Bulletin (Ill. Hist. Soc. Bull., Sept., 1971, p.5) three are available at the Wollongong Public Library. They are Wells’ Geographical Dictionary 1848 (facsimile ed.), N.S.W. Calendar and Directory 1832 (facsimile ed.) (1932 is a misprint) and T. Perry’s Australia’s First Frontier, which includes a valuable chapter on the spread of settlement in Illawarra prior to 1830.

WILLS’ GAZETTEER:

W. H. Wells’ “Geographical Dictionary or Gazetteer of the Australian Colonies” appeared in 1848, and was the first published gazetteer of Australia. A facsimile edition was published in 1970 by the Council of the Library of N.S.W., and a copy of this may be seen at the Wollongong Public Library. Local subscribers to the original work included S. Addison, J.P. (Peterborough); George Brown (Dapto); N. W. Jenkins (Illawarra); H. A. Moore (Wollongong); S. Russell (Wollongong), and J. Shoubert (sic) (Illawarra).

Wells, a land surveyor, arrived in Australia in 1837 or 1838. He published a number of useful maps, including “Map of the County of Cumberland” in 1840, and “Map of the City of Sydney” in 1842. He stated that he was also the compiler of “Baker’s Australian Atlas”, 1843-6.

He was drowned crossing the Minnamurra River near Jamberoo in 1860, aged 43 years.

In his entry for the County of Camden Wells describes Lake Illawarra as “a beautiful and sublime lake, transparent as crystal, and shining as a mirror. [No pollution then!]”

A GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY; OR GAZETTEER OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES: Their Physical and Political Geography, TOGETHER WITH A BRIEF NOTICE OF ALL THE CAPITALS, PRINCIPAL TOWNS, AND VILLAGES; ALSO OF RIVERS, BAYS, GULFS, MOUNTAINS, POPULATION AND GENERAL STATISTICS. ILLUSTRATED WITH NUMEROUS MAPS AND DRAWINGS.

By WILLIAM HENRY WELLS, SURVEYOR SYDNEY: PUBLISHED BY W. & F. FORD, GEORGE STREET. M.DCCC.XLVIII.