

BOOK REVIEW

BUSTLE SMITH The life and times of Charles Throsby Smith
First settler and pioneer of Wollongong
52 pages on A4 paper.

By Dick Monks, 22 Darval St., Naremburn NSW 2065
Obtainable from the author for \$10 including postage.

In preparation for the reunion of descendants of Charles Throsby Smith, held in Wollongong s Market Square on 1st March, 1998, Dick Monks has written this history of his pioneer forebear.

This is a well researched and copiously annotated story of the life of CTS which is followed by extensive family-tree branches listing his descendants.

The story begins with Charles' ancestors in England, where he was born at Cambridge in 1798. It details the unsettled nature of his childhood after his father died when he was but two years old, and his teenage ambition to join his elder brother in the service of the East India Company. It was his unsuccessful struggle to reach India in 1814 at the age of 16 that brought him to Australia instead of India and to the patronage of his uncle, Dr Charles Throsby. It is a really interesting story of an adventurous young man who, following estrangement from his uncle, decided to go it alone on a grant which became the nucleus of Wollongong.

Despite the obvious quality of the book, there are a few inaccuracies which may trouble the local reader, sometimes caused by mixing the generations in such a large number of relatives, at others times by confusing the historical background. For example, on page 25 he has Charles' second daughter Maria married to an Osborne but it should have been a Turner: it was Maria Turner's daughter Clara, known as Jean, who married John Douglass (yes, ss) Osborne. Continuing the error, on page 26 he lists that same Jean, who has lost her first husband (Beale) and become Jean Robertson, as Charles' grand-daughter when she was really his great-grand-daughter. On the historical front, Governor Franklin was not able to accompany his wife on a visit to Bustle Farm as said Governor was at home in Hobart at the time (page 17); and on page 4 the Napoleonic wars may have intruded on Charles' passage to India in 1814 but the American War Of Independence certainly did not: that war finished in 1782.

The family-tree section of the book is comprehensive, occupying 18 pages of very small

type with more than 100 names on some pages. The sheer quantity of material on these pages reflects an enormous effort on somebody's part, but the type is so small and sometimes tucked into the margin that it is difficult to read and some pages would be impossible to photocopy. But the book is well worth buying, so why resort to photocopying?

Apart from minor glitches, which after all are almost non-existent when compared to our own Bulletin, this book is a very worthwhile account of Wollongong's foremost pioneer.

Frank Osborne

Also by the same author:

South Flowing Water is Thicker than Blood, C T Smith's brief career as an explorer.
From the same address and at the same price, \$10 including postage.