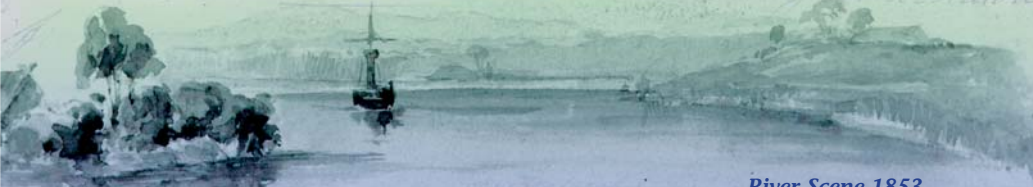






# The Landings Place



River Scene 1853  
State Library of NSW

## In 1833, the Colonial Secretary issued the following instructions to the Surveyor General.

'With reference to your conversation with the Governor on Monday last I have the honor by direction of His Excellency to request that you will commence the road from Maitland to the Upper Hunter before you proceed with any other roads in the Northern Districts, excepting that from Green Hills to Maitland which may be carried on simultaneously by an ironed gang as already directed.

I am however directed to inform you that this latter road is not to be begun until you have obtained from Mr Close his surrender to the Crown, for the purposes of a Public Wharf, of so much land contained in Mr Close's Grant and adjoining the spot opposite to which the store ship is now moored, as you may think it necessary for the object. And at the same time to remind you with respect to the extent of the wharf alluded to, that the time may not be far distant when three or four vessels may require to load and unload at the wharf.'

The reserve for the public wharf or landing place was about 3 acres or 1.2 hectares. This area is one of the Hunter Valley's most important heritage places and more stories about its significance can be read as you walk towards the river.

The interpretive posts have been fashioned from recycled timbers salvaged from a wharf at Parramatta.

View of the Hunter River (west of Queens Wharf) from 'Closebourne', the residence of Lieut Edward Close. Pre 1912.  
Courtesy of Helen Pankhurst

