OBITUARY:

A link with the earliest history of Wollongong has been broken by the death, at the great age of 93, of Mrs. Jean Robertson, a member of this Society for over thirty years. She was the great-granddaughter, on her father's side, of Dr. John Osborne, and on her mother's side, of Charles Throsby Smith. She herself was born and spent her childhood in Wollongong, to which she returned for much of her later life.

Mrs. Robertson was gifted with a remarkable memory. Although she insisted on anonymity, it was an open secret that she was the author of "An Octogenarian Remembers," the detailed and most interesting reminiscences which were read to the Society by her daughter Mrs. King some years ago. The Society, and the editor in particular, were deeply indebted to her for the clearing-up of many doubtful points which arose during the production of our sesquicentenary booklet, "Earliest Illawarra." The miscellaneous enquiries to which she supplied answers, from her own first-hand recollection, or from the recollections of earlier generations passed on to her in her youth, were innumerable; and seldom, if ever, were her answers found wanting in any way. Not the least of her services to local historical studies was in passing on her own interest to the next generation.

Above all Mrs. Robertson has left with all who knew her the memory of a charming and courteous lady, who carried into the modern world the ways and outlook of a simpler and more gracious age, recalling Boswell's description of "a little woman, of a genteel appearance, and uncommonly mild and well-bred." To her son and daughters and their families we offer our sincere sympathy.

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The Society has lost an enthusiastic supporter by the death of Miss Ruby Stanbridge, an old member and a generous benefactor. A further note by a lifelong friend will appear in a later issue.