"To be let or sold, as may be agreed upon, the farm of Denbigh, the property of the late Charles Hook, esq., lying in the District of Cook and consisting of 1100 acres of which about 400 are cleared and stumped and the land mostly enclosed. There are 60 acres of growing wheat and 23 in maize.

“There is a large dwelling house and other convenient out-houses on the Farm, which is eligibly situated and will prove a valuable property to the proprietors of Estates in the New Country.”

Charles Hook had received this grant in 1812 but he did not build his home there until about 10 years later when he retired from the trying business of running a commercial house in Sydney. He had reached New South Wales in June 1808 by way of Calcutta where he had been managing agent and later partner in the flourishing trading firm of Campbell and Clarke.

The Campbell of this firm was Robert Campbell the Merchant who had established himself in Sydney and was creating important trading links between India and Sydney and between Sydney and London; links which lessened the pressures of scarcity and monopoly in the colony, and gained him and his associates the approbation of Governor Bligh and the hostility of John Macarthur and the military faction.

WOLLONGONG 1837:

A Hilkiah Rossborough died in Wollongong on 27/7/1867. Was he the father of Elizabeth Rossborough? Did he reach Wollongong in 1837? These are some of the questions asked by M. R. Fryer, of 7 Matong Street, Gordon (2072) who is compiling a family tree but has become stumped!

In 1933 the only surviving brother of Elizabeth Keyes Rossborough (born 6/1/1856 in Wollongong) and married John Mackie Spence 1876 in Wollongong was Mr. J. Rossborough.

Can anyone help our correspondent who seeks the information for genealogical purposes? (Full letter with research secretary).

(Illawarra Daily Mercury please copy and prove that your paper can find the material for us!)

COBBITTY HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND CHURCHES:

For the Cobbitty excursion our president, Miss de Jersey, compiled notes on various places of interest and which will prove interesting to those who did not make the trip and a record for those who did.

Charles Hook came from Calcutta to join the Australian branch of the Campbell firm at a time of unrest and confusion in New South Wales. The problems caused by the Rum Rebellion had still to be resolved.