

BROCKMAN William Locke

Fifth son of Rev. Julius Drake-Brockman of Cheriton, Co Kent, England, he sold his Romney Marsh farm to go to Swan River settlement. With his wife Ann and son Edmund, he arrived at Fremantle in January 1830 on the "Minstrel".¹ Among his livestock he had three rams and forty six pure merino ewes. He also bought a prefabricated house and seven servants, whose passage money he had advanced. Brockman became the original grantee of Location Nine, Herne Hill, Upper Swan.

Crops were put in as soon as possible but milling presented a problem. In May 1832 he had wheat ground at Fremantle but by 1837 his own horse-mill was operating. Agriculture was necessary in the infant colony but Brockman's main service was in the breeding of blood horses and pedigree sheep. With Margeaux, the dam of many fine horses his stocks soon commanded high prices and later he exported horses to India.² He made a number of exploratory journeys seeking good pastoral land. At his death he was one of the colony's largest land proprietors. He bought "Seabrook", near Northam, for his son Edmund to manage, took up "Cheriton", near Gingin, as a large farm and fattening station, and leased other properties.

In June 1831 Brockman was elected a foundation member of the Swan Agricultural Society, and served a term as President. He was also on Guildford Mechanics' Institute from its inception. He had been appointed Justice of the Peace and Magistrate for Swan District in 1833 and served until his death. In 1839 Brockman was a non official nominee in the Legislative Council;

The Legislative Council as at first constituted, consisted of the following:- Captain James Stirling, R.N., Governor; Captain Frederick Chidley Irwin, Commandant; Messrs. Peter Broun (Colonial Secretary); Joseph Septimus Roe (Surveyor General), and W.H. Mackie (Advocated General). These gentlemen also constituted the Executive Council. On January 3, 1839, the appointment of four unofficial nominee members was sanctioned. Authority for the appointment of the nominees was given in 1835, but as the colonists asked that the new representatives should be elected, instead of nominated, a policy with which the then Home Governor did not agree, the Governor was directed to withhold the appointments for the time. It was one of the first acts of the new Governor (Hutt) to appoint to the Council Messrs. William Locke Brockman, George Leake, Thomas Peel, and William Tanner, and they took their seats in March 1839. The term of their office was the duration of their residence in the colony.³

After reconstruction of the Council in 1868, William Locke Brockman also served for six months in 1872 as the Elected Member for the Province of Swan until his death. Under an 1842 Act for the Construction and Management of Roads, a central committee and eight district committees were formed. When the District Road Acts of 1871 created road districts, Brockman was the first Chairman of the Swan Road Board. Upon his death at Herne Hill and interment in the Middle Swan Church of England Cemetery, an obituary termed him "Father of the Swan and one of its most preserving and active of settlers".

¹ Erickson - *Dictionary of Western Australians*, 1829-1914

² Johnston - *W.L. Brockman - A Portrait*

³W.A. Parliamentary Handbook, 13th Edition