tracking,—his thorough knowledge of the bush, his quickness of sight in marking any changes in appearance of the ground, where others would see nothing to observe. On this occasion, we are told, his tact in this respect was astonishing, and often his companions were kept on the run through rushes in the swamp and over bare rocks, where no marks were visible to them. It may not be generally known that it was Mr. Rixon that discovered the body of Gorman in the Cataract River, a fortnight back, after several days spent by other parties in the search. On that occasion he went from his neighborhood to the spot, made a canoe of bark, and shortly found the body. We have in him all that sagacity or instinct belonging to the aboriginal in these respects, coupled with a considerable degree of that intelligence belonging to our own race. If he succeeds in this, as he surely will, the public should take some steps to mark their estimation of his extraordinary service.

—ILLAWARRA MERCURY, 13 April, 1857.
(The sequel will appear in a later Bulletin)

THE BLOW FAMILY

In connection with the Blow family reunion announced in the August Bulletin, Mr. Doug Blow of Albion Park has provided us with this sketch of the history of the family:

John Blow was born in County Monaghan, Ireland, in 1796, and arrived in Australia, with his third wife Ann and four children of a previous marriage, on the "Susan" on 10th March, 1839, after eight months at sea.

They first stayed with a Mr. Shortridge near Wollongong. At the time of the 1841 census John and Ann Blow were working for J. Osborne at Garden Hill, Wollongong, their household consisting of six free persons, including a baby John. Their son William, his wife Catherine (nee Miller) and baby were residing in another house on the same property. From 1840 to 1856 John and William and their young wives brought seventeen Blow children into the area. They later bought a farm near Dapto from James Shoobert and lived there.

In 1850 John and Ann Blow, with a family of ten children, moved by bullock-dray to the Foxground Valley, where they were the first white settlers. They took up a holding of 330 acres just outside the northern boundary of the Berry estate. They first lived in a home with split slab walls and bark roof, and proceeded to clear the very densely timbered country for dairy farming.

Foxground was named after the thousands of flying foxes that camped there by day. Thirteen of John and Ann's family started out from Foxground and the family are now thousands strong and spread all over Australia.

William Blow, the eldest son, who stayed on at Dapto, died in 1856 and is buried in Brownsville C. of E. cemetery. He had seven children and there are now about 2,000 descendants from him alone.