Exploration

BETWEEN

THE WIGECARRIBE SHOALHAVEN
MACQUARIE AND
MURRUMBIDGEE RIVERS

By

R.H. CAMBAGE F.L.S.

A paper read before the Royal Australian Historical Society July 26th, 1921
Prior to the year 1818 little exploratory work had been done beyond the Wingecarribee River, or what is now the Moss Vale District. In 1798 Wilson and Barracks passed through this locality and went as far as Towrang*. In 1814 Hamilton Hume and his brother John Kennedy Hume explored the Wingecarribee district, and this resulted in the starting of settlement there in about 1817 or 1818 by Dr. Charles Throsby, formerly a ship's surgeon, who arrived in Sydney on June 13, 1802, and whose nephew, Charles Throsby, was the ancestor of the present day Throsby families. Hamilton Hume visited the locality in 1815†, and in August, 1817, he accompanied Dr. Throsby, who extended his explorations to the westward of what is now Sutton Forest, and on a few miles past the Cross Roads towards the Wollondilly River. John Rowley and Joseph Wild were also of the party. Throsby refers to the country around Sutton Forest as Cooloorigan. Surveyor Meehan calls it Kellourakan.

† The Monitor, November 26, 1826.
Routes of Explorers.
On March 3, 1818, an important journey was commenced from the Liverpool district, under conditions which are set out in Surveyor James Meehan's Field Book as follows:

Memorandums and remarks made on a tour made by me by order of His Excellency the Governor in order to try if a communication can be effected from Sydney to Jarvis's Bay by land. Accompanied by Mr. Charles Throsby who had taken with him Joseph Wild a Freeman and two prisoners, servants of Mr Throsby, John Glynn a shoemaker, and my servant, Hamilton Hume a native of the Colony, Geo. Grimes the same, Robert Coolan, John Thomas and Charles Gilliver Government men sent with us.

Throsby mentions that he also had with him Bundell and Broughton, black natives.

There seems no doubt that Grimes was a son of Charles Grimes, a former Surveyor-General. Throsby describes him later as “a lad about fifteen or sixteen.”

Meehan states that his distances were taken with a perambulator, or measuring wheel.

On March 3 they sent forward two loaded carts, and on March 5 Meehan and Throsby set out and crossed the Nepean at Mr. Hassall's farm, “accompanied by Mr Robert Johnston, a Lieutenant of the Navy, and Mr John Charles Wentworth, who proposed accompanying us on the expedition.”

The following entry appears in Meehan's Field-Book, under date Thursday, March 5, 1818:

...... Having had instructions from His Excellency the Governor to mark out a small piece of land for John McArthur whereon his present residence stands—as also a piece of land to be assigned to some Black Natives who wish to reside on it under the protection of Mr. McArthur was in consequence detained that night.

At Bargo, on March 8, Johnston and Wentworth returned, apprehending the tour would require more time than they could spare.

The party then proceeded past the “Mittigong Flat,” and over the

---

† Field Book, Chief Secretary’s Dept., and F.B. 143 Lands Dept.
§ Charlee Grimes had two sons, John and George. See Pioneer Surveyors of New South Wales, by John Weingarth, The Surveyor, VOL XXX., p. 25 (1917)
“Mittigong Range,” practically along what afterwards became the first road to the Wingecarribee River, the locality on the north side of the river being called by the natives Toombong. They “crossed the river by hauling the horses across with a rope and fording with the men near four feet deep.”

After crossing, the party proceeded through what is now the eastern portion of Moss Vale, the name being then entered by Throsby as Boomboong and by Meehan as Boombuong, though two years later he called it Boomboong. After, reaching near Portions 39 and 40, Parish of Bong Bong, County of Camden, an east-south-east course was taken, approximately following the present road, to somewhere between the junctions of Lutwycke and Deep or Colyers Creek with Bundanoon Creek, a little to the southward of Manchester Square. On March 13, 1818, they found the creeks so swollen by recent rain that they were unable to proceed down the Bundanoon Valley, and decided to retrace their steps somewhat and then take a south-westerly course.

It is quite evident from Throsby's entry that they were guided by the natives to the spot near the head of Bundanoon Creek, where it was understood a passage would be found by which the party could travel towards Jervis Bay. After passing just to the north of what a few years afterwards became Henry Badgery's Exeter Estate, and a little to the south of the Cross Roads of today, which locality has been referred to as Tindoonbindal and Tin-bun-dun-dal by Throsby and Meehan respectively, and proceeding four or five miles westerly, they turned southerly, but were unable to get the carts across a swamp, now known as “The Long Swamp,” but called by Throsby "Disappointment Valley," Parish Murrumba. They were evidently aware of the presence of the Wollondilly River to the westward, though it does not appear that any white man had then seen its upper portion, except Wilson and party, who discovered that part in 1798, and Throsby and Meehan referred to it as the Western River, evidently knowing that lower down it was identical with the Warragamba. After retracing their steps for several miles, to “Apple Tree Creek,” near where the Black Horse Hotel subsequently stood, just beyond the 94-mile post, they set off in a southerly direction, and on March 17, 1818, they reached a stream which Meehan named Patrick's River, now known as Paddy's River, at
a spot about five miles above where the present Southern road crosses it. After some delay by wet weather, the party crossed Patrick's River about Portion 28, Parish Wingello, alienated to P. H. Oswell, the carts crossing about two and a quarter miles higher up, and journeyed southerly through a district which the natives called Urangaalaa, and on March 23 reached a well grassed spot known as Bumbaalaa. This would be about two miles south-westerly from the present village of Wingello, and Portion 19, of two thousand acres, Parish of Bumballa, alienated to Jemima Jenkins, bears the name of Bumballa. Throsby states that there was "a good coat of grass intermixed with a considerable quantity of herbage, native lucerne, trefoil, burnet and chicory." Meehan adds "Ribgrass or chicory."

A creek a few miles to the west of Bumballa is now called Uringalla Creek, and on it the Wingello homestead of early days was situated.

REACH THE SHOALHAVEN GORGES.

On March 24 the journey was continued, at first southerly until, Throsby writes, they “entered a large plain of flat forest called by the natives Tallawaa, from whence we saw the deep ravines running to Shoals haven.” The name of Tallowa was given to Portion 113, Parish of Bumballa, alienated to Jemima Jenkins, near which are the Shoalhaven gorges, about twelve hundred to fifteen hundred feet deep.

Finding it impossible to proceed along to the steep sides of these deep ravines, the party turned in a general north-westerly direction and travelled towards what is now the Tallong railway station, near where Meehan refers to the land as “pebbly and bad.” These pebbles are known to geologists as belonging to the Permo-Carboniferous period.

ARRIVE AT MARULAN.

In going westerly from Tallong a very great change of country is noticed soon after Barber's Creek is crossed; it is fitting to describe it in Throsby's own words. He wrote that they passed

...Through a very rotten, stony, poor country, over a small stream of water to a beautiful piece of fine forest called Mooroomalin the country here changed in the most sudden manner from considerably barren to as picturesque and good forest as can be wished for well watered and abundant in herbage . . . . This country abounds in very fine granite, apparentiwy fit for mill stones.
Meehan's note is of a similar nature. The origin of the name Marulan is seen in the above entry. On April 25, 1818, the party proceeded in a general southerly direction, keeping to the west of Barber's Creek of today, and again had a view of the Shoalhaven gorges just below the junction of Bungonia Creek. Throsby records the native name of the spot “Carns.”

In about the year 1829 (Plan A1, 642), Surveyor Robert Hoddle referred to the spot near the junction of Jerrara and Bungonia Creeks as “Carns,” and in his field-book (297) wrote: ”deep gully called Carns.”

DETERMINE TO DIVIDE THE PARTY.

The hopelessness of being able to cross the ravines decided them to re-arrange their plans, and as it has been said that this was done as the result of some dispute, it is proper to point out that such was certainly not the case, but was an amicable arrangement for the purpose of more successfully carrying on the work of exploration. Let us first look at Meehan's entry concerning the position. He wrote:-

The general appearance of the country is very broken and irregular, is exceedingly high. Finding it impracticable to effect a passage any farther we agreed to divide into two parties. Mr. Throsby took the carts, his own three men, Geo. Grimes and the two black natives in order to try if he could effect a passage by the way we were first attempting, whilst I proceed with the four other men, Hamilton Hume and three led horses with loads on their backs. Having had a view of the country from hence, and seeing it very broken and irregular, I deemed it most advisable to keep to the S.-W. in order as I hoped to head the river.

Throsby's entry reads as follows:-

At 5 o'clock Mr. Meehan returned stating his opinion that the river rose considerably to the south and that he thought it not prudent to attempt to take the carts further. It was therefore mutually agreed that I should return with them, divide our party and provisions and attempt to pass at a particular point with the horses loaded, leaving the carts at a place appointed while he and the other party only to head the whole of the Shoals haven river, and if possible make the Coast that way, being convinced that the track we should be obliged to take would lead us much out of the way for a road to Port Jackson. Nevertheless it was likely that a country might be discovered that would be useful to a settlement at Jarvis' Bay.
On March 26, 1818, Throsby commenced the return journey from Caarne or Southern Marulan, and reached the headwaters of the Bundanoon Creek on the 28th. He wrote:

We were met by Timelong and Munnaana who had been in search of us, they are two natives whom I have seen at Five Islands. Munnah is one of the two strangers whom myself, Colonel Johnson, his son George etc., met at the River Macquarie, Five Islands, the first time the Colonel was there, and which was the first time he had seen a white man. On our meeting them they had many jaged spears etc. but on my telling them through Bundell that the Governor required the Natives not to carry spears when with white people, they very readily consented to leave them, in fact they threw them away and assured me that the carts and other things we left would be safe.

(Five Islands was an early name for Illawarra.)

Next day Throsby commenced his entry, “Pantanoon, 29th March, 1818,” and in this we see the origin of the name "Bundaoon.” The entry proceeds:

The two strange natives we met yesterday cannot be prevailed on by those two we have had with us to taste pork, say it is salt one of them Timelong is a robust man, very dark, with a very long beard, the other Munnana, a thin man, more of a dirty brick colour than black, with a beard only on the chin, on the upper lip and under the mouth it appears to be kept cut or most likely burnt off as is their custom, both are perfectly naked and not even provided with the most trifling covering for the night.

The party travelled south-easterly, keeping on the left hand, or eastern side, of the Bundanoon Valley, for an entry reads: “Water runs to the right the whole way. “By evening they arrived at a creek called Yarranghaa.”This stream is now known as Yarrunga Creek, the head waters of which form the famous Fitzroy Falls, and is a tributary of the Kangaroo River. Throsby wrote:

About half an hour after we halted for the night several natives joined us most of whom I have seen at Five Islands, they were most women and children, only three men. I conceive them to be three familys the whole perfectly naked and slept round fires like as many dogs, they all approached us without spears or weapons of any sort except one stone axe and one small tomahawk.
Yarranghaa, March 30th, 1818. -Set out before breakfast to look at the creek towards its source found it coming out of very steep rocks, but from the inconsiderable stream think it does not extend any great distance.

From this entry it seems evident that the natives told, Throsby something of the occurrence of what have since been named the Fitzroy Falls, but it is very doubtful if he went up far enough to see them.

On March 30, they continued their journey over rough country until the afternoon, when they reached a beautiful piece of meadow by the side of “a considerable stream of water running to the right.” Throsby records the name of this spot as Parronrah, which we now know as Kangaroo River or Valley.

An entry made here reads as follows:-

An old native with a wife and 8 children came to us at the place tells me, this river rises out of a piece of forest ground close at the back of Five Islands mountain, which ground I sent Josh Wild to examine about twelve months since, he informs me he met the old man and family there and that the land from whence the river takes its source is a very large piece of excellent forest, and that the sources of it, and those of Macquarie river at Five Islands, is only separated by the range of the Macquarie Mountains.

On March 31 they reached the banks of the Shoalhaven River, and “halted by the side of a ford, the water apparently very shallow.” Throsby wrote:- “... land very good, grass very high 3 feet.” He records the name of the spot as “Purreah” which evidently is the original of our postal name “Burrier,” and of Burriar of the Lands Department maps, where it is shown on portion 39, Parish of Buangla, County of St. Vincent, and alienated to Mary Reibey, whose name was well known in the early commercial life of Sydney.

Surveyor Meehan ascended the Shoalhaven River to this locality in February, 1805 (Plan S 120, Lands Dept.)

CROSSES THE SHOALHAVEN RIVER.

Throsby wrote:-

The native informs me that a Boat (Whale boat) was up some time ago and passed this place, to near the spot we slept at the night before last, they must therefore have gone up the N. E. arm, instead of the main river.

On April 1 the party crossed the river “at an excellent ford, not two feet deep.” Throsby wrote:-
At this place we met five native women and three children, at our approach they were extremely frightened, or so they appeared from their countenances etc., one of them had a woolly head of hair, more resembling the African black than any I have seen in this Colony, altho I am told the Derwent natives are all so.

Owing to the rough nature of the country they had difficulties with the horses, but this happened on various days. After they halted for the night at a locality called “Tarranarraa,” Throsby wrote:-

This evening we fell in with several familys of natives in all about thirty men women and children who would all have run away, but for one of the natives, who assured them we should not hurt them, by whom they were prevailed on to shake hands with me, when I made each of them a trifling present which induced them to give us what fish they had for which I paid them with a fish hook etc.

JOURNEYS TO THE FALLS.

April 2, 1818. This day the party journeyed to The Falls near the head of what Throsby calls" Cooroombun" and "Cooroom bon" Creek, which flows into Jervis Bay, and is now known as Currambene Creek. Oxley (F.B. 158) quotes the native name of the creek at "Curran-bun." Throsby refers to The Falls as “the place called Totooah.”

When describing the forest as he approached this spot, Throsby wrote:-

.... better calculated for agriculture than grazing, from the number of Wattle trees and tall indigo, timber thick, but not heavy, gum and Ironbark.

When near The Falls, he wrote:-

.... a range of tolerable good forest, timber Box, to a fall of water into a basin about twelve feet.

It is of interest that Throsby should have referred to these box trees (Ecalyptus hemiphloia) for there are a few still standing close to the present main road, and it is the only place between Nowra and Milton where trees of this species occur by the roadside.

When referring to the natives, Throsby wrote:-

Of the natives that joined us yesterday one of them accompanied us and am bound to say, that he (Honney) has conducted us in a way that is much to his credit, that he has gained confidence since we first saw him last night for at that time every symptom of fear was predicted in his countenance and his whole frame.
April 3, 1818. The party proceeded down Cooroombun Creek to Jervis Bay, when Throsby began “to enquire if there was any account of Mr. Meehan,” thinking that possibly he might have crossed “the Upper Shoalhaven and approached Jervis Bay. Meehan, however, was not able to find a crossing, as will be seen later. Throsby was informed "that a vessel sailed from there this morning, or yesterday with one of Mr. Allan's sons in her and several soldiers, that they had sailed to the southward.” Throsby regarded the country as "very barren poor land." He was somewhat alarmed at the number of natives and said: "I would much rather be without such numerous visitors considering our small party and having heard the disposition of Jarvis Bay natives."

When writing of the mouth of the Currambene Creek, he said: "Its entrance is nearly shut by a very long narrow point or hook of land." The feature is the same to-day, the entrance being at the southern end of a long bank of sand.

Since some notes were published by me on "Captain Cook's Pigeon House and Early South Coast Exploration,"** more definite information has been obtained concerning the death of one of the southern pioneers. The Rev. Thomas Kendall, grandfather of Henry Kendall, the Australian poet, was the first settler in the Ulladulla District, in 1828, and was drowned in 1832, somewhere outside of Jervis Bay. Mr. George Dent has informed me that soon after he arrived at Jervis Bay with his father, in 1863, the local blacks told him that the cedar-laden vessel overturned, probably out in the ocean, and drifted into the Bay and on to the beach about two miles north of Currambene Creek. The natives pointed out the remains, and a piece of timber with copper bolts could be seen until a few years ago, sticking out about two feet at low tide.

The circumstances of Kendall's death were reported in the Sydney Gazette of August 16, 1832, as follows:-

It is with deep regret that we have to announce the loss of the schooner Brisbane belonging to the Rev. T. Kendall, together with all on board, consisting of that gentleman, Mr. Florance, the captain and crew.... It seems that about a week ago the

** The Surveyor, Vol. XXVIII., p. 186 (1915), and Vol XXIX., (1916)
little vessel freighted with cedar, cheese and other articles, to the value of nearly £200, left Mr. Kendall's farm at Nulladolla bound for Sydney, and two days after was found by some of the native blacks capsized in Jervis Bay.

Nulladolla was evidently one of the early pronunciations of the name Ulladulla.

JERVIS BAY NATIVES.

Throsby spent April 4 looking round the Bay, and was "informed that a river called Berrewerry takes its rise a distance from hence that it runs to the southward, past the Pidgeon House, and empties itself into the sea." This refers to the sheet of water named St. George's Basin in 1828, by Surveyor 'thomas Florance, who died in Auckland, New Zealand, on March 28, 1867. Throsby was unable to visit the Basin, but for some years afterwards remained under the impression that it extended a considerable distance inland, and that its importance in connection with navigation to the back country would be very great. It has no value, however, in the nature he forecasted.

On April 5, Throsby, "with Wild and young Mr. Grimes, accompanied by a native named Turong," who, from his conduct, Throsby thought "the best of the whole of the Jervis's Bay natives," travelled southward to a hill from which they "saw the Pidgeon House and had a beautiful view of a very extensive sheet of water." This hill which they visited embraced the spot known as "Pacific City," and the water they saw was St. George's Basin Regarding the natives, Throsby wrote:

This day the natives increased in numbers and are certainly the most impudent I ever met with in the Colony, they will get us no fish without paying double the price at any other place, if we attempt to give one a bit of bread etc. the whole immediately demand the like and which from their numbers and manners we are from policy almost obliged to comply with. This morning young Grimes went to shoot ducks, but only got one, a native named Tarrangalla, who was with him took it and carried it to the hut, wrapped it up in his cloak, and laid it by his side, and when I asked for it, with much impudence demanded tobacco as well as the bread I had offered hini.

Just after dark, Wild and myself being on the beach observed two young men bring over spears, etc. from the opposite side of the creek and put them in the bush. Removed a short distance nearer water. Several of the native women went away this evening a very suspicious circumstance, kept watch all night.
From all these circumstances it may be seen how these early Australian explorers “carried their lives in their hands.” A different account of the behaviour of the Jervis Bay natives was given by Lieutenant James Grant, of the Lady Nelson, in 1801, but possibly the presence of the ship and a greater number of white men tended to keep the natives quiet on that occasion. Grant wrote:

Tuesday, March 10, 1801. They seem a harmless, inoffensive people, but much more robust than those about Sydney. They all wish to get their beards cut off. They did not thoroughly understand Yeranabie, the native I have on board. Mr. Barrallier and I went on shore with the boat, armed, in order to catch some fish and see how they would receive us, taking Yeranabie with us, who, when he got on shore, showed evident marks of fear, although one of them, an elderly man, made him a present of a waddee. On my enquiring into the cause of his alarm, he told me they would kill him and eat him; I therefore sent him on board in the boat directly. We hauled the seine, which the natives voluntarily assisted us in doing very cheerfully, and seemed surprised to see the fish we caught, which were but few, though excellent of their kind, being large whiting. As the inhabitants seemed to have a great desire for some of the fish we distributed the whole among them, excepting three I reserved for ourselves; they seemed much pleased, and danced and shouted by turns round us. There was now a great number about us, but what appeared to me strange there was none of them had any arms with them of any kind. They seemed to know the use of the musquet, and appeared frightened at it when pointed. They asked for blankets and bread and made signs for something to put round their heads, which last article I gave them, and which I made out of an old white shirt torn up in strips like bands, tying the same round their foreheads, with which they seemed much pleased. They expressed much surprise at the looking-glass, searching everywhere to find if there was not someone at the back of it, dancing before it, and putting themselves in all the attitudes they could. They are entirely naked, and seemed to pay homage to the oldest, there being amongst them a very elderly, stout man, his hair perfectly grey, whose advice they seemed to follow.

Wednesday, March 11, 1801:

We walked seven or eight miles into the interior (namely, Grant, Barrallier, Caley, and two soldiers). As we approached towards the ship we found a place which had evident marks of being frequented by the natives for the purpose of festivity. It was a rising ground clear from brush, and no kennel (or habitation of theirs) near it; there were, numerous homes of kangaroos, seals, fish, etc., scattered on the ground, and, amongst others Mr. Barrallier picked up part of a human scull; it consisted of a part of the as frontis, with the cavities of the eyes and part of the bones of the nose still

†† Historical Records of New South Wales Vol. IV., p. 478.
attached to it; a little apart from the spot where he picked the above up he also found a piece of the upper jaw, with one of the molars or back teeth attached to it; also one of the *vertebrae* of the back with evident marks of fire on it; all the others were free from any such marks. On this spot we counted where there had been fifteen different fires, the grass much beaten down and trod on, several seemed fresher than others. From this circumstance I presume they visit this spot occasionally. I brought the human bones on board with me, and finding two of the natives on board I called Yeranabie, and showing him the scull part desired him to ask if that was the part of a white man, and if they had eat him. Yeranabie interpreted that it was a white man that had come in a small boat or canoe, and that they had eat him adding afterwards that he had come from some ship which he said had broke down been lost to the southward. The natives did not seem alarmed or intimidated at our questions, but pointed to the southward and the harbour's mouth, answering very freely, and without reserve. One of the people also who understands pretty well the language of the natives about Sydney agreed in the account Yeranabie had given, and more than once questioned them about it, especially in regard to the colour of the person.

Friday, March 13, 1801. On pulling out the watch they did not seem to like it, and talked very gravely among themselves; they were all anxious to listen to the noise of the watch, yet they would pull their ear from it and look at the watch with symptoms of fear about them, and return to it again. I attempted to point out the use of it, and pointed at the sun, but from this circumstance I am led to think they believed it to be something that we worshipped. The old man particularly pointed to the sun and appeared anxious to know more of it. What leads me to imagine these were their ideas, everything else they saw of ours, after examining it a little, they broke out into a shout or exclamation expressive of wonder, and returned to examine it more minutely, but in the business of the watch they behaved very differently they made no exclamations and talked much in a lower tone of voice than usual among themselves, at the same time expressing a sort of fear which they did not show towards anything else.

**PREPARES TO RETURN.**

April 6, 1818. The number of natives, wrote Throsby, “whose demands have pressed hard on our provisions and other circumstances made me resolve to remove about three miles distant.”

April 7. We now come to an incident which serves to show the forethought of Throsby and the resourcefulness demanded by the exigencies of exploratory work in those early days. Throsby decided to depart, but before doing so he wrote a letter to Meehan to await his possible arrival. It is not clear what he did with the letter, but there
seems no doubt that he handed it to one of his newly-made black acquaintances, probably Turong. The letter was as follows:-

Dear Meehan,—I arrived here on Thursday evening and have remained here until this day 12 O' clock having been yesterday and the day before round to S.W. country bad, a large sheet of water called Berrewerry about five miles from the part of the bay where vessels anchor from a heighth above which I have got The Bearings of Pigeon House and North head of the bay with other remarks etc. am induced to remove from hence, from the number of visitors whom, I think suspicious at all events their conduct is so, shall stop at a fall of water at the head of the Creek, about three or four miles for a day or two, the place called Tootooah, look round me there etc.; the pass we came and have to return is bad, as much so in one place as the Five Islands Mountain, the bearer will find you a Guide you must pass the following places which was the stations we slept at coming here 1st from hence, Tarrawarra, 2nd Purreah, 3rd Parronrah, 4th Yarranghaa, 5th Broughtons Point, which point may be avoided by keeping to the right and coming out at Toomboong. If you are pressed for time I would advise your going by five islands after you get over Shoals haven, a very good ford at Purreah from thence to Boongaree then, Mu Mu Murrah, through some good land your time will be saved and have a much better pass.

Mu Mu Murrah is an early name for Minnamurra, near Kiama. Throsby's entry in regard to Meehan goes on to say:—"I give up all hopes of his arriving" although the natives speak of another pass where there are two creeks to cross, one named Taalong, and the other Boondoondooroo. “At 10 I fired a signal for Mr. Meehan and set off in a westerly direction.” By night he reached a locality called Bee Wongala, now known to us as the Parish of Buangla. We now have an instance of the “bush telegraph” of the very early days. Throsby wrote:—

This evening Timelong, joined some strange natives, who informed him that they had seen Mr. Meehan, that they had left him three nights since and said something about bullocks which I could not understand it being so improbable a story, that Mr. Meehan had returned with one of Yellowman's party, that the name of the place Mr. Meehan returned from was Jackqua.

Yellowman was a native who belonged to the Mittagong district.

In a letter to the Governor, dated April 15, 1818, Throsby speaks of natives meeting" according to periodical custom to exchange Belts, Cloaks, etc."
CROSSES SHOALHAVEN RIVER.

April 8. Throsby saw several cedar trees and then crossed the Shoalhaven River at Purreah. He also saw the party of natives who reported having seen Mr. Meehan, and who again stated that Meehan met two black men named Ree Wigugal and Maulaney. Throsby wrote:- “the party are the most robust and healthy looking natives I have ever seen in the Colony.”

They now passed through a locality called Boolaa, where Timelong left them in an unexpected manner.

By evening they reached a stream running into Parronrah (Kangaroo Valley).

REACHES THE CARTS.

April 9. A weak horse had to be left, and Broughton, a native boy, who accompanied them the whole way took him to where there was good grass.

The journal says:- “We pushed on to the carts, which we found in safety, nothing having been taken away except some kangaroo skins.”

April 10, 1818. The party found that Meehan had not returned, so took one cart and proceeded towards their home.

April 13. "Left the cart and party in Cow Pastures and made the best of my way home, a very wet day, owing to which I did not arrive until very late at night."

MEEHAN PASSES BUNGONIA.

Let us now see what became of Meehan after he and Throsby divided forces near Marulan.

March 26, 1818. Meehan and party soon crossed Jerrara Creek, a little above its junction with Bungonia Creek, and later crossed the latter from two to three miles below the present village of Bungonia, noticing “a very handsome sheet of water and flat meadow land,” which afterwards became the property of Robert Futter. "They next travelled southerly for over three miles and halted for the night.

March 27. This day they evidently passed over what is now known as "Inverary Park," a primary grant to David Reid. Meehan writes of open country and "the top of a table land with scarce a tree on." This
was probably one of the hills Wilson, Barracks, and Collins saw from Mount Towrang on March 23, 1798, and which helped to give rise to the remark: “The tops of the hills looks to be very thin of timber.”

From the top of a high hill Meehan saw the bed of the Shoalhaven River, and wrote:- “I am satisfied any effort of mine to head it would be ineffectual.”

March 28. Meehan's entry reads:-

Sent Hamilton Hume early in the morning with two men to try for a passage over the river who returned with a report to the contrary. In the meantime one of the men in charge of the horses allowed Mr. Throsby's and mine to escape, sent all the men in quest of them.

Sunday, March 29. Dispatched Hamilton Hume with his own mare and two men in quest of the two stray horses. They returned saying they had traced them nearly five miles but could not find them.

Meehan wrote:-

Shoals Haven River is near this place met by another run. I went down a point of land into it and from there to the main river where there is a very rapid current and fall.

It was dark when Meehan arrived back at the tent, a good deal fatigued.

After investigation, I consider the second stream or run referred to by Meehan is Nerrimunga Creek, and that he was camped on the high land to the north of it, and to the east of Jacqua Creek, a tributary. The remarks made by Throsby on April 7 help to confirm this.

Monday, March 30, 1818. Dispatched the same men with a days provisions in quest of the stray horses. In the meantime two natives came to the tent. I had them shaved at their own request, gave one of them a jacket and each some tobacco. I could not make them tell me their names as they were ignorant of what I wanted.

I gave them some provisions, asked them for to show me a road across the river; they gave me to understand I could not cross it but by swimming or a boat. They signified that they had each two children, and said they would come again and bring them with them. I described to them having lost two horses, and that three white men were then in quest of them.

These two natives were clearly those mentioned by Throsby on April 8, as Ree Wigugal and Maulaney.

Tuesday, March 31, 1818. Our men returned about one p.m., having found the two horses, [which were evidently discovered on the flat meadow land to the north-east of Bungonia]. They had fallen in with two parties of the natives. The first fled. The second had one of the two men who were with me at the tent. Showed them he was shaved, and were then within about half a mile of the horses on their trace, from
which circumstance it is not improbable they were in quest of them. They appear very friendly and are good looking men.

Shortly after the return of the men I went with Hamilton Hume and another in order to try if we could pass the river. Hume who is a very good swimmer found he could not ford any part of it, the stream is so rapid it cannot be withstood. The bed of the river is composed of large rocks round and smooth and placed very irregularly, and from the quantity of water that flows in it I am certain its source must be a long way off.

GOES TOWARDS THE INTERIOR.

Finding it impossible for me to cross the river, I have determined on penetrating into the interior of the country, thinking I shall be more likely to make useful discoveries than by returning, also my provisions being much expended.

Wednesday, April 1, 1818. Meehan now proceeded first westerly and then south-westerly, crossing Jacqua Creek, at about Portion 40 of five hundred and sixty acres, Parish of Bungonia, and stopping for the night at the creek, on or near Portion 6, Parish of Yarralaw, County of Argyle. He speaks of the spot as “a chain of deep ponds, good land,” but does not mention the name of any creek.

CROSSES WINDELLAMA CREEK.

April 2. The journey was continued in a direction approximating S.S.W. An entry reads:- “Bad land for the first three miles, then met a chain of ponds, run to Shoals Haven.” This was probably Bogungra Creek.

A further entry reads: "Another chain of deep ponds, the water bears down to S.E." This refers to Windellama Creek, in the vicinity of Portion 134 of 1090 acres, Parish of Cululla, formerly owned by Alured Tasker Faunce.

DISCOVERS BUNDONG OR LAKE BATHURST.

April 3, 1818. On this day a more westerly course was followed, some of the tributaries on the northern side of Budgong Creek being crossed in the Parish of Mullengullenga. Meehan first refers to “a very extensive forest, land moderate”; next he wrote of “a very extensive plain without trees, not generally good land, but in part.” This plain forms portion of that seen by Wilson, Barracks and Collins from the summit of Mount Towrang in 1798.
Meehan next refers to “two large rushy marshes,” and adds:-

The plain and marshes are open to the eastward, and on the west is a large lake exceeding ten miles in circuit, the water from the marshy lagoons empty themselves into the lake at which place the land is sandy and swampy, with some short Gum trees and Honey Suckle growing. The quantity of ducks and other wild water fowl on the lake and marshes are beyond description or comprehension.

The gum trees referred to are *Eucalyptus coriacea* and *E. viminalis*, and the honeysuckles are *Banksia marginata*. The wattle trees about the Lake are *Acacia decurrens var. mollis* and *A. melanoxylon*.

Governor Macquarie, on October 24, 1820, refers to the plain east of the lake, including the great marsh in the centre, as four miles long by three miles broad, and which he then named Wellington Plains.

April 4. Meehan spent this day making a survey of the lake and for this purpose went right round it. In his field book he records no name for the lake, nor does he mention meeting any natives near it, who might have supplied the name. The first reference to the native name, "Bundong," which I have been able to find, is in a letter dated August 28, 1820, from S. Hall to Charles Throsby, when reporting that Joseph Wild had discovered Lake George. On a plot of his traverse (sheet seven), done in pencil, Meehan has written in ink the words, "Bathurst Lake," and it seems evident therefore that he gave this name to the lake, in honour of Earl Bathurst, Secretary of State for the Colonies. He wrote:-

On the N.W. side are several trees growing in the water that are dead, which makes me conclude the Lake extends its former limits. There is no discharge whatever from the Lake but receives the water off a good deal of the surrounding country. There are same islands formed in the lake, and several clumps of rocks, which are all granite dispersed over it, that I am certain, were at some time united to the main. It has a very picturesque appearance.

**DISCOVERS GOULBURN PLAINS.**

On April 5 Meehan proceeded in a general northwesterly direction, and "met with some very large ponds with plenty of wild fowl." These ponds form part of what we now know as Mulwaree Ponds. When somewhere in the vicinity of Inveralochy Bridge, where the present Goulburn-Braidwood road crosses the ponds, Meehan made the
following entry:

Found the head and some small pieces of the skeleton of a large animal which I suppose to be amphibious. Hamilton Hume found another of the same a little behind. At 10 miles the land begins to be nearly clear on the west side of the ponds, very thin good forest on east side of them.

TRAVELS TO SPRINGFIELD AND TERRANNA.

Monday, April 6, 1818. When in the vicinity of Springfield, afterwards the home of William Pitt Faithfull, Meehan, who appears to have been greatly impressed with the beauty of the situation, made the following record:

Went down the pona's, where met a very extensive plain to the northward and eastward, without trees on, is in gently sloped hills, a great part good. The landscape is beautiful, being surrounded by a chain of grassy forest hills. To a person in the habit seeing nothing but forest or brush land such an extent of clear land must be very novel and delightful. From the general appearance of the country I have no doubt but a very great extent of useful country lies to the westward of a range that limits my view that way, the sides of the ranges are grassed the tops rocky and mixed with thin brush. There is nothing to prevent a cart being taken to here.

The party halted for the night upwards of half a mile north of what afterwards became the homestead of the late Dr. Andrew Gibson, and known as Terranna. To the eastward of Terranna, Meehan has written in ink on his plan the words “Goulborne Plains” (Plan 1.5.769). It is evident, therefore, that Meehan named these plains after Henry Goulburn, Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

TURNS TOWARDS HOME.

April 7. Meehan now decided to commence the homeward journey, no doubt with a feeling that he had been able to add considerably to a knowledge of the wealth of the Colony. First, however, he "went on the top of a small hillock on the range that commands a considerable view of the country, from S.S.E. round by East to North."

In Field Book 143 he wrote:-

The Ponds down 39 (by Kater's compass) about four miles, is there met by two other flats or rather sm. plains, the East end of a Bluff is that formerly called a Notch in the distant range 38. The ponds bend round under the foot of a gentle range, and appears to me to keep the S. side of that range with the Notch to abt. 31 1/2 a bend at
Meehan also wrote:-

Cannot see the country to the westward, the land being higher that way. Found the head and thigh bone of one of the animals already described. The land very good forest.

The bones were found between the ponds and the hillock.

According to my investigation, there is no doubt that the “small hillock” from which Meehan made his observations is that a little over a mile north of west from the Terranna Homestead, formerly Dr. Andrew Gibson's, about five and a half miles south by west from Goulburn. It is situated about a dozen chains easterly from the N.E. corner of Portion 40, Parish of Terranna, and just within Portion 49, Parish of Goulburn. Higher hills rise to the westward of it.

This small hillock must be regarded as a spot of the greatest historical interest, for from its summit white men first beheld the district immediately surrounding the modern City of Goulburn, though
most of the actual site of the City would have been hidden behind a low hill. The distant range containing a notch, referred to by Meehan, is part of the Cookbundoon mountains, and much the same distant view as that described from the hillock may also be seen from the highland within the City of Goulburn. The "two other flats, or rather sm. plains," referred to are near where Gundary Creek joins the Mulwaree. In order to do honour to a great explorer, and associate Meehan's name with the discovery of Goulburn Plains, I would suggest that this small, some what conical hill be named "Meehan's Hillock."

The reference to the finding of bones of a large animal on April 5 and 7, ten miles apart, is of considerable interest, for the animal was one evidently unknown to either Meehan or Hume. The bones of a kangaroo would have been familiar to them. It is known from fossil remains that large animals such as the Diprotodon and a smaller one, known as Nototherium, roamed over swampy areas and reed beds in Australia in Tertiary time, but it would seem scarcely possible that a few, of these had survived until a little more than one hundred years ago or other evidences would have been met with. Perhaps the bones referred to were in a fossil state, and had been unearthed. They were all found near the Mulwaree Ponds, where some reed beds still exist, and which, in view of the proximity of Lake, Bathurst, is a situation where such animals might have formerly lived and have become stranded. The record, though meagre, is an interesting one.

Mr. William Percy Faithfull has informed me that he does not remember ever having heard of large bones being found in the district, but that his father, William Pitt Faithfull, who went to live at Springfield in 1828, pointed out a deep pond, near which the natives would not go, and, in which they said the "bunyip" lived. The natives of other places, such as Ulladulla, had a similar idea in regard to deep holes, so that there may be no significance in this belief being held at Springfield.

In proceeding homewards, the party first travelled in a general north-easterly direction from Terranna, passing just on the northern side of the old Terranna racecourse, crossing the Bungonia road at about two and a half miles from Goulburn, and keeping to the north of a former Goulburn racecourse. They afterwards ascended the hills until about one and a half miles southerly from Mount Towrang, when they
turned southerly and easterly, and halted for the night on the head waters of Jerrara Creek, at or near Portion 81 of three hundred and twenty acres, Parish of Jerrara, alienated to Joseph Peters.

REACHES HIS OUTGOING TRACK.

April 8. All this day Meehan followed down along or close to Jerrara Creek to near its junction with Bungonia Creek, crossing his outgoing track of March 26 some four or five miles south-westerly from where he parted with Throsby at Caarne.

On April 9, Meehan and party continued their journey towards home, passing through the same districts, though not actually along the same track, as on their outward journey. On the 11th they reached the spot, about two and a half miles north-easterly from Exeter, "at which place," Meehan wrote:--

Mr. Throsby said he would leave the carts during his absence to Jarvis's Bay. Found on arrival there that he had gone home and could only find the trace of one cart. At length discovered my cart.'

Throsby had gone from this spot only the day before, and when Meehan reached Stonequarry Creek, now Picton, on April 14, 1818, he found Throsby's cart had only left there that morning. Meehan wrote:--

When I came to the Government stock yard ... had there seen the Sydney Gazette Extraordinary announcing the melancholy and lamentable death of the Princess Charlotte of Wales. From there stood for the River Nepean near Woodhouses Creek, which I crossed, the water being as high as my horse, and arrived at home that evening.'

Although Meehan was in charge of the party which discovered Lake Bathurst and Goulburn Plains, there is little doubt that Hamilton Hume, with his natural gift of bushcraft, and who was then nearly 21 years of age, was of great assistance throughout the journey.

THROSBY TRAVELS TO BATHURST.

The next journey beyond the Wingecarribee district, so far as I can find, was that undertaken with horses by Charles Throsby to Bathurst.

Although Bathurst was first reached from Sydney by Surveyor
Exploration between Southern Rivers.

George William Evans, on December 9, 1813 ‡‡ it had not been approached from the southward until Throsby made this visit from the Wingecarribee.

Throsby had with him John Rowley, Joseph Wild, John Wait, and Coocoogong, Duel and Bian, natives, the former as a guide, the two latter as interpreters.

April 30, 1819. On the evening of this day the party camped at and between the junction, of The Long Swamp and Paddy's River, which is also close to the junction of the latter stream with the Wollondilly River.

"Throsby calls the spot Wallandillii. This is the first reference I have seen to the name which we now know as Wollondilly. On April 20, 1820 (Field Book 161), Meehan referred to the spot and the river as Wallandilly. Throsby called the locality Wallandillie in a letter to Governor Macquarie, dated August 25, 1820. S. Hall, in a letter to Throsby on August 28, 1820, called the locality and the river Wollondellie. Macquarie recorded both as Wallandilly on October 20, 30, and 31, 1820. On June 7, 1821 Surveyor William Harper, then a

recent arrival in Australia, noted the river as Wolendilly (F.B. 179), and, when a little more than half a mile below its junction with Patrick's River, recorded it as “infamously reckey.”

PASSES COOKBUNDOON.

On May 1, 2, and 3, 1819, Throsby did not make much headway owing to wet weather, halting at Eeleelaugh on the 1st, but on the 3rd had a view of "Cookbundoon, the native name of the place," and stopped for the night at a spot called Mingookbulla.

On May 4 he must have passed close to the present town of Taralga, and before three o'clock "came to a very extensive lake, or lagoon, several miles in circumference, with great quantities of duck, of various sorts, swans and geese." He wrote:- “This lagoon empties itself to the westward, and forms the source of a stream, running into, either the Lachlan or Macquarie Rivers.” Throsby, therefore, was the first white man to reach western waters in the southern districts. He quoted the name as "Burrah-burrah," which lagoon is situated about five or six miles north-westerly from Taralga.

CROSSES THE ABERCROMBIE.

May 5. The journal reads:-

Set out at 8 o'clock through a good forest country until 12 o'clock, crossed several small runs going to the N.W., and one considerable one, which the Native described as running to a (Myall) strange country, and that there was plenty of such fish as are caught at Bathurst in it.

The "considerable" stream they crossed would be the upper portion of the Abercrombie River, to the southwest of Mount Werong. They were evidently bearing more to the right than they wished, owing to the flooded state of the streams, and halted at half-past three “on the top of a hill with very excellent grass and water,” the locality being known as Geurung.

May 6, 1819. Through an excellent forest until 11 o'clock, then over a small creek running to the westward. At 12 up a stony range, from many heights of which, view a large extent of a very beautiful country from S. to W.N.W., which the Native informs me is called Querungaa.

They halted for the night near a scrubby range, the locality being
called Barroning. The whole of the streams crossed on this and the
previous day go to form the Abercrombie River, which flows into the
Lachlan. The “small creek” referred to was probably the head of the
Retreat or Little River, not far from Porter's Retreat.

May 7. Through an indifferent, gravelly forest, gentle hill and dale. At twelve
o'clock fell in with a large tribe of natives, who informed me Bathurst was not far off,
several of them have been at the Cow Pastures, one I have seen at my house. On
seeing a boy whom I thought very like the one named Good Friday, who escaped from
the Native Institution at Parramatta, on enquiry I found he was Friday's brother, that
Friday was gone to the large lake, where Mr. Meehan was last year, that the name of
the lake is Jacquaa, that the country was good and clear the whole way there, which
from various observations I have made, I have no doubt of, and convinces me in the
opinion formed last tour, that the natives in the interior travel great distances at
particular seasons, and on particular occasions, on a reference to my journal last year
it will be found, that I fell in with some natives at Shoals Haven, who gave me
information of Mr. Meehan having been seen in that place.

The reports of the Natives, to our faithful guide, Coocoogong, that the people at
Bathurst were very (cooler) angry with the Blacks, that they would set their dogs on
him, shoot him, etc., and that four black people had been killed and more wounded,
so much alarmed him, that it was with the greatest difficulty I could prevail on him to
proceed, having assured him that I would protect him, that the Governor would hang
them if they hurt him, and that if they attempted to shoot him they should shoot me
first, he proceeded on, but kept a more northerly direction, to make as he said the
road, where there was but one house (which I afterwards found to be Sydmouth
Valley) instead of the River (Campbells) as he before said he would.

The party halted at Burnmaring before two o'clock, Joseph Wild
being ill.

This day Throsby probably passed to the east of Swatchfield, though
from the meagre information supplied, it is impossible to be definite on
the point. Although in his journal Throsby describes the country as “an
indifferent, gravelly forest,” yet in a letter to Governor Macquarie,
dated May 15, 1819, he calls it “a mixed good and bad forest.”

PASSES WEST OF OBERON.

May 8. Through an indifferent stony and gravelly forest until about 12 o’clock
when again obliged to stop on account of the sick man.

They probably reached a point four or five miles westerly or north-
of west from Oberon, towards Mayfield, and known by the natives as Merruewon.
ARRIVES AT BAT'HURST.

May 9, 1819. Set out at 8 o'clock through a very indifferent stony and gravelly country. At 11 o'clock on the side of a poor stony hill, from which we had a good view of Bathurst plains, 14 or 15 miles distant, at the bottom of the hill a gravelly poor flat, on which we kept to the northward and eastward to make the road and avoid gullies which our guide represented to be to the westward. At half-past 12 made the road and saw the track of a cart just gone on. Here our guide wanted to turn homewards, but on my assuring him of his safety he proceeded, and in about a mile we came to a small creek (Antonio's). Having crossed the bridge, we made a fire and took some refreshment. 2 o'clock set out along the road, the country round very poor and gravelly. About 4 o'clock saw a flock of Mr. Lawson's sheep and arrived at that gentleman's establishment on Campbell's River in the evening when we met with every attention and civility in the power of the poor people to show.

In a letter to Governor Macquarie, dated May 15, 1819, Throsby says he reached Lawson's at about five o'clock.

Throsby probably reached the old Sydney-Bathurst road about two or three miles south-easterly from O'Connell Plains (discovered and named by Surveyor Evans on December 6, 1813), and six or seven miles westerly from Sidmouth Valley. In this neighbourhood there is a creek shown on present day maps as Anthony's Creek, and it is well known that from the hills to the southward, including that near,' the modern Oberon road, the Bathurst Plains and City of Bathurst can be seen.

There is a creek called Antonio's Creek to the southward of Rydal, but this would be about twenty-five miles easterly from "Lawson's establishment." In a letter to Meehan, dated April 20, 1820, Throsby makes it quite clear that he reached "the road between Mr. Lawson's and Mr. Lowe's farms." The latter was Robert Lowe's farm at Sidmouth Valley. Lawson's establishment was probably on Portion 10, Parish of Langdale, where the position of Mr. Lawson's house was shown by Surveyor James McBrienon May 3, 1823 (F.B. 204). "O'Brien's Hutt" and "Lawson's Hutt" are referred to the same year on Portions 2 and 3 respectively.

RETURNS TO SYDNEY.

May 10, 1819. Throsby halted at Lawson's, near Campbell's River, during this day, having a look round, and rode "over towards
Macquarie and O'Connell Plains without visiting the Seat of Government,” and mentioned that the Government Establishment was still nine miles further on.” He was visited by Mr. Redfern and Mr. Lewis, the Superintendent at Bathurst, and arrangements were made, at Throsby's suggestion, for “some provisions to be sent from the public stores for the natives.”

Wednesday, May 11. Set out from Mr. Lawson's, at Campbell's River, and returned home on the Friday evening by way of the new road, and by the Nepean River.

The new road referred to was that over the Blue Mountains.

In reading the concluding portion of Throsby's Journal we get some additional insight into the fine character typified in this zealous and intrepid explorer and colonist.

In conclusion, he wrote to Governor Macquarie:-

I have now, in justice to the party who accompanied me viz., Mr. John Rowley who was also with me in 1817 Joseph Wild an old servant, who has been with me every tour, John Wait an old servant of fifteen years servitude, as well as the three Natives, only to add that I received every assistance it was possible for them to afford, and respectfully beg leave to recommend them to the notice of His Excellency the Governor, and hope it will not be thought presumptuous in respectfully requesting His Excellency will be pleased to designate Coocoogong as the Chief of the Burrahburrah Tribe, of which place he is a native and which may be the means of tranquilizing the Natives about Bathurst, and also a Plate as a Reward of Merit to Duel and Bian, the other two natives.

In recognition of this important work by Throsby, Governor Macquarie wrote to him from Government House under date May 18, 1819, as follows:-

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Date 15th instant, delivered to me this morning containing the very acceptable and important intelligence of the Discovery you have recently made of an easy communication between the Cowpastures and Bathurst, through generally a fine and open country fit for grazing or cultivation.

For this intelligence and your able and successful Exertions in making so nseful a discovery, I have now to offer you my best Thanks; and I shall feel much pleasure, on the part of Government, in making you a suitable remuneration in Lands for the service you have thus rendered to the Colony, I have perused your letter with much Interest, and I shall have no less pleasure in perusing your Journal, whenever it may suit your convenience to favor me with it, at a personal interview. For this purpose I
shall be most happy to see you at Sydney any day most convenient to yourself after Thursday next, the 20th instant.

From W. C. Wentworth's *New South Wales*, Second Edition (p. 84, 1820), we learn that by General Orders of May 31, 1819, the Governor granted portions of land to all the white men of the party, and complied with Throsby's request so far as Coocoogong and Duel were concerned, but no mention is made of Bian.

Two entries made by Macquarie, probably in September, 1819, and now in the Chief Secretary's Department, go to how that Bian was not overlooked.

Macquarie wrote:-

Memo. The Plates for Cookogong and other Natives, who accompanied Mr. Throsby in his Discoveries, are to be sent to them by that gentleman. L.M.

Macquarie also wrote:-

Plates for Cookoogong, Chief of the Burrah Burrah Tribe: and Dual and Biang-his two Friends and companions.

**BONG BONG TO ILLAWARRA.**

In a letter, dated January 22, 1820, Charles Throsby wrote:-

. . . . . I have fully established the practicability of a short communication between the coast, at the District of Illawarra and new country, in the county of Camden, by a pass up the mountain, several miles to the southward of the original road, discovered and made by me, where I have succeeded a few days since, in driving a herd of my cattle in the short space of one day after having been at some expense in cutting brush, etc., to clear a sufficient road, by the same route and direction I passed in Febry, 1816, which will appear by my then report to your Excellency on that subject, and which was the first time I conceived the idea of finding the country where I have now established myself in, and I hope I shall be further pardoned by respectfully requesting your Excellency to ask Mr. Broughton, and Mr. Alexr. Berry, their opinion, and ideas of that country, they having very lately visited it with me . . . .

The “original road” referred to will be that which is still known as the old Bong Bong Pass from Wingecarribee, along the top of the Illawarra Range in the Parish of Wongawilli, and turning Easterly through a pass leading down to Dapto.

The new and short track discovered will doubtless be that passing through Portion M.P. 10, Parish of Wongawilli, and going down a spur
to “Marshall Mount,” Parish of Calderwood, originally the property of Henry Osborne.

GOULBURN DOWNS AGAIN VISITED.

From a letter dated April 9, 1820, from Charles. Throsby to Governor Macquarie, §§ it is found that on March 24, 1820, Throsby, "accompanied by Mr. McArthur's youngest son," set out for what was beyond doubt Goulburn Downs or Plains.

In a letter dated April 20, 1820, to Governor Macquarie, Throsby wrote:-

The bearer Mr. Hamilton Hume is the young man, who, I intimated to your Excellency last week as a fit person to undertake the charge of the party I proposed to be sent in search of the passage to Jervis' Bay by the route I pointed out to your Excellency. He has obtained some volunteers to accompany him . . . .

I conceive Mr. Hume, from his perfect knowledge of the bush to be fully capable of the undertaking, particularly as he was with Mr. Meehan the whole of his time in 1818, also with him and Mr. Oxley to Jervis Bay, on which latter tour he kept a journal, which he will present for your Excellency's perusal; I have read it very attentively, and, as far as my own observations go, I have no doubt it is correct; he was also with me on my first tour in 1817 and with me and Mr. McArthur, the week before last . . . .

In a letter to the Monitor dated November 26, 1826, Hamilton Hume said:-

In the year 1818 I again accompanied Mr. Throsby and the late Mr. Meehan. Mr. Meehan and myself discovered that beautiful lake now called “Lake Bathurst, and “Goulburn Downs.” Some time after I conducted Mr Throsby and Mr. Wm. McArthur to the same part of the country.

From these various letters we are able to see that Charles Throsby, William Macarthur and Hamilton Hume went on an expedition to the Goulburn District during the last week of March, 1820.

In his letter of April 9 to Governor Macquarie Throsby wrote:-

Conceiving it of importance that, that communication should' be with the most extensive, and valuable part of the country, r made immediate preparations, and set out, accompanied by Mr. McArthur's youngest son, who accidentally joined me, with whose company and observations I felt much pleasure, and great interest, by a route a few miles to the westward of that Mr Meehan. and myself took in 1818, to the sources of Shoals haven river and I am much gratified in .having it, in my power, to more

---

§§ Chief Secretary's Department.
confidently confirm my former common, which I explained to your Excellency that a good road will be found to Jervis' Bay between the sources of Shoals haven river and those of the large space of water called by the native Ber-ree-wary, or Bur-rur-waar which I saw when at Jervis' Bay in 1818 .... 'there are many, very many grand and beautiful clear downs, connected by thinly wooded hills, of I may say hundred thousand acres, the whole extremely well watered, interspersed with patches of good timber sufficient for every useful purpose, and in fact connecting itself with the whole western country forming together, what may be, with much truth and justice, called a grazing country (particularly adapted for sheep) of the first magnitude and importance to the colony from whence its riches and prosperity will more rapidly increase than has heretofore been calculated on, and I will be bold enough to predict that those riches will flow through Port Jarvis and other parts more southerly . . . .

Having satisfied my mind as to that object I conceived it of importance to ascertain whether the country discovered by Mr Meehan after I parted with him in 1818, communicated with that I saw and passed through on my route to Bathurst, I therefore crossed his track near to the spot he returned to the eastward from, on his way homewards from where I passed into, and saw a truly picturesque, valuable and extensive country to the S.W.W. and N.W. which in reality far surpasses every hope and idea I had before formed of it, from the distant view I then had, and I fully established beyond doubt that it is one chain and connection of the same country.

Having thus far pleased my curiosity I thought it of importance to examine the spot through which the road would pass, that I represented to your Excellency I thought. would cause some difficulty I therefore directed my attention there, and am much gratified in having it in my power to report, that, difficulty is so insignificant as to make it unnecessary to explain it . . . .

The William Macarthur referred to, afterwards Sir William and a member of the Legislative Council, was the youngest son of Captain John Macarthur, founder of the wool industry in Australia. William and his brother, James, secured a large area of land around Taralga and the Burra Burra Lake discovered by Throsby when on his way to Bathurst in May, 1819.

The spot Meehan and Hume "returned to the eastward from" in 1818, to which Throsby refers, was "the hillock" west of Terranna, on the Goulburn Plains, but how far beyond this Throsby, Macarthur and Hume went in March, 1820, cannot be ascertained, but they probably reached Breadalbane plains.

In returning they evidently came by Cookbundoon, for Throsby speaks of having visited a spot where some road construction was necessary, and the early survey records show that the first track to Goulburn Plains, including that along which Governor Macquarie
passed in October, 1820, went through Cookbundoon, crossing the river twice.

Hume's visit, with Oxley and Meehan, to Jervis Bay referred to by Throsby in his letter of April 20, 1820, was made in October, 1819, and the route by which Meehan and Hume returned from Nowra Hill to Bong Bong is briefly outlined in the paper on "Captain Cook's Pigeon House and Early South Coast Exploration." In a letter dated April 18, 1820, W. Broughton wrote to Governor Macquarie from Appin supporting Mr. Throsby's letter of the 20th idea in favour of Hamilton Hume being given charge of an expedition to find a road for vehicles from the Wingecarribee to Jervis Bay, and mentioned that Hume was a relative of Mrs. Broughton's. Writing further of Hume he said:—"... who I can venture to affirm possesses as much knowledge of the country between this and Jervis Bay as any other person in the colony or even more."

I can find no record that the journey was undertaken, but on April 3, 1820, Governor Macquarle issued written instructions to Mr. Meehan to ascertain whether a safe and practicable road could be constructed for wheel-carriages from the country recently discovered by Mr. Throsby to Jervis Bay.

MEEHAN TRAVELS TO BATHURST.

On April 14, 1820, Surveyor Meehan, with a survey party of five others, commenced a journey from Joseph Wild's hut, which was on the south side of the Wingecarribee River very near where the present Bong Bong bridge is situated, and passed through "Boombong," near what is now Moss Vale (F.B. 161, Lands Department).

Correspondence shows that Meehan had been asking Throsby concerning the track to Bathurst, and while waiting at Throsby's hut Meehan wrote in his field book:-

Halted, being in hopes of Mr. Throsby coming or his man. Likewise being promised on my way out by Hamilton Hume that he would come and join me with some Natives to accompany me to Bathurst, &c.

Tuesday [Monday, R.H.C.] 17th.-At half past 2 p.m. received a letter from Mr. Throsby by one Robt. Higgins informing me that Stewart was going to explore the sheet of wr. to the southward of Jarvis Bay and was to have a party on shore to co-operate with him. Am therefore of opinion that he has induced Hume to forego his promise to me in order to effect his own plan, altho he well knew he was to have gone
Tuesday morning wrote him by Higgins in return and expressed my opinion of his ungentlemanly conduct in having done so (if so) (F.B. 167).

In his reply dated April 20, 1820, Throsby makes it clear there had been some misunderstanding, and advised Meehan to keep more to the west than he, Throsby, did on his way to Bathurst. The closing paragraph of this letter shows that Throsby had acquired a proper perspective of the great importance of these inland discoveries to the welfare and progress of Australia, and he wrote:-

The field of research and enquiry, being now open, I look forward with hopeful solicitude, to See the youth of the colony, sufficiently emulated, and made instrumental, under the auspices of His Excellency the Governor, in proving, that New South Wales, their native soil, possesses ample capabilities of becoming, a great and important colony in, the eyes of the whole world.

This was among the earliest forecasts of the ultimate greatness of Australia, which has since been fully established, and never more definitely than by the heroism and self-sacrifice of our brave lads at the front.

On reaching the Creek at Sutton Forest on April 19, 1820, Meehan wrote in his field book:- “Cross the chain of ponds bounding the settlers, having passed through Charles Wright's farm.” This is, portion 48, parish of Bong Bong, now Vice Regal property. In May, 1821, Surveyor Wm. Harper referred to this “chain of ponds” as “the rivulet” (F.B. 179), and in November, 1821, he recorded it as Medway Rivulet (F.B. 182).

On April 20, passed through “Tin-bun-dun-dal” (near the present Cross Roads), and proceeded to just above the junction of Paddy's and Wollondilly Rivers. It seems evident that by this time Charles Throsby, under directions from Governor Macquarie, was marking out a road in this direction, as some of his later letters and documents in the Chief Secretary's Department imply, and Meehan has the following entry:- “On the range where the road is marked can see Wallandilly.” Later:- “A reach of Patrick's River (so called from being on its banks March 17, 1818,) , (Plate 239.)
After crossing the Wollondilly just above its junction with Paddy's River, he travelled through what is now known as Arthursleigh, but named Eden Forest by Governor Macquarie on November 1, 1820, and Meehan wrote:- “All very thinly wooded forest, good swathe of grass, only in part stony.”

REACHES COOKBUNDOON.

April 21. - This day he reached and crossed the Cookbundoon, or Tarlo River about two miles N.N.W. of Norrong Trigonometrical Station, or a little north of where the river takes a decided bend from east to north, just after coming through the mountain.

Saturday, 22nd April, 1820. Cook-bun-dun. Mr. Charker who had accompanied me with Joseph Wild and James Vaughan, prepare to return. Mr. Charker and myself went on the top of the range and discovered an easy ascent free from rocks, bearing nearly W. by N. Mr. Charker having come for the purpose of exploring Wallandilly, in order to send some of the Govt. tame herds of horned cattle should he find the country as favorable as reported, - at 11 a.m. depart.
From the way the name "Wallandilly," or, as we know it, "Wollondilly," is used, it is suggestive that it was the district of Arthursleigh, rather than, or perhaps, as well as, the river that bore that name.

PROCEEDS TOWARDS WOODHOUSELEE.

Sunday, April 23.- After continuing in a general westerly direction from Cookbundoon, and when rounding a range the following note was made:-“Can see very extensive plains from S. by E. to S.S.W., about 10 or 12 miles, all nearly level between. I suppose the same I fell in with in April, 1818."

There is an element of modesty in this entry which is characteristic of many such made by Meehan. Where some might have spoken of the plains they had discovered, Meehan simply refers to them as “the same I fell in with.” There is no doubt the plains referred to are those now known as Goulburn Plains, seen from the highland westerly from the Tarlo Gap some seven miles or so to the north of Goulburn.

Towards evening, Meehan passed within one or two miles to the south of Woodhouselee and halted for the night near the upper portion of the Wollondilly River but makes no reference to any name.

PASSES NEAR GRABBEN GULLEN.

On April 24 and 25 Meehan kept a general westerly course, passing about seven miles south of the modern town of Crookwell, and about one mile south of Grabben Gullen. On the 25th the following notes appear:- “Good red loamy soil and pasture mixed with small stones and small green Wattles. the sides of the hills have all springs.”

If the present day maps be examined along this portion of the route, the following names may be seen:- Wattle Creek, Tea Tree Springs, Black Springs, and Spring Gully.

REACHES THE UPPER LACHLAN.

On April 26, 1820, Meehan crossed the upper Lachlan or Fish River somewhere near where it is joined by the Grabben Gullen Creek, and refers to the former as”a chain of deep reedy ponds” (:B-.B.166).
He made the following entry:

On 'the top of a high table hill, commands an extensive view of the country, appears to be a series of broken irregular hills, appear to be very barren, some hills 'to the S.W. appear to be forest, are in round conical ones.

"Finding the appearance of the country so very bad to the westward," he decided to change his course to a more north-westerly direction.

**TURNS TOWARDS MOUNT McDONALD.**

Thursday, April 27, 1820. From the tree marked last night near the large ponds which I suppose run to the Western or Warragomby River, the marks of floods I suppose not less than forty feet high. (F.B. 169).

In this book the measurements are entered in miles, furlongs, and rods, and the distances quoted for each day are cumulative.

From where Meehan crossed the upper Lachlan to where it is joined by the Abercrombie, is a direct distance of upwards of forty miles in a north north-westerly direction. It is somewhat puzzling to understand why he should have thought the stream flowed into the Warragamba and Nepean, as if so, Throsby would have crossed and reported it between Burrah Burrah Lake and the Sydney-Bathurst road in 1819. By April 30, however, Meehan knew he was on waters which flowed to the west.

On the 27th the following note appears:— "Jno. Lapman broke the tube of my barometer, which I think a very great loss, as I shall not be able to determine the height of the country I shall pass thro."

On April 28 and 29, as the main Lachlan was approached, he referred to deep valleys and broken hilly country, and mentioned that “owing to the want of rain, which is very evident in all this western country, all the small ponds are dried up, or nearly so.”

During these two days he travelled to the west of north and reached what is now known as Hovell's Creek at a point west by south of Mount Darling, Parish of Graham, County of King.

**CROSSES THE LACHLAN RIVER.**

Sunday, April 30, 1820. While following down Hovell's Creek towards the Lachlan River, and when about Portion 1, Parish of.
Newham, Meehan made the note:- “Seen a native woman who fled on seeing us. Heard others cry to each other, they set the grass on fire in their flight.”

It is an interesting fact that this spot, Portion 1, was surveyed in 1838 by Surveyor Townsend for William Hilton Hovell, who, with Hamilton Ilume, in 1824, made the famous journey from the Goulburn district to Port Phillip.

A little later Meehan wrote:- “All those hills have pine trees growing on them.”

Although many of the hills in this locality have since been ring-barked, there are a number still pine clad, the species being *Callitris calcarata*.

Meehan now realised he was on western water for an entry reads:- “I suppose these ponds or creek is the source of the river Lachlan.” About three miles lower he left Hovell's Creek, where it takes a sharp turn to the left, and going north north-easterly reached the main *i*;achlan, which includes the then unnamed Abercrombie, for he wrote:- “Meet a considerable River, comes from East” . . . "Is a very considerable stream, marks of very rapid and high floods" . . . “ Saw some natives.” He was now near Darby's Falls, in the Mount McDonald district, above Cowra, and crossed into Portion 4, Parish of Dunleary, County of Bathurst, about two miles above the junction of Milburn Creek with the Lachlan.

After crossing the river, he made the following entry:- “Country on right and ahead is so very hilly and intersected with deep ravines that I can see no hopes of being able to cross them. Stand for the river.” He then went in a' general north-westerly direction until he approached the left bank of Milburn Creek, and mentioned that the country was nearly level open forest. The northern side of the Abercrombie River, from Mount McDonald upwards or eastwards almost to its source, is composed of very steep mountains, but a few miles downwards, towards Cowra, the country becomes open, and the whole conditions are similar to those described by Meehan.

**TRAVELS TOWARDS ORANGE.**

On May 1 he travelled in a general northerly direction, meeting alternately with red soil, ironstone, granite, and with open forest. In one
place he noted that he saw five kangaroos and two emus, though he
must have seen others on numerous occasions. He makes no mention of
firearms during the whole journey, or whether he secured any animals
for food. He crossed Waugoola Creek a mile or so above where the
Woodstock-Mount McDonald road passes over it, and by evening had
reached the upper portion of Limestone Creek, about Portion 19, W. M.
Rothery, Parish of Waugoola, but makes no mention of the presence of
any limestone, which rock he was probably unable to identify.

About this spot he would have crossed Evans' track of May, 1815,
when on his journey which resulted in his discovery, close by, of the
first limestone found on the Mainland of Australia, and of the Lachlan
River below Cowra a few days later.

Surveyor-General John Oxley also passed this locality in April,
1817, when on his famous expedition to the lower Lachlan, Bogan
River, and Wellington Valley.

On May 2 Meehan went back some distance for his thermometer,
which he had accidentally left the day before, and also had a look round
the district, part of which he described as “a good healthy open and
useful forest.” He also mentions that on that day one of the men,
Buckley, had been nearly lost looking for the horses.

May 3, 1820. This day he crossed the Belubula River a few miles
above its junction with Limestone Creek, and wrote:- “Went across the
river, marks of high floods, all pebbly.” He mentioned no local names.

ARRIVES AT ORANGE.

On May 4 he continued in a northerly direction between
Cadiangullong and Flyer's Creeks, passing a mile or two to the
eastward of Cadia. He afterwards mentions “Blackbutted gums” and
"green wattle brush." The gums were probably *Eucalyptus virminalis*
(Manna Gum), many of which in that district have dark, thick flaky
bark at the base. The wattles were *Acacia dealbata* often called Silver
Wattle. He also wrote:- “Met some white congealed gum distilled from
the Blackbutted Gum. Is the same that Mr. Evans found when first
going to the Lachlan. "Evans found the "manna" on May 20, 1815, to
the eastward of Mandurama, and it occurs also on *Eucalyptus rubida*,
another white gum.
During the day he took three observations to a "distant hill," which is now found to be Mount Macquarie, to the south-east of Carcoar. He refers to “several high ranges to the westward,” which evidently form part of the Canoblas group.

On the evening of May 4, 1820, Meehan camped near the south-western portion of what is now the town of Orange, though it cannot be stated he was the first white man to reach the spot. Oxley may have passed there in 1818 on his expedition to the lower Macquarie, Liverpool Plains, and Hastings River, and it may have been visited even earlier by residents of Bathurst.

APPROACHES THE MACQUARIE RIVER.

On May 5 Meehan reached a point about two miles easterly of the present Kerr's Creek railway station, and on the following morning wrote:- “On top of a range got a view to the N. and E., which appears very high and hilly, but cannot see any part that I have a recollection of."

At the close of the day he wrote:- . . . . "great quantities of stone of a rotten kind, they pulverise and dissolve into small particles and spread themselves over the surface."

I feel sure, from his subsequent movements and entries, that Meehan thought he was approaching the southern or the eastern side of Bathurst, whereas he had already passed about thirty miles to the westward of it. He had previously visited Bathurst from Sydney with Governor Macquarie in 1815.***

On, May 6 Meehan reached a spot about two miles south of the modern Euchareena railway station, and on 7th camped about four miles north-westerly from Stuart Town. On Monday, May 8, 1820, this explorer passed just to the westward of Mumbil, and, bearing to the right, reached the Macquarie River about five miles in a direct line above Wellington, or about a mile above the junction of Morungulan Creek. He mentions reaching the river, but in no entry in his field book does he refer to it by any name. His first note is “wide sheet,” and a little higher upstream he wrote ”ripping and shallow.”

*** Journal of an Expedition in Australia, by Surveyor general John Oxley; p. 363
On May 9, Meehan travelled up the river about six and a, half miles, and on May 10 reached Burrandong, halting on what is now the eastern side of Portion 186, Parish of Burrandong. On this day he passed the junction of the Cudgegong River, which comes into the Macquarie on the right bank, while Meehan travelled on the left. The Macquarie at this point divides into two streams, forming an island of quite thirty acres, and when Meehan, in going upstream, saw the lower junction of the two streams he regarded the north-eastern one as another river, and wrote:—“Apparently another branch falls in.” It is evident that a little later he realised that the two streams were the divided waters of the Macquarie, for the words quoted are crossed out. Curiously, however, another branch, the Cudgegong, had fallen in on the far side of the north-eastern stream, but Meehan was apparently not aware of it.

On Thursday, May 11, he “met some natives,” but does not say whether he spoke to them. When he had reached a point near the junction of the Muckerwa Creek he wrote:—“The country very high and bad all directions insomuch that I conceive it to be of very little value at any time. Returned in order to trace the River down to the Bathurst road, and slept at ab. 5 miles of Wednesday's trace.”

From this last entry it seems evident that Meehan had thought at first he was below Bathurst, but later considered he was much above it. The Bathurst road in 1820 was that over the Blue Mountains to Bathurst, and might be reached by following down either the Fish River or Campbell's River.

Friday May 12, 1820. Departed for the station where we first made the river on Monday, the day very wet, halted at 2 p.m., where we slept on Monday night, the rain eased before night, the night fine.

On my way find there had been trees marked the whole of the way on both sides, along the south bank, in the most convenient direction for a track.

These trees may have been marked by Oxley in August, 1817, or perhaps when a depot was being formed at Wellington for Oxley’s journey in 1818.

REACHES WELLINGTON.

On the 13th he continued his survey down the river from the point where he first reached it, and made the following marginal note:—“Met some old huts and stones which I think since to be the Wellington
Vale.”

He had really reached Wellington, at the junction of the Bell and Macquarie Rivers, discovered by Surveyor General Oxley on August 19, 1817.

On May 14 he proceeded down the Macquarie as far as Ponto Hill, and on Monday, May 15, he reached the vicinity of the junction of the Little River and Macquarie at about five and a half miles S.S.W. of the present Wongarbon railway station.

Here he decided to retrace his steps, and has possibly made an entry in his field book concerning it, but unfortunately something has been placed between the pages, and the writing is not decipherable.

TRAVELS UP THE MACQUARIE.

On May 16 he started on his return up the river, apparently crossing the Macquarie to the right bank, and travelling a more direct course, but touching the river at intervals. His entries for the subsequent days are meagre. He was delayed on the 17th and part of the 18th through a man (Wood), with the horses, getting lost.

After going some distance on the 20th, Meehan wrote:-

Met the river, everyone being too much exhausted and fatigued to travel halted near its bank having good grass for the horses, with another considerable branch from N.E. Very high hills on all sides.

This “considerable branch” was evidently the Turon, to the southward of Hill End.

On Sunday, May 21, he appears to have travelled from the Turon junction to about a mile below the Winburndale Rivulet.

ARRIVES AT BATHURST.

On Monday, May 22, 1820, he arrived at "Winbournedale Brook," and later reached Bathurst, his entry for this day being as follows:-

Heard the cry of some natives before we started, three of them came to us at the brook, and afterwards three more and two children. I gave the first of them a tomahawk. They accompanied us to. Bathurst. The course steered by me was between S. and S.S.E. for about three miles the country very hilly, and bad, then gets flatter. Met with the Winbournedale Brook running between N.and W. (is the same I crossed this morning), the land there good pasture, is forest, and arrived at Bathurst at ab. 6, steering south, where got provisions and shoes for the men being all nearly barefoot,
and remained there until Friday morning 26th, when Mr. Jas. Blackman, Superintendent and Mr. Reid storekeeper accompanied me. Arrived at Cox's River on Saturday, came to the Springwood Depot, next day, it having rained the night and next morning came to Mr. John Woods where I slept an Sunday night and arrived at home on Monday evening, having accompanied Mr. Wood to. Mr. Lowe's on my way.

On the day Meehan reached Bathurst he evidently passed just to the westward of the modern small village of Peel, and also of the original "Brucedale" estate, established by George Suttor, the ancestor of the present Suttor families, a few years later.

In a separate part of his field book (No. 169), Meehan shows that during the last few days before reaching Bathurst a most serious position had arisen owing to the food supply having become exhausted, and the knowledge of this fact supports the view that he was in doubt in regard to the location of Bathurst, otherwise he would have made a point of reaching it earlier.

The entry starts on Monday, May 15, 1820, when near the modern Wongarbon, or just one week before Bathurst was reached, and reads:

On Monday night 15th had rice with a small portion of flour on it, and no bread, the rice being then expended.

Tuesday morning each had two pints of flour gruel, at night the same, no bread.

Wednesday morning the same, having lost Wood that day had a pint of flour in gruel between the remaining five. Slept near where I did on Thursday, 11th returning.

Thursday morning had the same, at night half a pint between six.

Friday morning had half a pint flour boiled which ended our stock of provisions.

In the evening none.

Saturday morning. None. Halted about one p.m. and boiled same nettles, the same at night, and same mint tea, made some ill, but all refreshed.

I then plotted a small piece of my track and also adding the distances together found I had travelled 225 miles to the river on Monday. 8th.

Sunday morning nettles and mint tea.

These are some of the sidelights which show us the difficulties, hardships and dangers which attended the work of our early explorers. The nettle referred to would be the common stinging plant, *Urtica incisa*. 
Meehan died at Macquarie Fields on April 21, 1826, in his fifty-second year, and was buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery. His tombstone was removed to the Botany Cemetery when the Sydney Railway Station was about to be built, and is numbered 54/2 south.

**DISCOVERY OF LAKE GEORGE.**

Although Lake George was discovered by Joseph Wild on August 19, 1820, equal if not greater credit for the discovery is due to Charles Throsby. For some time Throsby had been opening up a road from Bong Bong on the Wingecarribee across the Wollondilly to Cookbundoon, and he seems to have had a ready power of gaining the confidence of the natives and obtaining information from them. The following extracts from a latter dated August 25, 1820, to Governor Macquarie from Throsby explain how the discovery of the lake was made.

Your Excellency will be pleased to pardon me for troubling you with a report that I returned from the new country yesterday evening, whence I set out on the 7th of the present month, on a visit of inspection to the road party and line of road in advance of them. The work having now advanced beyond the Wallundulli River leaves that extensive and beautiful country open for any purpose it may be required for . . . .

Conceiving it of importance to gain every information, of the country, that had not heretofore been visited to the S.W. of the lake discovered by Mr. Meehan in 1818, where another large lake is said by the natives to be situated, which empties its waters in a southerly direction and called by them, Wee, ree, waa, I fitted out Josh Wild, and two of the road party, at a very trifling expense, and parted with them, about forty miles in advance of the workmen, where I went by a fresh route, to enable me to speak more confidently and correctly of the country around, I have directed him to endeavour to find that lake, and send me in every information relative thereto, agreeable to instructions I gave him, as early as possible after his return, which I will then do myself the honor to lay before your Excellency.

The above letter shows that the existence of the lake and its name were known before it had ever been seen by a white man.

Another paragraph in the letter gives us the date of the arrival in Australia of the younger Charles Throsby, the ancestor of the present Throsby families, and also an insight into the courteous mind of the
Exploration between Southern Rivers.

senior Throsby. He added:

I beg to apologise to your Excellency on the part of my nephew Mr. Charles Throsby, who arrived here, a passenger on the ship Mangles, after I had left home for the new country, under permission from Earl Bathurst, for not having yet presented it to your Excellency, with which I will do myself the honor of waiting on your Excellency in a few days.

According to the *Sydney Gazette* of August 12, 1820, the ship *Mangles*, (Captain Cogill, usually spelt Coghill), arrived in Sydney on August 7, 1820.

Throsby also wrote:

I parted with Mr. Robt. Johnston, and his brother Mr. David, at my establishment, on Wednesday morning, where I advised them to remain a few days, in consequence, of the severe indisposition of the latter, from cold caught in a tour through the Wallandillie country.

**FIRST DESCRIPTION OF LAKE GEORGE.**

We now come to Joseph Wild's description of Lake George, written for him by Sylvester Hall, clerk to the road party, to Mr. Throsby on Monday, August 28, 1820, and as this is the first description of the lake ever written it might fittingly be given in full. The letter is as follows:

This afternoon we have had the satisfaction of seeing Joseph Wild with his two companions return from their journey, of which he desires me to give you the following account. On the day you parted from him (Saturday, the 19th,) after following a direction about S.W. he came in view of the Lake Weerawa from a hill at four miles distance and arriving at the N. end of the Lake turned towards the Southward on a level bank, grassy to the water's edge, the land good pasture but unfavourable for cultivation - from the hills the party saw the fires of the natives who appeared numerous: - they pursued their course on Sunday over capital land to the southward by the bank of the Lake, and slept between two creeks on the E. side: - On Monday the 21st he followed the Lake and encamped at a creek, at the southern point - all this day over very excellent land, fit for any purpose, clear of timber - a strong westerly wind occasioned a heavy rolling surf like the ocean. On Tuesday the men rested and slept at the same hut as on Monday: - Joseph Wild went to some hills about four miles distant to look out, large hills prevented the view of anything remote except snowy mountains to the S.W. a very wide valley clear of trees and superior land runs from the southern end of the lake upwards of twenty miles - this night the water of the lake fell six inches. On Wednesday the 23rd the party began to return and then perceived an opening in the range of hills, on the south-west bank of the lake which opening Joseph Wild has every reason to believe is a river - he could perceive reeds and other appearances of a river and was sorry to leave it behind without
examination: the party being small he did not wish to disobey your instructions in case an accident might happen - they passed that night near the Lake to the eastward and on Thursday turned from it to the N.E. but could only proceed about six miles before encamping for heavy rain - the ground scrubby and barren. On Friday morning the 25th August he pursued a direction N.E. and from a large hill saw Mr. Meehan's plains and lagoon called Bundong, as it had previously been visited he passed it a distance from this Lagoon to Weerawa Lake Joseph Wild judges the straight line may be about twenty miles this day the hills were stony and full of brushwood but the plains very capital land - at night slept at the head of Murwary Plains, crossing them on Saturday the 26th on which night the party slept at your hut when Mr. W. MacArthur accompanied you. On Sunday the 27th crossed Wollendellie River at a good place half a mile lower than when Mr. W. MacArthur went with your party - slept at Cookbundoon River and on Monday arrived safe and well at our huts in Wollandellie.

The Lake was brackish and unfit for use, extending from N. to S. at least thirty miles - at the N. end about two miles across but widening to about ten miles, full of Bays and Points on the East side, very beautiful; only one island perceived, near the mouth of a creek, inhabited by great multitudes of white sea gulls - the wood in general box and blue gum with a little stringy bark. Emus very plentiful and seen in small flocks-tracks of some large kangaroos found but none seen in the neighbourhood - Swans, Geese and Ducks of different kinds in abundance, but it was too cold to catch fish. The Floods had been very high, numbers of egg-shells were found supposed to be those of ducks destroyed by the water and the crows - also claws of large craw-fish. The stones in the points on the Eastern Bank are a kind of Slate - the Western Bank appears to have a straight uniform bold shore (except the opening mentioned) very lofty hills, nearly alike in height, rocky but good pasturage - the grass had been burnt in the neighbourhood of the Lake by the Natives and was springing into nice feed - three creeks run into the Lake at the S.E. The Plains towards the eastward are of immense extent, clear of wood, all beautiful land, not swampy, though many small lagoons of fresh water.

Joseph Wild accompanied the eminent botanist, Robert Brown, in his botanical researches in New South Wales and Tasmania between the years 1802 and 1805. He died in 1847, aged eighty-eight, and was buried in the cemetery at the Bong Bong church.

FIRST REFERENCE TO MURRUMBIDGEE.

In a letter dated September 4, 1820, Throsby reported to the Governor the discovery of Lake George, and in this letter we get the

††† See A Narrative of a visit to the Australian Colonies, by James Backhouse, 1843, p. 437.
first reference ever made to a considerable river “called by the natives ‘Mur, rum, bid, gie,’” though no white man had then seen it. Throsby wrote:-

I beg to enclose for your Excellency's information the report of the success of the party of three men I described in my last letter to your Excellency, I had fitted out and parted with on the 19th August, on which same day it appears they discovered the lake (Wer,ree,waa) they were in search of. I feel much gratified at it in confirmation of my former ideas as well as of the accounts given by the natives, and I look to it as a prelude to a much more important discovery of a considerable river of salt water (except at very wet seasons) called by the natives Mur rum, bid,gie, two days' journey from the lake (Wir,raa,waa) and described by them to communicate with the sea, at a great distance pointing southerly, I have taken much pains, and made the most possible minute enquiries through the best interpreters I could get, one of whom was a native (Simon) of this place, who speaks as good English as I can, he was with me the last journey for the express purpose. In fact they say the tide flows to that place, that (Mud:del:laa) Jew fish, Mullet, other marine fish, and productions, are caught there. This circumstance I did not mention to your Excellency in my last letter, thinking it more prudent to wait the return of the small party, I sent out that I might speak with more confidence as to the information I had received.

Since I wrote to your Excellency I have seen Mr. Meehan, have conversed with him on the subject, have explained to him fully my ideas, he seemed pleased, and, assented to my proposal of accompanying him, to so important a spot, as soon as the season is a little more favourable, or in the event of my health not being equal to the task, that Josh Wild should be sent with him, who I assure your Excellency, tho an illiterate man, is very useful, intelligent in the woods, and may be depended on. I am extremely sorry it is not in my power to wait on your Excellency at this moment, in further explanation, and agreeable to your Excellency's desire, being very ill (altho much better) with a violent attack of the prevailing catarrh, but will do myself the honor, the instant I am able, I felt myself unwell before I quitted the new country the weather being much too severe for sleeping in the open air which I was necessitated to do, on the journey I undertook but was determined no little personal exertion, should be wanting, in furtherance of so necessary, and essential an object; should future exertions be crowned with full success agreeable to my prediction, I shall feel proud, under your Excellency's sanction, and approbation of having in some degree, been, the _humble_ instrument.

An unfortunate little native orphan about four years old, the only one of a family of six, including father, and mother, that has not paid the great debt of nature during the present winter, being with the road party, and protected by Wild, I have desired him to be sent in, as a fit object for application to be received into the native asylum, I therefore, on his behalf respectfully request your Excellency's order for him to be received there.
The last paragraph contains a pathetic story relating to a native family and gives us a fine example of bush benevolence to a lonely little black child.

It seems not unlikely that the "prevailing catarrh" referred to by Throsby was the complaint which had carried off the family of which the little native orphan was the sole survivor, and that it was the same as that now known as influenza.

The *Australian Almanack*, 1834, p. 245, gives a record of the visitation in 1820, and its fatal effect. The occasion is apparently regarded as the first occurrence of influenza in New South Wales.

In the letter may also be seen a suggestion that Surveyor Meehan should visit the lake district, which he did in the following October, but as a member of an important party with Governor Lachlan Macquarie at the head.

The occasion must have been an important one in the early history of the Colony, and the arrangements in connection with the visit were that the Governor with his party should go from Parramatta through Bong Bong and Cookbundoon, while Commissioner J. T. Bigge, who was then in New South Wales enquiring into the general state of the Colony, should proceed across from Bathurst with Surveyor General Oxley.

**PREPARING TO VISIT THE GREAT LAKE.**

That Throsby played a part of some importance in carrying out the scheme may be inferred from the following letters written by him from Glenfield near Liverpool to the Governor.

October 1, 1820. I beg to inform your Excellency that I dispatched Mr. John Rowley and Bian (the native who accompanied me to Bathurst) yesterday morning to join Wild at the road party, with the necessary instructions to look out, and mark the trees on the best pass to Bathurst, then to join the Honourable the Commissioner to which effect I have written to Mr. Scott. I have detained Simon and another native lad to join your Excellency's baggage here; to proceed with the carts as guides, whenever they may be ready, I respectfully beg leave to suggest to your Excellency, the propriety of such part of the baggage, as may not be wanted in the cowpastures, proceeding in time to arrive, as far as my establishment in advance, as your Excellency will travel much faster than the heavy loaded carts can possibly do, and the distance from the stone quarry creek thence, is further than, they will be able to accomplish in one day.
When Throsby used the term “my establishment” he referred to where he had started a settlement at Bong Bong, near the modern Moss Vale.

In reply to a letter from the Governor, Throsby wrote on October 7, 1820, saying:

I intend to sleep at Mr. Broughton's on Sunday the 15th, and will do myself the honor of joining your Excellency at stone quarry creek at the time mentioned.

Throsby's letter of October 12, 1820, is very informative as to the procedure followed. He wrote:

I have the satisfaction to inform your Excellency that I received an account yesterday from the road party stating, that the party I directed, had gone on with the native Cookoogong (previously spelt Coocoogong, R.I.L.C.) to Bathurst, according to the instructions I sent, I have therefore no doubt of their marking the road, and joining the Honble the Commissioner of Enquiry there, agreeable to your Excellency's wish . . . .

I send the bearer Simon and the other native lad, I have detained as guides to go with the carts, who I am sure will punctually attend to any instructions they may receive, your Excellency will be pleased to cause the servants to be instructed to give them some provisions on the way.

When reading this letter referring to the “bearer, Simon,” one cannot help contrasting the conditions of today with those of one hundred years ago. What would an Australian Governor think now on seeing a barefooted, sable messenger approaching Government House with a document for His Excellency from a country magnate? It is quite evident that to Mr. Throsby, Simon was a faithful and dutiful servant in whom his master had the fullest confidence.

GOVERNOR MACQUARIE STARTS FOR LAKE GEORGE.

The following is an extract from Macquarie's journal (Mitchell Library):-

Monday, 16th October, 1820. I set out early this morning in my carriage on a tour of inspection to the new discovered country to the southward and westward of the Cow Pastures, having previously sent off my servants and baggage in advance to wait arrival at Stone Quarry Creek in the Cow Pastures for which place they set out on Friday the 13th instant. The following gentlemen composed my suite on this tour, namely-Major Antill, Lieut. Macquarie, Mr. Meehan, Deputy Surveyor General, Rev. Mr. Cartwright, Dr. Reid, and Mr. Charles Throsby.
Surveyor Meehan joined the party at Liverpool.

In a separate journal Macquarie wrote:-

Monday, 16th Oct., 1820. . . . I set out this morning at Half-past six o'clock from Parramatta on my intended Tour in my carriage with my old faithful Valet, George Jarvis, having previously taken an early leave of all that is dear to me in life. . . .

After crossing the Nepcan, the party halted at the Government Stockyard, and Macquarie wrote:-

I was so much pleased with the beauty of the situation of that spot that I was induced to call it "Cawdor" in honor of my dearest Elizabeth's family, this place having no particular name or designation before.

This spot afterwards became the property of Captain John Macarthur.

Tuesday, October 17, 1820. This day the Governor passed through Bargo, where he was joined by Charles Throsby, and the journal reads:-

After passing through Bargo we entered a very long barren scrubby brush of 9 miles extent, now called "Kennedy's Brush" in honour of the person of that name who first passed through it with natives.

The person referred to was probably James Kennedy, uncle of Hamilton and John Kennedy Hume, and it is apparent, therefore, that at least a considerable portion of the journey from the Nepean to the Wingecarribee was performed by Kennedy prior to the visit in 1814, of the two brothers, Hume, to the modern Moss Vale district, which also was reached by Wilson, and Barracks in 1798. The journal further says:- "Arrived at Kannabygle's Plains,††† where we encamped and halted for this day." This spot is near the modern Aylmerton.

October 18, 1820. The party on this day arrived at Throsby's hut and remained there the next day. Macquarie wrote:-

I met here with Joseph Wild, one of the first settlers I sent with Mr. Throsby to this new country, and who has the immediate direction of the party employed in constructing the road towards Bathurst through this country. . . . Mr. Throsby not having yet given any particular name or designation to his new estate in this fine country, I have, with his own consent named it "Throsby Park", a designation particularly suitable and appropriate to his beautiful park like grounds.

On October 20, the Governor crossed “St. Patrick's River” on a “good bridge,” and “about a mile from this little Rivulet came to the, Wallandilly River”. . . . The ford was very rough and rocky." (Plate, page 249).

They had arrived at the locality now known as Arthursleigh and it is evident that at this period an outstation had been formed there, for the journal says:-

. . . . "took Mr. Meehan with me to view Mr. Hannibal McArthur's establishment about four miles from our camp. We saw his flocks and herds feeding. . . . Mr. M. having at this Place 1854 sheep & 165 Head of Horned cattle.

On October 21, they arrived at the Cookbundoon River, and halted for the day on the right bank.

Sunday 22nd. . . . Crossed the Cookbundoon River twice within Half a mile of each other.

. . . . We had great labour and difficulty in getting the Baggage carts up to the top of the mountain and it occupied upwards of two Hours to do so, and in descending the opposite side of the mountain to the western side. . . . I named this ascent and Descent “Wild's .Pass,” after Joseph Wild, the overseer of the Party.

The summit of this pass is in the vicinity of Portions 116 and 154, Parish of Norrong, County of Argyle.\textsuperscript{§§§}

\textsuperscript{§§§} See Plan A74 Roll, Lands Dept.
In the following passage Macquarie gives an interesting note regarding the local natives. He wrote:-

In crossing Wild's Pass we fell in with Nagaray, a fine old Patriarchal Native of about 70 years of age, with his whole family of Wives, sons and Daughters - in all 8 persons - and all of whom Mr. Throsby had engaged to accompany us to the great Salt Water Lake recently discovered by Joseph Wild. This old man belongs to the Burra-Burra Tribe, of which his son Cookoogong, is the Chief. His next eldest son Bhoohan is a very fine intelligent lad.

REACHES THE WOLLONDILLY.

On the afternoon of October 22, 1820, Macquarie reached the Wollondilly River “where the country opens into fine forest land.” His entry reads:-

At 2 p.m. we crossed this river to its right bank by a very good ford (Plate, page 265). From thence we travelled through a closer forest country along the bank of the river till it takes a sudden bend to the westward and where a small rivulet from the south-east joins it, forming at this point of junction a most extensive beautiful reach or basin. The country here opens again into very extensive plains or downs to the westward forming with the river a very rich landscape, plains and pretty little hills interspersed in them, extending 7 or 8 miles to the westward. The native name of these plains is "Mulwarry," but which I have named, Breadalbane Plains." From the junction of the two rivers we continue our journey in a south-easterly direction till we reach the north-west boundary of "Goulburn Plains" so named by Mr. Meehan, the first discoverer, but which in fact is a continuation of the Great Mulwarry Plains. Here we halted at a 1/4 before 4 p.m. and pitched our camp in a noble extensive rich meadow near a fine large pond of fresh water, the cattle being up to their bellies in as fine, long, sweet grass as I ever saw anywhere. The distance from where we last crossed the Wallandilly River is about 4 miles to our present camp.

Macquarie quotes the distance as 5 miles when returning. They evidently encamped in the vicinity of the junction of Gundary Creek and Mulwaree Ponds.

Investigation shows that the crossing over the Wollondilly, which is still used to some extent, was from Portion 32, Parish of Narrangarril, to Portion 223, Parish of Towrang, just on the upper end of what in wet weather becomes an island, near the residence of James Leonard who pointed out the ford to me. The spot is at the back of Kenmore Asylum and was no doubt selected by Throsby or with his approval. In order to associate the name of that great pioneer with this important visit to Goulburn Plains and Lake George, and to recognise his services in the
work of exploration, I would propose that the crossing might be named “Throsby's Ford.”

In following the bank of the Wollondilly from Kenmore it must have been difficult, even in the absence of the present day willow trees for a cart to pass the base of the steep hill below the present railway quarry, but at this point there are the remains of a narrow track for a few chains, which has evidently been used as a cart track at some time subsequent to this visit.

On October 23 the Governor arrived at Lake Bathurst where he had expected to meet Commissioner Bigge, and wrote:-

Being all of us a little tired, we retired to rest very soon, after we had dined which was not till half past 8 O'clock. We had been all eight hours on horseback this day.

October 24. Macquarie wrote:-

Mr. Throsby, wishing to reconnoitre in person the great salted water lake about 20 miles to the South-East (should have been south-west.-R.H.C.) of our present station recently discovered by Joseph Wild, set out this morning between 7 and 8 o'clock for that purpose attended by Wild, Vaughan the Constable and two native guides and intending to return this night if possible.

Macquarie examined the plains east and south of Lake Bathurst and wrote:-

Altogether a most beautiful landscape. On my way home I shot a very fine large wild turkey weighing at least eighteen pounds, with very rich variegated beautiful plumage. I brought this fine bird home to our camp alive, and entertain some hopes - of being able to carry him home in the same state to my dear Lachlan. Admiring the plains as I do I have given them the name, of that distinguished military hero, the Duke of Wellington by calling them Wellington Plains.

The wild turkey referred to was the Australian Bustard, *Eupodotis australis*.

October 25, 1820. Dr. Reid started on his return to Sydney in order to join his ship, the *Morley*. “At 10 Joseph Wild returned with a note from Mr. Throsby from the Great Lake, to which he reports loaded carts may go, easily enough. . . . Mr. Throsby stated the distance from our present station to the Wee-ree-wa Lake to be only 16 miles.”

October 26. Macquarie's entry reads:-

The carts were all loaded and we were just in the act of mounting our horses when Mr. Jno. Rowley galloped into camp with a letter from the Commissioner announcing his approach and his arrival at 3 O'clock yesterday afternoon at Goulburn Plains. . . . At 11 I rode out accompanied by Major Antill to meet Commissioner Bigge and his suite, and at 12 we met 4 miles from our present camp.
The following are extracts from the journal:-

Dr. Thomas Reid mentions that the party left Government House, Parramatta on Oct. 16, 1820, had breakfast at Liverpool, visited the new church with Mr. Moore, the magistrate and the Rev. Mr. Cartwright, crossed the Nepean, and four miles further on reached “the Government stockyard, where they arrived about 1 p.m. The polite attention of the Superintendent, Mr. D. Johnston, had provided tiffin.”

October 18. Reached “the New Country,” or “Throsby's Country,” and remained there during the afternoon after “an excellent tiffin.” “Saw between four and five hundred bullocks, feeding on the plain.” October 20. Travelled from “Throsby Park to Tindoon-bin-dahl,” which is just west of the present Cross Roads, and “arrived at the Wollondilly before two o'clock”. . . . “Mr. Throsby and I rode a mile and a half or two miles further to examine the soil . . . . I picked up some granules of copper.”

October 22. After ascending the Cookbundoon Range and when proceeding along a damp portion of the country, Reid wrote: -

The Governor's carriage horses sunk in it several times, which induced him to name it the "Boggy Brush."

Later the party reached Goulburn Plains, and the entry reads:-

A chain of ponds appeared to run through the middle, forming a natural division between the plains, those on the west side the Governor called Breadalbane Plains, those on the east side had been named Goulburn Plains by their discoverer, Mr. Meehan, two years before. On the latter, by the edge of the ponds, we encamped, the grass being from two to three feet high.

Reid mentions that several natives were with their party, and others joined them at this camp.

October 23. We arrived at Lake Bathurst, which, two years ago, had been measured by the deputy-surveyor, and found to be ten or twelve miles in circumference. The deputy-surveyor, by whom this lake was discovered, recommended the east side for the tents.

On October 25, 1820, Dr. Reid started back for Sydney, though he has misquoted the date and calls it the 24th. About four miles north of Goulburn Plains he met Commissioner Bigge a considerable way in

****

advance of his party and in search of a kangaroo to provide the evening meal, the party being short of provisions. About two miles further on Reid met the remainder of the party and camped that night at “Cook-bun-dun,” evidently at the roadmaker's hut, and continued his journey on the following day.

BATHURST TO LAKE BATHURST.

On Tuesday, October 17, 1820, Surveyor General John Oxley started on a journey from the flagstaff at Bathurst to Lake Bathurst. He was accompanied by Commissioner John Thomas Bigge, Mr. Secretary Thomas Hobbes Scott, William Cordeaux, Dr. Hill, Charles Fraser (the Colonial Botanist) and presumably Mr. John Rowley, besides servants.

TRAVEL UP CAMPBELL'S RIVER.

At four and a half miles Oxley mentions “Top of Lansdown Hill,” which they evidently passed over. By evening they had travelled nine and one-third miles and had reached “the west bank of Campbell River” near the bridge.

This bridge was probably that shown on plan BI06a, dated 1821, about one and three-quarter miles in a direct line above the junction of Fish and Campbell's Rivers. A bridge was referred to by Surveyor McBrien on May 3, 1823, half a mile higher up, (F.B. 204), as passing across from Portion 1, Parish of Langdale, County of Westmoreland, into the northern part of portion 190, Parish of Apsley, County of Bathurst, and situated about one and a half miles in a direct line below the modern bridge.

Surveyor G. W. Evans, who discovered and named Campbell's River, crossed it much higher up on December 8, 1813, over a rough bridge a quarter of a mile or so below the junction of Davy's Creek with the river. (Field Book 96, Lands Department).

On October 18, Oxley travelled south by east, leaving the river some distance on their left and reaching and crossing it at "Mr. Lawson's Hut," on what is now Portion 1, Parish of Irene, County of Westmoreland on the south side of the estate known as Charlton. At a

---

†††† Oxley's Field Book, No. 172, Lands Department.
point about two miles back Oxley wrote: “A rocky bluff east dist. 5 or 6 miles.” This bluff is now known as Mount Stromlo, near Brisbane Valley Creek.

Another entry made at Lawson's hut reads:- “Limestone and slate about 2 1/2 miles S.W.” This appears to be the first reference to what is now known as the Rockley marble near Briar Park, and which contains an abundance of crinoid stems.

Their course on October 19 was up to the Main Ridge or Blossom Hill, and southerly to the east of the Dog Rocks, then sweeping round south-easterly past Swallow's Nest towards Swatchfield where they camped near the head waters of Campbell's River, which stream had been a few miles on their right all day. No local names were recorded.

On October 20, 1820, the party continued in a general south-easterly direction for ten miles and Oxley wrote:- “The horses arrived, except one, which was so seriously injured as to be obliged to be left behind, being quite incapable of moving.” It is understood the horse afterwards remained near the head of Campbell's River, being satisfied to forego any more exploratory work, and was found some considerable time later sleek and well.

October 21, 1820. Early on this day they crossed a small river which, I conclude, is what we know as the Retreat, or Little River, just below Porter's Retreat, and Commissioner Bigge named it “Colborne River.” Oxley wrote:-“A sharp stream on a rocky bottom.”

CROSS THE ABEROROMBIE.

On October 22, the party crossed a river which Throsby discovered on May 5, 1819, and which Commissioner Bigge now named the Abercrombie.

On October 23, 1820, the party reached “a large lagoon called by the Natives Burrah Burrah.” This is about five miles north-westerly from Taralga.

On October 24, Oxley wrote:- “The native pointed out the situation of the roadmakers' hut over the Cookbundun Range to bear N 117 6 or 7 miles.” No doubt the native referred to was either Bian or

†‡‡‡ Early History of Bathurst and Surroundings, by Grace Hendy-Pooley. This Journal, Part XI., p. 233 (1903)
Coocoogong, probably the former, who had guided the party from Bathurst. By evening of the 24th they reached the Cookbundoon or Tarlo River.

REACH GOULBURN PLAINS.

On October 25, 1820, Oxley wrote:-- ‘. . passing between two rocky hills, fell in with the marked trees on the route pursued by the Governor.’ Oxley had therefore reached the road at the Tarlo Gap taken by Governor Macquarie from Bong Bong three days before.

After travelling eight miles on the 25th, Oxley made the following note:-- “To the Wolondilly River, a smart stream connecting chains of ponds of considerable magnitude.” After crossing and going a little west of south for half a mile he “left off taking bearings having connected with Mr. Meehan's track.” He crossed at Kenmore below the junction of the Mulwaree Ponds, and travelled along their right or eastern bank. A later entry by Oxley on the 25th, made about five miles from the crossing reads:-- “We stopped for the evening on what are called Murraweree Plains, now named by His Excellency Goulburn Plains.”

In a paper on *The Native Flora of the Federal Capital Territory*, and on the authority of Oxley's entry, I recorded that Macquarie named Goulburn Plains during his visit in 1820, but from the information since seen on Meehan's plan (supra), also Macquarie's and Dr. Reid's notes on October 22, 1820, the name appears to have been bestowed by Meehan. The words “named by His Excellency” were interpolated by Oxley with a slightly darker pencil, so that it looks as if the Governor had ratified Meehan's name.

On October 26, Oxley's party reached Lake Bathurst and joined Governor Macquarie.

LAKE BATHURST TO LAKE GEORGE.

Friday, October 27, 1820, Governor Macquarie and suite set out for the "Great Lake," and encamped at 3 p.m. on a very pretty plain near a fresh water creek on the eastern shore.

---

Saturday, October 28, 1820. Macquarie's journal for this day reads as follows:

Got up at 5 o'clock after a very refreshing good night's rest, and breakfasted at half past six. Mr. Throsby not having returned from his excursion as was expected he would do, either last night or very early this morning. We determined on going in quest of him, and to explore the southern part of the Lake, and the adjacent country, for which purpose we set out at 8 o'clock attended by some of our servants, leaving the rest in charge of our camp, which we left standing. We travelled over an open hilly country for about 3 miles, along the east side of the Lake, and at 9 saw a smoke on the western side of the Lake, which we concluded proceeded from a signal fire made by Mr. Throsby, which was soon confirmed to be the case by our seeing with our glasses Mr. Throsby himself riding along the shore of the Lake on his way back to our camp, but as we all wished to see the southern extremity of this fine piece of water we pursued our ride thither to meet Mr. Throsby, our way lying through a very great extent of flat land, composed of open forest, plains and meadows for 7 or 8 miles at least, the soil generally good, fine herbage, and full of large ponds and lagoons of fresh water. These ponds were full of black swans, native companions and ducks, and when we came to the south end of the Lake it was covered with innumerable flocks of black swans, ducks and sea gulls. We tasted the water of the Lake here, and it was quite fresh. After having viewed and explored the southern extremity of the Lake, we proceeded along the western shore of it for about a mile in hopes of meeting Mr. Throsby until such time as we discovered the track of his horse back the same way we came, from which it was evident he had passed the plains to the southward of our track out. We therefore returned back to camp nearly the same way we came after a ride out of at least 12 miles and as much home again, halting between 2 and 3 o'clock under a tree about the middle of the plains, and close to a fine running fresh water creek to take some refreshment which I had directed to be carried out for us. These plains being likely to terminate my present tour of inspection southerly, I have named them in honor of the Noble Chief of the Campbells - "Argyle Forest." It now appears evident that there is no outlet or river flowing from the Lake, which is the more extraordinary as the waters of it are now proved to be positively fresh, and the size of it so great, it being at least eighteen miles long by five broad.

We arrived in camp at 1/4 before 5, and found Mr. Throsby had arrived there about half a mile before us. He now states to us from the information of his native guide Taree that the new River Murumbidgee which we came in quest of and were all so particularly anxious to see and explore, does not flow from the Great Lake at all, but that it has its source at the back of the hills which skirt the western shore of the Lake and flows from thence in a south easterly direction towards the coast, and that it would take us three days to reach it. We have consequently abandoned all thoughts of going to explore the new river at this time, leaving it to be traced to the sea by future discoverers.

We sat down to dinner to-day at 1/2 past 5, and after dinner we drank a bumper toast to the success of the future settlers of the shores of "Lake George," which name I
have given to this grand and magnificent sheet of water in honor of His present Majesty - We drank tea early and went to bed at half past nine.

OXLEY'S REMARKS.

Portion of Oxley's entry for October 28 reads as follows:-

We ascended a high rocky hill about 3/4 of a mile from the east margin of the Lake, from its summit our view was very extensive in every quarter, except from Et. to N.E., which was bounded by some rocky ranges the most distant being about 10 miles.

He gave bearings and approximate (distances to prominent points:--
N. 148 1/2; N. 152 1/2, 40 miles; N. 172, 45 miles; N. 187 1/2, 60 miles; S.W. by W., 80 or 90 miles; N. 203, 40 miles. The south extreme of lake bore about N. 208 1/2.

These observations were evidently taken from the summit of Mount Ellenden, and the following remarks entered in pencil must refer to the central and southern portions of the Federal Capital Territory, though the extensive plains around the Molonglo River would have been hidden from view:--

The whole extent between the S.E.-and West may be properly described as rocky, broken, and mountainous, and no feature or object in the prospect afforded any reasonable expectation that a good or even tolerable country could have existence in those quarters. (F.B. 172).

GOVERNOR MACQUARIE RETURNS.

On October 29, 1820, Macquarie and party returned to Lake Bathurst. The Governor wrote:--

At 4 p.m. the whole of our party, including our servants, carters, &c., &c., being assembled in, and immediately under the fly of my large tent, the Revd. Mr. Cartwright performed Divine worship, and gave us a very excellent, appropriate sermon, strongly impressing the justice, good policy, and expediency of civilizing the aborigines, or black natives of the country and settling them in Townships.

This may be regarded as the first occasion upon which Divine worship was performed in any portion of the Goulburn district. Subsequently the Rev. R. Cartwright lived at Collector, and two of his sons afterwards settled at Windellema [Windellama], about eight or

***** Macquarie's Journal, Mitchell Library.
The Royal Australian Historical Society.

nine miles E.N.E. of Lake Bathurst, and were visited in about 1850 by the Rev. James S. Hassall.†††††

Monday, October 30. Portion of Macquarie's record on this day is as follows:-

We went this stage by the same route we came, only deviating ourselves a little from it, for the purpose of hunting in Goulburn Plains where we killed one large Emu and a Native Dog. The Commissioner's servants also killed a large kangaroo in the open forest before we entered the Plains.

Wishing to get as far forward on our journey as possible in consequence of the great appearance of rainy weather setting in to-night, we pursued our journey beyond the part of Goulburn Plains in our advance, until we reached the Wallandilly River, 5 miles further on, crossing that river at a good ford, and encamping on the left bank of it, on a very pretty spot of ground, close to the River, and where we arrived at 4 o'clock, the distance from Bathurst Lake to our present ground being at least 24 miles.

The party evidently camped on the spot now occupied by the Kenmore Asylum.

Oxley quotes the distance as twenty-seven miles “to the crossing place on the Wollondilly River,” which was, clearly in the vicinity of Kenmore.

It does not appear that any of these parties, in either journey, passed over the site of Goulburn, but kept on the eastern side or right bank of the Mulwaree Ponds.

CROSS COOKBUNDOON RANGE.

October 31, 1820. The Governor wrote:-

We travelled by the same route we advanced.

. . . . Wild's Pass on the Cookbundoon Range had been considerably improved by the roadmakers since we had passed it before and made much easier for the wheel carriages to pass it. . . . we arrived on our former ground on the right bank of the Cookbundoo River . . . . I purchased four very pretty young emus (hatched at the same time and about two months old) and a very little rock kangaroo from Joseph. Wild the overseer of the road party, as presents for my beloved Lachlan. I have also brought one young swan for him, which was caught by Mr. Throsby then at Lake George all which I hope will get safe to Parramatta and must prove highly acceptable.

Oxley gives the distance as “10½ mjsles to the summit of the Cookbundun Range, where the road commences,” and "to the hut 2¾ miles, in the whole 13 miles."

From Kenmore the track would pass up the hill through the Tarlo

††††† *In Old AUItla/ia,* by Rev. J. S. Hassall, p.75 (1902).
Gap on the modern Taralga road, then to the right to Cookbundoon Range, thence to the left down the range, where the road-makers were at work, to the Cookbundoon River.

November 1, 1820. Macquarie wrote: “We reached our new ground on the Peninsula formed by the junction of the Wallandilly and St. Patrick's Rivers.”

Oxley records the distance as 14¼ miles. The Governor and party diverged to the right or southward of the road followed by the baggage, and “fell in with large and most curious looking masses of rock called the Pudding Stone, and of various odd shapes, isolated, and about sixty feet in height, some of the sides of these masses being quite perpendicular, and like the walls of an old castle.” These rocks are sometimes referred to as the Gibraltar Rocks.

The “beautiful open forest,” now known as Arthursleigh, the Governor named “Eden Forest” in honor of Lord Auckland (George Eden).

Oxley wrote: “Mr. McArthur's stock station not apparently a good one, but little grass, and the country is certainly better for sheep than cattle. . . .The sheep seemed improving.”

On November 2, Governor Macquarie named Sutton Forest in honour of the Right Honourable Charles Manners Sutton, then Speaker of the House of Commons.

The Governor returned to Parramatta on November 6, 1820.

THE MURRUMBIDGEE.

During the Governor's visit to Lake George, Mr. Throsby was endeavouring to reach the Murrumbidgee, and he reported having discovered a river and slept on its banks. In the light of a letter of instruction dated November 17, 1820, from Throsby to C. T. Smith, Joseph Wild and James Vaughan, I am in some doubt as to which river he referred to.

The following are extracts from Throsby's letter in question:

I am instructed by His Excellency the Governor to desire you to proceed according to the annexed directions.

To proceed with all possible dispatch to Lake George (Wee-raa-wee) from thence you are to take your departure, and proceed to the stream of water, (Boon-ga-roon) which I discovered running to the southward, the spot will be pointed out by James Vaughan, who was with me, from thence you are to trace it, if possible until you meet the tides way observing carefully its course as you go down it. Should you meet the

---

* [he Aastidilif:m :I. agaZille 1821, Vol. I. (Public Library.)]
tides way, you are carefully to observe its rise, and fall, and time of high water, making a minute of it in your journal, stating how long the ebb tide continues longer than the flood.

They were also directed to note their daily course and distance, the nature of the country, the kind of fish they met with, the presence or otherwise of cedar, the class of stone and the height of flood marks.

The letter proceeds:

In the event of your being so fortunate as to meet the tides way, after making the necessary remarks, you are to return with all possible dispatch to Lake Bathurst (Bundong) take your departure from thence, continuing to make the remarks as before directed, endeavour to penetrate to, or as near to Jervis' Bay as possible keeping if possible the range dividing the sheet of water, seen by me and Wild, in April 1818, near to the Pidgeon House, from Jervis' Bay, this water is called by the natives Ber-rur-wery, or Bur-rur-ware, or Bar-rear, noting when and at what distance, from Lake Bathurst, you meet the waters going to the southward, or eastward, being very careful not to get entangled in the southern arms of Shoals haven river. . . . . (Chief Secretary's Department.)

Until recently I could find no record of the result of this expedition, nor of the fact that it was ever made.

I cannot identify the stream called Boongaroon. Throsby would be likely to travel westerly from the southern end of Lake George when in search of the Murrumbidgee, and it seems probable the stream he referred to may be that now called Gooromon Ponds, which flows southerly into Ginninderry Creek, thence westerly three and a half miles into the Murrumbidgee, so that if he did not actually reach the latter stream he may have been within three or four miles of it. If Throsby travelled to Gooromon Ponds he would have crossed the head waters of the Yass River which flows to the north in this locality.

Recently I learned in an accidental manner from Mr. D. R. Jamieson that the three men abovementioned made the excursion referred to in Throsby's letter. A synopsis of some of the events in the life of Charles Throsby Smith, recorded by himself in 1875, is extant, and among other items are the following:-

Arrived in Port Jaekson 16th April, 1816.

He then went to live with his uncle, Dr. Throsby, of Glenfield, near Liverpool for some time, and then again went to sea. The further record reads:-

Arrived in Sydney in November, 1819. . . . . . After remaining in Sydney for a short time I went up to by Uncles, Doctor Throsby at Glenfield near Liverpool, and after a
couple of months stay at Glenfield I was sent by my uncle by order of the Governor in charge of a gang of half a dozen men and pack horses to explore the country to the south of Lake George, and to trace down a river an imaginary one so I found out to my great vexation, being so led astray by my uncles report, and on my return we had a serious quarrell and I left him and rented a farm at Appin. I may remark here that my uncle with some of the men I had with me followed my tracks and found that my report and chart was correct....

I ought to have remarked that at the time I was exploring in 1820 there was no population further than the Southern Camden Estate, it was all a wild country. ....

I selected my land at what was known in those days as the Five Islands but now called by the native name of Wollongong.

He went to live at Wollongong in 1823.

Whether C. T. Smith, Wild and Vaughan reached the Murrumbidgee, I am unable, on the evidence, to say; but if so then it would seem that Throsby, on finding it ran north-westerly instead of south-easterly, considered they had not found the stream indicated to him by the natives. The Southern Camden Estate referred to by Smith was probably what has since been called Arthursleigh, where we have evidence that Hannibal McArthur had a station in October, 1820.

THROSBY VISITS FEDERAL TERRITORY.

We next come to a letter dated May 10, 1821, from Charles Throsby to Governor Macquarie, and from which the following are extracts:-

I beg to inform your Excellency that agreeable to my intimation when last I had the honor of seeing you, I set out for the new country on the 18th March, and left my own establishment there two days afterwards on a tour in search of the river spoken of by the natives to the southward or Lake George.

Much rain having fallen shortly before my departure, I was necessitated from the Wollondillii now being very high, to keep a more easterly direction, crossing some of the sources of Shoals haven River through a part of the country I had not before been in, and passed through a considerable track of very usefull and serviceable land until we arrived at Lake Bathurst, which lake we made on the eastern side.

From Lake Bathurst to Lake George the country is already known to your Excellency, both lakes I found some feet lower than when your Excellency visited them.

On leaving Lake George, I kept out a greater distance from the south end than where your Excellency rode, whereby avoiding all the soft and swampy ground you passed through. I then proceeded up the flat, and through a large clear plain, which your Excellency may remember to have seen, about eight or nine miles, to the southward of the extremity of the Lake, this plain and the land about, I found well
watered and considerable extent of very usefull and good grazing country. On passing the range about 12 or 14 miles distant from the lake, I found the waters all taking a westerly course, these I followed down at a very inconsiderable distance, they formed rapid streams, the country on each side good grazing. At about 25 miles distance from Lake George bearing about S.S.W., I fell in with the first limestone, this we continued to find in various places, on one stream in particular there is vast quantities of different colours and qualities.

I continued to follow the rivers down, which had now become very considerable and rapid, extensive plains and good grazing country on each side, with a considerable portion of rich meadow land on the banks of the rivers, the water still going to the westward, very high mountains to the eastward and south-east, left me but little hopes of finding an opening in that direction. After three days journey down the river, I crossed in a south-easterly direction, at about ten miles, through rather a hilly country I fell in with another and much broader, tho’ shallow stream, coming from the south-east, down which a very considerable fresh was running, on tasting the water I found it strongly impregnated with a brackish or alumy taste, much like a considerable quantity of the water in this part of the country, during hot dry summer months. Finding this river (for from its breadth and rapidity it may truly be called so) to go through a very lofty and rugged country, I was not able to get down it with the horses, and my party (three) being too small to divide, I returned to the one I left the day before, which I followed down as long as my provisions would permit, and found a continuation of the same useful country before described, but was much retarded by the quantity of rain that had fell, so as to prevent me crossing some apparent fords at its different windings, but I am firmly of opinion the two rivers I saw this journey, and the one I slept on when at Lake George with your Excellency, all form a junction not far distant from where I returned from, and if so the river there must either to be very deep or of great width, but the whole of them evidently go to the west and west-south-west nor does the chain of mountains which appear to extend from S to N. for a great distance, leave a probability of an opening to the eastern coast, and I should fear from the course the waters take, and from the same sort of fish being found in all the three rivers, that they terminate in the same way the Lachlan and Macquarie have been found to do if they do not form branches of the former river.

When I sett out, it was my intention to have looked into the country to the eastward of Lake George, towards Jervis' Bay, on my return homewards, but being too far to the westward by the course of the waters, wet weather, and other circumstances, I was obliged to desist from that attempt for the present, but purpose making a tour in that direction about September next, when the days will be longer and weather more pleasant.

If I can head the whole of the gullys going into Shoals haven river, I think a passage will be found to Jervis' bay, or the coast thereabouts, and as we know the distance from Lake George, Lake Bathurst, etc., cannot be great, I anticipate your Excellency will think as I do, that the attempt is worth making particularly as the track will be through a country that has not yet been visited by any person.
My interpretation of this journey is that Throsby travelled from Lake George past the modern town of Bungendore to the Molonglo River. This he followed to Queanbeyan and reached the Queanbeyan River, where he found the large quantities of limestone, “on one stream in particular.”

He “continued to follow the rivers down which had now become very rapid, extensive plains, and good grazing country on each side.” He was by this time on the Limestone Plains, now known as Canberra Plains, through which the united waters of the two streams flow as the Molonglo. He would have passed right over the site of the Federal Capital City, and when somewhere in the vicinity of Yarralumla he “crossed in a south-easterly direction” and “at about ten miles, through rather a hilly country” he fell in with the Murrumbidgee a few miles below Tharwa. Finding the banks of this river rough for travelling along he returned to the Molonglo, and being “much retarded by the quantity of rain that had fallen” did not proceed far, though he may have gone within a couple of miles or so of the junction with the Murrumbidgee, at which time he would have been within about three miles southerly from Gooromon Ponds. His knowledge of the position gave rise to the following remark:-

I am firmly of opinion the two rivers I saw this journey and the one I slept on when at Lake George with your Excellency, all form a junction, not far distant from where I returned.

An interesting incident in connection with this spot is that in 1837, that great explorer, Captain Charles Sturt received a grant of 5,000 acres of land largely bounded by these three streams.

Curiously, Throsby mentions no local names in this report, but his reference to the Murrumbidgee is made clear by his remark in the *Australian Magazine*, 1821, Vol. 1, which reads:-

I did not discover any appearance or room to hope that either of them ran to the sea on the Eastern Coast, but, on the contrary, the one described by the natives to be salt, and running to the eastward [Macquarie said south-easterly.-R.H.C.] I found to be a broad but shallow river, and very rapid, issuing from extremely high mountains to the S.E.
In his letter of September 4, 1820, when speaking of the discovery of Lake George, Throsby wrote:-

I look to it as a prelude to a much more important discovery of a considerable river of salt water, except at very wet seasons, called by the natives, Murrumbidgie, two days journey from the lake (Wir, Kraa, Waa) and described by them to communicate with the sea, at a great distance pointing southerly.

Whether Smith, Wild and Vaughan visited the Murrumbidgee towards the end of 1820 or not, and it seems possible they did, there is no doubt that Throsby reached it early in April, 1821, so that it was either discovered by him or largely at his instigation.

**LAKE BATHURST TOWARDS JERVIS BAY.**

Apparently two expeditions were made about the end of November, 1821, with a view to approaching Jervis Bay from the westward, after heading the Shoalhaven gorges.

The following appears in the *Sydney Gazette* of December 15, 1821:-

Charles Throsby, Esq., to whom the Colony is already infinitely indebted, in company with Mr. Wm. Kearns, has been on discovery to Jervis' Bay. They set out on the arduous expedition the 23d ult. and returned on the 6th instant. Mr. Throsby proceeded direct from Sydney through the County of Argyle, passing his own farm. He is decidedly of opinion that a good road may be cut from Sydney to that harbour; and he moreover reports the land to be extremely rich and promising; and that all the lagoons and rivers, at this season of the year, are fordable.

In the *Sydney Gazette* of December 29, 1821, is the following :-

The discovery to Jervis' Bay, which was announced in the *Sydney Gazette* of the 15th December, by Charles Throsby, Esq., accompanied by Mr. W. Kearns, had been previously discovered, so we are now informed, by Mr. Hamilton Hume, of Appin. Mr. Hume had set out from Appin on the 17th, November last, for the express purpose of accomplishing this most desirable and grand object, taking with him two (blacks) natives, and returned on the 5th December. Mr. H. reports, that he could, without much trouble or difficulty, cause a good road to be cut from Sydney to Jervis' or Bateman's Bay; and also, that the country is fertile and easy of access. Mr. Hume further reports, that the distance from Lake Bathurst to these two bays, does not exceed fifty miles.

*Sydney Gazette*, Friday, January 11, 1822:-

Mr. Hume left Appin, accompanied by Mr. J. Kennedy, Mr. Edward Simpson, John Moon,
servant to Mrs. Broughton, and two black natives, named Duall and Cow-pasture Jack, for the purpose of selecting land for the county of Argyle. They passed Mr. Dangar, the Deputy Surveyor, who was then encamped on the farm of Charles Wright, on Thursday, the 29th (sic) November. When near Mr. Jenkins' establishment, they were joined by a third native named Udaa-duck, who accompanied them to Lake Bathurst; at which place Mr. Hume suddenly left the party, and accompanied by the natives, Udaa-duck and Cowpasture Jack, on the 25th November, set out on foot with nine pounds of flour and went to the top of a high hill some miles on the south-east side of Shoalhaven River, but more than 30 from the coast of Jervis' Bay; Mr. Hume left a mark of his having been there, and returned near Mr. Jenkins' establishment on the 30th November; and to Appin about the day stated.

Mr. Jenkins' establishment referred to would probably have been at Bumballa, south-westerly from Wingello. It seems likely that the Shoalhaven River was crossed both by Throsby and Hume somewhere in the vicinity of the modern Oallen Ford, though Hume may have crossed higher up, and it is possible both parties reached some portion of the country around the head of either the Endrick or the Corang River, but in the absence of a journal there is nothing to show that either actually descended to Jervis Bay.

Charles Throsby died at Glenfield, near Liverpool, on April 2, 1828, at the age of fifty-one, and was buried in St. Luke's Cemetery at Liverpool.

LAKE GEORGE TOWARDS BATEMAN'S BAY.

In the Chief Secretary's Department is a document with the following heading:-

Copy of a Journal of a Tour to the Coast about Nine Miles to the Westwd of Batemans Bay performed by Messrs. Kearns, Marsh, and Packer and which Tour was undertaken in Consequence of the published account of the Discovery of the River Clyde.

The Clyde was discovered by Lieutenant Robert Johnston on the 1st December, 1821. (Sydney Gazette, December 8, 1821). “Wednesday, January 30th, 1822.” The three men referred to who were accompanied by a a native, and had horses, “arrived at the spot, where His Excellency Governor Macquarie slept in Oct., 1820, near Lake George.”

They appear to have travelled to the Molonglo River and also to the Queanbeyan River, where they collected some limestone, probably
from the same spot as that visited by Charles Throsby in April, 1821. No local names are mentioned. After following up the Queanbeyan River for several miles they turned easterly, and on Monday, February 4, 1822, discovered “a most beautiful plain,” which appears to be portion of the Molonglo Plains, and which they called “Friday Plains.”

On February 6 they “travelled to the eastward through a very mountainous country, very thickly wooded and very scrubby.” The distances quoted are generally excessive, but the mountains referred to are evidently portion of the Main Divide.

The timber the party saw on February 7, "was iron and stringy bark, box, oak and gum."

Friday, February 8th. At 8 a.m. resumed our journey and travelled S.E. for about 6 miles when we altered our course and travelled S.S.E for about 9 miles further; where we halted for the Night alongside a stream of water, which took its course to the westward. Passed through a beautiful rich Forest country this day very thinly timbered and in many parts small plains. At the time of our altering our course we crossed a river which took its course to the Northwd. The land both to the northwd and southwd of us, appeared to be fine level forest country between two Ranges of Hills, one to the Eastwd and the other to the Westwd of the River. The River which we this day crossed we supposed to be the Shoal Haven River; its course is very rapid. The Fall where we crossed it was about 2 feet deep and 12 ft. wide; When we shaped our course to the Eastwd we travelled between two Ranges of Hills about six miles across North and South. The Country was very thinly wooded and in our opinion, equally as good as that in the Forest part of the County of Argyle with very rich grass on it. The stone we saw was granite. The timber chiefly the same as Yesterday. The country abounded in Kangaroos and Emus, one of the former we caught - saw several Fires to Eastwd at a small Distance, which we supposed to be the Natives fires.

The stream referred to where they halted was probably either Jembaicumbene Creek or Gillamatong Creek around which are small alluvial plains surrounded by granite country, near or a little to the south of Braidwood. They were later informed that the native name of the locality where they halted was “Kimly.”

February 9 was a wet day, and they did not resume their journey.

Sunday, February 10 . . . . the entry reads:- After travelling S.E. for about 5 miles we left our Horses and ascended a high Hill from which we discovered the Sea about 8 or 10 Miles off to the E.S.E. at the same time saw the Pigeon House bearing by compass N.N.E. 7 or 8 Leagues. Between us and the Pigeon House, we saw a Bay which we supposed to be Bateman's Bay, Distant about 10 Miles. There appeared to us a Bight
of the Sea a little to the Southwd of us. Owing to the great number of Native Fires we perceived in every direction and our Party being small we thought it most prudent not to approach the Sea Coast any nearer; we therefore returned, well knowing that the Natives in this Quarter are very hostile.

At 4 p.m. halted for the night at our old Station. The country through which we passed this Day was very rich Forest Land well watered. It was good land even until we ascended about two-thirds of the hill. The country from the top of the Hill towards the sea coast appeared to us to be Hilly Scrubby Land - Both to the North and Southward of this Hill the country appeared to be very Mountainous. It appeared to us that a very good Road about 3 miles to the northwd from where we were at, might be made to Bateman's Bay, as the country there was not near so hilly as the spot on which we were. In our opinion this would make a very good place for a settlement on account of the Land being so very good and within so short a distance of the Bay - The Country about 10 Miles west of Batemans Bay is a very extensive Level Country, very well watered and in most parts very rich Land and very thinly wooded; in many parts there are beautiful plains with very fine grass. The Timber upon it is stringey and Iron Bark, Gum, Box, Oak and Apple tree on the sides of the Hills next the Sea Coast the “Trees are very straight and good for building.”

The trees referred to as ironbark were probably either *Eucalyptus Sieberiana* (mountain ash) or *E. Shithii [Smithii]* both of which occur around the Braidwood district, from which the true ironbark is absent. The oaks noticed were *Casuarina suberosa*, while the apple trees were probably *Eucalyptus aggregata*, which may still be found on some of the flats. I do not know of the occurrence of the genus *Angophora*, which includes the well known apple trees of the Sydney district, anywhere around Braidwood.

As the high hill they ascended was about fifteen miles from the Shoalhaven River, it was probably close to Monga, near the modern Braidwood-Nelligen road, from which point the Pigeon House is about seven and a half leagues north-easterly, though the nearest point of the ocean is about twenty miles away, E.S.E. at Bateman's Bay. There is clearly some erroneous entry here.

Surveyor William Harper visited the locality of Monga, probably from Bungonia, in about 1821 or 1822, but the exact date is not recorded (F.B. 177). There is no date in the field Book, but the cover is noted “about 1821,” though this note is not in Harper's handwriting. He saw the ocean and the Pigeon House, but whether he went as far west as Braidwood is not indicated.
Monday, 11. At 8.30 loaded our Pack Horses and resumed our journey, on our return after travelling up the side of the Run of Water to the West until 10 a.m. We discovered several Natives on the opposite side of the Stream, on our nearer approach the Native whom we had with us spoke to them when he found that they belonged to the Coast but had come up here to Hunt after speaking to them for some time, they came across the stream; we gave them some bread which they afterwards took over with them to their Wives; they agreed to come and show us a good Road to Jackquari (where Mr. Inch is stationed). On enquiry they told us the name of the hill next the sea we were on to be Marroro, the name of the place we slept at Kimly, and the name of a remarkable hill across the Shoal Haven River to Westwd Gooingguing - We got two men Natives and a Boy to accompany us; the two former were called Terralilly and Marrahbinyah and the Boy Currambah; They informed us that the River which we had supposed to be the Shoal Haven River was really it; They told us that the River on which we found the Lime Stone is Julurgung and the Native Name for the Plains which we had discovered, Moolinggoollah; They also informed us that the Murrumbidgee River runs into the Sea on the West Side of New Holland, where there is plenty of such stone as we shewed them (Limestone). At 2.30 p.m. halted for the night along side the Shoal Haven Rive r- This Day we travelled W.N.W. 8 Miles and 4 Miles N.N.E.

In the name “Moolinggoollah” for the plains which the party called “Friday Plains,” we probably see the origin of the present name “Molonglo.”

It is evident the natives were acquainted with limestone, and when they spoke of that class of rock on the Murrumbidgee, they probably referred to the large masses of limestone which occur around Cavan and at other places between Canberra and Yass.

On February 12 the party proceeded down the Shoalhaven River and crossed somewhere below the modern bridge on the Braidwood-Goulburn Road. They halted for the night at a spot called “Warrahtookbidga” by the natives.

On February 14 they “arrived at Mr. Styles' station. Parramagoroo.” I know nothing of this local name, but James Richard Styles' station was southerly from Bungonia, and adjoining that of Joseph Inch of Jacqua Creek on the north. Styles' property subsequently included that formerly held by Inch and was known as Reevesdale.

On the following day the party “discovered some Rocks of Limestone about ½ a Mile distant from Mr. Styles' hut.”

Continuing their journey on the 16th, they arrived at Sydney on February 21, 1822.
GOULBURN PLAINS IN 1828.

In September, 1828, Surveyor William Romaine Govett, after whom Govett's Leap on the Blue Mountains was named, visited Goulburn Plains, or Downs, and on his plan (M.531) the following occupations and names from north to south are shown:

- Wollondilly, Governor's Hill, John Thorne, James Thorne, Dr. Gibson, Mulwaree Plains, Bangalore Creek, W.P. Faithfull, T. M. Fenton, Captain Murray, Bushranger's Hill, Macpharlan's Station [McFarlane.-RH.C.], Lake Bathurst, Wells's Station, Kenney's Station.

At this period there was occupation much further south and west than Goulburn Plains.

The name of Governor's Hill for the range just east of Goulburn probably dates from the time of Governor Macquarie's visit in October, 1820, but the first reference I can find to it is that given in Hume and Hovell's journal of their overland expedition from Goulburn to Port Phillip. Under date October 11, 1824, the entry reads:

. . . . at dusk reach the carts waiting for them at the water· holes under the Governor's Hill.

The Bushranger's Hill referred to by Govett is near the present Inveralocky bridge, and has therefore no connection with the episode which occurred at Springfield at the end of January, 1865, when four brave lads, sons of William Pitt Faithfull, two of whom were on their way to The King's School, were attacked as they were driving to Goulburn by the bushrangers Ben Hall, Gilbert and Dunn. Although, curiously, no one was injured in the affray, a bullet from the rifle of William Percy Faithfull struck a split fence-post behind which Gilbert was sheltering and which therefore saved his life. He afterwards mentioned to his friends that a few splinters were shaken off the post on to his breast by the impact. The post, which is of white stringy bark (Eucalyptus eugenioiides) is still standing (1921), and the bullet-hole, enlarged when the bullet was cut out shortly after, is plainly visible.

CANBERRA.

Although Throsby passed over the site of Canberra, the Federal Capital, he made no reference to any local name. In a letter dated
December 16, 1826, Joshua John Moore, a retired Lieutenant and former officer of the Supreme Court, and the first owner of the spot which bore the original of the name, whatever it may have been, expressed his desire to purchase one thousand acres, “situated at Canberry,” and of which he stated he had then been in possession for upwards of three years. Surveyor Robert Dixon referred to it as “Canberry” on May 15, 1829 (Plan M2 595).

On September 14, 1831, Moore wrote:— “It is called and known by the name of Canburry.”

In May, 1832, Surveyor Robert Hoddle referred to it both as Canberry and Canburry, and entered the name of the stream to the westward as Canbury Creek (Field Book, No. 375.)

It seems quite evident that neither Moore nor Hoddle knew the exact name of the place, consequently it was not a name introduced by Moore. Neither does it seem likely that it was a corruption of Cranberry or the terminal "bury" and "burry" would not have been used in those early days. From the whole of the information available there seems no doubt that the original was a native name, but its meaning is unknown.

Summary

In March, 1818, Surveyor James Meehan, Charles Throsby and Hamilton Hume travelled from the Wingecarribee to near the head of Bundanoon Creek, thence westerly and southerly to Paddy's River, five miles above the crossing on the present main road, and later reached the Shoalhaven River beyond Marulan. By mutual consent they then divided the party, Throsby returning to and crossing the Bundanoon Creek, Yarrunga Creek, Kangaroo River and the Shoalhaven River near Burrier. From here he proceeded to The Falls, Currambene Creek and Jervis Bay.

Meehan attempted to cross the Shoalhaven higher up and so reach Jervis Bay, but failing to cross he turned inland, discovered and named Lake Bathurst and Goulburn Plains, and passed about two and a half miles southerly from the modern city of Goulburn.

At the end of April, 1819, Throsby commenced a journey from the modern town of Moss Vale and going westerly reached the Wollondilly
River at Arthursleigh. Turning north-westerly and northerly he passed close to Taralga, crossed the Abercrombie, kept a few miles to the west of Oberon, passed O'Connell Plains and reached Lawson's establishment on Campbell's River about nine miles from Bathurst.

In March, 1820, Throsby, Hume and William Macarthur visited Goulburn Plains.

In April, 1820, Meehan with five others left Moss Vale, went westerly through Arthursleigh, passed seven or eight miles north of Goulburn, reached and crossed the head waters of the Lachlan River, turned northerly and crossed the main Lachlan above Cowra, passed east of Woodstock, west of Lyndhurst, east of Cadia, close to Orange and Stuart Town, not one of which towns then existed, and reached the Macquarie about five miles above the modern town of Wellington. From here he travelled first up, and then down the Macquarie towards Dubbo, and returned up the river to Bathurst with his provisions all gone, and for three days he and his party had nothing to eat but boiled nettles.

On August 19, 1820, Joseph Wild discovered Lake George. In October, 1820, Surveyor General Oxley, with Commissioner Bigge, travelled from Bathurst up Campbell's River, past Taralga and Kenmore to Lake Bathurst and there joined Governor Macquarie, who had journeyed from Parramatta through Moss Vale, Arthursleigh, Cookbundoon Mountain and Kenmore.

The united party then visited Lake George, and Throsby went westerly to Gooromon Ponds, a tributary of the Murrumbidgee, and three or four miles therefrom. Towards the end of 1820, C. T. Smith, J. Wild and J. Vaughan visited the country south of Lake George.

In April, 1821, Throsby visited Queanbeyan and Canberra and reached the Murrumbidgee.

In January, 1822, three men named Kearns, Marsh and Packer travelled from Lake George to Queanbeyan, Braidwood and Monga, from where they saw the ocean. They then returned and reached Bungonia.

A contemplation of the great work carried out by the early explorers, of the dangers which they faced, the hardships they endured, and the important and valuable results which they achieved, should make Australians ever grateful to these heroic pioneers.
I wish to express my thanks to Mr. E. B. Harkness, Under Secretary, Chief Secretary's Department, Mr. J. T. Keating, Under Secretary for Lands, and Mr. Hugh Wright, Mitchell Library, for permission to examine early records, and to Mr. H. Selkirk, for references to some early plans and documents. I am also grateful to Mr. W. A. Gullick and various others for photographs and for information which has helped in the preparation of this record.
Exploration between Southern Rivers.