In 1804, Hannah Laycock was granted 500 acres of good pasture and timbered land on either side of a ‘run of ponds of fresh water’ (the upper reaches of Wolli Creek), which she named Kings Grove.

Between 1812 and 1821, Governor Macquarie promised all the productive land along the creek to small farmers. Occupation took place soon after and the area became a convenient locality from which to ‘furnish Sydney with split timber, shingles, firewood and charcoal.’

### Farming life

During the 1890s more farming families moved into the Wolli Creek Valley. Small farms remained in the valley until the 1960s when the last of the dairies and market gardens finally closed. The best-known farming families were the Woods, King and Parry families. Audrey Barnes, granddaughter of the King family, provided an interesting account of farm life.

‘There were few made roads only bush tracks – no gas or electricity. Most farmers grew vegetables and fruit trees and kept a cow and poultry. To conserve rainwater, children were often bathed in the creek… washing was done on flat stones in the creek… cooking was done on a fuel stove with its simmering black iron pots’.

During floods the gardens were often washed away. Water was pumped from the creek to water the crops. Many local families purchased their vegetables from the local gardeners.