

## **John Oxley - notebook and letters, 1815-1823, 1888, 1895. ML MSS 589**

Notebook, 1815-1823, Illus.

Contents include accounts of tours by Macquarie, 1815; Oxley's first expedition 1817; and, at back a fair copy of G.W Evans' letter to Macquarie, 13 May – 12 June 1815. Detailed contents list with volume.

One of the pages at the back bears the inscription 'Evan's Journal' but this appears to have been added later.

Together with A.L.S. Rev. A.C. Geikie to Surveyor General, from Bathurst 30 June 1888 re notebook and enquiring about Evans, Bathurst and the Blue Mountains road; with reply, 3 July 1888 and A.L.S. K.F. Suttor to J.R. Tyrrell, from Vaucluse, 28 Mar. 19--? Re notebook.

Bathurst

Blue Mountains

Evans, George William – Letters by

Macquarie, Lachlan

New South Wales – Exploration

### Oxley Note Book – Contents

[margin note] Mr Tyrell compiled in ML many years ago S M

1. Ap.26 – My 10 1815 – Macquarie's tour of inspection of new discovered country  
Not Evans See May 7 Entry.

Oxley and Evans both on this tour.

M.L. has Macquarie's and Antill's journals.

2. Oct. 5 1815 Macquarie's tour to Cowpastures

Oxley on that tour but not Evans.

M.L. has Macquarie's journal.

3. Ap. 2 – 27 1817 Oxley's first expedition

Evans and Oxley both on that expedition.

Text corresponds with that of Oxley's printed journal.

4. Oct. 3 – 16 1820 Visit to Blue Mountains and to Bathurst

Fair copy in Oxley's Field Book A1605 which continues to Oct. 28.

5. Sketches

### Back of Volume

1. Maps Pitt's Amphitheatre, Sidmouth Valley.

Various jottings of figures, some dated 30 Ap. May 4 1815.

On one of these pages, in modern hand "Evan's Journal".

2. Fair copy of Evans' letter to Macquarie, My.13 – Je 12,1815

Printed in HRA 1,8, 611 et seq.

3. Meteorological notations undated 1 p.

On opposite page and on verso of 3 following pages are some faint sketches.

4. Ap.28, 1817. Oxley's letter from Lewes Creek on the Lachlan: draft.

See signature on last p.

The original letter is in the Colonial Secretary's Papers, Oxley Volume p.36. Over the sketches mentioned above are two notes summarising the text 'Boats' and 'Shooting a Native' in a modern hand, possibly the same as that which wrote 'Evans' Journal'.

5. Ap.28 1818 Position of Macquarie Lighthouse.

See reference in Macquarie Diary 29 Ap. 1818 "description of lighthouse at S. Head taken yesterday and furnished by Mr. Oxley."

Report printed in HRA 1, 9, 789.

6. Feb. 17 – Mar 1 [1823] Visit to Bathurst and beyond

Fair copy of Feb. 17 – 19 only in Oxley's Field Bk 1820 - 4 A1605 headed

Barometrical observations taken on the road to Bathurst.  
[margin note] Oxley Washington

[Above are entry notes from microfilmed records]

Journal  
of an  
expedition  
over part of the  
Terra Incognita of Australasia

Performed by command  
of the British Government  
of the Territory of New South  
Wales, in the year 1817.  
By John Oxley, Esq.  
Surveyor General of the Territory,  
And late Lieutenant R.N.

[indecipherable] E1/2 N 16 miles  
Supposed Pigeon house from Mt [indecipherable] range. S38 W -Sykes farm, E.10d  
dist about 10 miles

From Mount Saurus remarkably Conical Mountain S42W, Mt Broughton in Appin E22  
S – Sykes Farm S 85 W – a remarkable Rock [indecipherable] which [indecipherable]  
River apparently winds S10W –

[indecipherable] from 26<sup>th</sup> mile of a Western Road bearing N15 W - [indecipherable]  
from Mt Hunter N35 [indecipherable] about Pitts [indecipherable] N55W – Mr  
[indecipherable] house N22E - [indecipherable] House E3N

[page 1]

26 April, arrived at the First Station in the Mountains, the road to which from Emu  
Plains, lies for the greater part through a Good Forest country, which tho'  
considerably elevated, presents no Hill or any other impediment of consequence.  
The ascent from Emu Plains is gradual, to the summit of the First range of Hills and  
from thence continues nearly level to this Station, which the Governor named  
Springwood Park and not unaptly, as the Water is procured from a fine Spring  
gushing from a rocky fissure in the Mountain, and the whole immediate  
neighbourhood produces, most excellent Grass and Good Wood - ~~on the~~  
~~Barometer~~[indecipherable] for us it was unfortunately

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~~mention this in the introduction~~ found to be defective, so that the intention of  
measuring the Elevations of this Mountainous Tract was [indecipherable]  
27<sup>th</sup> April – Left [indecipherable] [indecipherable] on our route, and about 12 arrived  
at Caleys Repulse, a Pile of Stones, ~~through a [indecipherable]~~ beyond which an  
adventurer of that name was deterred from proceeding. Our course lay through a  
Barren, and rocky country the sides of the [indecipherable], almost meeting on each  
side of the road, the Top of the Mountain in some places not 100 yards wide From  
Caleys Pile, a lofty hill over the Lower [indecipherable] of the Hawkesbury N 34 ½ E,

the North Point a High Hill between abt 38 Et - [indecipherable] of the Hawkesbury N  
58 ¼ Et – Centre of a Saddle Hill

[margin note: drawing]

N 48W – South End of Prospect Hill S 00 ½ Et- From this Station the road winds  
along the sides of the Hills which are in many places extremely narrow, it being  
impossible to diverge either to the right or left on account of dark and rocky ravines

The country both to the North and South is broken into deep rocky [indecipherable]  
covered with dwarf trees, and shrubs, presenting as a desolate Barren and forbidding  
appearance. The road itself is in many places extremely difficult for Carriages, the  
assents and descents being extremely Short and Abrupt at the 26<sup>th</sup> Mile we reached  
what is considered the Highest point of the Mountains, ~~from~~ where the View was  
grand and Magnificent in the extreme, an irregular broken rocky country ~~of lays~~  
~~immediately under us~~ formed the fore ground ~~lays immediately under us~~ formed the  
fore Ground beyond the range which forms the first Barrier from the Nepean river, the  
low lands of the Hawkesbury were distinctly seen. Many reaches of that river broke  
the sameness of the View, and gave it a character, which no other scene in this  
Country [indecipherable]. The school House at Windsor, was by the assistance of a  
glass telescope made to form a part of

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this delightful Prospect; further to the South, the Cleared lands of Castle and  
Prospect Hills, reflected by the setting sun presented affects equally Beautiful and  
Interesting, immediately for [indecipherable] Right North and ~~left~~ South of us, the  
country seemed broken as if by some Grand convulsion of Nature, perpendicular  
rocky Cliffs, separating the different ranges of Hills, and presenting a seemingly  
impassable Barrier, to all attempts to penetrate in those [indecipherable] whilst the  
desolate appearance of ~~the Hills~~ through Barren mountains and the deep Gloom of  
the ravines, extinguished all wish to ~~penetrate~~ pierce into their recesses. Upon the  
whole the View from this Spot, embraces a greater [indecipherable] & variety of  
~~aspects~~ Scenery, than would be seeming than ~~I should have~~ would be conceived  
possible from by persons accustomed to the uninteresting sameness of Wood and  
Hill which forms for the most part, the principal objects [indecipherable]  
[indecipherable]

elevated situations in this singular country. The South End of Prospect Hill E 4 2/3  
degree Sth School House at Windsor E 27 ½ ° No. – Saddle Hill – N.15 ° W The  
elevations on which we now ~~were was~~ stood is named the Kings Table Land and is  
about a Square Mile in Extent, being terminated on the S and West, by ~~the~~ most  
tremendous Chasms the opposite sides of these dismal Valleys being perpendicular  
rocks of the most irregular formations, as if some horrible ~~convulsion of Nature~~  
earthquake had thrown them into a Variety of Fantastic Shapes resembling Gothic  
Spires, and ruined Columns ~~and vast broken~~ [indecipherable] of [indecipherable], we  
were not sufficiently close to know of what species of Stone, [indecipherable]  
[indecipherable] [indecipherable] but supposed it Sand Stone. The Valley boundary

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the Table Land, abruptly terminates at the Halting Place which is about 2 miles ~~from~~  
~~the Spot~~ further on the road. ~~What~~ The road itself continues on the ridge 28 Miles  
from the Nepean – plenty of Water, but a most desolate and abandoned Spot.  
28 April – Proceeded on the road along the ridge of the Mountains, in many places  
very stoney, with ~~abrupt~~ steep ascents, at the 32 Mile, the Country Broke to the  
South into one Vast Amphitheatre - a Conical Hill bore S12 ° Et West Point of a Table  
Mountain S 12 W - Centre Hummock of another Table Hill S 37 ½ W- an immense  
Map of Rock presented a perpendicular Wall to the South and extended East and

West nearly Two Miles being separated from the Mountains on each side by perpendicular steep Cliffs

of a similar appearance, distant rocky Mountains appeared the Rocks nearest us, which seemed like an [indecipherable] [indecipherable] in the Midst of a Vast concavity, all access to which appeared denied by this singular semicircular wall. Two Conical Saddle Hills S E BS To this sublime [indecipherable] the Magnificent area Governor Macquarie gave the named of Pete's Amphitheatre. The road now became extremely difficult for carriages & very distressing to the Horses, deep ravines bound each side of the road at the 39 Miles, the country again open to the South. The opposite side of the Glen, presented a perpendicular Wall, of many coloured Stones and continued in a right line with the Road, and of equal Height.

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untill the 41 Mile, where we stopped for the Night, this extensive Valley here terminated, and its Southern Barrier, broke off in upright precipitous Cliffs to the SW – the same Governor ~~bestowed on it~~ called this valley by the Name of the Regents Glen. Nothing can be more uninviting than this place, the water ~~lays~~ lies in a Swampy Hollow to the right of the road.

29<sup>th</sup> April

The road continued to wind along the highest ridge of the Mountains and was in some places very difficult for the Carts – at 42 ½ Miles the Country again opened to the left, and gave us a View of some very Hilly Forest Land, which the Mountain seemed to enclose ~~as with a Wall at~~ on all sides. Between the 48 & 49 Mile we arrived at the Termination of the lofty ridge on which we had hitherto been

travelling, the View from the point to the N. Westward was extremely pleasing the Mountains, here broke off abruptly ~~off~~ and presented a perpendicular ~~Wall~~ Front to the Plain below, which although surrounded by Hills, and of no great extent, had an [indecipherable] Park like Inviting appearance, the descent from the Mountains faced the East, & the road turned Short round into the Plain which we had viewed from ~~above~~ them, all further access to the East being denied, by rocky Hills, similar to that, from which we had just descended; during the whole course of the Journey to this Point, I did not ~~observe~~ perceive the possibility of diverging either to the right or left, of the Track here - [indecipherable], nature seeming to have formed this Pass, as the only outlet in this direction from the astonishing ranges of Mountains

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rocks and ravines which have continued the whole way and without any Intermission from the banks of the Nepean River. The road by which we descended the Mountain, was truly a Wonderful atchievement; and it was a matter of extreme astonishment to my Mind, how it had been constructed. In many places nature seemed determined to prevent any access to the land of Promise, and the greatest perseverance and Ingenuity must have been exerted to surmount the difficulties which everywhere presented themselves. On arriving at the bottom of this Grand Pass I feel at a loss to imagine how we are to get up again, with Carriages and Baggage Carts. Observed the [indecipherable] M D. Alte. at the extreme highest point of the Mountain to be S 4 ° 6' 20" -

Error of the Inst. + 20" – To determine the Height of the Mountain just descended the Following observations were taken – from Station 1 [indecipherable] Gum Tree – Elevation of Highest Point of Observed Latitude 18° 21' - bearing W 34 ° S – Highest Point of Mount, Opposite side of Valley 21 ° 25' – bearing E 18 ½ ° N. – Base S 44 ° E – 16'30 Chains – First Mt. 14 ° 25' Mt opposite 22 ° 06' – N 30 ° E. The road from the Mountain to our halting place for the Evening, was through an Open Forest Country,

[indecipherable] covered with Grass though the Soil was not good being a coarse sandy Gravel, the Hills were Gentle, and they seemed to wind round the Mountains, and communicate with the Regents Glen, and other deep ravines to the South West,. 5 Miles from the Mountains we stopped at the Junction

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of two Small Streams, one running from the Eastward, the other from the Westd. Their united Waters made a very pretty little rivulet the channel of which presented ~~Having~~ a character quite new novel in New South Wales, ~~the~~ Channels being composed of Granitic Stones, the Bases of the Hills washed by its course, and also of Granite, which when broke had a very beautiful appearance. The whole country had the appearance of being New. The Trees were chiefly of the Gum Eucalyptus genus, and of diminutive Growth. The Tree known by the name of the Swamp Oak, in the Old Country, ~~was~~ is however an Exception, and Grows here to a very considerable size. The appearance of this station was extremely pleasing, and the Gurgling of the Waters in their rocky Channel ~~had~~ produced an effect X  
[indecipherable] Mr. Allen says there is plenty of granite at the 5 Islands

to which none of ~~the~~ our Party had been witness on the other side of the Mountain, where the Streams uniformly run over sandy Bottoms. This Rivulet, after the union the of Two Streams, the Governor named Cox's River, the Grand Pass over the Mountains was also named after the same Gentleman, who had with such Perseverance and Industry accomplished so important an overtaking. The mountain itself received the Name of Mt. York. The Weather continued delightfully fine and Pleasant, and there was no appearance of any rain having recently fallen in this Part of the Country.

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Found the height of Mt York to be 726 feet above the level of the Valley beneath, its Lat. 33&deg. 33' 05 Sd. ~~After Breakfast~~ Being Sunday divine service was performed, which in this sequestered Place was [indecipherable] impressive. The service being ended the Governor and Party, rode to Mt. Blaxland, abt 3 Miles to the Westd. of the tents, leaving our Horses at the Bottom, we ascended with considerable Fatigue, and the [indecipherable] from it by no means [indecipherable] our Labour. York Mount bore from [indecipherable] 85° Ed. and the Forest Land of the Vale of Clwydd [indecipherable] entirely surrounded by very high [indecipherable].

1<sup>st</sup> May, We proceeded on our journey, through the most difficult hilly, and rocky country, which fatigued both Men and Horses, more, than any part of the Land called the Blue Mts. Our Elevation at times was very [indecipherable] from the greatest Heights the [indecipherable]

was confined, as we appeared to be travelling through a Country, the Hills of which were mainly of equal Elevation. The Range upon which we principally travelled commenced at Mt. Blaxland and only terminated at the Fish River – a distance of nearly 13 Miles, this [indecipherable] range the Governor called [indecipherable] Hilly Range, and it was well denominated Hilly. There was good grazing however, nearly the whole way and though every Valley ran a small Stream of Water, the Soil was uniformly of a loose sandy Gravel, the Tops of the Hills, Granite Banks and [indecipherable] Stones, [indecipherable] of the Carts, did not arrive till 6 o'clock and the whole

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party were much fatigued, and perhaps in some measure disappointed. From the time of our ~~descent~~ from Mount York, I have not seen an Acre of Land, that would give a Blade of Wheat, the Country broken and Hilly beyond Description, the

[indecipherable] uniformly stunted and of [indecipherable] Growth, and yet there appeared plenty of Good Grass. The Spot where we Stopped was entirely surrounded with High Hills, and the Fish river, had owing I suppose to dry Weather degenerated into a sm. Brook, running over a Stoney Bottom, plenty of Fish ~~had been~~ was procured from it, but I do not think they were of a very superior quality.

The Night was extremely cold, and at 7 in the Morning the Therm. was 40 °. 2<sup>nd</sup> May – at 10 am. set out in prosecution of our Journey. The road for the 1<sup>st</sup> Mile and half led up a very steep hill, but for the remainder of the Stage, was the best and easiest for the Horses that we had yet travelled. The soil was uniformly the same, a very light sandy Gravel, without a [indecipherable] that would yield a Foot of Timber at 28 ½ Miles, stopped in a very pretty Valley, leading from the Sidmouth Hills to the Fish River, in heavy rains, this Valley receives the Water from the surrounding Country, and conveys it to the river, but it was now

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dry, the Country Grass had been lately burnt, but it had again begun to Spring, and afforded a sufficiency for our Horses. The Valley lies N<sup>d</sup> and S<sup>d</sup> and our Tents were about 4 Miles from the River in that direction, one of our Party was on a fishing expedition to the River and returned Late having met with good success, he also shot an Ornithorhynchus paradoxus, similar as in form to those found on the [indecipherable] of the Mountains, its Colour was considerably darker, a Rosehill Bird parrot was also shot, a new Species of Crow.

3 May [indecipherable] on our Journey, through [indecipherable] [indecipherable] [indecipherable] different Country, but it

afforded good Grass, and the Hills are not so thick; at 36 ½ miles turned off to the right from the road, and after riding [indecipherable] 4 Miles, saw the River near O'Connel Plains, the wide of the Country we passed soil was light and sandy. O'Connel Plains comprise a considerable portion of Flat land near the Banks of the river, on high sides, Good Quality, exclusive of the Flooded Land, a large space is entirely clear of Wood, and the land tho' Gravelly, by no means of bad Quality, these downs and Flats are bounded by gently rising Forest land, thinly wooded, and affords excellent grazing. The [indecipherable] of the Country, extremely pleasing our View to the Southward was bounded by a considerable range

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of Hills, thinly wooded, and up - apparently affording good Pastures, contained our ride up down the South Bank of the River, as the [indecipherable] [indecipherable] of the Clear Space of O'Connel Plains, a range of Hills, of Moderate Height run from the So. The [indecipherable] of the River, and continue along its bank for about 4-4½ Miles a mile & a half. The soil of these hills is but indifferent, but light and Gravelly, but it produces good Grass – on clearing these Hills, the west Macquarie Plains commence, and present to the View, one of the most beautiful Prospects imaginable, the land Clear of Trees on both sides of the River is of Great extent, the country being entirely open to the Westward & bounded on the North and South

by the finest Hills that can be conceived, thinly ~~covered~~ spotted with diminutive timber continued riding down the river, until we came to the Junction of the [indecipherable][indecipherable] with it, from hence to the South the country rises in gentle Hills, to the North, and West and, Beautiful downs and rising Hills, alone bounded our Progress we proceeded up Campbell River for about 2 Miles through until a Hilly and not a very fertile country, until we arrived at our Tents. Campbell River, though these are many long reaches, and [indecipherable] of Water, is at present, but a continued chain of Standing Water. The rain however must make

a very considerable difference in its appearance, as it apparently receives the Water from

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all the High Grounds to the S and Et.

4 May ~~after breakfast~~ rode up Campbell River to View Mitchell Plains, which are but comparatively of small extent, the soil is however Good, and the Grass abundant. Vast numbers of the Platypus were seen in the Ponds, returned down the River, to the Tents, crossed the Bridge over it, and proceeded on our Journey to Bathurst Plains through one of the finest formed Countries that can be conceived. The road, most excellent, at 2 arrived at Headquarters on the Macquarie River, the Tents were pitched on a most beautiful

eminence, commanding Live fine Reaches of the River, and a Prospect unequalled in New South Wales & more resembling, a highly cultivated and civilized ~~very settled~~ Country, than one in its ~~Natural~~ Primitive state of Nature, a few ~~of the~~ Native black men were seen ~~with the~~ [indecipherable] here, and appeared astonished and alarmed beyond Measure at the formidable Cavalcade. They soon however became reconciled and appeared a harmless inoffensive race, resembling in almost every particular, the Natives on the East Coast, though, I think in a [indecipherable] more miserable and degraded State.

May 5. Rode over to Bathurst and Macquarie Plains

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to View the Country, saw several Emu and Native Dogs

May 6<sup>th</sup> – Crossed the River, and rode in a Northern Direction to View a small Stream, [indecipherable] to running at the Back of the Downs, and at the Foot of the Northern Hills.

May 7<sup>th</sup> ~~after breakfast~~ The Gov<sup>r</sup> approached the people and after complimenting in a very Handsome Manner, W Cox for his exertion in making the road, and Mr Evans for his [indecipherable] in effecting the discovery of so fine a Country, he gave the intended Town the name of Bathurst, in Honor of the Secy of State for the Colonies. Our small party of soldiers fired three vollies, the Kings Health Health was Drunk, and Three cheers were given by the assembled Company, ~~con~~

~~cluded the ceremony~~, [indecipherable] sensations of pleasure being felt by every one present, at [indecipherable] such a ceremony in so remote a Country, and under such circumstances. Divine service was afterwards performed, ~~with~~ and an appropriate Sermon read.

May 8<sup>th</sup> – The Gov<sup>r</sup> and Party proceeded to the SWBG for about 18 Miles, and returned in a more Eastern Direction. They found the Country fit for every purpose both of Agriculture and Grazing, [indecipherable] [indecipherable] the Tumber [indecipherable], the Hills of gentle and easy ascent.

May 9<sup>th</sup> Proceeded down the River as far as [indecipherable], the Country generally the same, the Tops of some of the Ranges, Rocky and Barren. The Pines small and [indecipherable] scattered over rocky

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Hills, being of the same species as the Pine of the Middle Harbour in Port Jackson, a fine open country to the South, well watered, The Rocks on the tops of the High Hills, Granite and Porphyry, except Mt. Pleasant, which was entirely formed of a different kind, possibly the same as Prospect Hill to the East and the top covered with small sharp stones in a uniform Manner.

10<sup>th</sup> May The natives to the Nr. of 14 Visited us, they showed the most perfect confidence, some without arms and seemed highly

gratified with the Presents that were made them by the Governor. It is somewhat singular that we have not seen any of their Women whom they sidulously seem to keep out of sight.

~~Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May a very thick fog which has more or less, been the case every Mornng. since our arrival, the Nights have been very cold, and the Days Hotter than usual.~~

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Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> From the Tents on the Stone Quarry Creek to Natai, where the Country opens to the West in deep precipitous, distance 8¼ Miles, 2hrs. 15' – from the Bluff Point of Natai, it was impossible to proceed in a direct eastern direction our Guide wound round it and we proceeded in a WSW direction 2¼

Miles up a deep and Romantic Valley, Named by the Govr. Glencoe at 2¼ it Terminated, and a Valley of immense depth and Breadth appeared before us, the descent into which was so abrupt and Craggy, that it was necessary to leave our Horses as it was intended to descend and

View the Course of the River, opening from this Broken and lofty range of Hills. After one of the most rugged, and indeed dangerous descents we proceeded about 3 Miles [indecipherable] West along the Bottom of this deep and tremendous Valley we arrived on the banks of the Natai River, a fine stream of water, of easy access, running a Northern course, untill its supposed Junction with the Warragamba, of which it is [indecipherable] a principal branch. This River is evidently formed by the deep Gullies that branch abruptly from every point of the Natai and South Western range of Hills.

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1817 April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Bar. 299 Bar. 298

29.590 29.695

Therm. 68

1817 April 9<sup>th</sup>

[Margin note] 590

417

30.007

26.825

Ther. 52¼ 27.242 Zero

Shade 48 –

50½

68 2691 feet above Sydney Cove

118

59

April 10<sup>th</sup>. From the 32 Mile on the Western road, Conical Hill in Wingecaribee N167½. The cold in the Night severe at 5 in the Morning Therm. 40° arrived at ½ past 3 at Hounslow Heath, ~~the Cart Horses being unable to go any further stopped for the Night at Hounslow Heath.~~ Higher than the last station, 527 feet.

April 11<sup>th</sup> Set forward on our Journey. On the Highest summit of Mt. York made the following obsns.

Highest Part

Bar. 26.745

Altd. Therm. 54½

Detd. Dr 55½ 55

Height of Mt York above the Sea 3218 feet

795 feet



Lowest in Valley  
Bar. 27.525  
Altd. Therm. 58½  
Detd. 59+  
795 feet

We found the road down the Mountain much worse, than when I last descended in 1815. Portions of the upper side of the Road had fallen in, and the rain had washed deep and dangerous Ruts in many places –

~~Many new Plants picked up on the Descent, and in the Valley – at ½ past 3 arrived at Cox River.~~

The Highest Point of Mount York, above the Valley below found by the Obs. other side to be 795 feet. Cox's river is [indecipherable] by the Junction of 2 small Streams, rising in the East & West, the Valley at their Junction appears to be the lowest Ground to the Westward of the Grand Blue Mtn. range, the Waters here separate, the Dividing range of Hills, being those called the "Clarences Hilly Range."

April 12<sup>th</sup> Last night the Mercury on the Ther. 2° below the freezing point, Barm. 27.957 Barm. in Valley Mt. York

Altd. Ther. 53½ 27.525 -  
Detd. Dr. 47 at Cox's River  
50

In valley Mt York 59

109

Mean Ther. 55 The Junction of the Two small Streams at Cox's River, 430 feet lower than the Valley under Mt. York. The Ground in the Morning

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covered with a Hoar Frost, at 9 proceeded on our Journey over Clarence Hilly range, I think the road even worse, than when I went over it before, being in many places so swampy as to be almost impassable. ~~The Carts did not arrive at the Fish River until near 8 o'clock in the Evening. The Draft Horses being entirely knocked up, the Bullocks were obliged to draw both Carts, the latter part of the Journey. The old Veteran who had been dispatched the day before, to Bathurst, was found here, being unable to proceed from [indecipherable] and when we arrived was almost famished.~~ The distance between Cox River and Fish's River abt 15½ Miles.

April 13<sup>th</sup>. Fine Pleasant clear Wr. The Ther in the night 28° The Winds have been Westerly since the 9<sup>th</sup>. at the Fish River

Barm 27,484 459 but Higher than at

Alt. Ther 43½ Cox's river.

Det. ditto 44

proceeded on our Journey, crossed the Carts over the River safely, although much swelled, the Roads to Sidmouth Valley good, the Valleys and Bottoms of the Hills Swampy - at 12 in Sidmouth Valley, ~~the Grass much burnt by the [indecipherable] at [indecipherable] at 4 Stopped for the Night in a small valley about 5 miles from Campbell River, pleasant Wr. Clear with little Wind. During the Evening and Night, distant Thunder, accompanied with Heavy showers of Rain.~~

April 14. In the Morning, the Weather Cleared up, but continues Cloudy and Threatening. Proceeded on our Journey, at ½ past 11 arrived at Bathurst. In the Evening Much Thunder & Lightning with Heavy rain, Cleared up in the Evening Fine Clear Night.

April 15<sup>th</sup>. ~~Thick fog, which cleared up before 10.~~ The industrious hands of Man had been busy in improving the Beautiful Works of Nature

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since my last Visit to this Place, a Good substantial House for the Superintendt had been erected, the Govt Grounds fenced in, the Stockyards showing the abundant Produce of the last Harvest, had [indecipherable] hard the labour bestowed on the [indecipherable]. The fine Healthy thriving appearance of the Flocks and Herds, was a convincing proof how admirably adapted these extensive downs and Thinly wooded Hills are for the Grazing, more particularly of sheep. The Mind Dwelt with pleasure on the Eden, that at no very distant period, these secluded Vales would be covered with Flocks bearing the richest and most Valuable Fleeces, and contribute in no small degree, to the prosperity, of the Eastern Settlements. The people preparing every thing for our departure which

[margin note: Mention this in the Introduction]

is fixed for Friday, the baggage setting off the day before. Mr. Cox's health will prevent him from accompanying us, which I much regret, as I had [indecipherable] myself much assistance from his local knowledge, and the previous arrangement having been made under his direction.

April 16<sup>th</sup>. In the Morning a Thick fog midday Calm and Clear, at Noon the Barometer 28,037 Alt Ther. 69½ - [indecipherable] in shade 68½ - Bathurst 550 feet lower than the Fish River - In the aft. [indecipherable] [indecipherable] & Light with heavy rain which continued with little intermission throughout the Night. The Wind from N N W to N W.

April 17<sup>th</sup> Still continues raining which prevents the Baggage from setting off as intended. The Road up Q. C. Valley being so boggy, it would be [indecipherable] for the [indecipherable] to [indecipherable]

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the Macquarie has risen a good deal and the Stream down the vale is much increased. In the aftn, it cleared up, but the River and the Stream in the Vales have both risen considerably the low Grounds of the Vale being under Water. A fine Clear Night.

April 18, A Beautiful Clear Morning the Waters in the Vale, had fallen, but the River had risen, and in some places was Bank high, the fullness of the River added much to the Beauty of this Scenery, giving it that Variety it so much wanted, if the Weather continues fine I purpose to send off the Baggage horses Tomorrow, and follow the Next day. The Natives Yesterday [indecipherable] the Men employed on getting [indecipherable] taking away an [indecipherable] and have it [indecipherable], they were pursued but within [indecipherable].

April 19. Having been hitherto detained ~~here by~~ at Bathurst by the rain this : ] ~~Fine Pleasant Morning this Morning, the weather proving River falling much, the Wind Vble.~~ fine, we Sent off the Bathr. Horses, with the remainder of the Provisions, Instruments & Baggage for the Lachlan River, intending to follow them tomorrow Morning.

The soil in the immediate Height of Bathurst is for [indecipherable] 6 Inches composed of a light Black vegetable Mould, laying on a Stratum 18 Inches Deep of Sand of a poorer description mixed with small stones, Under which is a [indecipherable] of Strong Clumping [indecipherable]. The hills are ~~Stoney~~ covered with small Gravel, the under soil light & Sandy having Clay underneath. The Low flats on the immediate Borders of the River, are evidently formed by Washings from the Hills & Vallees, deposited by Floods, and the overflowing of the Water Courses.

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Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>. ~~Fair but Cloudy at 10a~~ proceeded on our Journey towards the Lachlan – at 2p arrived at the Head of Queen Charlottes Valley, passing through a fine open Grazing Country, the Soil on the Hills and in the Vale, a light Clayey loam

occasionally intermixed with sand & Gravel. The Ground for the last 10 Miles very Boggy. The Trees small and stunted being entirely Eucalypts. The Plants and Grasses both on the Hills & in the Vales [indecipherable] X [indecipherable] [indecipherable] The Hills frequently closed in stoney points on the Valley and [indecipherable] Granite. Saw Wild Turkeys and 2 very large Black Eagles. ~~In the aftn. A slight Shower~~ Travelled abt. 18 Miles. Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> ~~Fine Pleasant Mr.~~ at ½ past 7 proceeded on our Journey which for the Greater part of the

Way lay along stoney ridges (the Quartzs & Granites) and for the last Six Miles over a Country much wooded with the grown Gum and Stringy Bark Trees, thickly interspersed with young Eucalypts etc. The Grass tolerably Good & in Plenty, much more so, than the appearance of the Soil, which is a Sandy Clay would seem to Promise, at 3 p. The Bath. Horses being very much fortified stopped under the Point of Rocky Hill for the Evening, Water Holes [indecipherable] under the Hill. ~~distance~~ travelled 14 or 15 Miles.

Tuesday April 22d A Clear and Frosty Morning, last night was the Coldest we have yet experienced, the Ther. being at 6.O Clock as low as 26° A Tin Pot with water brought out of a running stream, was [indecipherable] over the [indecipherable] of a [indecipherable] in little

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more than an hour. We felt the Cold indeed most severely, being far beyond what we had been accustomed to. The difference of Temperature in 12 Hours being no less than 20° of Cold. Our Route lay through a dull uninteresting Country, thickly covered with Dwarf Timber – Daviesia etc. A poor cold Clayey soil – the Valley Swamps, Passed under Mt. Lachlan, a Hill of very considerable height, with a Rocky summit, a stream of Water runs N Westly under its Base, and then runs West Southly - turned off a little from the South to our Right, and ascended Mount Molle, from where there is a Beautiful and extensive Prospect, between the South round by the West to North. The Country [indecipherable] the Dividing Range between the Lachlan and Macquarie Rivers may be called dense using heavily timbered [indecipherable] Gentle Hills, with intervening Valleys, through which flows many

streams of Water. I think from Mt. Molle, a distance of 40 Miles round & between the Points above mentioned, may be seen, the View to the West, being lost in the blue haze of the horizon, no distant Hills appearing in that direction. The Mount ~~Molle~~ [indecipherable] is a fine rich rich Hill favourable situated for a Commanding prospect its Summit is very stoney (---) The Valleys on both sides of it, excellent rich land with [indecipherable] with running streams. [indecipherable] its [indecipherable] and stopped for the night in the Valley beneath, Named Redfern Valley on the Banks of a small Rivulet. The Appearance and form of the Country changed for the Better shortly after passing Mt. Lachlan the [indecipherable] during this days journey was of the same description. Its

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kind as yesterday Eucalyptis Eucalyptis Eucalyptis !!! our distance this day was 15 Miles, I have not yet seen any thing like a difficulty in making a Road, the Only Hill is the One close under Mt Lachlan & up that; I think a very tolerable one might be made, at 5.30. Alt. Ther. 49½ Bar 27,942. Det° Ther. 49¾. Wednesday April 23. A fine clear Mild Morning at 7 Alt. Ther 34½ Bar. 27.966 Ther = 35½ - at 2 o' Clock arrived at Limestone Creek, passing through a Beautiful picturesque [indecipherable] of Gentle Hills & Vales, well Watered the [indecipherable] [indecipherable] as usual of small & diminutive Growth unfit for any useful Purpose. The ridges of the Higher Eminences were intolerably stoney and at

about 1½ Miles from the Creek there is a Narrow strip of Barren Flat country covered with [indecipherable] [indecipherable]

Stones. The Soil on the sides of the Hills a fine Vegetable Mould, the More level and Lower Grounds, a [indecipherable] coloured [indecipherable] Loam. both equally covered with Grass. ([indecipherable] [indecipherable]) The timber standing at wider Intervals, without any [indecipherable] or undergrowth, gave the country the appearance of a fine Parklike appearance. I never saw a Country better adapted for Grazing of all kinds than the track we passed over this day particularly for Sheep. The Limestone [indecipherable] is the first that has as yet hitherto been [indecipherable] in Australia abounds in the Valley [indecipherable] we [indecipherable]. The [indecipherable] and [indecipherable] [indecipherable] of the Hills being entirely composed [indecipherable] by the [indecipherable] of [indecipherable] into a thousand [indecipherable] [indecipherable] [indecipherable] a [indecipherable] Streams [indecipherable] through [indecipherable] Valleys which in turn [indecipherable] [indecipherable]

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dry, the Bottom of the River was covered with a Variety of Stones, but the Bases of the Hills which projected into it, and from which the Earth had been washed, are of Pure Limestone, of a Bluish Grey Colour. Performed abt. 13 Miles.

Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup>. A Beautiful fine Mild Morning, a Small piece of the Limestone was put in the fire last night, this Morning it was perfectly calcined into the finest White lime.

At 8 Proceeded on our Journey, through as very uninteresting, although, a very good grazing country, in fact Nature seems here to have assumed her tamest and most unvarying Hue. We arrived abt. 1 O Clock, at a small Pond, where it was necessary to Stop for the Night as there was no Water further between this Place and the River, which was abt. 14 Miles further. The soil of the

Country we had passed through was most generally excellent, but the timber was still as useless, as we had hitherto found it, The tops and Points of Hills covered with small slate stones, with occasionally a Bold projecting granite Rock - Saw 2 Emus being the first we had seen on this side the Blue Mountains. I think we covered travelled this day 12 or 13 Miles. Round South [indecipherable] killed a kangaroo. Friday April 25<sup>th</sup>. Fine clear Mild Weather. Our Course for the first seven or Eight miles was through a level open Country, the soil and Grass indifferently Good, at Eight miles ascended a Hill a little to the left of the Road for the purpose of Viewing the Country through which the River ran, it appeared a perfect plain, encompassed by

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Moderately high Hills, except in a SE and West direction, those being apparently the Points from whence, and to which the River flows. The Whole country a Forest of Eucalypti, with Occasionally on the Banks of this River, a Space clear of Timber, there was nothing either Grand or Interesting in the View from this Hill neither did see in any direction such High land as might be expected to give some to a River of magnitude, the Tops of the Hills Granite, Mt Jamison bore A 326½ Mt Lachlan A 66° and the Peaks observed from Mount Molle A 20°, When we left this Hill, we went west to make the River passing for about 6 Miles once a [indecipherable] Level. The land [indecipherable] [indecipherable] [indecipherable] poor, and in places Scrubby, at 2 we [indecipherable] saw the River, which certainly did

not disappoint me, it was evidently much higher than usual running a Strong stream, the Banks very steep, but not so as to render the Water inaccessible. The Land on

each side quite Flat, and thinly clothed with small trees, the soil a rich light loam, Higher Points occasionally Projected on the River, and on those the land was by no means so good. The largest trees, were growing immediately at the Waters Edge, on both sides, and from their positions formed an Arch over the River obscuring it from Observation, although from 30 to 40 Yards across - at 4 we arrived at the Depot – we had scarcely alighted from our Horses, when the Natives were seen in considerable

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Numbers on the other side of the River. I immediately went down opposite to them and after some little persuasion, about 20 of them swam across, carrying their [indecipherable] or [indecipherable] Hatchet in one hand which on their landing they immediately threw at our feet, to show us that they were [indecipherable] [indecipherable] [indecipherable] much [indecipherable] [indecipherable] of arms as our selves, after they had been presented with some Kangaroo, they again crossed the river, and Light Kindled their fires. Those we saw were very stout and Manly, well featured with long Beards, there were a few Cloaks among them, made of the Oppossum skin, and it was Evident that some of the present party had been at Bathurst, from their making use of [indecipherable] English Sounds

at parting they said Good Bye, Good Bye. I was much pleased with their Boats, they appear to unite Capacity with Lightness, and do much credit to [indecipherable] and the The Builder

Saturday April 26<sup>th</sup> Fine clear Warm W.

Employed in Arranging the Baggage for the different Horses, and Loading the Boats with the Salt Provisions, & - Served to each person of the Expedition, 14 days, Tea, Sugar & small [indecipherable] with 7 days Flour, [indecipherable] no Salt Provisions intending to take a [indecipherable] or [indecipherable] [indecipherable] with us. The Natives were still on the opposite Bank, and 5 of them came over to us in the Course of the Morning but only but only remained a very short time at ½ past 2 a very heavy storm of Wind, rain and hail, which lasted about ¾ of an hour, the Wind from the South? With Thunder in the [indecipherable]. Cleared up in the Evening a fine clear Moonlight night. During the Night a fair few Shrimps were caught, they are said to abound in the River

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O 27<sup>th</sup> April. ~~Fine Clear Mr. Wind form the S-W to S~~ Loaded the Boats with the Salt Provision as much as they could safely carry, and despatched them to wait at the 1st Creek abt. 17 Miles down the River, untill the loaded Horses came – and then to assist in taking their loads over the Creek, Intend following myself to with the Remr. of the Baggage early tomorrow morning, at 12p the Attachd ther. 73, Bar. 29,560 - Detached Therm. in shade 67 ½ The Weather Warm & Sultry. Sent off part of the Horses. The Mean Latd. of the Tent Obsd. to be 33°..40..04" S Computed Longd. 140°37'..00 V Variation of the [indecipherable] 7°..47'..E – at 6 Alt Therm. 60°3/4 Barm. 29,500. Detachd. Therm. in [indecipherable] 60°. The Country is so completely a level; Height above the sea 541 feet on the Banks of the River, and for 2 or 3 Miles on each has still some Places [indecipherable] [indecipherable] it ~~was~~ is impossible to see to any great distance, [indecipherable] [indecipherable] no more than ½ Mile; I think

It appeared to me at this station, that we cannot could not be about 6 or 700 feet above the Level of the Lea, & if my conjecture is right, the River, will easily have a fall of 120 feet in 100 Miles, and from which I consider it Navigable that is either at no great distance communicates with [indecipherable] Water or that it will continue Navigable to the Lea. This opinion is in some measure strenghtened by the Natives

being such excellent [indecipherable], [indecipherable] that in our Inland situation, could only be [indecipherable] [indecipherable] useful [indecipherable] [indecipherable] by the frequently and recurrence of Deep Water, in the form of Navigable River, or extensive lakes. I also think it probable, from the Similarity of the Fish, and the [indecipherable] [indecipherable] the same, that the [indecipherable] River will form a [indecipherable] with

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the Lachlan at no very considerable distance.

[right side page – calculations]

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Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> Octr – 1820 – Sydney – by the sea shore – 30,106 Ther – 59  
Sunday Octr. 8 – on the Blue Mountains at Blackheath – 26,440. Ther r – 50 ½  
Sydney – 30,106 = 0763  
Blackheath – 26,440 = 4146  
App. Ht 3383  
Cor ther + 129  
Blackheath above the sea 3512.  
[portion of figures not transcribed]  
Monday Octr 9<sup>th</sup> – Cox River ½ past 6 am  
Bar. 27,740 -. Ther. 43  
Clear and temperate – Calm –  
Tuesday Oct 10<sup>th</sup> – Fish River ½ past 6 am morning as yesterday  
Bar. 27,250 – Ther r – 45°  
Wednesday Oct 11<sup>th</sup> - Campbells River at 7 am. Morning warm & cloudy –  
Bar. 27,707. Ther – 63°

Thursday Octr 12<sup>th</sup> – Bathurst – morning 8 am. Fine & clear – bar. 27,845. Ther 62° –  
at noon ther: in shade – 91 - W 9 6 ½  
Friday Oct r 13 – Bathurst – morning 6 am. Cloudy, Bar. 27,830. Ther. 63°  
Saturday Oct. 14. Bathurst 10.30 am. Warm, & Sultry Winds westerly. Bar. 28,040  
Ther. 81  
Sunday Octr. 15 – Bathurst 8.30am Close & sultry. Clear. Bar. 28,010. Ther 82°  
Monday Oct 16 Bathurst 8 am – Close & Sultry. Cloudy. Bar: 27,770. Ther. 79°  
Seeleys Farm, to be called Saltram.  
Rankin – Killoshiels  
Hawkins – Black Down  
Brandy from Chisholm for Mr Hawkins to be left at Mr Murdochs [indecipherable]  
[indecipherable]

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[illustrations]

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[illustration]

[page 60/61]

[calculations and map]

[page 62/63]

[calculations and map]

[page 64/65]

Evans' G Journal  
[map]

[page 66/67]  
30<sup>th</sup> April 1815  
[calculations]

[page 68/69]  
[blank page]  
To His Excellency  
Governor Macquarie  
Etc etc etc  
Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> 1815

I should have left Bathurst yesterday when near ready to go one of my Horses threw his Load which damaged some of his tackling, repairs being necessary caused my delay until this Morning, my Course was S30° W or thereabouts along the fine flat named Queen Charlotte Vale, I halted near the junction of it with the main Creek which bears S20° W having plains on both Sides, the Vale is also clear of Timber, this days jour-

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journey is over exceeding good Land well watered, distance from the Flag Staff 8 ¼ Miles.  
Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>

I follow the Vale which still continues very good at about 5 miles a fine Valley comes into it, bearing up S20°W which is well watered, at 6 ½ Miles the Vale is rather contracted and remains so a short distance when it again opens producing the rankest of Grass, with Ponds as before alternately, the land is of the strongest nature, the hills that gradually rise on each side are covered with good Pasture, the steepest of them grow serviceable Timber, namely String'y Bark, which is a Tree most used in this part of the World, my distance is 10 miles, the Ponds are then South about a ¼ of a Mile , afterwards S30°W when a Number of Gullies come in from

various Points which form the head of Queen Charlotte Vale.  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

Lost the Horses they were tied together but not secured in a proper manner, the Men were in search of them but returned without success late in the day. I then went myself and had the good fortune to come upon their tracks, at length discovered them just around a Tree in "Princess Charlotte Valley", the walk offered me an opportunity of seeing a Part that was before obscured from sight by the Woods in travelling along the Ridge I had the Pleasure of conducting your Excellency round, had you seen it you would have been much gratified, for the distance of 5 or 6 Miles it is near ¾ broad of rich land, well watered and the hills abound with the finest Timber I have

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have yet seen.  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

The first half hours chaining was tolerably good, but for six Miles afterwards it was extremely fatiguing along a Rocky and Brushy Ridge which led me to the Centre of the three hills I shewed you in our long ride and which I have named "Mount Macquarie"; the three range in a direct line bearing NW and SE that to the SE measuring ¾ of a Mile from Mount Macquarie, I call "Maclaine's Peak". The NW one is seperated from the others by a small gully, and at the distance of

about two Miles from Mount Macquarie, I have named "*Antill's Peak*". they are most remarkable and conspicuous hills, I see no other in any direction of their shape; from these lofty eminences I had a clear and perfect view of the Country, the SW, West

and NW is a series of high Mountainous hills, their tops shewing themselves at a great distance, in the direction of E20° S about 15 Miles is a fine looking Country, there are plains I suppose it towards the head of Campbell's River, as I can trace it down some distance it continues round to the SE; - If I cannot do better or see a more satisfactory prospect Westward tomorrow, I shall travel South for 10 or 12 Miles, where from present appearances I think I may be able to wind round some hills again to the West; the Hill at the end of my last short journey is W 12° N about 14 mile, I was convinced when there it could not make further in a SW line, all my dependance is in getting South about; I halted at some Water Holes running NE they empty themselves into the River by way

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way of Queen Charlotte's Vale at the 8<sup>th</sup> Mile noted on the 13<sup>th</sup> Instant, I observed their course from *Maclaines Peak*: distance 8 Miles.

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

I perceived yesterday that Gullies take rise from the West and SW which I trace to a gap leading down to Princess Charlott's Valley. I travelled South to get clear of them, I continued so for 7 ½ Miles over hills and dales through a thick Forest of good grown Trees, the Soil is sandy but bears firm Pastures, at length I ascend a Ridge that shewed me a more open Country, ¾ of a Mile further led me into a Valley with ponds of Water, in rainy seasons form a considerable Stream – distance 9 Miles.

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

This Reach of the Ponds bear down S20° at 22 Chains is a small Valley on my right hand to the head of it is about 10 Chains surrounded with hills, under them is a Spring (I have named it "Cox's – Spring") from it flows a stream that would fill the circumference of a Pint Pott which the Ponds receive, a short space onward then form a deep rocky Creek, I therefore leave it when my track is more Westing over a fine grazing Country well wooded with Box and Stringy Bark Timber for 3 Miles, at this distance are again Ponds. I follow them into a Valley of excellent land with few trees. I kept in it for 5 Miles and halted, some part of this Valley widens, in others it is rather narrow, the hills grow fine grass but poor Timber – distance 9 ¼ Miles.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

After a mile and half finding the

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the Valley bend off East of South. I followed a ridge, in the space of two Miles. I had ascended a very high Conical hill, the sight from it quite astonished me, the whole Country I suppose from 30 to 40 Miles from SE to SW is covered with Conic Hills which are lost to me in distant Mountains, I took a Man to examine a few Miles and found that between each Chain of these pointed Hills are ponds, in one Gully is a small Stream, with much difficulty I travelled down it to a [indecipherable] one from the SE, to climb up the Hills we were obliged to crawl upon our hands and knees, the whole of them are thinly wooded with Small crooked Gums, and covered with good Grass, but the sharp Rocks render travelling disagreeable

and bad, I went among them so far as to convince me that the principal Stream runs thro' a break bearing near West. The last two Miles chaining took me close upon three hours, nor could the Horses travel faster from slipping about, besides this is not half the difficulties that appears before us, which I unavoidably experienced to make myself certain of the direction the Streams led; Appledore and myself returned much



fatigued, I never was more so in my life, from a sudden slip in climbing the hills. I am quite unwell with a Pain in my left Side, I thought it would be labor in Vain to penetrate into a Country where I could not see a possibility for a Road to be made, or Horses to travel with loads in safety, I think

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think best of returning to "Cox's – Spring" from thence to take a Western course for some distance and endeavour to come near the Break alluded to.

Distance 3 ½ Miles

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

Travelled back to "Cox's – Spring" several heavy showers of Rain fell to day – it has dissolved a white sweet Substance that lay scattered quite thick on the ground, particularly where the Grass was burnt, some gallons might have been picked up in a very short time. I had previously collected a little, no doubt some scientific Gentleman may be pleased to give their opinion thereon. 12 ¾ Miles back.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>

My direction is West Northing for near two Mile on a Ridge

covered with a Brush, the sides and Valleys bear excellent Pasture, the remaining part of this days journey was through a fine grassy Country over hills and dales well watered, good Soil thickly wooded with Box, Gum and Stringy Bark Trees, I stopped on a low ridge that divided have Valleys one leading NW the other South. distance – 7 ¼ Miles

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

I took a W 20°S direction over a find grazing Country most part a thick Forest of various description of good grown Timber, at 5 Miles is a Valley which bears down West, I perceive it to open in places to about a ¼ of a Mileswide, at 6 ½ Miles I cross another leading to it from the South, the Main one bears off NW, rounding Hills to the West again; where I halted a strong stream runs

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down it in wet seasons – A remarkable round top'd high hill is now North of me about 4 Miles I have taken the Liberty to name it "Mount Lachlan" – distance 8 ½ Miles

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

There are hills a head I thought a West Course would avoid them, but found I was necessitated to ascent and the ridge led me onward for 4 Miles, when a Prospect appeared at which I was highly gratified, I never saw a more pleasing Country; I cannot express the pleasure I now feel going forward – the hills we have passes are excellent land well wooded; to the South distance objects are obscured by high Hills, in the SW are very distant Mountains, under them appear a Mist as tho' rising over a River; it has the same look round to West, but beyond the

loom of low hills are very faintly distinguished; in the NW are high distant Mountains, one with a flat top bearing N70° W I name "Jamieson's Table Mountain". The intermediate space is a grassy Country thinly wooded, there are hills and dales, between some appear valleys clear of Timber, at a great distance is a remarkable peaked hill standing alone as it were in the Centre of an immense flat country; finding a Valley with Ponds led near NW my anxiety obliged me to deviate from the intended course to follow them, at a Mile and a half is a clear hill on my right hand which I have name "Mount Molle" and the fine Valley under it "Redfern Valley" the end of 4 Miles Ponds form a junction from an E20° S Point

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down a spacious flat (I have called it "Meehan Valley"). I then travel near West, at about a Mile other ponds join the Main ones from the NE, and at the end of 10 days

journey, they have almost the appearance of a river, there is no perceptible stream, but some of the Ponds are a  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Mile long. distance 10 Miles

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

My course was West for 3 Miles – it led me to the top of an high hill, the water shewed itself about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a Mile North of me, on the South is an extensive flat from the hill I travelled W 20° S two Miles; at one and a half I crossed a small Creek coming from the South leading to the Ponds, I then went on again West for 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  Miles which brought me on a second Hill, in following it down I was rather North of West, for upwards of

A Mile and there found a Creek bearing up South, I resolved on bracing it which I did for 3 Miles North, here the Points of the hills and in perpendicular heads 30 or 40 feet in height, which is pure Lime Stone of a Misty grey Colour; this Creek joins the bed of a River rising in a N30° E direction, now dry except in hollow places; it is full 70 feet wide having a pebbly bottom, on each side grow large swamp Oaks. I travelled down in the bed of it  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a Mile near West and halted greatly fatigued; the open Country and falling on the Water course encouraged me do much that I made every exertion to push forward, besides being full of anxiety, hoping soon to reach a River of some Consequence, every steep hill between the Lime rocks and Bathurst may be avoided except

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two and they are not worse than that at the fish River. An handsomer and finer country I never saw than I have been over these last two days, greatest part of the land is good. Timber is it's worst production; Kangaroos, Emu's and Ducks are very numerous – distance 14  $\frac{1}{2}$  Miles

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

The Lime Cliffs having the appearance of being very steep down the run, I thought it prudent to let the Horses have a Days rest in the mean time I took Appledore with me to examine the Country; large ponds of Water are now in the River bed, they connect with each other by a small stream that I distinctly see to rise up between the Stones, its general Course is to 15°N. I walked down about 5 Miles it was impossible

to proceed further as perpendicular Cliffs of Slate Rock prevents me, with much difficulty I got so far; the stream is now equal to Macquarie River, I imagine it springs up, being certain the Channel receives the overflowings of the Ponds I spoke of on Tuesday, the Lime Rocks do not continue Westward more than a Mile from our halting place; On leaving the Water I made for the high Park which bore S40° E about 3 Miles, it was a fatiguing matter to teach the top, and felt happy I did do, as it convinced me I could not go on in a West direction as I should be impeded by high headlands and gullies; I found it must be necessitated to travel three or four Miles South, then a SW direction has the appearance of taking me into a level Country. Therefore returned with a deter-

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determination of carrying that Plan into Effect tomorrow. I named the peak "Mount Lewin".

Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

I travelled S30° E for 3 Miles, then SW at four Miles I came upon some empty ponds, at 5  $\frac{1}{4}$  Miles are more Lime Rocks; on account of the dryness of the Season, Water is scarce, the large Water holes were empty, our search for it down them caused a tedious days measuring, the Country is level, thinly wooded and good land, I hope tomorrow travelling will meet my expectations.

distance 12  $\frac{1}{4}$  Miles.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

My days journey was over a level open country. Thinly wooded with Box Trees at 6 ½ miles SW S ascended a hill, from it I distinguished Plains, the North one bore W 22° S which I made for in

hopes I should find a River and that it would tend SW as it appears an even space for 30 or 40 miles, I am sure I can see that distance, no hill or object stands in the way to impede my sight; it is likewise a fine looking Country quite level in a N 60°W Point; on descending the hill I found the country as before, the Soil is a red loam bearing poor grass, at 3 Miles Pine Trees are intermixed with the Box, which grow from 30 to 40 feet high without a Branch and quite straight, at 3 ½ Miles the Grass is better, instead of Box trees, Gums are thinly scattered, 4 ¾ Miles brings me into a fine flat of rich land and at 5 ½ I arrive on the Bank of a wide River, but am much mortified to see the Stream run NW; - as I intend to follow it I shall not have time to go up to the Plains; a very little

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Rain would make this River navigable for Boats; the Banks are as steep as the South Creek at Windsor; but much wider, and the soil equally as rich, there are exceeding large Gum trees growing on each Side; from the hill Natives smokes were discerned in many directions and find they must be numerous indeed from the number of fine places on the River Bank, it appeared as tho' they had been lately successful in obtaining Emu as I counted 23 large heaps of feathers by their different fire Sides at this lately forsaken Camp.

distance 12 Miles.

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup>.

Being determined to see the Plains I started at day break with a Man, in the space of an hour we arrived on one this side of the River, it reached about a Mile and is at least 1 ½ deep, I suppose

I went up the river six Miles, the Plains are alternating on each Side, and nearly the same Size, opposite to the Plains are Woodlands and appeared to continue so, for a great distance S 30° W, the River comes from about that Point and to the best of my Judgment the stream empties into it, that I mention on the 19<sup>th</sup> Instant, the Soil on the Plains is very rich, and the Woodlands are equally so; - when about to return we saw a number of Natives, on making towards them they run from us, all that I could do had no avail in having communication with them; it was past 1 O'clock when we got back and I was too fatigued to go down the River any distance therefore remained to wash and clean ourselves; - I have named the Plains "Oxley Plains".

Monday 29<sup>th</sup>

My general Course is about NW, I

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find the Land as yesterday, this part resembles the Nepean flats and is much flooded, but at about ½ a Mile back on each side of the River is a second bank quite safe from inundations, it has many sudden turns, at the lower end of a deep bite I suppose half a Mile on the West Side of the River is a hill covered with Pine Trees; the Gums continue very large and good particularly those growing near the water; this part of the Country is a second Hawkesbury; every thing is equal to it except the River and am certain that in every Spring of the Year after a wet season in the Winter it is navigable for Boats; considering the late drought a strong steam runs now.

7 ¾ Miles.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Country continues as yesterday – at a Mile before we stopped the

river inclines South of West, at our halting place a range of rocky hills end, on them

grow Pines, I was on the highest from whence I had an extensive view, the Stream from the Lime Rocks I perceive to enter a Break bearing North of me and still seems to run Westerly; I consider it likely to fall into the one I am now following; if I am not deceived from present appearances I shall find this to bear off again North of West, it is extremely tedious tracing the River, I would willingly leave it to make the most of my time, but am prevented as I cannot cross; it would not answer to do so on this side, because the River inclines so much round to North and it would be equally bad to pass many rocky hills which would hinder me travelling in a direct line; I am sorry the provisions will not admit of

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my going on more than two days.

7 ½ Miles.

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>

The River took the direction I supposed NW, Points of rocky hills every Mile or Mile and half lead down to it, the flats continue rich soil, on the SW side are no hills but a continued space of level rich land thinly wooded except near the Waters edge, where the timber is good and very large, they are what are called Black butted Gums, some of them are 8 and 10 feet in diameter; We see Natives two or three times a day, I believe we are a great terror to them, a Woman with a young Child fell in our Way this afternoon to whom I gave a Tomahawk and other Trifles, she was glad to depart, soon after we suddenly came upon a Man, who was much frightened, he run up a tree in a Moment, carrying with him his Spear

and crooked throwing Stick, he hallowed and cried out so much and loud, that he might have been heard half a Mile, it was useless entreating him to come down, therefore stuck a Tomahawk in the Tree and left him, the more I spoke the worse he cried out –

7 Miles.

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 1815. x

The River to day is near West and am clear of the Points of hills, the Country is good indeed, these fine flats are flooded. There are rising lands clear of it as I before stated but no hill that will afford me a prospect; tomorrow I am necessitated to return and shall ascend a very high hill I left on my right hand early this Morning, I could leave no mark here more than cutting trees, on one situated on an Angle of the River and a wet Creek bearing up North, I have deeply carved;

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“Evans 1<sup>st</sup> June 1815”, the Country continues good and better than ever I expected to discover, I must defer making further remarks until I have been upon the height I speak of –

7 ½ Miles.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

In travelling back I left the River, at about a Mile from it; the land is not so rich, the ~~land soil is not so rich~~ changes to red loam as deep coloured as a burnt brick, whereon the Grass is poor, and the Box trees small, I am glad to observe that the deficiency is made up by useful Pines from one Inch to 3 feet in diameter as straight as arrows, some of them at least 40 feet without a Branch, those growing on what I term Pine hills are stunted, the trunks of them rise but a few feet from the ground, before their Branches spread, which I think may be accounted for

by those hills being chiefly a Mass of Granite Rock – I ascended the height, no Country can possibly have a more interesting aspect so much so that if a further trace into the interior is required at a future period; I respectfully beg leave to offer myself for the Service; I see no end to travelling. I am deficient in abilities to describe

it properly, but shall endeavour to do so by comparing the Country to an Ocean, as it is nearly level with the Horizon from NW to SW; small Hillocks are seen at great distances of a pale Blue, shewing as Land appears when first discovered at Sea, spaces clear of Trees may be imagined Islands, and the Native Smokes rising in various Points, Vessels; it is a clear calm evening near Sun setting, which shewed every part advantageously; - the River I can distinctly discover to continue near due West and rest confident

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that when the River is full Boats may go down in safety; my meaning of being full is its general height in moderate Seasons which the Banks shew, about 5 feet above the present level; it would then carry Boats over Trees and narrows that now obstruct the passage; no doubt the stream connects with the Macquarie, or some other River further West; the Channel then must be of great magnitude; I should think so to carry off the body of Water, that must in time of floods cover these very extensive flats. Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Country is as before described at a distance from the River the Soil is red loam, and the Points of the Hills alternately meet it; we have not caught any fish, there are some very large, but could not see them distinct enough to know if

they are of the same species as those in the Macquarie River – Wild ducks are very plentiful.

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

It was a very wet uncomfortable Night, this Morning has every appearance of setting in so, I consider myself fortunate by the fine Weather holding up until now, we say a great Number of Natives, they run immediately on seeing us, I would not allow them to be followed, it must be the Horses they are so much alarmed at -

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June

Left the River which have now called "The River Lachlan", the Rain has fallen very heavy, we were completely washed up last Night, it extinguished our fire, which made us still more uncomfortable, besides damaging my Papers, I am fearful we shall experience the like this Evening but have taken every Pre

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caution to prevent it.

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June

We reached Lime Stone Creek the descent was not down so bad a hill as I expected, I cutt off about six Miles, and find abundance of Lime Stone more convenient upwards without going down the Creek at all, by which Means a difficult road is avoided, there is also good Water and find bottoms of Land containing in each from 5 to 10 Acres surrounded with Lime Stone Rocks, this is a fine grazing Country with plenty of wood.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

The ascent from "Lime Stone Creek" is the steepest part in my Way, I examined it particularly and do not think it near as bad as the Fish River hill – I left the height mentioned on the 24<sup>th</sup> Ult. about a Mile North of me,

and crossed the flat then spoke of which is very extensive, it bears up South for some distance then bends to the East and SE; the Soil is rich and well watered by large Ponds; I have named this place Warwick Plains -

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

I made "Mount Lachlan" by way of "Meehan Valley" supposing I could avoid the hill, I am sorry to say it was not the case, under Mount Lachlan they close on each Side of the Water with perpendicular Bluffs, during my way up I crossed the Water Course several times quite dry over a pebbly bottom, I was astonished to see as the meeting

of the hills confined the Channel, a rapid stream running over Rocks which is lost underground down it Westward – This Hill is not so bad, yet if a better

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road was found, it would be more convenient, it is not near so steep as any one between Mount York, and the Fish River, I am sure by going little to the South an easier ascent will be discovered. The space of Country between Lime Stone Creek and Mount Lachlan upwards of 20 Miles is very pleasing and picturesque besides being as good as I am able to express it in Point of Soil, Grass, Timber and Water; the Lime Stone is also at hand; the Mountains I observed bearing N W are covered with Snow, I thought on my way out that their tops looked rather white, today it was distinguished as plain as I ever saw Snow on the Mountains in Van Diemens Land: I never felt colder weather, than it has been some days past, we have broke Ice full five

Inches thick.

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June.

The Country is hills and dales thickly wooded, rather overrun with an evergreen Shrub that Cattle are fond of, between it is as good Grass as the Country is generally covered with, the holes of Water at our halting place I imagine to connect with those I left this Morning winding round thro' fine Valleys.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>

This day's journey back was through the worst part of the Country I have travelled over; it cutts off the track took up 5 days time; from the 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Ult.

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

I followed the Ponds I alluded to on the 16<sup>th</sup> Ult. for some Miles but was obliged to leave them at last on account of some steep Rocks obstructing me, I sent a

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Man to meet me in "Queen Charlotte Vale", at the junction which he did; I was there some time before him as he found it bad travelling down the run. My Motive was to discover a better road than that in my track out on the day above mentioned.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

Arrived at Bathurst having experienced for these last six days extremely cold uncomfortable weather with misty rain.

My journal is short but have endeavoured to state everything as it actually is in as plain and correct a manner as I am capable of doing, that it should be clearly understood by any person who may hereafter follow my track I assure your Excellency I have

lost no time in persevering to reach Westward so far as is herein represented; and do at all times with the utmost pleasure strive to fulfil to your satisfaction any Wish or Commands I have the honor to be intrusted with.

I remain Your Excellency's

very respectful

Obedient Servant

G.W. Evans

P.S.

I beg leave to state that the undernamed Persons were very attentive and obedient for my orders.

George Kane alias Appledore

James Butler

Patk. Burns;

also

John Tygne

[page 104/105]  
[blank page and Table of Barometrical readings]

[page 106/107]  
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Lewis Creek, on the River  
Lachlan 28<sup>th</sup> April 1817  
Sir,

I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency, that I arrived at Bathurst on the 14<sup>th</sup> [indecipherable] and was unfortunately delayed a Week at the place, in consequence of Rainy Weather, on the 20<sup>th</sup> I proceeded towards the Lachlan (Mr Cox having previously sent forward, all the Provisions and the Horses for the expedition and on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> in the [indecipherable] arrived at the Depot when I had the satisfaction to find the Boats Horses etc, in [indecipherable] of [indecipherable] to proceed down the River. The 26<sup>th</sup> was spent in loading the Boats, and arranging the Boats for the different Horses on the 27<sup>th</sup> they were dispatched for this Place, abt. 10 Miles down the River, and I followed with

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Boats

the rest of the Packs this day. I at first intended to take Lewis with me as far as the [indecipherable] Mr Evans [indecipherable] (abt. 15 Miles further) but as I find it would be impossible for him to [indecipherable] the Creeks without the assistance of the Boats, I thought it best, that he should return from hence.

The Boats have been built in a very superior manner by Hubbard, who deserves every Credit for his [indecipherable] & [indecipherable], I have no doubt, they [indecipherable] every expectation. I have been obliged to put a Third [indecipherable] on them, as the Intricacy of the Navigation requires one Person constantly on the look out.

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[blank page]

The River Lachlan has exceeded my expectations, and although I consider the Water about 5 feet above the usual Level, yet it is evidently the Water course of Superior Magnitude to any on the East Coast of New South Wales; (The Hawkesbury perhaps excluded) and I fully expect that in less than 100 Miles, it will prove a River of considerable ~~Mag~~ consequence. I do not think that the Navigation can be impeded by any very thick or continuous falls, as from the Observations I have been able to make, the Depot is not more, than 650 feet above the Level of the [indecipherable] which would not cause a [indecipherable]

[page 112/113]  
shooting a Native

fall than abt. 18 hills the Mile. The River abounds with fish of the same kind as the Macquarie, and considerable [indecipherable] of [indecipherable] have been taken. The Natives are numerous and have been troublesome at the Depot, and the [indecipherable] were ~~been~~ obliged to Shoot one of them a [indecipherable] there days before our arrival although from every thing I can learn, I am afraid a little hastily a Spear however was actually thrown at one of the Soldiers, and on the day of our arrival, they had assembled in considerable Numbers opposite the Depot, ~~I have on~~

[indecipherable] some little [indecipherable] induced about 20 of them to come over, and in the course of an hour, the whole peaceably departed,

[page 114/115]

The Service is much indebted to Mr Rich Lewis for his great exertions and [indecipherable] and can, in safety [indecipherable] from Bathurst, such a quantity of Provisions and Horses, since he has been with me, he has been of [indecipherable] Service by his Activity and arrangements. I have taken on a Small [indecipherable] made of [indecipherable] Cloth belonging to Mr Lewis for the use of the people as I find I can carry it without inconvenience, The Weather being at times extremely cold and unsettled [indecipherable] has been frequently from 0 to 6 ° below the freezing Point.

I am sorry that Illness prevented Mr Cox from accompanying us this far as he intended, he

has done every thing in his power to promote the comfort and success of the expedition, and we all feel under great obligation to him.

I think [indecipherable] will be enabled to present to your Excellency, a Valuable Collection. I cannot say as much for this Mineralogical acquisition, which are few and unimportant, although I believe [indecipherable] has ~~done~~ used his best endeavours. Mr Evans, Mr [indecipherable] and indeed the whole of the Party are in excellent Health & Spirits, and anxious by every means in their power to promote the Success of the Service they are engaged in.

I have the [indecipherable]

to [indecipherable]

W Oxley

[page 116/117]

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April 28 1818

Landed near Bradleys Head, and took the following Bearings. A

Centre of Macquarie Tower – N 84° + Et.

Flagstaff – N 76°, 40

Highest Part of North Head – N 47,, 50 Et.

Inner South Head – N 45,, 30 Et.

Pt. AB near Georges Head – N 29,, 15 Et.

Centre of P. House – N 148,, 10 Et.

From AB

Pt A – N 209,, 15

Centre of Macquarie Tower – N 118,, 50

Flagstaff – N 108,, 45

No. End of Sow & Pigs – N 74,, 0 E

Inner South Head – N 63,, 45 E

Highest part of No. Head – N 57 + E.

From the Inner South Head, / An within the line of Bearing from AB

[indecipherable] 0

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Last Station AB – N 244,, 30 E

Sow & Pigs – N 235 " E

Highest part of N. Head

and outer Extreme of T. S. Head in

one latter about 6 hrs. – N 51,, Et.

South 0, 64 – N 151,, 40 – 26, 90 to C at G



Edge of High Cliff 1 R  
From C  
1 Sow and Pigs – N 267 Et  
2 Pt. AB - N 261 Et.  
P. A – N 234,, 20  
Clarksons Windmill – N 223,, 30  
4 Macquarie Tower Centre – N 160,, 45  
5 Flagstaff & line of Coast – N 150,, 30  
6 North Head – N 37,, 50  
From the Flagstaff  
No. Head – N 14,, 00  
Sow & Pigs – N 304 + Et.  
G.d House on Dawes Pt. – N 255,, 10 E

Clarkson Windmill – N 234,, 15 E  
Centre of Macquarie Tower – N 189,, 20 E  
To the Wall of Barrack 24,92 Centre of Round Tower 50 More  
For Height of Tower –  $18 + 75 + 22 \frac{1}{2} = 115''$   
from the Base to the 1' Landing  $25 \frac{1}{2}$  links set off, 3 – from the lantion Cell of the  
Window to Bottom of Tower stairs, 75  
From the Window Cell to the Top of Ball  $18 + 25 \frac{1}{2} = 3 + 75 + 18 = 1,15 \frac{1}{2}$  Links  
From 24 Chns.  
No. Head – the same That both  
by theodolite and Compass – N 12,, 50 E  
Centre of Pinch gut Isld. – N 259,, 15  
To the Cliff – N  $94 \frac{1}{2}$  [indecipherable] From the Cliff to the Water kube 3.90, & below  
the Basse of the Light house 20 feet  
From the Top of the light House Visible from the Sea, from

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N 170. E

on Base

N  $20^{\circ}$  Et. – to by the East - the Bearing of No. Head [indecipherable] N  $13 \frac{1}{2}$  Et. –  
being  $\frac{1}{2}$  Point nearly Clear of the land each way hence South Head N. 337,, 30 E –  
Building lays due No. and So.

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Feby. 17<sup>th</sup> Monday at the Kings Table Land 28<sup>th</sup> Mile, at 8,, 30 – Bar. 27,, 113 – Ther.  
 $69^{\circ}$  Bar. at 112. at the 32 Mile. opposite Pitts Amphitheatre, Therm.  $78 \frac{1}{2}$  Bar. No. 12  
26,660, at 11h ,, 50 ' Day hazy – In the afternoon heavy rain, hail and Wind  
prevented any further observations every Article wet through – stopped at the road  
put [indecipherable] 44 Mile.

Feby. 18 Heavy rain during the night Barr. N° 9. 26. 673, Therr  $68^{\circ}$  at 8h. 20' Morning  
fine but Cloudy, [indecipherable] a small hollow between the Mountains – at 10h. 15'  
Warm & Sultry Bar N° 9. 26. 575 Therr. 76 – at 10h. 30' Same stat: Barr. N°  
12.26.526 Therr. 76 – at 11h.. 30, at the Bottom of the Pass about 20 feet above the  
Level of the Valley Bar: N - 9. 27.280. Ther.  $83^{\circ}$  - at 12h.

Bar & Ther. the same – at 5 h P.M. at Cox River, an approaching Thunder Storm, No.  
12 Bar 27, 680 – No 9 – Bar 27.710 - Therr – 21----

Feby. 19, Wednesday, during the night a very heavy storm of Thunder Lights and  
Rain, at 7h AM N.9 Bar: 27,670, No-12 Bar. 27,630, Ther 67 at 10h 40 at the Top of  
Claunces Hilly range, [indecipherable]

Rain N9, Bar 26.787 ther – 67 (Constant Rain, at 5h pm less Rain, Close and Sultry, No 9. Bar 27,230 Ther. 71 – Fish River) - at 5h 20 – No – 9, 27,210, No 12. 27-165, Ther – 71. Heavy Continued Rain at 8h-AM – Bar N9 – 27, 200. No.12.Bar 27,140, ther 65.

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at 12h Continued Rain – N.12-Bar. 27,100 Bar. No9.27,160. Continued heavy Rain, Barometer, slowly falling. Bar N12. 27,070 Bar N.9 – 27,135 Ther. 65 - - at 5h PM- Friday 21 Feby. During the night the Weather more Moderate, the Morning broke fair but Cloudy, at 7h. No. 9 Barr 27,100 No12.27,040 Therr 64 ½

At 7.45 on the Summit of the Hill above the Fish River (Evesham Hill) Bar No 9 – 26,537 Ther 63 at 9h in Sidmouth Valley, No 9, Bar.27,187 Therr. 67 – Fair with flying Clouds – at 11h AM on the Fish River OConnel

Plains No 9 – Bar- 27.626 Ther: 75 – at 12h on the Edge of the Fish River (Miles above its Junction with the Campbell River) – 27,600 Bar No-9 – Ther 73 ½ Cloudy, - at 1h.30 arrived at Bathurst, Evening fine –

Feby 22 Saturday Morning Clear and fine. No-9.Bar.27,677 Ther. 61 at 7h AM – No - 12 Bar 27,600 – at 12. The Barometers being removed to the [indecipherable] store, (being previously in the [indecipherable])

) N9 27.615 N12 27.612 Ther 72 ½ at 5 Thunder & Rain N – 12 27.568 No 9, 27.562 – Ther- 75

Sunday Feby 23 Cloudy, rain during the night. N 9 Bar – 27.655. N-12 Bar 27.625 Ther. 67, at 7h.10 AM

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at 12h, Cloudy. No 12. Bar – 27.628. Bar No.9.27.633 Therr 71 – at 5h Bar No.12.27.629. Bar No.9.27.627 Therr 73 – Cloudy unsettled –

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> At a7h – Bar No12.27.639 Bar No.9.27.604 Therr. 67 Heavy Rain. at 12. Continued Rain Bar N12. 27.640. Bar 9.27.590: Therr 66 ½

at 5h, Rain – Bar No.12.27.591. Bar. No9 27.506 Therr 67 – Dark & Cloudy.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Rain during the Night N12. Bar. 27.506. No.9 Bar 27.584 Therr. 64 Heavy Rain – at 7h AM at 12 h – No 12.27.588. No.9. 27.586 Therr 66 – Heavy continued Rain –

at 4.50 Continued Rain Bar. No12. 27.588 – Bar No 9. 27.586 Therr 66

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feby. Cloudy but fair with strong winds from the Eastd – at 7h AM No.12.Bar.27.576 N9 Bar: 27.561 Therr 62 – at Noon Cloudy but fair, Bar. N 12 27.618. Bar. No.9. 27.500. Therr 66 – at 5h PM Bar No.12.27.614 Bar. No 9 27.585 Ther 60 –

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Feby. Fine Clear [indecipherable] with strong winds from the Eastd – Bar. N 12. 27.776 Bar. No 9. 27.750 Ther. 61. at 12. Bar. No. 12. 27.796 Bar No. 9.27.754. Ther 66 – at 2h quitted Bathurst. At 6h arrived at W Lowes Station in Sidmouth Valley

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Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feby – Morning Clear & Mild – at 7h in the Evening arrived at Locks Bridge, tho Cart Horses quite done up – the Quicksilver for the Barometer so foul from constant agitation as to be unfit for use.

Saturday March 1<sup>st</sup> - The Horses astray Weather fine & clear. Ther at 6 52

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[Note: the following pages have no matching images]

Bathurst June 30. 1888.

To the Surveyor General.

Dear Sir,

Having been asked to do some work in connection with this Colony for a London Review, I venture to ask for some information from you. I have an MS journal of Surveyor General Oxley's dated variously from 1815, to 1817. There is in it a journal purporting to be that of one Evans or Evens, who discovered the Lachlan. G.W. Evans is the name. The date is 1815. Who was Evans? And what became of him? In the

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same MS volume, there is in pencil, a journal as far as I can make it out, signed J Oxley, or T Oxley. The date of this is 1818, and it refers to the Lachlan, on which the writer then was. There is also in the same Volume, a pencil journal which I suppose is Oxley's of his journey over the Blue Mountains to Bathurst. This, I take it from a date on the cover, was written in 1817.

Are these dates correct? Did Mr Oxley come up here then? Mr Evans was

under him in 1818. But I was anxious to be sure about Evans' journey in 1815.

I feel that I am giving trouble, but I hope you will forgive this.

I am Dear Sir

Faithfully yours

A C Geikie DD

Presbyterian Minister

PS Can you tell me when the first – the very first, settlement took place at Bathurst?

Also when the road was made over the Blue Mountains? When Bathurst plains were

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actually first discovered by White men?

[remainder of page not transcribed - includes article from Sydney Morning Herald dated 27 April 1895]

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Surveyor General's Office

Sydney, 3 July 1888

Dear Sir

Referring to your note of the 30<sup>th</sup> inst. I have made inquiry of Mr T. H. Lewis (formerly of this Department) who I think is better acquainted with the old records than any one else; and he affords the information desired in his note to me herewith enclosed, which I hope may

Rev. Dr. Geikie

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may prove to be useful.

Should you require further information upon the subject of your inquiry, you cannot do better than apply to him as he had in former years personal commission & advice with the earlier Surveyors in this Department and also with many of the old Settlers in the Country.

I am Dr Sir

Yours faithfully

En Twynam Esq

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was rewarded with a grant of 1000 acres which he took at Van Diemens Land where he went to reside, and his son who is in Sydney will be happy to give any further

information respecting him. I think this letter conveys all the information Dr Geikie requires

I remain

Yours sincerely

J H Lewis

E M Twynam Esq

Surveyor General

33 Bayswater House

3 July, 1888

My dear Sir

In answer to your letter of Yesterday's date I had better commence the answers to Dr Geikie's letter from those mentioned in his P.S – Mr Surveyor Evans appears to be the first who discovered Bathurst Plains, and [indecipherable] after the expedition of Messrs Wentworth Blaxland and Lawson who undertook an expedition in the Middle of May 1813 to the Blue Mountains and went only as far as the Source of the Cox's River – see Gazette, and were [indecipherable] to be rewarded with one thousand [indecipherable] grants of land without [indecipherable] see [indecipherable]

[page 138/139]

of the Blue Mountains [indecipherable] Governor Macquarie on their return immediately despatched Mr Surveyor Evans as Deputy Surveyor with a party in November 1815 to explore most minutely the passage re which he did and discovered Bathurst Macquarie & Mitchells Plains [indecipherable] In 1815 Governor Macquarie and his wife followed by a numerous retinue set out from Sydney and traversed the road recently constructed over the Blue Mountains and arrived at Bathurst Plains early in May, the road which gave access to the New Country was [indecipherable]

who volunteered their services on condition of receiving their emancipation on the completion of the work, the length of the measured road was 140 Miles, & was completed in the almost incredible short period of six months the Superintendent of the work was William Cox Chief Magistrate at Windsor who reported the undertaking as completed on 21 Jan'y 1815, Macquarie fixed on the Site for the Town of Bathurst on 1 May 1815.

In the same Months the Government Surveyor G W Evans set out on the exploring expedition which resulted in the discovery of the River Lachlan [indecipherable] 1815

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Clairvaux

10 Ray Avenue

Vaucluse

March 28 y.

Dear Mr Tyrrell

Will you kindly value the enclosed book that is a diary of Evans I believe & I will call for it later on.

Yours truly

Kathleen F Suttor

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Meteorological table

[Transcribed by Donna Gallacher, Ray King, Margaret Swinton, Rex Minter, Ros Wyllie]