gauge, then via Blaney to Carcoar, in its heyday one of the two of three most important centres in the west ("Carcoar was a town when Orange was a pup"). Mr. Peter King, Research Officer of the Carcoar Historical Society, conducted us on a tour of the town, highlights of which were the Anglican Church of St. Paul, designed by Edmund Blacket - though the design is most uncharacteristic; the Roman Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception (why did they put the foundation stone practically in the roof, and who is the saint in the stained glass window with someone's 'ead tooked oonderneath 'is is arm?); the Court House, a splendid old building which would outshine those of most Australian cities, including Sydney (it is, fortunately, being restored by the National Trust); and an old bank which was the scene of one of Ben Hall's less successful exploits. The whole town is a museum, and well deserving of its proposed preservation as a historic village.

Back to Bathurst, lunch, and four pubs with no beer (the west ain't wild any more) and return via Lithgow and Bell's Line of Road, the route from Richmond to Hartley discovered by Archibald Bell, younger of Belmont, in 1823, to Richmond and home.

The success of this trip was an excellent omen for the resumption of two-day excursions, after the lapse of several years, and suggests that there is a real future for ventures of this sort, which would enormously increase the range of territory open to us.

Our thanks are due to all those mentioned above, and to the Orange Society for their hospitality and guidance. Particular thanks are also due to Mrs. Wallace for her work as our liaison officer with the local societies, without which the successful organisation of the trip would have been impossible.

THE THOMAS FAMILY'S 130th ANNIVERSARY:

On November 30th last over 600 people assembled in the Centenary Hall at Albion Park to commemorate the 130th Anniversary of the arrival of William and Sarah Thomas in Australia. Nearly all of those present were descendants or relations by blood or marriage, and such a gathering is probably unique in the history of this district.

William and Sarah Thomas, emigrants from Kent, arrived in the barque "Westminster" with their three eldest children in 1838. Next day William was engaged by Henry Osborne to work as a carpenter on the building of Marshall Mount House. Ultimately the Thomases settled at Log Bridge Farm, Yallah. Their family increased to ten, many of whose descendants still reside in this district, while another strong contingent is established on the North Coast.

Mr. Stan Thomas was chairman of the organising committee and presided at the meeting. Speakers included Mr. Jack Hough, M.L.A., a descendant of William and Sarah through his mother Edith Thomas, Ald. Beaton, Mayor of Shellharbour, and Mr. Victor Thomas, a member of our Society.

The opportunity was also taken to launch Mr. Stan Thomas's book, "One Hundred and Thirty Years," review page 5.
The organisers are to be congratulated on their enterprise. From a historical point of view such an occasion fulfills a genuine service in drawing attention to the massive, if unspectacular contribution to the growth and development of Australia made by such families as the Thomases, pioneers of both Illawarra and the North Coast - good solid citizens who, in war and peace, did their jobs to the best of their ability. This country's debt to them and to their kind is incalculable, and it is well that they should be remembered.

"ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY YEARS. A FAMILY STORY, 1838-1968." By Stan Thomas.

(Obtainable from the Author, 21 Matthew Street, Wollongong, price $3.00).

In this attractively produced and well-illustrated little book Mr. Stan Thomas has set out primarily to trace the lives and careers of William and Sarah Thomas and their descendants. That he has been able to provide so full and complete a record is a tribute to his patient and painstaking research, and few Australian families can ever have had their history so thoroughly documented.

But the sub-title, "A Family Story," is too modest, for the book is much more than this. The first sixty pages constitute a history of the Albion Park and Marshall Mount district which no future historian of the area can afford to neglect. Aspects to which Mr. Thomas has devoted special attention are dairying and the Methodist Church - the family's special interests.

In the last section of the book "Friends and Neighbours" Mr. Thomas has also related more briefly the history of some other local families with which the Thomases were associated generation after generation.

The whole book is a record not only of one family but of a way of life, now vanished, which was typical of many Australian country families, and which has been too little recorded. Mr. Thomas has performed a real service not only to his own family, but to Illawarra, and even to Australian history.

THE INTERNATIONAL ABORIGINAL CRICKETERS v. ILLAWARRA -

A Record of "The Grand Cricket Matches" played at Wollongong, N.S.W., April and November, 1867 - Scored and with Sundries by A. P. Fleming. (Obtainable from the Museum or from the author, 11 Marr Street, Wollongong, price 40c, plus 8c postage).

Mr. Fleming's latest soundly-compiled and attractively-produced booklet is in less solemn vein than its predecessor. This time he does not talk of graves, of worms and epitaphs, but of what the editor of the "Mercury" evidently considered one of the noblest of "the arts and sciences of civilised life."

The team of Western Victorian aborigines who put Australia on the cricketing map of the world just over a century ago played two matches in Wollongong. Mr. Fleming has extracted the reports of the matches from the "Mercury," pruned them of "the redundant journalistic verbage typical of the day," and supplied the introduction, commentary and postscript necessary for a coherent and intelligible account of this interesting and little-known episode in the history of Wollongong.