

## A18 Dr Charles Throsby

## Surgeon, farmer, magistrate, explorer

Title/rank: Doctor (surgeon), then a pre-eminent settler, and explorer.

Born – date/year: 1777

Place of origin: Glenfield, near Leicester, England. Arrived in NSW in 1802.

Marital status & children: Married to Jane [who died on 4 November 1838]. He was disappointed that he had no children, so he sent for his nephew Charles Throsby junior to become his heir. The latter arrived from England in 1820, and occupied *Throsby Park*. He married Betsy, daughter of William Broughton and their children carried on the family line.



Place where lived Initially at Castle Hill, then Sydney. After a four year posting in the convict settlement at Newcastle he returned to Sydney in 1808. Lieutenant-Governor Joseph Foveaux had granted Throsby 500 acres (202 ha) at Cabramatta for his services at Newcastle and in 1809 Lieutenant-Governor William Paterson made him grants of 500 and 100 acres at Minto. These he had to surrender when Governor Macquarie arrived in 1810, but the latter then granted him 1500 acres in their place. He built a house on his land grant, which he named *Glenfield* after his home town in England, and concentrated on pastoral activities there.

Role/job: In August 1804, he was sent to the new settlement at Newcastle as assistant surgeon. In March 1805 he was appointed superintendent of labour, then the next month was given command of the settlement which, according to Governor King, he conducted with 'great Activity and Propriety'. In 1808 he was confirmed as magistrate there, returning to Sydney in December that year. He resigned as a surgeon in 1809.

According to Vivienne Parsons's article in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Macquarie highly rated Throsby's achievements as an explorer. "Throsby was one of the first settlers in the Illawarra district, where in November 1816 his stockmen already had a hut and he was also one of the first to settle in the Moss Vale district. In August 1817, he explored the country west of Sutton Forest with Hamilton Hume, a family friend. In March and April 1818, he accompanied Surveyor-General James Meehan on a journey from the Cowpastures through Moss Vale to Bundanoon Creek and south-east to Jervis Bay, after the party divided Throsby reached the Shoalhaven River and Jervis Bay. In April 1819, he made a tour from the Cowpastures to Bathurst, opening up fertile country which Macquarie felt would meet the increase of settlers for many years. For this he granted

Throsby 1000 acres (405 ha) and also rewarded his companions and servants. In 1819, Throsby discovered a pass between the Illawarra and Robertson districts and successfully drove a herd of cattle through it. In March 1820 he explored the country around Goulburn and Lake Bathurst and penetrated as far as the Breadalbane Plains. Macquarie gave him superintendence over the building of the road from the Cowpastures to the new country. In 1820, Macquarie visited the work party, which had reached the Cookbundoon Range. In recognition of his remarkable achievements in exploring and identifying new areas for settlement, Macquarie gave Throsby's 1000 acres (south of Minto) the name of *Throsby Park*.

By 1820, Throsby felt that his poor health and financial worries would prevent any further explorations. However, in March 1821 he set out again for the new country, going in search of the Murrumbidgee. On this trip he crossed the Molonglo and Queanbeyan Rivers and the country where Canberra now stands. This has been spoken of as Throsby's last journey, but in November he appears to have journeyed again from Sutton Forest to Jervis Bay.

In March 1821, Macquarie made Throsby a magistrate of the territory, with his main jurisdiction over the new County of Argyle created out of part of the land Throsby had explored. He also granted him 700 acres (283 ha) to adjoin *Throsby Park* or any part of the new country he desired.

In 1825 Throsby was appointed to the Legislative Council.

However, all this time he was involved in financial troubles brought on by the £5000 surety he had undertaken on behalf of Garnham Blaxcell (for details, see Vivienne's entry in ADB). Ten years litigation ended in an adverse verdict for Throsby, who by 1828 was also affected by the drought and by falling prices for wool. Worn down by worry and ill health, he committed suicide in 1828.

Contribution to Liverpool:	The reach of his activities extended far beyond Liverpool but he was undoubtedly one of the district's most eminent early settlers.
Died/age: -,	2 April 1828 - aged 51
Religion:	Church of England Grave No. A 18
Source of info.	Vivienne Parsons's article in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2, (MUP), 1967,