



## St Marys – Timeline

Named after the parish church of St. Mary Magdalene, built between 1837- 40 and consecrated by Bishop Broughton in 1840, it is one of the few townships in the world actually named after a church. The site was believed to have been chosen by Phillip Parker King's mother. The property had been acquired from John Oxley in 1828 by King, the original grant having been made in 1823. Other land grants in the area included those to Anna Josepha King in 1807 (Dunheved), Samuel Marsden (Mamre), and Mary Putland (Frogmore). The area was first called South Creek, because European settlement was originally centred along the banks of the creek. The land grants became working holdings because of the permanent water supply. The rich alluvial soil ensured an expanding agricultural community and its location on the Great Western Road meant that it became a convenient staging post. The name St. Marys was first used when the St. Marys Post Office was opened on the 1st October, 1840. The township formed part of a grant to Mary Putland (later married Sir Maurice O'Connell), the daughter of Governor William Bligh. Closer settlement of the area was made possible when in 1842 part of the O'Connell Estate was subdivided.

1804		Land grants made along South Creek by Governor King
1806		Land grants to King family ratified by Governor Bligh
1813	May	Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth set out from Gregory Blaxland's farm Leeholme to attempt to cross the Blue Mountains
1817		Phillip Parker King (son of Gov. King) married Harriet Lethbridge in St Mary Magdalene Church in Launceston Cornwall near Dunheved Castle
1822		Construction of Mamre homestead begins
1827		Harriet King arrives in Sydney with her brother Robert Copeland Lethbridge. Harriet settled at Dunheved estate and Robert built Werrington House
1832		After the death of John Oxley, his property at St. Marys is purchased by Phillip Parker King. Ann Josepha King, Phillip's mother chose a site for an Anglican Church
1834		Travellers Rest Inn opened. First in the district
1837	22 November	Foundation stone laid for St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church
1839		First school opened with 39 pupils
1839		South Creek Inn opened

1840	22 April	St Mary Magdalene Church is consecrated
1840	1 October	First Post Office opened on the O'Connell estate
1842	26 May	First town allotments sold from the O'Connell estate
1850		John Page opened a large tannery along South Creek
1852		Andrew Thompson born in St Marys, elder son of Samuel Thompson, tanner.
1853	15 April	Woolpack Inn opened by James Hackett
1862	7 July	Railway line from St Marys (South Creek) to the Crossroads (Kingswood) opened.
1863	27 July	National School opened
1878	15 March	St Marys Public School opened
1879	30 May	Branch of Bank of New South Wales opened near Victoria Park
1882	October	Andrew Thompson enlarged his tannery to take up 77 hectares
1885	1 August	The name St Marys appeared on a railway timetable replacing the name South Creek
1886		Mimosa built for Andrew Thompson by John Sainsbury
1887	12 October	Andrew Thompson celebrated the opening of his enlarged tannery
1889		James Bennett's home Bronte built by Joseph Sainsbury
1890	4 March	St Marys proclaimed a Municipality
1890		Newmarket Cattle saleyards built
1892		Foundation stone laid by Cardinal Moran for a Catholic Church
1897	June	Station Street re-named Queen Street in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee
1910	29 April	Telephone exchange opened
1918	30 October	Andrew Thompson died at his home at Tyrone Erskine Park
1941		St Marys Industrial Estate established
1941		Munitions filling factory established on 3,500 acres
1946		Government leased 600/700 acres of Commonwealth land for private industrial use
1949	1 January	Castlereagh, Mulgoa, St. Marys and Penrith Shires amalgamated to form the Municipality of Penrith
1955		New High School built
1955	8 October	First electric train between Blacktown and Penrith, including St Marys
1961	September	St Marys South Public School opened
1988	9 February	Governor King's headstone relocated from England to St Mary Magdalene Church
2003		South Creek is dual named as Wianamatta, meaning 'Mother Place' in the Dharug language