Randwick and Botany swamps, from new dams at Nepean and Warragamba the Cooks and the Georges Rivers.
1866	The Warren was completed while the Holts were in England and Paris (Holt intended to retire here). The Picture Gallery with a glass roof measured 120ft. x 14ft, and was filled 18 months later with French statuary and artworks bought at the Paris Exhibition. On the mud flats near Shea’s Creek he undertook his first experiments with oyster culture using French spat - this failed.
1866	During his overseas absence, Holt had 80 head of cattle brought down from Queensland and put on Towra; the useless trees being <i>well killed</i> by ringbarking and swamps drained so that the land was more suited to them.
1867	Holt imported for planting on his Warren, Arthursleigh and Sutherland estates: 44 casks grass seed containing 3 tons of rib-grass, 2cwt smooth meadow grass, 5cwt cocksfoot grass, 5cwt sheep’s fescue grass, 1cw annual meadow grass, 1cwt Yarrow ) from Germany; 1 ton Burnett from the south of France.
<i>The Warren</i>	A castellated lodge was erected at gates to The Warren and incorporated in it a chapel for the students of Camden College and for a Sunday School where his daughters would give religious instruction to the young. Several employees’ residences were built in keeping with the manor; stables and coach-house went up, oyster claires were dug in mud flats and along the riverfront cliffs he installed a Turkish baths, bathing sheds; his burial vaults were carved into the escarpment and a mile-long tunnel to the house was constructed.
1867	JR Holding’s book ‘Australian Capers or Christopher Cockle’s Colonial Experience’ was dedicated to Thomas Holt – it read that Holt was “the friend and patron of all that tends to develop the material resources, promote the intellectual advancement, and secure the moral and religious well-being of Australia”.
1867	Sutherland Estate annual clearing: ringbarking, felling, burning.
1868 February	Holt with Mort experimented in exporting frozen meat from Darling Harbour and Lithgow Valley – sold to NSW Fresh Food and Ice Co Ltd in 1875.
1868	United Fire and Life Insurance Company added marine

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	insurance to its services.
1868	Half of Salsbury Plains in Qld was resumed under the Crown Lands Alienation Act, Holt as mortgagee was granted lease of the resumed 228 sq miles.
1868 14 <sup>th</sup> April	During Holt's two year overseas sojourn, Robert Cooper Walker, Holt's attorney, wrote detailed description of Holt Sutherland Estate including methods of rendering it suitable for farming and expounding its residential and tourist prospects. Ringbarking and scrubbing was done in summer every year from 1861 to 1867. <i>"The trees are now well Killed, and the effect on the Land, is very beneficial."</i>
1868 July	Holt returned to Sydney on P&O steamship BOMBAY on 9 <sup>th</sup> July and was welcomed back to the colony with a public inner in the banquet room of the Hotel de France in Sydney.
1868	Holt subscribed to the St Andrew's College building fund.
1868	On inspecting his oyster beds in Weeney and Gwawley Bays found that the timbers placed there were covered with oysterlings. He then had miles of claires (300 channels) dug by 200 men in Gwawley Bay. Built bridge with flood gates between Holt Point and Taren Point. Holt spent over £10,000 to establish oyster culture in Gwawley Bay - it failed; oysters baked in the sun and became smothered by mud slurry.
1868 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Holt nominated by Sir John Robinson for Legislative Counsel.
1868 13 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Elected to the Legislative Council – Life appointment under the Constitution Act – resigned 6 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1883 from England
1868	As Member of Legislative Counsel he attended almost all sittings and instigated at his suggestion were the Court of Appeal; Minister for Justice; Matrimonial Bill giving women rights in divorce and legalisation of marriage between a man and his dead wife's sister; he insisted magistrates should study law; supported out of court settlements; pushed Public Instruction Act; tried to restrict Chinese immigration; He resigned from England. 1883.
1868	Holt exploiting the stands of ironbark and blackbutt on his Sutherland Estate - floated into Woollooware Bay in Connell's canal or loaded at Sylvania.
1868 April	Holt and his brother-in-law Edward Joy bought the mortgage on Wealwandangie property near Rockhampton in Qld. Owners had been massacred by natives in 1861. Holt had had the mortgage of

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	it since 1864. Joy sold his interest to Holt in 1870. 17 Kanakas were employed there and Frederick was installed as manager. It carried 40,000 sheep and 5000 cattle being 'conditioned' to drive to Arthursleigh.
1868	Disposed of his shares in the Australian Joint Stock Bank.
1868	Australian Library Society folded; no buyer, State Government bought books and building, liquidated Library Society of debts but had no money to pay the shareholders, who were made members of the State Library as compensation.
1868 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Sophie, children, 2 governesses and 1 servant returned on board the <i>Parramatta</i> to live at Warren.
1868	Punt from Tom Ugly's Point landed on Holt land at Horse Rock Point, Government supplied the punt – Holt paid the ferryman.
1868	On his return from Europe Holt entertained Governors, dignitaries and friends lavishly at The Warren and Sans Souci and escorted many to his oyster experimental claires, shooting parties and inspections of his Sutherland Estate and convenient waterways.
1868	Represented Newtown in the Legislative Council.
1868	The Royal Commission on Sydney's water supply invited Holt to present his views as to a solution. He proposed that they raise a loan and supplement the Hyde Park reservoir with water from Botany Bay, from the Randwick and Botany swamps, from new dams at Nepean and Warragamba the Cooks River. He presented a report on damming the Georges River at Tom Uglys Point.
1868	Holt was an active member of the Agricultural Society of NSW, member of its Council during organising of International Exhibition at Prince Alfred Park and Vice-President for the Duke of Edinburgh Ball.
1868 <i>Cook Statue</i>	Holt associated with Captain Cook Statue Committee considering plans for a Captain Cook Statue in Hyde Park. Queen Victoria's son Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh visited Sydney and laid foundation stone for the base of the mythical statue (which finally arrived in Sydney from London in 1878). Holt presented the Duke with a wooden mallet to the made from a tree growing at to the Landing Place.
1869	Holt Chairman of the Consumers' Gas and Oil Co. to manufacture gas at Pymont in competition with Australian Gas

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	Light Company. It failed rumour has it that AGL bought the majority of shares as they were issued but AGL repudiates this.
1869	Government bought the Australian Library Society building on the corner of Bent and Macquarie Streets and its books. The sale price covered debts only – the shareholders received no remuneration. It was renamed the Free Public Library of Sydney, later to become the Public Library of New South Wales.
1869	Sold Winton in Qld.
1869	Subscriber to St Paul's C of E Kogarah building fund.
1869 October	Hosted the first of his childrens' picnic was in grounds of the Warren entertaining 400-500 children from Wesleyan, C of E School St Peters and Newtown Public School with fine foods and amusements.
1870	Had Macpelah (burial vaults) hewn into the rocks overlooking Cooks River.
1870 April	At his own expense [£100] had obelisk built by the Bush brothers to mark the centenary of Cook's landing on 28/29th April, 1870 at Kurnell.
1870	Holt chaired meeting of 48 to formulate a meat and vegetable canning company to export to London. The Sydney Meat-Preserving Co Ltd. began operations in 1872.
1870 Sept	Holt acquired 'Uranna' and 'Cymro' in Qld.
1870	Mortgage arrears and default on Salsbury Plains Qld – Holt released them from their debt and became the sole owner. Frederick took this over in 1875.
1870 October	Following Parkes' bankruptcy and resignation from Parliament and Council of Education, Holt wrote him a supportive letter and sent him £25. 18 months later Parkes returned and became Premier of NSW.
1870	Purchased 300 acres on Botany Bay to create a new township, subdivided it, named the streets after his birthplace and children and sold it as 'Scarborough'.
1870	Instrumental in having West Botany proclaimed a municipality addressed large meeting in Tempe Family Hotel with this aim.
1870	One of the few profitable ventures on Sutherland Estate was sale of standing timber for £5000 – oysters sunburnt and mud-smothered, cattle strayed and went wild, sheep got footrot,

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	dingoes killed stock, coal too deep and uneconomical.
1871	Bought Wingello Park, Delty, Kerrawarra, Carrigans, Wangaratta and other land at Marulan and Berrima.
1871 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Holt was asked to audit City Bank during the depression. Then was elected Director – he complained in March that he was blocked in refusing large loans to people with ‘ <i>worthless securities</i> ’.
1871	Bought for £10,000 more property on George St. where AMP rented offices – now is part of Martin Place and Colonial Mutual Insurance building.
1871	Due to default on the Mortgage on Salisbury Plains in Queensland, Holt became the sole owner of the property and stock.
1871 March	Holt put £200 towards building a 300-seat Congregational Church opposite The Warren gates at Marrickville, 18 year-old daughter Alice laid the foundation stone on 10 <sup>th</sup> April.
1871 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Holt lent Sir Henry Parkes several alpacas for his Landsdowne Bridge property on the Georges River. Wrote to Parkes pushing for subsidized Mail Steamers and direct Communication with San Francisco. “ <i>the Kangaroos you gave me for The Warren are dead ...not suitable for them.</i> ”
1871 December	Holt purchased Denison Chambers for £10,000 from Francis Giles. It adjoined Mort’s Building to the north and to the south was bounded by the proposed street in front of the GPO.
1872 January <i>Sydney Exhibition</i>	The Governor, the Earl of Belmore, opened Sydney Exhibition commemorating the centenary of the discovery of the eastern part of Australia by the British. It was held in the Exhibition Hall in Prince Alfred Park. Holt examined Cook’s charts and had Mr. Justice (his superintendent) take soundings in the Bay.
1872	Holt bought another 20,000 bushels of oyster spat [6,500 bags] for £500 from Cowan Creek, Pittwater and Port Hacking, carted by bullock dray to Weeney Bay. He lost heavily in his oyster experiments while Emerson harvesting native river oysters prospered.
1872	Annual clearing & burning on Sutherland Estate
1872	Holt suggested forming a School of Mines and making their own railway lines to avoid the delay in importing them from England.
1872	Re-applied to extend his wharf in Darling Harbour and paid the value for his leasehold land there and obtained it as a grant. He

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	then sold the land with wharf approval, and was charged with fraud because he was sub-leasing from Macarthur. 1879 the Attorney-General acquitted him and dismissed the case.
1872 April	Acquired <i>Banchory</i> and <i>Islay Plains</i> in Qld near Peak Down gold fields between Mackay and Emerald, and added considerably to them.
1872 June	The Warren was lit with gas lights and Holt complained about his exorbitant gas bill.
1872	Holt chaired the meeting of shareholders of the Sydney Meat-Preserving Co Ltd which commenced operations on 142 acres on Haslem's Creek canning meat, meat extract and vegetables. The company continued until 1964 when it merged with F J Walker Ltd (still operating at Blacktown in 2006)
1873	Holt sold 40 acres to Charles York, who built Fernleigh in about 1875, and named it York House.
1873 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Appointed by Sir Henry Parkes as a member of the Council of Education on its inception <i>"I will strive to perform the duties of that important office, to the best of my ability."</i> He served for 3 years
1873 January	Frederick purchased ½ share in Wealwandangie in Qld plus all its stock from his father. There were then 40,000 sheep and 2000 cattle on it. One paddock alone had 50 miles of fencing.
1873	Shareholder in Mort's refrigeration and freezing facilities at Darling Harbour and Abattoirs in Lithgow Valley.
1873 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Holt resigned as Director of City Bank then withdrew his resignation.
1873	Holt was a founder and director from 1873-1883, of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Darlinghurst – his portrait remains in the hospital.
1873 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Letter to Parkes re Sydney Water Supply: invited Parkes and 20 or 30 gentlemen to look at George's River where there are <i>"perpendicular banks of Sandstone Rocks, on both sides for many miles ... gigantic water-shed of 240,000 acres"</i> .
1873 November <i>Dam proposal</i>	Government steamer THETIS took delegate of 30 to inspect Holt's dam proposal They travelled by Government Launch and a barge towed by the steamer and Holt's boat to inspect the escarpments. They didn't make it to Liverpool because the THETIS ran aground on a sandbank in the Lugarno regions so they returned to Sans Souci for a picnic of Holt's oysters, played



DATE	EVENT
	quoits and considered the dam. This proposed dam site was between Kangaroo Point and Baldface Stag Point and was supported by bridge builder David Lenox.
1873 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Holt concerned for the preservation of timber, and moved the adjournment of the House to take immediate steps because of “ <i>the wasteful destruction of timber in parts of the colony</i> ”; and spoke of the large quantity of valuable timber trees between Sydney and Illawarra and complained that the time lapse had allowed valuable timber – cedar, ironbark etc. to be destroyed. The motion was negatived.
1874	Holt increased Salsbury Plains by 105sq miles by taking up adjoining leases and freehold land.
1874	Proposed a bill to legalise the marriage to a deceased wife’s sister. This was adopted in February 1875.
1874	Railways Surveyor-in-Chief for the South Coast Railway survey recommended Georges River be crossed at Tom Ugly's Point or Rocky Point. Holt asked £1547 for 30 acres 3 roods 32 perches of his land at Sylvania.
1874 October	Holt was member of committee of Funeral Reform Association to dispense with ‘ <i>ridiculous display at funerals</i> ’ such as plume-bearers, trappings, expensive coffins, mourning coaches.
1875	Holt added another 20,000 acres to Wealwandangie in Qld.
1875 <i>Sutherland House</i>	Work commenced on Sutherland House. Sandstone was hewn nearby. Using Chinese labour he cleared the land, ringbarked unwanted trees, planted buffalo grass. Exterminators were employed to eliminate the dingoes and native cat with strychnine. Sutherland House was built by Thomas Gwathorpe Smithson; it took 5 years. The house paddock was 33 acres. 39 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, sitting rooms, dining room 36 feet by 27 feet, maids’ rooms, men’s rooms, gentlemen’s and ladies bathrooms and lavatories, carpenter, smith and painters shops, motor garage, stabling, cow bails and fowl houses, windmill, swimming bath (120 feet by 30 feet), boat houses.
1875 September	Holt, who was financially involved, and other parliamentarians inspected Mort’s Sydney Meat-Preserving plant at Darling Harbour and the slaughter works in Lithgow. £100,000 was already spent on the venture. They urged Mort to make a trial shipment of meat and oysters to England and Europe.
1875	Opposed the Medical Practitioners Bill in the Legislative Council

DATE	EVENT
	and promoted hydrotherapy and homoeopathy.
1875	After serving on the Council of Camden Theological College since its establishment in 1864, Holt became a Trustee in 1875 and opposed their decision to sell the property when financial circumstances deteriorated and he resigned his position when he met with their resistance, but continued to financially support them. The building and its nine acres were subdivided and sold, Camden Theological College was housed in various abodes until it purchased premises in Glebe in 1910.
1875	Holt leased Denison Chambers to Woolcott then Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society but it was resumed by the government in 1899 for the GPO and Martin Place.
1875 November	At Agricultural Society meeting Mort expounded refrigerated export of meat and Holt's oysters.
1875	Holt's oysters in Weeney Bay's 327 acres floundering.
1876	Holt resigned from Council of Education.
1876 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Henry Parkes and Thomas Holt officiate at the laying of the foundation stone at the Superior Public School in Newtown, one of the largest suburbs in the colony with a larger number of inhabitants than any other in Sydney.
1876	Camden Grammar School folded.
1876	Commissioner for Exhibitions at Philadelphia Exposition
1876	Opposed the Colonial Wine Sale Repeal Bill arguing that the sale of colonial wine should be promoted.
1876	Vice President of Agriculture Society of NSW
1876	Holt appointed Chairman of Royal Commission into oyster culture. His own oyster ventures failed but it paved the way for future oyster culture.
1877 <i>magistrates should study law</i>	Advocated the reduction of working hours for young women and insisted magistrates should study law – of the 250 magistrates listed in the Government Gazette in 1876, none had studied law.
1877 <i>Cook Park</i>	Holt donated 180 acres of his Scarborough land as Cook Park, named for Samuel Cook, Holt's friend the general manager of SMH and the Sydney Mail newspapers, who was the first person to ask Minister of Lands for a park on Lady Robinson's Beach.

DATE	EVENT
1877	Holt built a stockyard on Tom Ugly's Point and leased the remainder of it to A.R. Emerson, hotelkeeper for 4/6 per week.
1877	Leased 5,450 acres of Arthursleigh to son Alfred for life
1878	Appointed member of Commission for NSW exhibits at the Paris Exhibition.
1878	Holt proposed revision of the Real Property Act to enable the layman to comprehend it.
1878	He represented New South Wales as Commissioner at the Paris Universal Exhibition where he bought a number of the exhibits for The Warren.
1878	Holt awarded prize for the best bull by Qld Pastoral Society.
1878	Upper Nepean scheme was recommended for water catchment by W Clarke, an English hydraulic engineer appointed by the government. Holt pushed for re-examination of his Tom Uglys or Kangaroo Point dam at half the cost. In the Legislative Assembly Holt announced he would put <i>£10,000 in a bank to be forfeited if Georges River water was not sweet</i> . Work on Nepean commenced 1879.
1878	On acknowledging that Sutherland Estate was unsuitable for sheep, cattle and oyster culture, Holt offered 21 year leases to his Sutherland tenants, with the right to purchase but reserved mineral and timber rights.
1879 January	Sophie Holt, her companion Miss Dodds and daughters left Australia while Sutherland House at Sylvania was being built, Thomas decided to join them in England later, and sell The Warren to Sir Henry Parkes as a Governor's residence. This sale never eventuated.
1879	Holt complained in Legislative Assembly re oyster lease Bill not yet introduced.
1879 <i>James Murphy</i>	James Murphy demonstrated diamond drill at Sydney Exhibition – Holt leased mining rights to John Coghlan and Fitzwilliam Wentworth to mine on a royalty basis if Murphy discovered payable coal.
1879	Holt donated £500 to Camden Theological College.
1879	Son Walter took over Wealwandangie and Banchory.
1879 <i>Coal</i>	Sutherland Estate was leased to the Holt Sutherland Estate Company Limited and sub leased to Coghlen, Wentworth and

DATE	EVENT
	for coal mining – Murphy was employed to drill for coal. They proposed to transport coal to Kurnell along Government Noxious Trades railway and drew up plans for a coal loading wharf on Towra Point with a subsidiary railway from the Government’s proposed Noxious Trades railway to Kurnell. Coal and native copper were found 300 yards north of Cronulla Hotel, in Harnett’s Paddock with the loss of expensive equipment, and also at Dent’s Creek but it was uneconomical to remove so the scheme was abandoned and the lease terminated in 1881.
1879 June	Holt transferred the 533sq miles of Salisbury Plains Station with its 10,962 head of stock and other QLD properties to Frederick.
1879	Nephew Francis Edgar (William’s son) went to Salisbury Plains Station while studying for his land surveying exam. His tent and all his papers burnt; Francis committed suicide.
1879	He opposed a bill to give University Senate power to confer the degree of MA on a BA without an exam.
1879 <i>Holt Sutherland Land Company</i>	Holt leased the Sutherland Estate [except for the bays, Sutherland House, future villages, mining rights and railway routes] to his son Alfred for £300 pa; and also sold him the sheep, cattle, squirrels, alpacas and llamas which were on the Sylvania property. This contract was terminated by mutual consent. Thomas Holt then leased to the Holt-Sutherland Land Company 12,000 acres; reserving 700 acres, Sutherland House and his two bays for Frederick.
1879 October	Mort had died in May 1879, Holt and other committee members of the frozen produce scheme shipped 300 beef and 100 frozen mutton carcasses on STRATHLEVEN to England. It arrived in London in February 1880 and was the 1 <sup>st</sup> shipment of frozen meat from Australia.
1879	Holt introduced a Bill into the Legislative Council for the incorporation of institutions or associations formed for the promotion of religious, charitable, educational, scientific or other useful objects.
1879 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov	Sir Henry Parkes considered The Warren for a Governor’s residence, if taken over Holt would retain his Macpelah.
1880 February	300 beef and 100 frozen mutton carcasses left Sydney on board the STRATHLEVEN for England. It arrived in London in February 1880 and was the 1 <sup>st</sup> shipment of frozen meat from Australia.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
1880 July	The combined Arthursleigh stations of 13,200 acres (20.625 sq miles) leased to Alfred for 99 years – Alfred transferred the unexpired lease to Hugh Campbell in 1912 – a private Act allowing him to do this.
1880	Member of Commission of Fisheries
1880	Oyster leases introduced after pushing in Parliament by Holt.
1880	Thomas Holt served as a delegate to the Congregational Assembly of Inter-colonial conferences.
1880 October	The Warren was sold to Excelsior Building Society, land was sub-divided, mansion and 12 acres of land was bought by RC Church for a convent for French Carmelite nuns who arrived in 1884. During World War One it became an Artillery Training Camp and ammunition dump. In 1919, it was resumed by the State Housing Commission and demolished.
1880 October	Holt moved the contents, art work, and statuary from the Warren into Sutherland House where he lived with Frederick and his family until 1881 when he left Australia. Holt gave all families on the Estate gifts each Christmas.
1880	1478sq mile ‘Chatsworth’ on Burke River in the Gulf of Carpentaria was the last property acquired by Thomas holt before he left Australia.
1881 January	Sydney Fire Insurance Company purchased by the English Commercial Union Assurance Company for £13,750 plus £10,000 for the premises at the corner of Pitt and Hunter Streets – now Commercial Union Assurance Co of Australia Ltd.
1881 February	Chatsworth was leased to Frederick who stocked it from Wealandangie and Salsbury Plains and increased it by 401sq miles.
1881	Holt Sutherland Estate Land Company formed to control the estate.
1881 August	Thomas Holt passed Qld holdings - Wealandangie, Uranna, Cymro, Vandyke Creek, Banchory and Islay Plains and all stock to Walter – total of 607 sq miles (388,480 acres).
1881 August	Holt hosted a pilgrimage to Cook’s landing place for Prince Albert and Prince George Prince of Wales, the future king; they were in Sydney as midshipmen on HMS BACCHANTE- they travelled by steamer SWANSEA from La Perouse with 60 guests and officials. Most took a sip from the historic stream. The

DATE	EVENT
	princes joined the local folk for a game of cricket before sitting on the ground for lunch 'squatting is good' said the crowd!
1881 August	Near the obelisk, the princes planted pine 4 trees, two were <i>Araucaria Cookii</i> which Holt had brought over from New Caledonia - Cook had discovered and named it there during his voyage. Prince Albert's tree it survived until 1980 when it was ringbarked by vandals, the others died early.
1881 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Thomas Holt left Sydney on board the P&O Steamship CATHAY returned to England - until then Thomas lived with Frederick at Sylvania.
1881 November	Holt-Sutherland Estate Land Company Limited formed prior to Thomas Holt's departure from Australia. James Murphy was chief shareholder, Secretary and Manager The Company subdivided 1000 and decided to call the new subdivision "Sutherland". The name Sutherland Township was used for land sales in February 1882, and Sutherland Parish dates back to 1820s.
1881	Although he had permanently left Australia he continued with his benefactions through attorneys. Included in this was £200 to the sick Congregational Ministers' Superannuation Fund, money to build Sylvania Congregational Church, donation of all compensatory money for land resumptions for Illawarra Railway to Sydney charities.
1881 Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	99 year Torrens title leases for land outside the main Sutherland House paddock at Sylvania with option to buy – Sutherland Estate auctioned by Richardson & Wrench- <i>Sylvania has greater attractions than Manly...teeming with fish of the choicest kinds...must become a fashionable watering place and sanatorium...coal discovered...underlying the Estate...enhanced value of a holding at Sylvania...</i>
1882	Holt family and entourage travelled European visiting family, renewing old acquaintances and seeing their old territories.
1881	Holt Sutherland Estate Land Company Ltd released 1000 acres south of Sylvania and named the subdivision Sutherland, to become the township of Sutherland when the railway crossed the river.
1882	Frederick sold Chatsworth in North Qld.
1883	The Marrickville Congregational Church, which Holt had partially financed, was enlarged and modified to cope with the influx of parishioners and was renamed the Roseby Memorial

DATE	EVENT
	Congregational Church.
1883 16 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Thomas, Sophie and 3 daughters returned to England from where he Resigned from the Legislative Council by mail.
1883	After the Amsterdam Exhibition where he represented New South Wales as commissioner, the Holts moved to Munich and Thomas became ill in Austria, his health progressively deteriorated.
1884	Wealwandangie in Queensland now comprised of 607 sq miles (388,480 acres)
1884	Holt attempted unsuccessfully to sell Lot 2 Section 38 Sydney City with a 44-foot eastern Pitt Street frontage near Hunter Street. Demolished the buildings and erected the brick, slate-roofed Union Chambers in 1886 on the site.
1884 May	The Holts leased 'Halcot' in Bexley, Kent – part of the old London Bridge formed the parapet of its terrace.
1884	Holt sold Tom Ugly's Point Emerson who had leased it since 1875.
1884-1888	Holt, although by now an invalid, devoted himself to London's poor, assisted the Salvation Army, helped Dr Barnardo, financed Orphan Houses, Hospitals, Missions, Institutions etc and financed free dinners in winter time for 500-1500 at a time, depending on the size of the hall of London's cheerless souls – the 'halt, maimed, blind, sandwich men, seamstresses, widows, tramps, waifs and strays, thieves and vagabonds, out of work dock labourers, unemployed...'
1885 March	Holt's 26-year old daughter Florence Marie died from Typhoid in Pisa.
1885	Government started work on their alternative railway route via Hurstville where Landholders were offering free access to George's River via Como. Land was resumed from the Holt Sutherland Estate in December for Sutherland township. The railway reached Sutherland in 1886.
1886	Holt had the buildings demolished on Lot 2 Section 38 Sydney City with a 44-foot eastern Pitt Street frontage near Hunter Street, and erected the brick, slate-roofed Union Chambers in on the site. Then sub-let them to Gibbs as offices.
1886	Holt had a family vault built at Abney Park Cemetery. Hackney, Stoke Newington High Street, London N16

DATE	EVENT
1887 February	Department of Mines followed up on the Dent Creek drilling – 2 seams again found – 1 x 5 ft diameter at 2307 feet and the other 4 ft diameter at 2242 feet.
1887 May	Declined Sir Henry Parkes' invitation to attend the proposed dinner for the surviving members of the first Legislative Assembly to be held in May because he was <i>on the verge of the grave ... still an invalid and unable to read or write much...</i>
1887 Oct	Son Walter visited Thomas at Halcot in England.
1887 November	Holt wrote from England with his suggestions for the new GPO to have granite columns on both the north and south facades to make it “one of the most attractive places in Australia, if not the world...” and offered to contribute to it without interest if Mr Perkins, the Holt tenants and the government would match his money. Sir Henry Parkes extolled the proposal but Mr Dibbs, Leader of the Opposition, objected.
1888	Camden Villa estate was sold up and the proceeds diverted to the Congregational Boys' College at Homebush. Camden College, which had its beginning in Camden Villa settled in Glebe in 1910.
1888 July	After much Parliamentary debate, plans were drawn up for resumption of a wide street beside the GPO linking George and Pitt Streets this included part of Holt's Lot 20.
1888	Joseph Carruthers, Minister for Lands asked Frederick Holt to donate Landing Place and Sutherland's grave site to the people. He could not, referred him to the Company and eventually 250 acres at Kurnell were resumed in 1899 and dedicated as public park called Captain Cook Landing Place.
1888 5th September	Thomas Holt died at 7pm on 5 <sup>th</sup> September 1888 in England at Halcot, Bexley, Kent, and was buried in family vault in Abney Park Cemetery, Hackney, London.
	Sutherland Estate was involved in complicated will – annuities from rent were left to Frederick for life, the Company exhausting the capital and unable to pay its own lease. Rent arrears were released on Frederick's negotiations in 1896.
1889 June	A Bill was passed to resume land to make a street 95-100 feet wide for that purpose, and extra land to sell to defray costs. Part of Holt's Lot 20 between Pitt and George Streets was resumed by the Government under the General Post Office Approaches Improvement Act of 1889. Lot 20 today is Martin Place, Colonial



DATE	EVENT
	Mutual Life, GPO, Challis House and the Cenotaph.
1890	United Fire and Life Insurance Company registered under the Companies' Act as a limited liability company after fire swept through much of Sydney – it changed its name to United Insurance Company Limited.
1890	Widowed Sophie and her daughters bought property at Chislehurst, Kent, which she named 'Waratah'. She died 8 <sup>th</sup> May 1910 at Barbados in British West Indies, and was buried beside Thomas at Abney Park in the family vault. Also buried there were daughter Alice 1913, Miss Dodds (Sophie's companion for decades) in 1921 and daughter Annie in 1949.
1891	Frederick was Director of the Deaf and Dumb Society and was instrumental in groundwork for St Georges Cottage Hospital at Kogarah.
1891	Frederick sold Wealwandangie in Queensland along with its 10,000 head of cattle and 400 horses to the partnership of Irving and Allison. It is now known as Kareela.
1892 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	The government resumed Holt and Perkins land north of the GPO through which the now covered Tank Stream flowed in a brick tunnel, was subdivided into 11 lots and sold by the government for a total of £284,000 and paid the Holt Trustees £130,000 in compensation for the resumed land.
1893	Australian Joint Stock Bank crashed during depression; taken over by Australian Bank of Commerce 1910 and Bank of NSW in 1931.
1894 May	Frederick laid foundation stone and financed construction of St Georges Cottage Hospital.
1894	Frederick leased Sutherland House and its contents, art works and statuary to Mrs Hamilton as the Sylvania Sanatorium.
1895 April	Frederick sold the 533 sq mile Salsbury Plains plus its plant and stock to Sir Frederick Darley, Chief Justice of NSW.
1896	The first Land and Income Tax was introduced adding to financial difficulties of tenants who were already in arrears due to the economic depression.
1897	Frederick Holt moved to Winterdyne Burwood from Sutherland House leaving Sylvania estate to his son Frederick Jnr.
1898	The Minister for Lands suggested to Frederick Holt that he donate land, including that on which the obelisk and Forby

DATE	EVENT
	Sutherland's were situated be donated to the people. Frederick advised him that this could not be done by him but referred him to the Company.
1899	About 250 acres at Kurnell resumed and dedicated as the Captain Cook Landing Place Reserve.
1899	Holt-Sutherland Estate Company Limited was incorporated to take over the lease. The lease extended to 56 years from 1st July, 1899. Rents reduced and Company given the power to lease for 99 years. Allowing 99 yr leases with freehold purchase options on payment of 25-times annual rent, capital re-invested and interest paid to Company's own leases, excess to be held by trustees of Holt's will.
1900	Frederick and his son Thomas S Holt released further rent arrears and reduced future rents to assist the struggling lessees. The Holt Sutherland Estate Act 1900 was passed to convert leasehold land into freehold.
1900 20th October	Government passed the Holt-Sutherland Estate Act freeing the Sutherland Estate of the entail embargo of Thomas Holt's will allowing freehold (Torrens Title) sale of land upon the tenant paying 25 times their annual rent. Until this Act was passed only 1683 acres had been taken up, after the Act a further 8732 acres were converted to freehold. There were 2703 acres still alienated in 1953.
1902 7th February	Frederick hit and killed by a train between Katoomba and Wentworth Falls. He was 56 years old; because of his deafness he didn't hear the train.
1908 20th April	Sutherland House and 5 acres auctioned - passed in for £1450. Contents were sold earlier. The water front land went for 21/- to 41/- per foot, other lots reached 8/- to 18/- per foot at a total of £3293.14.6.
1909	Sutherland House was leased to Mrs Crossley as a guest house.
1910	Camden Theological College purchased property in Glebe where it remains today.
1911	Sutherland House considered as the Naval College, Botany Bay too shallow so Jervis Bay was chosen.
1915	Sutherland House sold to Mr Hillman of Balmain for £3000.
1916	Holt-Sutherland Estate Company went into voluntary liquidation when the Holt-Sutherland Estate Company Limited was

DATE	EVENT
	Incorporated.
1918 17th December	Sutherland House was gutted by fire while the caretaker was in the village shopping for his dinner. The building was scheduled for public auction to dispose of the building materials. The fire was one day ahead of the auction. An inquiry returned an open verdict on the fire.
1920s	Holt Building and land – 60 foot western Pitt Street frontage bounded by the Tank Stream sold to Swain and Co by Holt's trustees.
1920s	The brick, slate-roofed Union Chambers – 44-foot eastern Pitt Street frontage near Hunter Street – sold by Holt trustees and Century House, Century Insurance Offices and Friends' Provident were erected.
1925	Holt's bulk stores in Chisolm Place Sydney, were demolished and Wingello House was built. 1960 Wingello House was sold by the Holt Estate trustees to LJ Hooker and renamed Hooker House.
1933	Holt-Sutherland Company Limited incorporated James Murphy was the 3 <sup>rd</sup> largest shareholder in Company.
1960	Wingello House was sold by the Holt Estate trustees to LJ Hooker and renamed Hooker House
1960	Changed name to Holt-Sutherland Company Pty Ltd.
1970 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth, Prince Phillip and Princess Anne attended bicentenary re-enactment of Cook's landing at Holt's obelisk, Kurnell at the invitation of W J Holt, great-great grandson of Thomas Holt. The Queen planted a Norfolk Island pine in front of the obelisk.
1979 July	<p>Arthursleigh (<b>7900 ha – 30.5 sq miles- 20,000 acres</b>) was bequeathed to the Sydney University in July 1979 from the estate of the late Eric Thomas William Holt.</p> <p>Arthursleigh, on the Ditly Fire Trail, straddling the Wollondilly River five kilometres west of Canyon Leigh and 16km north of Marulan and is managed by the University of Sydney as a working farm and research station. The farm is operated commercially, and used for teaching and research in pasture agronomy and animal science. Currently the site is used as a teaching resource for Faculties of Veterinary Science, Agriculture, Aeronautics, Wildlife Health and Population Management courses and provides an ideal venue for field trips. It is managed by Mr S Burgun.</p>

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
2006	Holt family maintains ownership of much of the Kurnell land obtained by Thomas Holt in 1861.

### END NOTES

**ABNEY PARK CEMETERY:** Stoke Newington was a well-known haven for Dissidents. Abney Park was unusual at the time in that it was expressly a place for Non-Conformists (ie persons who rejected the ceremonial and liturgy of the Church of England, instead worshipping in Methodist, Baptist, Congregationalists, Wesleyan and other chapels; the Quakers and Salvationists are similar groups), many of whom lived in the area. It extends over 32 acres on a north-facing slope running down from an ancient ridgeway track-now Stoke Newington Church Street-to the course of the Hackney Brook, a stream which originally ran from two sources in Holloway to the River Lea in central Hackney. Abney Park has an exceptional arboretum, 2,500 different species-2,000 in place when the cemetery opened, which at its zenith it eclipsed the Royal Park at Kew, and has Egyptian Entrance-sets of iron gates, the hieroglyphs over the lodges read "The Gates of the Abode of the Mortal Part of Man". Today the Abney Park Cemetery Trust manages the Cemetery in partnership with the Council.

Holt, Thomas	11sep1888	76y	082237	O06	3S09
Holt, Sophia Johann Marie	13may1910	88y	116900	O06	5S11
Holt, Alice Sophia Ellen	09oct1913	60y	122010	O06	6S04
Holt, Annie Isabella	21feb1949	90y	175485	O06	8S08
Dodds, Jessie	05may1921	90y	135718	O06	7S04

**COOK PARK** named after Samuel Cook, manager of SMH

**HOLT SUTHERLAND ESTATE** name changes:

1. Holt Sutherland Estate Company Ltd. 1881
2. Holt Sutherland Estate Land Company 1899
3. The Holt Sutherland Estate Act 1900
4. Holt Sutherland Estate Land Company Incorporated 1916
5. Holt-Sutherland Company Pty Ltd 1960

**RABBITS** had been imported to Australia before Holt's time.

**SQUATTER:** After 1835 free land grants were abolished - A squatter, usually a large landholder, leased grazing rights on crown land with future option to purchase if he put up fences and buildings. This had the side-effect of preventing Selectors in their regions.

**THOMAS HOLT** referred to himself as Thomas Holt Junior until he was 45 years old when his father died in England.

**WARATAH** - bought and named by Sophie two years after Thomas Holt's Death.

**LAND OWNERSHIP** -1851-80, either alone or with partners, he acquired interests in numerous New South Wales and Queensland pastoral properties totaling about three million acres (1.2 million ha).

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