

Alexander Riley, secretary. Headquarters, Sydney, January 20th, 1809."

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1898.**

## History of Newcastle

AND THE

### Northern District.

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#### TELLIGERRY CREEK DISCOVERED.

On 22nd December, 1806, Dr. Throsby had returned from Newcastle to perform duty at Sydney, but Lieutenant-Governor Paterson induced him to accompany Lieutenant Lawson in the vessel *Estramina* to Newcastle to re-organise the settlement. About the 22nd of January, 1809, the vessel left Sydney Cove, having on board the new commandant, Lieutenant Lawson, Dr. Throsby, W. Davidson, and Mr. Kent. A strong southerly wind blew the vessel to Port Stephens. Rather than wait for the wind to change, the officials named determined to walk to Newcastle. For upwards of 12 hours their tour or exploring trip was along the deep sandy beach for a distance of 20 miles. As the weather was extremely sultry they suffered much from thirst, and their hands and faces were much scorched by the burning sun. This was the first survey of the coast between Port Stephens and the Hunter River, and it was not without some advantage productive of future benefit to the colony. Dr. Throsby had every reason to suppose from the observations he had made, strengthened by information given him by tribes of natives he met, that

there was a fine fresh water river in the neighbourhood, and that the banks of this extensive river were wooded with immense quantities of cedar. He had discovered Telligerry Creek, which runs from Port Stephens for several miles in a southerly direction towards the Hunter River near Newcastle. They saw the hills north of Fullerton Cove, which Barrallier had called Mount Balmain, and it was surmised the Williams River (then called the Hunter), joined the waters of Port Stephens, but this idea was proved to be fallacious. The natives referred to the head of the Williams River then unsurveyed, and where beautiful cedar abounded. At that time the natives also spoke of the Myall River, the Broadwater and Myall Lake, noble sheets of water at the head of the Myall River, formed by the expansion of the river. The lake is 17 miles long and six miles broad. When Dr. Throsby's exploring party reached Fullerton Cove they found the vicinity abounding in black swans, pelicans, ducks, and every description of water fowl known in the colony. Two days after the party reached Newcastle the *Estramina* sailed from Port Stephens and anchored in Newcastle harbour. After being freighted with coal and cedar, the vessel left the port on 1st February, 1809, having on board Lieutenant Villiers and his wife, Dr. Throsby, and Messrs. Davidson and Kent, who had been on an expedition up the Hunter River for several days.

#### A FEARFUL FLOOD IN THE HUNTER IN 1809.

One of the most dreadful floods which ever took place in the Hunter River was experienced in August, 1809. The *Sydney Gazette*, of Sunday, August 15th, 1809, records the remarkable event in these words:—"On Thursday (August 12th, 1809) came in her Majesty's armed tender *Lady Nelson* from Hunter's River, with coals and cedar. Mr. Owrard, the master, informs us that a very heavy inundation took place in the river at the time of the late flood at the Hawkesbury which occasioned a rise of ten to twelve feet (at Newcastle) from the usual level, and that