

# Gregory Blaxland

(1778 – 1853)



Gregory Blaxland, explorer, grazier (cattle), mixed farmer, trader and winemaker is best known as the conqueror of the Blue Mountains. He was born on 17 June 1778 at Fordwich, Kent, England, the fourth son of John and Mary (née Parker) Blaxland whose family owned estates in the district for generations. Gregory attended the King's School, Canterbury. In July 1799 he married Elizabeth, daughter of John Spurdon; they had five sons and two daughters.

The Blaxlands were friends of Sir Joseph Banks who influenced Gregory and his eldest brother John to emigrate to Australia. The government promised them land, convict servants and free passages. Gregory sailed in the *William Pitt* on 1 September 1805 with his wife, three children, two servants, an overseer, a few sheep, seed, bees, tools, groceries and clothing. His brother was to follow after selling their Kent estates. On arriving in Sydney Blaxland sold many of the goods he brought with him profitably, bought eighty head of cattle, located 4000 acres (1619 ha) and was promised forty convicts. Soon afterwards he also bought 450 acres (182 ha) at the Brush Farm (near Eastwood).

The Blaxlands were among the first settlers of unquestionable respectability to go to the colony. In 1807 Governor King warned William Bligh that he would “be plagued with” Gregory Blaxland, and

he was right. Both he and his brother John, who arrived in April 1807, thought themselves entitled to far more government assistance than they received. Blaxland was associated with the Macarthur faction in deposing Governor Bligh in 1808.

The Blaxlands expanded their cattle grazing. In 1809 Lieutenant Governor Paterson granted Gregory 2000 acres (809 ha) at Evan. When Macquarie arrived he confirmed this, adding a further 2280 acres (923 ha) there in place of the original grant made by Governor King, and 500 acres (202 ha) in the district of Cooke in 1812. This he thought would satisfy all the claims for government assistance. Governor Macquarie thought the Blaxlands should be growing grain to feed the colony instead of pursuing the lazy occupation of rearing cattle, and he had his own complaints about the Blaxlands:

*“So far from showing a disposition to be grateful, they are the most discontented unreasonable and troublesome persons in the whole country.”*

Finding the sea-coast vicinity unsuited to his stock, Blaxland began seeking new land for pasturing his increasing herds. Every effort to cross the “unscalable heights” of the Blue Mountains had failed. Blaxland, who had done some local exploring, set off in 1811 on a short journey of investigation.

Blaxland occupied a farm at South Creek near St Mary’s in 1813. Several years of hard grazing and the dry 1812-1813 season exhausted his grass, and his cattle were dying. The Blue Mountains were in sight of the farm and Blaxland believed they could be crossed and new land found. He obtained Macquarie’s approval – not enthusiastic – for the trip and approached two other graziers, Lieutenant William Lawson and William Charles Wentworth who was then a young man (23) with land along the Nepean River.



**William Lawson** (1774-1850) had trained as a surveyor in England before joining the NSW Corps. He arrived in Sydney in 1799. By 1813, Lawson was an experienced colonial officer with lands at Prospect, NSW, when he accepted Blaxland's invitation to join the expedition.



**William Charles Wentworth** (1790-1872), son of D'Arcy Wentworth, was a currency lad (locally-born European). Educated in England, he returned to the colony. In 1811, he was appointed Acting Provost Marshall by Governor Macquarie and granted 1750 acres on the Nepean River. A future barrister, author, and statesman, Wentworth's youth and adventurous spirit made him an obvious choice for the expedition.

All three explorers kept journals, each in their own style - Blaxland published his well known account in 1823 and Wentworth wrote enthusiastically about the landscape, resources and future benefits to the colony but, for those seeking to retrace the explorers' trail, Lawson's journal could be regarded as the most important. An extract from it is included with these notes.



*Detail from the engraving "The Blue Mountain Mountaneers", Sydney Mail, Christmas Supplement, 1880*

Blaxland's well-thought-out plan was to follow the ridge instead of attempting to force a way through the gullies. With complete faith in his ultimate success, he brushed aside terrifying descriptions of earlier travellers and set out on Tuesday May 11, 1813 from South Creek, with his two friends, four servants (three of them convicts), five dogs to hunt game and four packhorses. The horses were loaded with muskets, tents, billhooks to cut the bush, hoes, compasses, salt meat and flour and other provisions and equipment.

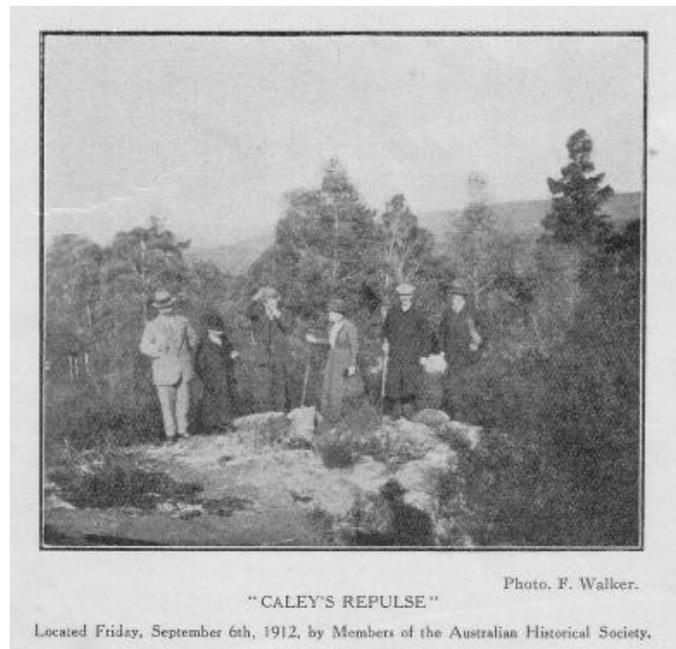
The party crossed the Nepean River by a ford at Emu Island and at five o'clock that night they made camp at the foot of the first ridge at Knapsack Gully. From his earlier exploration of the

Warragamba River, Blaxland was convinced that there was no point in doing what most others had done and follow rivers which led into sheer sandstone cliffs.

In his later account of the trip he wrote:

*“Before we set out, we laid down the plan to be pursued, and the course to be attempted, namely to ascend the ridge, taking the streams of water on the left which appear to empty themselves into the Warragamba, as our guide; being careful not to cross any of them, but to go round their sources, so as to be certain of keeping between them and the streams that emptied themselves into the River Grose.”*

Blaxland knew that botanist George Caley, accompanied by a bushman, had previously tried to cross by the ridgetops but was soon lost in a forbidding maze of mountains and gorges. After ten horifying days he gave up. It was by a combination of research and luck that Blaxland and his party got to the only ridgetop causeway that would lead them directly across the Blue Mountains.



***“Caley’s Repulse” – spot at which Caley abandoned his attempt.***

***{University of Adelaide Library}***

But it wasn’t straight forward and it wasn’t easy. They had to travel blind, cutting a bridlepath, they advanced foot by foot, not knowing where the ridge would lead or what dangers lurked beyond and, of course they had no idea whether the mountains were twenty or two hundred or two thousand kilometres wide.

The second day of the expedition was spent hacking through the bush on an upward trail. All the explorers kept journals. Blaxland wrote;

*“The land was covered with scrubby brushwood, very thick in places, with some trees of ordinary timber which much incommoded the horses.”*

The dense brush was their main obstacle and they were to advance by an average of just under five kilometres a day, but they walked three times that distance as after cutting a way through the brush, they then returned to move the camp and equipment forward.

They travelled west and north-west along the ridges. The increasingly steep and rugged terrain took their toll on the frail youth Wentworth. They saw no feed for the horses and the atmosphere was gloomy. On the Sunday they rested at the present site of Springwood. They pressed on the next day. The way was getting narrower and steeper, the next two days were really tough going. Having got through a difficult pass they were cheered to find a cairn of stones which they believed to have been built by Bass, later it was attributed to Caley, but the builder of the cairn remains a mystery. The going was getting no easier and they remarked on the absence of bird and animal life. The explorers were now on a plateau which Macquarie was to name King’s Tableland, just south of today’s Wentworth Falls. From here they were able to see for the first time where they were going. There was a fine view of the eastern country and the colonial settlements. But the view west was frightening. Their way seemed to be barred by what Blaxland called; “an impassable barrier of rock, which appeared to divide the interior from the coast as with a stone wall, rising perpendicularly out of the side of the mountain.”



***Wentworth Falls***

They tried to get down by following streams of water but it was impossible and they had to return north and pick up their original trail. They forged on higher and higher along the ridge. Finally they came to the edge of a precipice on Mount York and discovered that instead of the “sandy barren land they were expecting below the mountain there was forest land covered with good grass and timber of inferior quality.”

They cut a pass down the mountain. It was so steep the horses couldn't come down without slipping so the explorers carried the load themselves. The horses were were mighty glad to get down to fresh grass and water, the explorers were even happier. They pressed on across the valley noting the coldness of the climate. They were in the country now known as Hartley Vale. On Monday May 31, 1813, they camped by a good stream (the Cox River) and then climbed a high hill from which Blaxand said they saw “forest or grassland, sufficient in extent to support the stock of the colony for the next thirty years.” This sugarloaf shaped hill, Mount Blaxland, was the furthest point of their trip. They calculated they had come fifty-eight miles (ninety-three kilometres), now they were going to walk it once more on the way home which would take them only five days. In less than a month they returned home, proving Blaxland's forethought in planning the choice of route. No better natural upward path has been since found.



*Tree at foot of Mt. Blaxland marked by the explorers in 1813 [University of Adelaide Libra*

They were exhausted and furthermore dismayed when their achievement was greeted by a long official silence from Governor Macquarie, who certainly did not like Gregory Blaxland.. It was to be eight months before the achievement was mentioned in a Government Order published in the *Sydney Gazette*, February 12, 1814!. (see below.) For their efforts the three explorers were each given 1000 acres of the new land but only Lawson took it up. However, the explorers were lauded by their fellow colonists as at last the way was open across the mountain barrier, and settlers could begin the trek west.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, SYDNEY, FEB. 12, 1814.

The Governor is happy to embrace this opportunity of conveying his acknowledgments to Gregory Blaxland and William Charles Wentworth, Esqs., and Lieutenant William Lawson, of the Royal Veteran Company, for their enterprising and arduous exertions on the the tour of discovery which they voluntarily performed in the month of May last, when they effected a passage over the Blue Mountains, and proceeded to the extremity of the first valley, particularly alluded to in Mr. Evans's Tour, and being the first Europeans who had accomplished the passage over the Blue Mountains. The Governor, desirous to confer on these gentlemen substantial marks of his sense of their meritorious exertions on this occasion, means to present each of them with a grant of one thousand acres of land in this newly discovered country.

By command of His Excellency the Governor.

J. T. CAMPBELL,  
SECRETARY

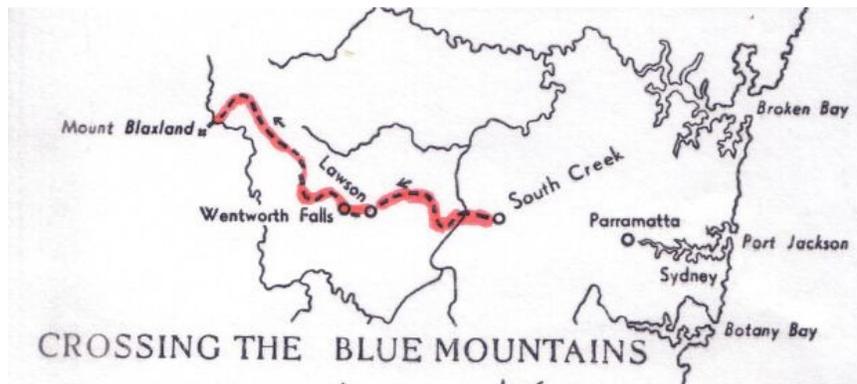
Blaxland well knew the scale upon which profitable agricultural and pastoral activities would now develop, but he was over ambitious. He tried to persuade Governor Macquarie to permit a scheme for the exploitation of the interior by a large agricultural company but Macquarie would not agree, nor would he grant Blaxland land in the interior for his own flocks, which led to him having to dispose of his livestock. The furious Blaxland joined the fermenting colonial opposition to Governor Macquarie.



***Brush Farm House, located at 19 Lawson Street, Eastwood The elegant Georgian-style country house (see left) was built in 1820 for Gregory Blaxland. It recently underwent restoration (see right). Funding for the \$3.3 million restoration of Brush Farm House was provided by the City of Ryde, the Commonwealth Government and the NSW Heritage Office***

By 1820 Blaxland had settled down on his Brush Farm and experimented with fodder plants, tried tobacco growing uncessfully and was successful with viviculture being awarded a silver medal and later the gold medal by the Royal Society of Arts in London for his wine. He had brought vines from the Cape of Good Hope and found a species resistant to blight. While in London with his wines in 1822 he published his *Journal of a Tour of Discovery Across the Blue Mountains in New South Wales*. After the death of his wife in 1826 he made another visit to England Still in opposition to the governor's authority he bore a petition in support of trial by jury and some form of representative government for the new colony.

Always a man of moody and mercurial character, Blaxland devoted his colonial activities almost entirely to the pursuit of his own economic interests. However, he ran into financial difficulties.and the government grant of 1280 acres (518 ha) of land was transferred to his creditors..Thereafter Blaxland disappeared from public life and eventually hanged himself on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1853, his death scarcely noted.in the colony.



## Extract from Lawson's journal

*Mr. Blaxland Wentworth and myself with four men and four Horses- Laden with Provisions etc- took our Departure on Tuesday the 11th May 1813. Crossed the Nepean River at Mr. Chapman's Farm Emma Island at four oclock and proceeded SW. Two miles. Encamped at 5 oclock at the foot of the first [Nioji] of Hills-*

*Wednesday morning 12th May at 9 oclock Struck our Tents and ascended the First Ridge of Hills. Steared S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> WSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> NNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> fell in with a Lygoon ful of Large Bushes plenty of good water N by W 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Miles NNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> at 1 oclock saw Groce Head bearing N by W about 7 Miles distance NNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>N by W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> WNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Mr Blaxlands Horse fel with his load Encamped at 4 oclock at the Head of a deep gully The land we passed over this day very poor and scrubby,-*

*Thursday Morning 13th May 1813*

*At nine oclock again proceeded W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> came into Forest Land supposed to be about 1000 Acres- with great Quantitys of Indigo growing much such land as Lane Cove- found several Camps of Native Huts- W by S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> NWx<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> our progress Stoped by an extreem thick scrub obliged to alter our Course SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> NNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Terminating in deep Rocky gullys impossible to proceed came back to NWx- NE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>- determine to cut a Road through this thick bush the Next morning Encamped at four oclock in Forest land found plenty of good water-*

*Friday Morning 14th May at Half past Nine oclock- left our Camp and Horses with Two men to guard them and Mr. Blaxland Wentworth and Self proceeded to cut away the brush for our Horses to pass and to Examine the Course of the Mountains- kept on what we judged the main Ridge between the Groce and western River. Cut a Road about five miles through a thick brush this is a very poor Rocky and Sandy Country I ever saw with great quantitys of Honey Suckle growing and the gullys extremely deep. Returned to our Camp at five oclock*

*Saturday Morning 15th May at Half past Nine Oclock left our Camp and proceeded to cut a Road through the brush where we left off the proceeding day Cut about Two miles further on the same Ridge of mountains very Rocky and Sandy no feed to be seen for our Horses Returned to our Camp at five oclock-*

*Sunday 16th May: Rested and arranged our plans for proceeding on Monday Morning*

*Monday Morning 17th May at Nine oclock Struck our Tents and loaded our Horses with our provisions and about Two Hundred weight of grass for each Horse and proceeded by the path we*

*had cut the two proceeding days our Course WSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> WNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> NNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> W by N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Groce Head born N by E. Mount banks NW by W W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> SE<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> WSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> WSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>- Encamped the Mountains very Scrubby and Rocky obliged to go for water into a very Steep gully abt. Six Hundred feet deep our Horses had no water this Night*

*Tuesday Morning 18th May left our Camp at nine oclock under charge of Mr. Wentworth and one man Mr. Blaxland and myself with three men proceeded a Head to examine the Ridges of Mountains, and make a Road for our Horses to pass- Returned to our Camp at five oclock.-*

*Wednesday Morning 19th May At half past Nine oclock. Struck our Tents and proceeded WSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> w by S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> here is a very narrow pass not more than fifteen yards over, with Steep Rocky gully on each side- ascended a High Mountain W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>. Mount Banks bore NW. Groce Head NE. Prospect Hill E by S. Seven hills ENE Windsor- NE by E from this Mountain we had a beautiful View of the whole of the Settlement here we found a Large heap of Stones piled up. No doubt it was done by Doctor Bass some years ago as he went in this Direction- and did pile a heap of Stones at the end of his journey, the mountains here are very Rockey. Encamped at the Head of a small lygoon covered with Rushes. This we found very acceptable for our Horses we had something else to give them- here we got plenty of good water, went a head to Examine our Road for next day.*

*Thursday Morning 20th May At Nine oclock struck our Tents and proceeded in the Road we had cut the day previous, course SE by S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SSW<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> W by S<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> WNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> NW by N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> WNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Encamped at Twelve oclock at the Head of a small Lygoon about 3 Acres covered with Rushes and well supplied with fine water- our Horses just existed on this sort of food,- proceeded on to Examine and mark our Road for to morrow- scarce any animals and very few birds to be seen- The Mountains here are very Sandy and Rocky covered with thick brush returned to our camp at five oclock*

*Friday Morning 21st May: Struck our Tents and proceeded in the Road we had marked though a thick brush the preceeding day NW by N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> W by NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> WNW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> NW by W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> WSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles- Encamped at Twelve oclock at the Head of a Swamp about 5 Acres covered with Rushes with great plenty of fine water Mr. Blaxland Wentworth and self proceeded a head to examine and mark our Road through a thick brush returned to our Camp at five oclock-*

*Saturday 22nd May Struck our Tents at Nine oclock and proceeded in the Road we had marked the preceeding day WSW 1 mile SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> NW by W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> W by N<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> SW by W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> NW by W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> SW by W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> WSW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> NW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub> SW by W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>8</sub> W<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>*

*Reached the summit of the Highest land we have yet been on the crown of this Mountain is about 2000 Acres of a heath much the appearance of some of our Heaths in England, Steared S. 1 Mile SW $\frac{1}{2}$  over part of it, and Encamped by a fine stream of water. Her we had a fine view of all our Settlements, our progress was here stoped by an impassable Clift from going either South or West- Mr. Blaxland Wentworth and Self left our Camp with a determination to get down some parts of this broken land. But found it impracticable in some places 500 feet perpendicular here we saw the course of the Western River and that broken Country at Natai the back of the Cow pasters. No doubt this is the Remnant of some dreadful Earthquake- Prospect Hill bore E. Groce Head NE Hat Hill S.E. by S. the appearance of Hat Hill from this Situation has Two Heads-*

*Sunday Morning 23rd May at Nine oclock Struck our Tents and proceeded NE by N 1Mile NNW $\frac{1}{4}$  N $\frac{1}{8}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  W $\frac{1}{4}$  WNW $\frac{1}{2}$  NNW $\frac{1}{4}$  N $\frac{1}{4}$  NNW $\frac{1}{4}$  - Encamped at one oclock at the Head of a Large Lygoon with a fine Run of water went on to Examine and mark our Road for for next day-*

*Monday Morning 24th May: Struck our Tents and proceeded N by W $\frac{1}{16}$  NW $\frac{1}{16}$  NNW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{2}$  W $\frac{1}{16}$  WSW $\frac{1}{4}$  SSW $\frac{1}{4}$  S by E $\frac{1}{4}$  S by W $\frac{1}{4}$  SSW $\frac{1}{8}$  S $\frac{1}{2}$  W 1mile WSW $\frac{1}{4}$  SSW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  Encamped at Twelve oclock at the head of a Large Lygoon plenty of fine water Mr Blaxland Wentworth and Self proceeded a head to Examine and Mark our Road and returned to camp at five oclock-*

*Tuesday Morning 25th May: Struck our Tents at Half past Nine oclock and proceeded W by N $\frac{1}{8}$  SW $\frac{1}{16}$  W $\frac{1}{8}$  W by N $\frac{1}{4}$  NNW $\frac{1}{4}$  W $\frac{1}{8}$  SSW $\frac{1}{4}$  WSW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW by W $\frac{1}{2}$  W $\frac{1}{4}$  NNW $\frac{1}{8}$  SW by W $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{2}$  N $\frac{1}{2}$  NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Encamped at two oclock at the Head of a Swamp plenty of fine water- and proceeded on to Examine and Mark our Road returned to our Camp at five oclock the Mountains much the same we have already passed over very Rockey with thick Scrub.*

*Wednesday Morning 26th May: Struck our Tents at Nine oclock and proceeded WSW $\frac{1}{16}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  NNE $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{2}$  N by W $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  NNW $\frac{1}{2}$  N $\frac{1}{4}$  NNW $\frac{1}{16}$  N $\frac{1}{8}$  N $\frac{1}{4}$  at Twelve oclock Encamped at the Head of a Large Lygoon went a head to Examine our Road. Returned to our Camp at six oclock.*

*Thursday Morning 27th May: Struck our Tents at nine oclock and proceeded NW by N $\frac{1}{16}$  N $\frac{3}{8}$  NNE $\frac{3}{4}$  N $\frac{1}{16}$  NW $\frac{1}{16}$  NE $\frac{1}{16}$  NW $\frac{1}{16}$  NE $\frac{1}{16}$  NNE $\frac{1}{2}$  Crossed a large Common N $\frac{3}{4}$  NNW $\frac{1}{2}$  SW $\frac{1}{8}$  W $\frac{1}{2}$  NNW $\frac{1}{2}$  WNW $\frac{1}{8}$  NNW $\frac{1}{4}$  N $\frac{1}{4}$  NE $\frac{1}{8}$  Encamped at one oclock at the head of a lygoon found plenty of good water proceeded a head to Examine and Mark our Road- Returned to our Camp at five oclock,-*

*Friday Morning 28th May At half past Nine oclock struck our Tents and proceeded NW $\frac{1}{8}$  N $\frac{1}{4}$  WSW $\frac{1}{4}$  N $\frac{1}{16}$  WNW $\frac{1}{4}$  N $\frac{1}{8}$  NNW $\frac{1}{4}$  WNW $\frac{1}{4}$  NW $\frac{1}{4}$  W $\frac{1}{8}$  NNW $\frac{1}{16}$  NW $\frac{1}{2}$  NW by N $\frac{1}{4}$  N $\frac{1}{4}$  W $\frac{1}{2}$*

*NNW ¼ NW ¾ NNE 1/16 WNW 1/8 NW ½ N 1/8 Encamped at five o'clock on the top of a High Mountain obliged to go about 3 miles for water.*

*Saturday Morning 29th May at Seven O'clock began to descend a High Mountain reached the foot at nine o'clock got into a fine Country and proceeded NE ¼ NNW 1 ½ miles went through a fine meadow Encamped beside a fine stream of water we have now Entered a fine grazing Country*

*Sunday. Rested.*

*Monday Morning 31st May. At nine o'clock proceeded S W 3 miles west 2 miles. We are now traveling in a fine grazing Country Crossed two fine streams of water One of them running from the west to other from the NE There is no doubt but these two Streams run into the Western River- Traveled on NW ¼ NNE ¼ SSW ½ Encamped on the side of a fine stream of water it running very fast here is a great Extent of fine Forest land and the best watered Country of any*

*I have seen in the Colony went five miles to the westward- our shoes worn out and provisions nearly Expended Obligated us to Return home the same Course we came this Country will I have no doubt be a great acquisition to this Colony and no difficulty in making a good Road to it, and take it in a Political point of View if in case of our Invasion it will be a safe Retreat for the Inhabitation with their Families and that for this part of the Country is so formed by Nature that a few men would be able to defend the passes against a large body- and I have every reason to think that the same Ridge of Mountains we traveled on will lead some distance into the Interior of the Country and also that a Communication can be Easily found from this to the Head of the Coal River where to my knowledge is a Large extent of fine grazing Country and it having water carriage from thence to Portjackson which will be a great consideration*

*Tuesday Morning 1st June*

*Struck our Tents at Nine o'clock and proceeded Home E 1 Mile S ¼ - E 2 ½ - NE. 2 ½ SSE ½ SE. ¼ - Encamped at the foot of the Mountain we came down on the 29th May-*

*Wednesday Morning 2nd June at Seven o'clock proceeded to ascend the Mountain course ½ mile west Reached the Summit at Ten got in our old Track home came Ten miles- Encamped at five o'clock*

*Thursday Morning 3rd June*

*Struck our Tents and proceeded home Came seventeen miles Encamped at Five o'clock*

*Friday Morning 4th June*

*Struck our Tents and proceeded home came Eighteen Miles Encamped at four oclock*

*Saturday Morning 5th June*

*Struck our Tents at Seven oclock- and proceeded Ten miles arrived at Emmu Island at four oclock -*

*Encamped on the banks of the Nepean River opposite Doctor Jamison's Tavern*

*Sunday Morning 6th June*

*Crossed the Nepean River and arrived at Mr. Blaxlands Tavern at Two oclock - all*

*in good health.*

*W Lawson Lieut. N.V. Company*

## **References**

TAA Explorers of Australia.

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