

80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATED

MRS. MARY THOMSON

Mrs. Mary Thomson celebrated her 80th birthday with a family party at her home at Redman-street, Islington, where she has lived more than fifty years.

The guest of honor received gifts and congratulations from all parts of the State. The dinner-table was beautifully decorated with flowers, and a large cake, topped with candles—one for every year of the guest's age—had a paramount position.

Among her children present were Mr J. W. Thomson (Taree), Mrs A. H. Morris (Mayfield), Mrs J. V. Payne (Belmore), Mr S. Thomson (Islington), Mrs Percy Brock (Mayfield), Mr Rodger Thomson (Brighton, Victoria).

Mrs. Thomson is the widow of the late Mr. Samuel Thomson, who was associated with the New South Wales Railways for many years. She was born in Scotland, and came from England with her husband in the sailing ship *Pericles*. After a mishap off the Welsh coast, the *Pericles* returned to port, and her passengers were compelled to wait five weeks before sailing again. The ship made the voyage in a little more than four months. Mr and Mrs. Thomson lived in Sydney for a while, then went to Tamworth before settling down at Islington.