

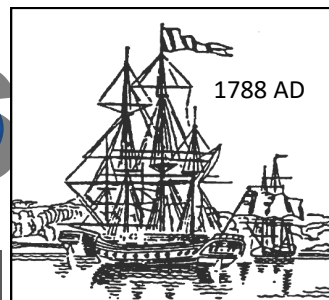
Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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PATRON: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC



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To live on in the hearts and minds
of descendants is never to die

First Fleet House

THE HISTORICAL AND CURRENT OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND IT OCCUPIES AND THE RESOURCES AND VOLUNTARY SERVICES AVAILABLE at 105 Cathedral Street Woolloomooloo NSW

Prepared by Tony Negline for the Board of Directors

The Fellowship of First Fleeters is the current owner of the land that **First Fleet House** occupies. Yet, despite the land being granted initially to a member of the First Fleet after European Settlement, the story of its ownership does not begin with First Fleeters or their descendants.

The original owners of the Fellowship's land on Eora Aboriginal country were the Gadigal people whose territory at the time of the arrival of the First Fleet in 1788 stretched from Sydney Cove to South Head, occupying much of today's Eastern Suburbs.

Gadigal People, Original owner-custodians of the land on which First Fleet House stands. (Photo, Google Images)



As a consequence, the land that **First Fleet House** now occupies was Gadigal land for more than 40,000 years prior to 22 August 1770 when Lieutenant James Cook RN claimed the entire east coast of Australia as British territory. The claim assigned ownership to King George III of Great Britain. Gadigal land then became Crown Land until 1793 when Lieutenant-Governor Francis Grose granted First Fleeter John Palmer, the Commissary-General of New South Wales, 100 acres at the head of Garden Island Cove, (now known as Woolloomooloo Bay) - a grant with subsequent additions, stretching from the Bay to around present-day Oxford Street in the south

and to the Woolloomooloo Hills, later named Darlinghurst, to the east. Palmer built a classical style home there and established an extensive orchard known as Woolloomooloo Farm. (Karskens, *The Colony*, p.145.)

When the Palmers hit hard times, Edward Riley bought Woolloomooloo Farm and mansion in 1822, (Karskens *ibid*) and lived there until his death in 1825. His eldest son Edward succeeded to the Estate and occupied it until his death in 1840.

The Estate was then subject to a judgement of the Supreme Court of New South Wales that subdivided the land into what is now Woolloomooloo, Darlinghurst and parts of Surry Hills. New streets were formed, including Cathedral Street where **First Fleet House** is now located. Cathedral Street was first named Woolloomooloo St until 1905 when residents petitioned for a more respectable name because of the derelict makeup of parts of the suburb. In 1908 Cathedral Lane between Forbes and Dowling Streets became an extension of Cathedral Street.

(History of Sydney Streets

www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au)



*John Palmer
(Google Images)*

(Continued on Page 3)

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**Membership
Drive Planned
See Page 12**

FOUNDERS

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Note: Other tasks are looked after by our team of faithful volunteers who are usually at First Fleet House on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



PRESIDENT'S PEN



Good afternoon everyone. As I write, we are in the midst of two major changes, meteorological and political. The first has ushered in winter, the second a new government. La Nina's prolonged stay has certainly affected many parts of the country and therefore the lives and livelihoods of our members far and wide to whom we pass on our sincere wishes.

With mooted changes in a more diversely representative parliament many of us in the Fellowship may soon be sensing personal challenges to our long held attitudes to history and heritage, even to the very national ethos itself. The ride ahead may be rough, but survive it we will, up front and out there, with our inborn and well-trying First Fleeter resilience, and a strong cohort of younger members leading the way. We will need reinforcements.

There is good news from our latest two chapters, Port Phillip and Gold Coast, and I pass on Board congratulations for their excellent starts in a Covid-19 dominated world. On the way or already in place are chapter logos, innovative programmes, facebook, websites and newsletters.

Jon

AT THE 2022 KU-RING-GAI SENIORS' EXPO

Dear Founders,

Today (23.03.2022) we set up a display at the annual Ku-ring-gai Council Seniors Expo at Turramurra. Set up was from 09.00 am, doors opened 10.00 am. There were nearly 40 display tables.

Robbie Ford, Rod Sanderson and myself represented our Chapter with various FFF posters and the APC pull up banner.

The display was dismantled at 1.40pm and a total of 31 visitors had made enquires mostly of a general nature, some specifically regarding the First, Second and Third Fleet.

There is at least one person that may become a member given the nature of the conversation. Overall it was good exposure for the Arthur Phillip Chapter.

Regards

Roderick White (Arthur Phillip Chapter President)



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11. Chapters in Action.
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(from page 1)

John Palmer's Woolloomooloo Farm and Residence, circa 1822, and viewed from Woolloomooloo Bay looking toward distant land that would become a site for First Fleet house. (Google Images)



****A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE SITE OF First Fleet House 1856-1988 ...** (referred to as **The Land** after this).

1856. Joseph Marshall, the founder of Marshall's Paddington Brewery, owned The Land after the subdivisions. In 1856 Marshall gave The Land to his wife Ester Marshall as part of a marriage settlement. Ester retained ownership until her death in 1910.

1911. As part of Ester Marshall's Estate The Land was sold to Herbert Charles James Ousey, a publican who owned the *Kavanagh Hotel* at 111 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo which had changed its name by 1912 to the *East Sydney Hotel*, three doors up from The Land at 105 Cathedral Street.

1920. The Land was transferred to Elizabeth Ousey as part of a divorce settlement.

Best** concludes: 'It is most likely that the building was built by the Ousey family. The design indicates that it was built as a shop with accompanying residence.' Or else it was built as a family residence where later, because of challenging economic circumstances, the front room was converted to a shop for family income purposes.

After this, the building is referred to as **The House**, in recognition of its eventually becoming **First Fleet House**.

1931. Elizabeth Ousey dies.

Sharon Lamb, Archivist, informed us that, at a meeting of the Board at which she was present, 'A lady knocked on the front door and told us that she had grown up in the house. She took us on a tour to tell us about it. She said that in the 1960s and 1970s FFH was a greengrocery store. The vegs and fruit were displayed in our current meeting room area. The section of the house at the bottom of the stairs was the dining and lounge room. The kitchen was the same as it is now. Upstairs, the current membership room at the front was the main bedroom. The two other rooms were bedrooms and the back verandah was where

the children slept. The bathroom is the same and hasn't changed.' This worthy record about FFH is an exceptional piece of chance information due to knock on FFH's front door during a Board Meeting at which now long serving Director, Sharon Lamb, has shared with us.

1970. The executors of Elizabeth Ousey sold The House to Regional Investments Pty Ltd.

1977. Hillcrest Corporation Ltd, as mortgagee in possession, sold it to Patanavia Pty Ltd.

Early 1980s. The House was the address for Ashok Trading Pty Ltd, a clothing manufacturer.

1984. The House was purchased by Harry Lai York and Jean York.

1988. 2 March, The House comprising a show room/storage entrance, with a residence upstairs was purchased by the Fellowship of First Fleeters with a mortgage from Westpac. Executive members Shirley Archdall and Pam Quick were instrumental in locating the property and recommended to the Committee that it be purchased. Subsequently, The House was named **First Fleet House** at the time when the Fellowship was incorporated.



Front of House, 105 Cathedral St, Karys Fearon Collection



(From Karys Fearon Collection)

Until the Fellowship purchased its own property it first operated out of rented premises at 21 Phillip St, Sydney and then at the Assembly Building in Margaret Street. By 1987, with the growth in membership, the rented premises had become unsatisfactory. Financially too, it was thought better to buy than continue to rent.

Fellowship **Newsletters** at the time gave a clear account of the Committee's intentions. The President, Peter Christian, reported:

'The Executive is negotiating the purchase of a property quite close to the city. Our existing accommodation, to say the least, is not only tenuous, but also quite overcrowded and has become unsatisfactory for the smooth running of our organisation.' Vol. 18.6 November/December 1987

'First Fleet House is now a reality and is situated at 105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo 2011.... It is a two storey building, having a downstairs meeting room, annex and kitchen, whilst upstairs there are three good sized rooms, a bathroom and balcony. We have been able to purchase the property for \$144,000.' Vol 19.1 January/February 1988

'The last few months have been a settling in time at First Fleet House, and the Executive hopes to make some improvements before the official opening. There is evidence of rising damp, urgent painting to the outside and the

main meeting room needs to be done, in addition to matters of lighting and security.

'His Excellency, The Governor of N.S.W, Sir James Rowland has kindly consented to open First Fleet House at a ceremony on 2 July next.' Vol 19.2 March/April 1988.

First Fleet House OPENING

The Official Opening took place as planned on 2 July 1988 with the Governor, Sir James and Lady Rowland performing the ceremony. The Governor congratulated the Fellowship on its far-sighted vision in purchasing its own premises. He then toured the House before mingling with members.

The President Peter Christian, paid tribute to all involved and the Immediate Past President. Roderick Best, expressed the appreciation of all present to the Governor and Lady Rowland for their attendance

Thirty four years following its Official Opening, **First Fleet House** in 2022 continues as the headquarters of the Fellowship of First Fleeters where it provides resources and services to support First Fleet descendants and others seeking awareness about First Fleet Pioneers; who have interests in aspects of colonial Australian history; and who want to remember the past while celebrating the progress of modern Australia.

(Photos from Fellowship of First Fleeters archives:)

At left, Sir James Rowland, Governor of New South Wales, officially opening **First Fleet House** ;

Below, L to R, Peter Christian, Sir James Rowland, Lady Rowland and Mrs Joy Christian at the Official Opening, 2 July 1988.



GUIDANCE ABOUT RESOURCES AND SERVICES

AVAILABLE AT *First Fleet House* ***

The library is an onsite reference centre with a comprehensive collection of material relating specifically to the First Fleet. New information is added regularly. Accessibility, assistance and visiting times are by appointment with House Management. The librarian will answer queries by email-assistance. There is no provision for material to be removed from *First Fleet House* but photocopying facilities are available and modern smartphone cameras will do the job.



The Computer Research Stations have been updated and are well maintained. The network is wireless and the download speed is quick and effective. Printing and photocopying services are available.

Archives and Archival Support are available by appointment only with the Archivist present or by written request. Archival material includes membership data, newspaper articles, photographs and information about people and events of the First Fleet. There is also limited material about people of the Second and Third Fleets who married First Fleeters. Archival material is indexed and updated



regularly.

Website & Facebook

Visiting the Fellowship's website @ Fellowship of First Fleeters, is a rewarding experience. The website is comprehensive, informative and updated regularly. In most cases it should be the first port of call for enquiries about the Fellowship or the First Fleet. The Facebook link has been operating for some years now and has become a practical and informative way for people to interact with, and share thoughts about, the policies, operations and directions of the Fellowship.

Newsletters, *Founders Magazine*, Publications and Events

The Fellowship's magazine *Founders*, is published six times annually to announce Events and to publicise articles about the Fellowship. It features authentic stories about those who arrived on the First Fleet in 1788 and their descendant members. Newsletters have been published regularly since the formation of the Fellowship in 1968 and all editions are accessible on the website.



Grave Plaques

A key activity of the Fellowship has been an ongoing search for the location and identification of the graves of First Fleeters so that a Fellowship Bronze Plaque can be attached to their tombstone and a dedication ceremony carried out. For a First Fleeter's grave located without a headstone, the family might take into account erecting a memorial stone and referred the location to *First Fleet House*.

A 2013 publication by Ron Withington, *Dispatched Downunder*, that traces the resting places of the First Fleeters is on sale at the Fellowship's shop. (see website).

Chapter Establishment & Liaison

While the Fellowship is appropriately headquartered at *First Fleet House* in Sydney, the home of the First Settlement, 18 Chapters currently operate in various locations throughout Australia. The Chapters independently organise regular meetings and events for local members and friends. A list of Chapters is updated on the website where there are contact details for the director who liaises about Chapter matters.

Membership

The website has information about how to become a member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters; about the categories of membership available; and about how Membership Applications can be downloaded for people who can either prove they are descendants of First Fleeters or who have an interest in both the Fellowship and Australian History.

The Fellowship's Membership Committee will provide guidance and support for enquiries and application

Volunteers

The Headquarters of the Fellowship at 105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo, operates through the helpfulness, talent and generosity of volunteers, usually First Fleet descendants, Associates and Friends who go to *First Fleet House* regularly to keep it open. They combine with the Board of Directors to support the resources and services provided. As with its Chapters, the undertaking of volunteer work with the Fellowship is essential for actively continuing its part in keeping the memory of our First Fleet Ancestors alive in the hearts of descendants.

Anybody thinking of voluntary work with the Fellowship should speak with members of the Volunteer Team by telephoning or by visiting *First Fleet House*.

LAST WORDS

First Fleet House was at one stage in its history a far sighted vision. That vision is now confidently offering assistance and support to those remembering their First Fleet ancestors.

Visitors to *First Fleet House* are always welcome. Whereas there are resources and voluntary support available, it is wise to phone ahead on (02) 9360 3788 to check opening times and to confirm the availability of support needed at the time of the visit.

This article should be read in conjunction with the FFF Website and a PowerPoint Visit to FFF, available for presentation at Chapter meetings.

*See **Founders**: FFF Office Bearers 2022.

***The Chronology was prepared by Roderick Best. Rod has served the Fellowship voluntarily in various capacities for more than 40 years. In relation to *First Fleet House* he was actively involved with its purchase and at its Official Opening in 1988 was invited to speak in appreciation of the Governor's and Lady Rowland's attendance. Rod is currently the Fellowship's Honorary Company Secretary.*

Photos supplied by FFF Archivist, former Director Karys Fearon and Google searches.

WILLIAM NICHOLLS ~ A MISTAKEN IDENTITY COSTS FOUR YEARS

In the early days of the Colony freed convicts had to carry their identification paper which showed their name, arrival ship and their physical description. Convicts were generally identified by their name and arrival ship. This worked well for most convicts but in the case of my great-grandfather's uncle, William Nicholls, it was not enough information.

St Bartholomew's Church Tardebigge, Worcs, where William Nicholls was baptised



My William was 18 years of age when convicted at the Salop Assizes for horse stealing, sentenced to death, but commuted to transportation for life. He arrived on the *Baring* [2] in 1819. Unfortunately for my William there was

another William Nicholls [same spelling, no relation] on the *Baring* [2] and there began for the Authorities confusion between the two Williams which lasted until 1836.

My William spent most of his sentence working for Paul Bushell at Wilberforce and the other William was sent to Airds near Campbelltown. My William could not read or write, so was at the mercy of the system. This, and being confused with the other William from the *Baring* [2] who in 1825 was charged with horse stealing, resulted in my William's Ticket of Leave being delayed from 1825 to 1829 because of a bad character assessment based on incorrectly recorded information.

This confusion only came to light when my William received his Conditional Pardon [CP] in 1836. He picked up his new paperwork in Windsor and returned home to Wilberforce where someone who could read saw that the physical description on the CP was not his but was, as it turned out, for the other William who was dead by that time.

An incorrect description was very dangerous for an ex-convict so a letter was quickly prepared and sent to the Colonial Secretary. Eventually the records were straightened out, but it had cost my William four years of freedom. There was no compensation for such errors in those days!

#3244 Ian Nicholls.

FF THOMAS LUCAS *Marine 'Scarborough' (c1759-1815)*

Thomas Lucas enlisted as a private marine in the 23rd Portsmouth Company in 1786. He was a former glazier and he went to NSW on the *Scarborough*. He was noted during the voyage as leaving **Marine John Easty's** mess on 1st September 1788 and falling down a hatchway.

At Port Jackson in 1788 he served in the company of **Captain John Shea** (*Scarborough*) and also worked in the colony as a glazier. He was about 29 y/o.

On 29th December 1791, a son Thomas by **Ann Howard** (Convict- *Lady Juliana*), age given as 28 y/o in 1789 at embarkation, was born and baptised on 29th January 1792 in Sydney.

Ann Howard, born in London in 1758, was indicted for stealing, on the 8th day of December 1787, one corded dimity petticoat, value 3 s. two muslin aprons, value 4 s. a child's laced cap, value 10 d. the property of **John Reader**.

The prisoner went to nurse the prosecutor's wife, and carried away the things the next day, and the petticoat was on her; she was taken directly.

GUILTY. Transported for seven years.

Tried by the first Middlesex Jury, before **Mr. Recorder**.

Ann was transported on the *Lady Juliana* part of the Second Fleet leaving Portsmouth during July 1789, arriving at Port Jackson during June 1790.

In December that year Thomas enlisted in the NSW Corps as a corporal and after several years of marine duty in Sydney he went to Norfolk Island in October 1794 by *Daedalus*, with Ann and son Thomas.

They married in 17th August 1801, by which time they had four children. The reason why Thomas and Ann had not married earlier was the **Rev Fulton** did not arrive at Norfolk Island until 1801 when their marriage was legalised and their children baptised.

On the Island he worked as a glazier and painter. He also cultivated his 60 acre land grant, acquired live-stock and built a two storey shingled dwelling. In 1808 it was decided to abandon Norfolk Island and resettle the free settlers and convicts in Tasmania.

So Thomas and Ann with their four children, **Thomas, Richard, John** and **Nathaniel** left Norfolk Island in 1808 on board the *City of Edinburgh* and settled at Browns River later named Kingston where they received a land grant of 42.25 acres cleared and 17.75 acres uncleared: later he held 530 acres.

Thomas aged 56 years died on 29 August 1815 and was buried at St David's Hobart

At his funeral the Masonic Lodge performed their ceremonies over a brother mason at the graveside.

Rev. Robert Knopwood was the Officiating Minister who entered the following details in his diary for that day; '1815-1st September.

At 3.00pm I buried Mr. Lucas from Browns River. He has been a marine that came out when the settlement at Port Jackson was formed, then became a settler and went to Norfolk Island. There he remained till the island was evacuated; most of the settlers came to this colony. He was a Mason, and buried by the Brothers in masonic form.'

A few months later, on 14 December 1815, the eldest son Thomas married **Elizabeth Blinkworth**. The following year, 1815, the second son Richard married **Elizabeth Green**, a widow with two children.

Early settler's cottage, 1806. (<http://www.maritimetas.org/>)



In this period Ann apparently ran the farm with the help of her sons, supplying wheat and meat to the Government stores. Ann lived to see John married to **Sophia Sherbud** on 21 July 1824, but Nathaniel was still single in 1832.

Ann died, on 10th June 1832, aged 74 and was buried beside her husband in St David's Cemetery, the inscription on the tombstone reading:

THOMAS LUCAS, a Marine settler, who came from England with his Excellency, Governor Phillip, at the first forming of the Territory of New South Wales, who died 29th August, 1815, (aged 56 years).

ANN LUCAS, wife of the above, who died 10th June 1832.

Compiled by John Boyd 2020

Sources

-*The Founders of Australia* by Mollie Gillen

-*Nathaniel and Olivia* written by Rhonda Kroehnert and Betty Taber

Geoff GRANT (Descendant of Nathaniel Lucas) - Article featured in the *First Fleet Folio* October 2004

Notes

The picture above shows Surveyor George Prideaux Harris's cottage at Sandy Bay in 1806. early settlers had to clear land and build their own cottages, often with the help of assigned convicts. As well as recommending the site at Sullivan's Cove for Hobart he would also have marked out his own farm.

FF THOMAS O'BRIEN, Marine *Scarborough*

Thomas O'Brien has been said to have been born in Tyrone, Ireland although no concrete evidence has been found to support this hypothesis. Anciently a great deal can be learnt from the roots of this ancient Irish Name and his ancient lineage. Ireland's Early Clans were extremely territorial and his ancestry certainly stretches back to the colourful legends of his first O'Brian ancestor **Brian Boru** in the 10th Century.

Thomas O'Brien was a marine of the 1st Fleet in the 32nd Company, Portsmouth Division on board the *Scarborough*, volunteering to escort 751 convicts to establish a new settlement at Botany Bay under the Command of **Arthur Philip** in 1787.

The Fleet of seven ships left Spithead, Portsmouth bound for Botany Bay in the early hours of Sunday 13 May 1787 arriving at the destination point on 19 January 1788. Botany Bay proved an unsuitable site and on 26 January 1788, the Motherland's Flag was raised near the spot now known as Circular Quay, in Sydney.

Thomas O'Brien remained at the Cove for the next two years, during which time in the Colony he was recorded in the 1788 Muster assigned to **Captain Tench's** Company as at 30 September having a debt to the Admiralty of £1.5s7d

Six weeks later, on 17 November 1788, Thomas O'Brien gave evidence in the Trial of fellow marine **Private James Baker**, indicted for the murder of Marine Private **Thomas Bullmore**. Three other marines were also implicated i.e. Privates **Luke Haines**, **Richard Askew** and **Richard Dukes**. Thomas testified that on the morning of 7 November he was asked by the deceased to stand his shift for him, he not being well. Thomas refused and four days later Bullmore died as a result of wounds inflicted in a fight with the accused on the day mentioned. The Charges were later reduced to Manslaughter and all marines were given 200 Lashes.

Two years later, the arrival of the Second Fleet brought with it twenty-eight year-old convict **Susannah Mortimore**, formerly of Devonshire, and her infant daughter **Susannah** born at sea en route aboard the convict transport *Lady Juliana*. Susannah was indicted firstly at the Hampshire Assizes, assumed found innocent and then moved to Exeter Castle, Devonshire, to stand trial for stealing a sheep with co-conspirator **John Rice** on 17 March 1788. Both were initially sentenced to death but later reprieved to serve seven years transportation to the Colony. During the voyage, Susannah gave birth to a daughter with reports of her boarding the vessel with another child, although no documentation has been found to support the existence of this elder child.

Within a few short weeks after arrival at Sydney Cove, Susannah and her infant daughter were sent to Norfolk Island per *Surprise* on 7 August 1790. Already on the Island were 1st Fleet Convicts **John Mortimer** and his son **Noah**,

who were convicted for theft at Devonshire Assizes on 20 March 1786 and sentenced to seven years transportation to the Colony. Recent evidence implies that Noah later used the name **Nathaniel Mortimer** and is the same man who lived at the home of **James O'Brien**, the son of Susannah and Thomas at Glenorchy since 1834. There is substantial evidence to this effect recorded in the Inquest into his death twelve years later in 1846 whereby James's wife **Ann [nee Cowen]** and their adolescent daughter Susannah O'Brien, aged thirteen, gave evidence at the Inquest.



A 19th Century engraving of Rougement (Exeter) Castle from Charles Knight's 'Old England, A Pictorial Museum'.

At this point the Marines were allowed to accept the offer made by the Admiralty prior to their Departure, to either settle at the Colony with a Land Grant, enlist in the establishment of the newly arrived relieving NSW Corps, or return to England.

According to Sergeant **James Scott's** Journal a further enticement to settle on the following Encouragement; Eighteen months Provisions with 60 Acres of Land, 1/2 an acre Cleared. 'A house built; two Breeding Sows; Six Hens & one Cock; four Jackets; Four Waistcoats; four pair drawers; four pair Trousers; four pair Shoes; four pair Hose; two Hats; four Shirts & thread Needles; a Bed & Blankets.'

This Order was made on 5 April 1791, however they were not allowed to leave until their houses were built. Thomas O'Brien was one of the first twenty-nine marines to choose to settle in the Colony. He was discharged on 24 October 1791 and left Sydney Cove two days later aboard the *Atlantic* to settle at Norfolk Island. Within weeks Thomas O'Brien and Susannah Mortimore were married, very likely in November 1791, in one of several ceremonies performed on the Island by **Rev. Johnson** at that time. No records have been found. Susannah's child Susannah Jnr was nearing the age of two years at their marriage, she later adopted the name of her stepfather and ultimately married under the name Susannah O'Brien. Susannah formed a close bond with her half siblings.

Moving into their newly built two storey home, several children followed as the family prospered. The children, all but the last born on Norfolk Island, were: **Catherine**, baptised 27 August 1792, and **Mary Ann**, baptised on 26 February 1794, who died in infancy .

Others were **Agnus Therese**, born on 18 July 1795; **Elizabeth** in 1799; **James** (?) and **William** in 1800; **Margaret** in 1807; **Mary Ann** in 1804 and **Thomas**, born in 1808 possibly in Hobart.

Susannah was now aged around forty-eight, this would be her last child.

Although the Settlement at Sydney Cove had for many years been reliant on the rich harvests of Norfolk the treacherous shipping conditions brought about the decision to evacuate Norfolk. The houses were to be destroyed to deter settlement by foreign shipping and many of the settlers were to be re-located south of the mainland at Van Diemen's Land compensated with large Land Grants.

The O'Brien Family left the Island per *The City of Edinburgh* on 3 September 1808. By this time Susannah appears to have been carrying her youngest child in-utero. With them were their six surviving children Catherine aged 16yrs; Agnus was aged 13yrs; Elizabeth aged 9yrs; William aged 8yrs and Margaret aged 1year and Susannah, the daughter of Susannah's prior relationship aged eighteen.

During this time the O'Brien Family appear to have endeared forty-year-old convict **George Porter** (Scarborough2-1790) who had been working on the Island since 1792. George was also relocated to Van Diemen's Land at this time. Within a few weeks of arrival, after adopting the name of her Stepfather and with his blessing as a Witness, young Susannah O'Brien married George Porter [twenty-two years her senior] at Hobart on 21 November 1808, by whom she had several issue.

According to the Muster of 1809, Thomas was granted 100 acres of land of which three were under wheat and one in barley. It states he has six children. During the next few years a bridge was built across Humphries Rivulet a tributary of the Derwent River, laying adjacent to the O'Brien Farm. It was a vital crossing to local residents and

became known as O'Brien's Bridge. It stood as a local icon used locationally in many Deed & Legal Documents in Hobart for many decades.

By the 1819 Muster Thomas O'Brien is recorded on the same property with ten acres in wheat, one in peas and beans, three in potatoes and forty-six under pasture. At this point his children were aged: Catherine 27yrs [unmarried]; Agnus 24yrs [unmarried]; Elizabeth 20yrs [unmarried]; James 19yrs; William 17yrs, Margaret 12yrs and Thomas aged eleven years.

This Muster was the last recorded account of Thomas O'Brien, but where and exactly when he died and was buried remains a mystery. He is assumed to have been buried on the property shortly following the Muster. Three years later, his sons James and William were both recorded living at the property, which was now called 'O'Brien's Farm'.

William was recorded in an advertisement in the *Hobart Town Gazette: Saturday 25th May 1822*;

STRAYED, from O'Brien's Farm at Humphrey's Rivulet, about three weeks ago, 3 young Steers, branded BJ on the left thigh, one of them with his right horn inclining towards the cheek, one of a dark brown colour with a white forehead, the other, a light brown with a white streak down the back.

Any person giving information where they may be found, will receive Three Pounds Reward of W. O'Brien, the owner of the said cattle; but if found in any persons possession after this notice, they will be prosecuted according to law.

Susannah was recorded in the 1837 Census living with her daughter **Margaret McDonald**.

Susannah O'Brien [formerly Mortimore] died on 31 December 1846, buried at St. Matthew, Glenorchy, her Tombstone inscribed aged 86 years. Susannah's son James O'Brien is interred with her, died on 21 December 1863. His spouse Ann O'Brien [nee Cowan] also lies within.

Written by Judith-Ann S Adams 2006

Sources-

1. The Founders of Australia by Mollie Gillen p267
- 2.-www.scardfamily.id.au/-MortimerSusannah&ThomasOBrien.htm

Notes from Glenorchy Heritage

The unassuming building (pictured left) situated on the corner of Chapel Street in Glenorchy is one of the oldest churches in Tasmania. The area around Chapel Street was originally known as O'Brien's Bridge, an early settlement just outside Hobart. It is named after Thomas O'Brien, who received a land grant in the area. Born in Ireland, O'Brien was also a Norfolk Islander and a marine in the First Fleet before moving to Van Diemen's Land in 1808. The O'Brien Bridge Chapel was established during Benjamin Carvosso's ministry in Hobart and is one of the earliest Wesleyan Methodist churches built in Van Diemen's Land. Established in 1831, land for the church was donated by James O'Brien and the foundation stone was laid on 1 January 1830 with Reverend Carvosso delivering a sermon. **Photo:** Duncan Grant.

Former Wesleyan Methodist Church, at O'Brien Bridge



FROM THE MAILBAG ~ MEMBERS' LETTERS

Dear Editor,

I would like to concur with the three letters in *Founders* magazine 52.3, April-May 2021. As a member for over forty years I too have been dismayed to read what appear to be partisan views creeping into our publication. Not only in the article from the Feb/Mar edition but the Book Review of *Truth-Telling* on page 10 of the April-May issue. We all know that our First Fleet ancestors were not here by choice and whatever came later in time, good and bad, was not of their doing – the past can't be changed. I don't believe that discussions of invasion, land-rights etc belong here. In the time between 1988 and now, Australia Day has become so politicised that it is a shadow of its former self. In 1988 Fellowship members marched down Macquarie Street proudly honouring those poor unfortunates who helped make this country so wonderful. It seems to be something that we aren't allowed to celebrate now and something that this country has forgotten. So it is up to us to remember -we are their mouth-piece now.

We are members of this Fellowship to honour our First Fleet forbears and their wonderful achievements – not to discuss current partisan issues.

#1220 Leigh Wallbank (Mrs) (FF David Kilpack)

A Personal View on 26th of January. A quandary.

Having read the article by Julian Lucas and subsequent "mail bag" letters I feel the need to comment as an amateur historian, author, one of the foundation members of the Fellowship and now Vice Patron. Some of the previous contributions on this subject make me sad.

My approach to 26th January is to recognise the current basic problem. We treat that date as both a Commemoration and a Celebration; these two approaches don't sit well together.

During the year we Australians hold other commemorations; ANZAC day, Armistice day, the Port Arthur massacre, Cyclone Tracy, the Crucifixion of Jesus are examples. On none of these days do we think of them as celebrations.

We members might feel inclined to celebrate the growth and achievements of our individual families since 1788 however this does not give cause for a national celebration. Certainly the indigenous Australians have little cause to celebrate.

The historical date to commemorate the First Fleet's arrival in Sydney Cove obviously cannot be moved, however the celebration of today's nation of Australia can be moved. Far be it from me to suggest a new Australia Day date; there have been suggestions for an alternative date so at least some hold my view.

I have always felt the way Australia Day is celebrated is demeaning to the First Fleet commemoration. Jingoism, anti-social behaviour, having cane toad races and other novelty competitions, and the like, don't sit well with historical commemorations. We of the Fellowship can continue our Commemoration and recognise the trials and tribulations of our forebears and of the indigenous people who had cared for our land so well for so long.

Teaching and research about the First Fleet will continue as an essential part of Australia's story notwithstanding a move of the date of Australia Day.

#514 Commodore Paul Kable AM RAN (Ret)

Finding Convict Hulk Records

Many of our readers will remember visiting the excellent display at Sydney Living Museum's *Hyde Park Barracks* back 10 years ago. We learnt then that the use of hulks as prisons was not confined to the Thames and other English ports but could be found throughout the English speaking world such as the West Indies and even Sydney Harbour.

You can read about that display in our *Founders* archive online—Issue 39.1 Jan/Feb 2008, page 3.

In our next issue **#F194 Heather Stevens** will give some excellent research guidelines for tracking down 'hulk time' served by your First Fleeters and other convict ancestors. Heather wants to ensure that family historians are not misled by the seeming lack of accurate resources. They are there, you just need to know where to find them. **WJF**

First Fleeters

Andrew Goodwin ~ Lydia Munro


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www.australianhistoryresearch.info/goodwin-munro-family-muster-hobart





OUR CHAPTERS IN ACTION

ALBURY-WODONGA DISTRICT – Both sides of the Murray River.

Venue: usually at Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10:00 for 10.30 am. **Next Meeting:** 18 June: Ian Touzel, *Convicts of the Second Fleet*. **Next Event:** TBA. **Contact:** Ian Anderson 0426147365

ARTHUR PHILLIP – Milsons Point to Brooklyn and across to all northern beaches.

Venue: Meeting Room, Old Gordon Public School. 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon – monthly meetings, third Friday at 10.30. **Next Meetings:** 17 June, Carol Roussel, *La Perouse*; 15 July: AGM, *No speaker*; 19 August: Justin Holmwood (ANNM), *From Wives and Sweethearts to Comrades in Arms*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 97970240

BOTANY BAY - Southern Sydney, from Cooks River to Waterfall and west to Liverpool

Venue: Our Lady of Fatima Church, 825 Forest Rd, Peakhurst. Bi-monthly on third Tuesday 10.30am. **Next Meetings:** 21 June: Gay Hendricksen, *Parramatta Female Factory*; 16 August: AGM, Adam Courtenay, *Three Sheets to the Wind*. **Next Event:** 19 July: Outing, To be determined. **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415376434

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Event:** The next function will be the AGM and afternoon tea, with details to be advised. **Contact:** Toni Pike 041 041 2778

CENTRAL COAST – From Lake Macquarie to Broken Bay, highlands to coast.

Venue: Point Clare Community Hall, – meet monthly, second Saturday at 10 am for 10.30. **Next Meeting:** 11 June: (16th Birthday) Tony Negline: *Celebration*; 9 July: AGM Members, *Then and Now*; 13 August: Ian Burnet, *The Tasman Map*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, Old Sunday School, St John's Park, New Town Precinct. **Next Meetings:** 4 June: Leanne Burr, *FF Richard Morgan*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0401566080

EASTERN FARMS – Ryde, Eastwood, Parramatta, Kings Langley, Pennant Hills and surrounds.

Venue: The Hall at Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson St. Eastwood – monthly meetings, first Saturday from 10am **Next Meetings:** 4 June: Cate Whittaker, *Elizabeth Fry*; 2 July: Prof Carol Liston, *Assigned to Bungarribee*; 6 August: Heather Stevens, *John O'Hara, Death Fleet Survivor*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jennifer Follers 97991161

GOLD COAST – Gold Coast and immediate hinterland.

Venue: Ashmore Rotary Community Centre, 133 Currumburra Rd Ashmore (Men's Shed)—Bi-monthly meetings, usually 3rd Saturday, 3 pm. **Next Meeting:** 23 July: AGM, Julie Austin, *FF Rope and Pulley*. **Next Event:** 10 July: St Helena Convict Island Day Trip, 9am at Brett's Wharf Brisbane, #85 pp, Details from Julie Webb on 0419708808. **Contact:** Geri Quilty 0412761661

HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN –Western Sydney, Penrith to Windsor, Blue Mountains.

Venue: Windsor Library, Penrith Library and Springwood. 18 June, at Windsor: Rebecca McRae, *Hawkesbury Heroes of the Great War*. 20 August, at Windsor: AGM, *Speaker To be confirmed*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** William Hempel 0410950101

HUNTER VALLEY – Hunter Region, Newcastle and surrounds.

Venue: Teralba Community Hall Supper Room. 15 Anzac Pde Teralba—bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday from 10am-

12.30pm. **Next Meetings:** 20 June: Ron Withington, *For a Pittance*; 15 August: AGM, Ian Sherman, *The Brick Man*. **Next Event:** 18 July: Morpeth Museum and Heritage Walk. **Contact:** Kerry Neinert 49615083.

MID NORTH COAST -- Taree and Surrounds, Bulahdelah to Kempsey.

Venue: Presbyterian Church, 76 Albert Street, Taree, Bi-monthly on 4th Tuesday at 2pm. **Next Meeting:** 26 July AGM. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Heather Bath 0427018566

MORETON – Brisbane and South East Queensland.

Venue: St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton – bi-monthly meetings, at 10 am on an available 2nd Saturday. **Next Meetings:** 11 June: Peter Ludlow, *History and Maintenance of Peel Island*; 13 August: AGM Julie Webb, *DNA for Dummies, Interpreting Results*. **Next Events:** 8 June: 10 am, South Brisbane Cemetery; 10 July: Cruise to St Helena on *Lady Brisbane*. **Contact:** Jan Grant 0754911891

NORTH COAST – Nambucca Heads, Dorrigo, Boambee, Coffs Harbour to McLean.

Venue: Either Mylestom Hall or Coramba Hall, or at members' homes, Bi-monthly, usually first Sunday at 10.30am. **Next Meeting:** 5 June, at Coramba Hall: Speaker TBA; 7 August, at Mylestom Hall: Speaker TBA. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 0420923140 or 66536315

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meeting:** 4 June at Family History Rooms: Warren White, *The NZ Guard Family*; 8 August, at Calala Cottage: *AGM and regular meeting*. **Next Event:** 8 October: Bus Trip to Nundle and Wombramurra Homestead. **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438465529

NORTHERN RIVERS – Ballina and surrounding districts

Venue: Ballina Cherry Street Sports and Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 24 July: AGM. **Contact:** Roddy Jordan 6687 5339

PORT PHILLIP – Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

Venue: Various; quarterly meetings, days and times vary. **Next Meeting:** Thursday 14 July (Glen Waverley Venue and Time (TBA); Meeting will include the AGM and the Topic *Researching your Family History*. **Contact:** Geoff Rundell 0429528502

SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

Venue: Café Function Room at St Luke's Anglican Church, Moomba St, Dapto – monthly excepts. Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm. **Next Meetings:** 7 June: Greg Jackson, *Sydney Quarantine Station Archaeology*; 5 July: AGM Mike Traynor, *Shipping of the Illawarra Coastline*; 2 August Winter Warm Fellowship Meeting. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe 42321842

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 11 June: Alex Aitken, *Topic TBA*; 6 August: AGM; 1 October: Speaker TBA. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 25 July 2022

Paul Gooding Chapter Liaison Officer

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

DEATHS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

JANE POOLE/JAMES McMANUS

#9177 Thomas Alexander John Harrison

#9178 Stephen Philip Edward Harrison

JAMES BRYAN CULLEN

#9180 Jennifer Anne Larkin

HENRY KABLE /SUSANNAH HOLMES

#9181 Rebecca Taia Raap

PHILIP GIDLEY KING

#9182 Robyn Phillipa King Buckland

JAMES SQUIRE

#9184 Ashley Louise Wilkins

JACOB BELLETT/JAMES WILLIAMS

#9185 Keegan James O'Shea

#9186 Liam Patrick O'Shea

OWEN CAVENAUGH/MARGARET DARNELL

#9187 Julianne Dawn St Clair Rootsey

Second First Fleeter Added

JANE POOLE/JAMES McMANUS

#9175 Susanna Mary Harrison

#9176 Roy Michael Cyril Harrison

Associate Members

#7526.1 Keri Negline

Junior Members

ANDREW FISHBURN

#9179 Mackenzie Ivy Roberts

JAMES SQUIRE

#9183 Wesley Gordon Harrison



JAMES RUSE

#8096 Joy Grass, of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, died on 24.3.2022, aged 83. Joy joined the Fellowship in 2012 and is sadly missed by her family and friends at the Albury/Wodonga Chapter.

FRIEND

#F203 Warwick Geering, of Carlingford, New South Wales, died on 07.04.2022, aged 85. Warwick was a member of Eastern Farms Chapter.

ASSOCIATE

#7769.1 Aileen Symington, of Geraldton, Western Australia, died on 11.09.2021. She was a member of Swan River Chapter and is sadly missed by her husband Robert (FF Thomas Chipp/Jane Langley) and the extended family.

JACOB BELLETT

#8834 Robert Henry Clark, of Glenorchy, Tasmania, died on 19.04.2022, aged 80. Bob joined the Fellowship in 2018 and was a member of Derwent Chapter.

ASSOCIATE

#5343.1 Margaret Scott, of Morisset, New South Wales, died in April 2022, aged . Margaret had been a member of the Fellowship for ten years and will be sadly missed by her husband #5343 MacGregor (FF William Boggis) and her friends at Arthur Phillip Chapter.

EDWARD GARTH/SUSANNAH GOUGH/JACOB BELLETT

#8781 Coralie Garth Scott, of Centennial Park, New South Wales, died on 18.02.2022, aged 84. Coralie joined the Fellowship in 2017 and was proud of her convict ancestry and the achievements of her ancestors. She regarded her middle name, Garth, as a badge of honour. Coralie contributed to the research for the *Garth Trilogy*, written by her niece, Lynette McDermott.

HENRY KABLE/SUSANNAH HOLMES

#1062 June Lovinia Whittaker OAM, of Tumburumba, New South Wales, died on 08.02.2022, aged 91. June joined the Fellowship in 1973 and is remembered as the co-author of *Damned Rascals*, a chronicle of her FF ancestors Kable and Holmes. June is lovingly remembered for her generosity to North Coast Chapter.



Last issue we referred to the pressing need to have First Fleet House open three days a week, from 10am to 3pm. We are pleased to announce that **#7912 Philip Mitchell (FF Peter Hibbs)** has kindly offered to run a small team to be at FF House on Fridays. Now we need to find two more to be available on roster. Please contact *Founders* or FF House. to sign up.



Earlier this year *Founders* featured the mastheads of our Chapter Newsletters. Don't forget to browse regularly through the **Websites** of chapters that do not publish a regular newsletter. See, for example, North-West at www.nwfirstfleeters.wix.com/nwfirstfleeters, and Arthur Phillip at www.arthurphillipchapter.weebly.com. Some Chapters have both, while others have active **Facebook Pages**.



Your Directors have expressed growing concern at the decline in **new membership applications**. The two years of Covid-19 restrictions have certainly been significant, especially for the chapters that have been unable to meet. It is through vibrant chapters that prospective members 'of a younger generation' are often found and their enthusiasm thus encouraged.



A raft of excellent suggestions to ensure **lasting membership** has been briefly discussed at board level and these will be forwarded to chapters for their own input and implementation. This will be an ongoing campaign and it is planned to involve all members of the Fellowship, not just those who belong to chapters. Four years ago chapters were invited to send representatives to a conference at FF House specifically to discuss Chapter Viability and suggest ideas for actively supporting chapter committees and their programmes. Our ongoing presence on Facebook stems from that time. Another conference, aiming to implement an **Action Plan to Rally FFF Membership** and to counter the gradual ageing of our membership is to be arranged.

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

ALBURY-WODONGA DISTRICT

Ian Anderson 0426 147 365

ARTHUR PHILLIP

Judith O'Shea 02 9797 0240

BOTANY BAY

Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

CANBERRA

Geoff Lamb 02 6231 5548

CENTRAL COAST

Jon Fearon 02 4311 6254

DERWENT

Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

EASTERN FARMS

Jennifer Follers 02 9799 1161

GOLD COAST

Geri Quilty 0412 761 661

HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN

William Hempel 0410 950 101

HUNTER VALLEY

Kerry Neinert 02 4961 5083

MID NORTH COAST

Heather Bath 0427 018 566

MORETON

Jan Grant 07 5491 1891

NORTH COAST

Robyn Condliffe 02 6653 3615

NORTHERN RIVERS

Roddy Jordan 02 6687 5339

NORTH WEST

Janet McLean 0438 465 529

PORT PHILLIP

Geoff Rundell 0429 528 502

SOUTH COAST

Rob Ratcliffe 02 4232 1842

SWAN RIVER

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630