

Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

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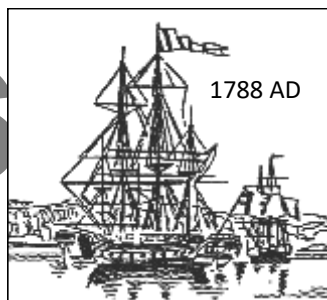
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PATRON: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

Volume 53 Issue 6

54th Year of Publication

December 2022-January 2023



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

TWO LIFE MEMBERSHIPS AWARDED



#295 Ian Palmer joined the Fellowship on March 27, 1968, the date the Fellowship was inaugurated. In February this year he retired after spending many Thursdays at First Fleet House.

From 2003 to 2004 Ian helped with the input of the computer, develop-

ing the database of past and present members, creating a spreadsheet to list all BDM certificates received and putting family trees into the system. In 2005 Ian was elected as a director and in 2006 added leader of the House Maintenance Committee to his portfolio. He regularly reported the need for repairs to the nearly one hundred-year-old building. In so doing he maintained a list of building contractors whom he advised and oversaw through their maintenance work. By 2009 he was looking after all the maintenance and equipment matters associated with the operation of First Fleet House. As Records Officer he was also involved in transferring all hard copy Member Family Records to computer-generated genealogy files. In 2011 he was elected Vice-President and in 2012 was elected FFF President. Although he retired from the Board, and as President, at the 2015 AGM, he continued to carry out all his Maintenance and Records activities and other voluntary work.

Jon Fearon : "Ian's eighteen years of unbroken voluntary service for the Fellowship has been absolutely astounding. All who have worked with him and taken his excellent and expert advice consider that his amazing contribution, always delivered via his warm, gentle and affirming personality, has had huge significance in the successful operations of our organisation – making accurate renderings of Australian history available nationwide."



For some years prior to 1997, **#6587 Mary Kell**, now aged 96, was an active member of the Northern Rivers Chapter, attending Chapter Meetings in Lismore, NSW, a distance of about 265kms from her home in Dorrigo.

Mary and **Jim Kell**, **Lionel Phelps** and **Rod Davis**, members of the Northern Rivers

Chapter, felt the Coffs Harbour Region would be an ideal place to form another Chapter of the Fellowship. In April 1997, an advertisement was placed in the Coffs Harbour and Dorrigo/Bellingen papers. A meeting was to be held to see if there was enough interest in forming a North Coast Chapter of the Fellowship.

So started the FFF North Coast Chapter. In June 1997 Mary was unanimously elected as President. This vital, happy, well-informed lady was the perfect choice to steer them through their formative years. Mary was President for 3 years and then became Vice President for a further three years and thereafter became a very active Committee member.

In 2001, after much Negotiation with First Fleeters in the New England Region, Mary was asked to hold an inaugural Meeting with those who had shown interest in the Armidale area. Initially one chapter to cover the New England area was envisaged however it was decided to open Chapters in both Tamworth and Armidale. Mary Kell would preside at the meeting in Armidale. For 20 years Mary opened her home in Dorrigo to the members for yearly meetings.

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FOUNDERS

The magazine of the
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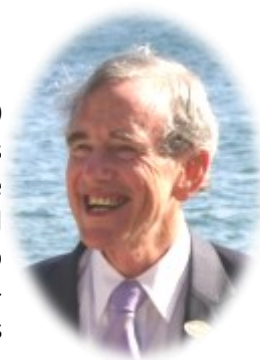
Peter **YATES** BCom BAE

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

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PRESIDENT'S PEN



After two years of Covid-19 induced zooming your Directors and I were pleased to get 'on the road' once again for our Annual General Meeting. It was good to have 45 attendees at Tuggeranong Homestead for this year's 'all-members' event and I am sincerely grateful for the wonderful way President **Toni Pike** and her team at Canberra Chapter hosted us.

The meeting went well as did the pleasant times of fellowship together over morning tea and scones, during the delicious lunch on the homestead verandah and while Rebecca Lamb led us on a walking tour of the farm grounds.

We now have our full complement of thirteen Directors for the year ahead. Our two newest in that office, **Elizabeth Warren** and **Peter Yates**, have provided a short story about themselves that you can read in this issue.

I enjoyed meeting so many of you at Tuggeranong, and I give special thanks to those who made themselves known by name especially if they were not badged. I did not always recognise some of you by sight and I thus apologise that these days my forgettery takes precedence over my memory.

As we sail into our new Fellowship year we are looking forward to some worthy innovations and memorable activities ahead. The Royal Australian Historical Society has kindly granted some funding to assist in a major upgrade of our much-loved and well-used website.

I am excited to let you know that after many years the Fellowship is to be officially invited to the Australia Day commemorations in Sydney on 26 January 2023. The plan is to be at the WugulOra Morning Ceremony at Barrangaroo that begins the day.

In February we will at last be able to meet our Patron, Her Excellency **Margaret Beazley** AC KC, who has generously invited members of the Fellowship to an Afternoon Tea at Government House in Sydney.

I encourage all to put the pandemic mode aside, meet together when and where you can, enliven your chapters and be keen advocates in finding and mentoring new members to hoist the sails and man the capstan as soon as they can. May our future be one of safe sailing into new adventures together.

Jon.

THE CANBERRA CHAPTER HOSTS THE AGM



On 26 October 2022, at the historic Tuggeranong Homestead, the Canberra Chapter hosted this year's Annual General Meeting. **Toni Pike**, Canberra Chapter President, welcomed us and acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land. There were 44 attendees. Eight Chapters were represented along with members from the now closed Southern Highlands Chapter, several members not affiliated to Chapters and eight non-members.

Toni introduced FFF President **Jon Fearon** who conducted the meeting. **Rod Best**, FFF Secretary, commented that one of the members attending was **Pam Quick** who was instrumental in locating the property which is now First Fleet House, recommending to the Committee that the



property be purchased.

Paul Kable AM RAN Rtd was reappointed as our Vice Patron and two life Memberships, for **Ian Palmer** and **Mary Kell**, were approved. Mary Kell attended the AGM with her daughter and was quite overwhelmed when her Life Membership award was announced.

Jon then handed proceedings over to the appointed Returning Officer, Paul Kable, to conduct the election of officers. Paul thanked Jon and the Board and presided over the election. All eleven Board Members were returned and two members, **Peter Yates** and **Elizabeth Warren**, were elected to the Board, making a full complement of thirteen Directors, with three states, Qld, NSW and Vic, now represented.

With the formalities over, Toni Pike thanked all those attending and introduced Canberra Chapter member and Tuggeranong Homestead supporter **Rebecca Lamb** who addressed the meeting.



TWO NEW DIRECTORS APPOINTED TO THE BOARD



#9193 Peter Yates

My First Fleet ancestors were the marine **Thomas Chipp** and convicts **Jane Langley**, **Hannah Smith** and **Edward Pugh**. While not couples whilst on the journey to Australia within the initial years of the colony Hannah married Edward in Sydney and Jane married Thomas on Norfolk Island

before their return to Sydney.

I am fascinated by all my family's history in the early waves of migration to Australia which includes not only my first fleet ancestors but young women on the first female immigration ships and families on the first ships of the newly formed Australian Agricultural Company to settle a million-acre land grant in the Port Stephens area.

I am married and have 3 adult daughters who are 10th generation Australian residents. While I grew up in regional NSW, I have spent many years living in Sydney and now live in Melbourne.

I am an accountant by profession having been a partner in the large accounting firm Deloitte. I also have a degree in Architecture.

I participated myself in many sports including rugby league, tennis and swimming and enjoyed being involved in my children's various sports of netball, basketball and snowboarding.

#8793 Elizabeth Warren

It came as a surprise to me to learn that I had ancestors from the First Fleet as I had been led to believe that all my ancestors were from Ireland. While history was one of my interests at school, once I found out I had First Fleeters in my ancestry I quickly developed what some may say is an obsession in Australian history. So be it. My FF ancestors are **William Tunks** (*Sirius*) and **Thomas Arndell** (*Friendship*). I trained firstly as a nurse, then a school teacher, before retraining in journalism, in which I spent the majority of my working life. Since then I've received a Masters Degree before commencing a PhD. This background should indicate an interest in research that has been channelled into historical research. And this is what I've been doing for the past few years.

TUGGERANONG HOMESTEAD

REPORT ON THE TOUR OF THE HOMESTEAD AND SURROUNDS AT TUGGERANONG STATION

Toni Pike, President of the Canberra Chapter, our welcoming hosts for the AGM, introduced **Rebecca Lamb**, a long-time supporter of MOTH (Mindors of Tuggeranong Homestead, a heritage-listed site). MOTH convinced the ACT Government to withdraw its proposal to develop a medium-density housing estate and recognise the site's natural and cultural heritage. In 2001 an amount of \$675 000 was awarded by the Centenary of Federation Grants Program to restore the buildings and allow for their use by the public.

The Tuggeranong Homestead and its environs are an example of an intact 19th century European heritage site coinciding with an Aboriginal community, the Ngunawal peoples. The Tuggeranong plain of Canberra was an Aboriginal meeting place which became the meeting place for members of the Federal Parliament – a significant blend of societal and legislative pursuits.

A short history

The Tuggeranong Homestead holds many layers of history - from its indigenous occupants, its convict connections, its pastoral period, its links to Federation and its association with the writing of the Official History of World War One.

In 1835 **Thomas MacQuoid**, Sheriff of the Supreme Court of New South Wales, purchased 'Waniassa' (later known as Tuggeranong Homestead). Thomas MacQuoid died when the *Dunbar* was wrecked at The Gap in August 1857. His son sold the homestead to the Cunningham family.



Built by convicts in the 1830s this stone barn, woolshed and stables is the oldest extant building in the complex. Convicts were employed to tend a flock of sheep for the Church of England's Churches' and Schools' Corporation.



Dr Charles Edwin Woodrow Bean, Australia's official war correspondent, World War I, pictured outside his tent in the AIF camp at Mena, North Egypt

Bean, his secretarial staff, historians and draftsmen resided in Tuggeranong Homestead and other cottages on the site. The team were working on the *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914 – 1918*, detailing the feats of heroism on the battlefields of Europe. He and his team were transferred in 1925 to Victoria Barracks and, over the ensuing decades, further volumes of the work were completed.

In 1911 the Australian Capital Territory was established and the land acquired by the Commonwealth. **Jim Cunningham** negotiated with the government to purchase Tuggeranong and two outstations on the western side of the Murrumbidgee River, in total a 65 acre property. The Cunningham family lived at the Homestead from 1889 until the Commonwealth Government acquired the property for military purposes in 1917. They had played a significant role in the establishment of the National Capital.

Timothy McCormack and family leased Tuggeranong and, between 1927 and 1976, transformed it into a fine grazing property, introduced mechanised farming, planted cereal crops in improved pastures - it was renowned for producing world-class fine Merino wool. The land was compulsorily resumed in 1974 by the Commonwealth Government for suburban development and only about 70 acres remain from the original 1500 acres.



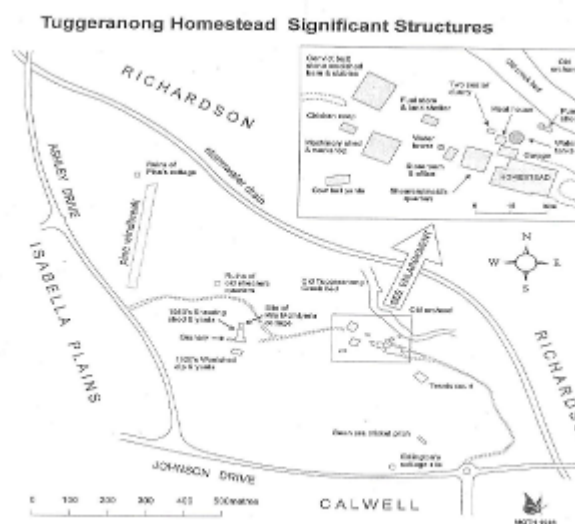
From 1976 to 2006 the Homestead was temporarily occupied by a number of transient tenants. It was under-maintained, suffered damage by fire, theft, vandalism and overgrazing and was at risk of being destroyed. Later the Homestead was used as a private residence and horse agistment with limited access to the public during this period.

In August 2006 new management opened a café, conference and events facility. The homestead's heritage-listed buildings have been sympathetically converted to provide comfortable multi-purpose facilities as part of the ACT government's 'adaptive re-use' policy. Part of MacQuoid's cottage was incorporated into the drawing room of the homestead when it was remodelled 1908. The examples of the architectural style of the 1950s are reflected by the front façade of the Homestead, the billiard room, the long central Hall, the Bean room, buildings in the home paddock, and later extensions.

By acclamation, our FFF group showed tour guide, Rebecca Lamb, our appreciation of an excellent tour, full of historical knowledge, stories of colonial personalities, and the lives of the early pioneers of Tuggeranong Station.

#3152 Gillian Doyle

Photographs of various locations at Tuggeranong



WILLIAM TUNKS (Part 1)

William Tunks, marine from the Flag Ship *Sirius*, was one of the many that wished to make the best of an opportunity in a new land, well away from the afflictions of the world.

The only record of his age to survive is how old he was the time of his death when he is recorded as 67 years old. (Cowell, J, 1977) This would put his age at 21 at the outbreak of the American War of Independence in which he fought and 29 years old at its end. He stayed in the military but what ships he served on are not known until joining the third-rate 74gun warship *Ganges* from 1785 under **Captain Sir Roger Curtis**. On 20th September 1786 he was discharged to Haslar Military Hospital in Portsmouth from *Ganges*. (Gillen, M, 1989)



On his discharge he applied for, and was accepted by Permanent Under Secretary Evan Nepean, before being shortlisted for final approval by Captain Arthur Phillip who was preparing a fleet of eleven ships to go to New South Wales. (Parliamentary Records, now known as Hansard.) William was one of six supernumerary's to sail on the flag ship *Sirius* under **Captain Arthur Phillip** and **Captain John Hunter**, 2nd in Command. His job was awl and gimlet maker, an important role on wooden sail ships.

At thirty-four years of age on arrival in New Holland he was a seasoned sea-going man with fighting experience so had good reason to hope for peaceful conditions. But what awaited was not the utopia that he wished. It is interesting to note that he was also known as Tonks, Tinks, Tanks, Jacks as well as several other names. Not a great deal is known about him but over the years small details have surfaced to show extra glimpses. He was older than the average marine or soldier and had survived at least two known sea conflicts. (British Naval Records) To muddy the waters, a man called **William Tonks** enlisted in the military at Birmingham stating he was a collier. However this was not the same man that arrived in Australia. William Tonks (Birmingham) gave his age as 18 and belonged to the Birmingham Tonks family who later became famous for their production of brass and who are still in business. DNA testing in both families has indicated no relationship. (R. Tonks, Birmingham University, 2005) Further, William Tunks was not English, with DNA records showing him to

be Northern European. The territory he was from changed hands periodically but it seems the area he originated in may have, at the time of his birth, been in Russian hands. Many came here only to find their names altered and many from foreign countries had their names anglicised. William's name change was not uncommon. His original name has been isolated to one of two possibilities but this is in the process of being further researched.

It is not known when William arrived in Britain initially but he joined the military on arriving there. Whether he had been in the military in another country is not yet known. Several years after joining Britain's military, he was required to fight for them in the AWI. At the time this war started he was in his late teens (British Military Records).

Between the beginning of the American War of Independence in 1775 until 1783 he served on at least two ships before being assigned to the 74 gun 3rd rate warship *Ganges* serving first under Sir J. Lutterell before Sir Roger Curtis took over the captainship in 1784, just months before William was injured and discharged to Haslar Military Hospital in Portsmouth. He was there for three months before being discharged but he was not assigned another ship. (British Naval Records) It was postulated that William served on the training ship *Ganges* but as this was not commissioned for service until 1865 clearly it is incorrect (Military Records of Britain) as William had died in 1821.

Following William's discharge from Haslar Hospital though still in the navy, he was not paid. (Officers received half-pay but not rank and file. [British Military Records]) The future did not look bright for him at this stage. It is thought he may have served for a time in the merchant navy but there do not appear to be records to substantiate or refute this claim.



Just before 1786 William married a woman named Sarah in a Synagogue near Portsmouth. (Archival Records of Britain.) Money was tight though Sarah came from an influential and moderately well-off (for the times) Jewish family. As they were married in a Synagogue William must also have been Jewish.

At a low period of his life regarding work and still recovering from his injury William heard of a fleet of ships being prepared to take convicts to an 'unpopulated' land on the other side of the world to set up a convict colony. There is little doubt he was aware of the heroic actions of Arthur Phillip who had served in the Portuguese Navy, at least one part of which involved the establishing of an agricultural colony with the use of convict labour and land being given to those that helped. (*Pembroke, 2013*) William, in all probability, must have asked himself whether this was an opportunity. Clearly he thought so.

William Tunks was one of more than 200 men that applied to Evan Nepean, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office to join this fleet. Nepean made his selections before sending his short-list to Arthur Phillip who personally interviewed the short-listed applicants before making his final decision. (*Pembroke, 2013*) Six men were selected as supernumerary marines, William Tunks one of them, to serve on the flagship *Sirius*. William was given the job of awl and gimlet maker, an essential occupation on wooden sailing ships. The term of military enlistment was three years. (*British Military Records*)

It is thought that Sarah was pregnant with their first child, a boy, at this time but this is in the process of being further verified. There is a Colonial Secretary record of a Joseph Tunks in Australia as a free settler but the date of his arrival here is not given and neither is the name of the ship he arrived on. (Sarah's oldest brother was named Joseph. The Jewish generational customs showed a common recurrence of names.) Following his arrival Joseph Tunks was given a block of land next to or near one of William's many blocks and this is an indication he was related as he was very young, still a boy.

During the course of William Tunks' time in NSW he was given, bought, and traded a number of blocks of land, some for which the records have been lost but details are contained in the records of others. (*Lands Dept documents*) He was given permission to settle on Norfolk Island to be with his wife, exchanging one 60acre block for another. **Sarah Lyons** was sent to the island eight weeks after arriving on the *Lady Juliana* in June 1790, two and a half years following the arrival of the First Fleet.

Sarah Lyons committed two crimes in London of stealing from shopkeepers, one just before the First Fleet sailed, then again when it was reported in the newspapers that another ship was being prepared to take women convicts to Botany Bay. Her first crime may have been an attempt to get on the First Fleet to be with her husband. None of the supernumeraries were allowed to bring their wives though most requested this. (*British Military Records*)

Sarah was recorded in her second trial just after newspapers reported another two ships being prepared, the *Guardian* and *Lady Juliana*.



18th C Gimlet Awl

Sarah was incorrectly recorded as being black by the court stenographer when in fact she said she had a 'short, black-haired sister'. However the assumption of being black was generally said of Sephardic Jews as these people were predominantly olive-skinned, black-haired and brown eyed.

Her first arrest with friend **Anne Gibson** saw her serve six months hard labour with 25 strokes of the whip. Anne was found not guilty. Following Sarah's second arrest, again with Anne Gibson, Sarah spent nine and a half months in gaol along with **Lord George Gordon**, a humane man but hated by the Government for several manufactured reasons, but he was not helped by his earlier Jewish conversion to Judaism. (*R. Watson, 1795*) Sarah and Lord George Gordon had known each other before their trials and incarcerations and were now in cells alongside each other in the 'wealthy' part of the gaol. Sarah's brother, recorded by the Head Keeper **Mr Kirby**, visited both Lord George Gordon and Sarah. (*M Kahan 2009*). (*British National Archives, Newgate Gaol Records*) Evidence strongly points to her family name being Sobel rather than Sabolah as John Nicol records. (*Hordes, 2007; Jewish Family Name Archival Records*) The word 'cebola' is the Iberian word for 'onion'. The names of 'Sobol' and 'Sebol' are Jewish names derived from the word 'sable'. Many Jewish merchants dealt in furs.) Research on all the women of *Lady Juliana* show one only as fulfilling all necessary criteria – Sarah Lyons. The 'Mystery Letter Writer of *Lady Juliana*' is most probably Sarah Lyons (Sobel).

This letter to Lord George Gordon describes in detail the terrible conditions of the Second Fleet. Bergman states in his book 'Australian Genesis' (*Bergman; G; Levi, S, 2002*) that almost all Jews could read and write. Sarah demonstrated this several times but during the 1950's all documents pertaining to her were burnt, probably due to being Jewish and for arriving in a ship carrying women labelled as prostitutes. However two people recall seeing correspondence from her, showing clearly that she was literate.

When the Second Fleet arrived only days following *Lady Juliana*'s arrival, these women, who had been treated well, were horrified at what they witnessed.

WILLIAM TUNKS (cont)



Lord George Gordon

Twenty five percent of the Second Fleet convicts had died, with 50% of them being too ill to work. Some never recovered. Several women were literate but one knew Lord George better than most – Sarah Lyons. She wrote the letter without it going through the censor, most likely giving it to John Nicol to take back to Lord George Gordon.

When **John Nicol** wrote his Memoir, Sarah was still alive and could be tried for treason for this breach of rules.

On receipt of Sarah's letter Lord George Gordon sent different parts of it to three newspapers that published them, (*Public Advertiser*, *Diary of Woodfalls Register*, *Morning Chronicle*) along with Nicol's reports that accompanied her letter anonymously. Public outrage resulted

that precipitated parliamentary debate followed by laws being passed in 1814 that obligated captains to ensure the 'cargo' was better treated. There is no doubt that many lives were saved.

Sarah Lyons, noted as Sarah Sabolah, led groups of women in three of the four ports they came to in penitent religious parades, with herself and Jewish friends posing as Christians, to gather money and gifts from sympathetic bystanders. No doubt there were Christian women among the groups but none could have done this without the express approval of the Captain and crew – the captain by giving them dark material from the hold and the crewmen from fashioning crude crucifixes for the women to carry. (*Nicols Journal*) Shortly after arrival in NSW Sarah, along with others, was sent to Norfolk Island to assist in the crop growing. **#8793 Elizabeth Warren**

This article will conclude in the next issue of Founders

AFTERNOON TEA AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE



FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

PRELIMINARY INVITE TO

AFTERNOON TEA

THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2023

2.00pm to 3.30pm

TO CELEBRATE THE 235th ANNIVERSARY OF

AUSTRALIA DAY & THE READING OF GOVERNOR ARTHUR PHILLIP'S COMMISSION

AT NSW GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Macquarie Street Sydney

Hosted by our Patron, the 39th Governor of New South Wales

Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC

Dress: Smart Casual. Please wear your FFF name badge

BOOKINGS OPEN ON 15TH DECEMBER 2022

ACCEPTED ONLY BY EMAIL TO: fffaus@optusnet.com.au

CLOSING DATE: 19TH DECEMBER 2022

As the Governor is our Patron, this event is free courtesy of NSW Government House – which has set a maximum limit of 100 guests. First Fleet House will process the completed booking forms in order date and time of receipt of your email. No phone acceptances. The invitation is only open to financial members.

Please include in your email:

Your name and address - your FFF membership number - your email address - your mobile number

NOTE: The FFF guest list will be submitted to the Governor's Secretary soon after the closing date, 19th December.

Early in the New Year Government House will issue a formal invitation to these registered invitees. **Please be advised – if you do not receive the Governor's invitation, that means your application has been unsuccessful.**

Every care for accuracy of date and time of receipt will be undertaken. Therefore, no communication will be entered into by the Governor's Office or First Fleet House.

Research Report: Edward SMITH, b. c1756 (First Fleet, per *Scarborough*)

In the August-September 2022 edition of *Founders* magazine (vol.53, issue 4), an article appeared titled “FF **Thomas Smith/Haines** Convict ‘*Scarborough*’.” While the article centres around the First Fleeter Thomas Smith/Haines, the article’s author, **John Boyd**, notes that on Sunday 5 September 1790, aside from Thomas Smith/Haines marrying **Sarah Willis**, there also occurred three other weddings, those being, **John Randall** to **Mary Butler**, **James Ruse** to **Elizabeth Perry**, and **Joseph Haines** to **Mary Ann Morgan**.

As these four marriages occurred on the same day and at the same place, it appears that the same witnesses were used for all four marriages. John Boyd identifies the witnesses to the four marriages as **Edward Smith** (Convict *Scarborough*) and **John Dawson** (Convict *Surprize*).

In an e-mail dated 20 August 2022 to the Fellowship from **Marilyn Long** (#7348 and writer of the information on Edward Smith *Scarborough* which appears on the FFF website), dispute is raised as to whether Edward Smith, per *Scarborough*, was actually a witness to the four weddings at Rosehill on Sunday 5 September 1790, as at the time, and through research conducted by Long, it shows that he was on Norfolk Island. An entry by Mollie Gillen in her book *The Founders of Australia: A Biographical Dictionary of the First Fleet* seems to support Long’s research by stating,

‘From Port Jackson on 2 October 1788 Edward Smith [per *Scarborough*] was sent to Norfolk Island by *Golden Grove*... In March 1795 [Edward] Smith left Norfolk Island by *Fancy* and seems to have been off stores at Port Jackson in October 1795.’⁶

Based on the above reference, it appears that Edward Smith, per *Scarborough*, was not in New South Wales at the time of the four weddings at Rosehill, and could not have been the Edward Smith referenced by John Boyd as being a witness to those weddings.

In order to establish the identity of the ‘Edward Smith’ that appears as a witness, the original marriage document was sought. All of the four weddings referenced by John Boyd are included on this single page, and all of the weddings show witnesses of ‘Edward Smith’ and

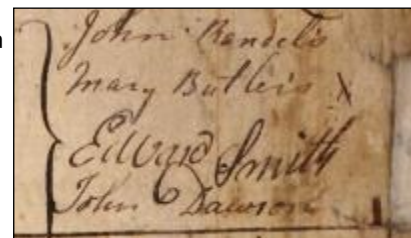
‘John Dawson’. No further information is supplied about the witnesses that may provide further identification of same.

There is no evidence on the marriage record that indicates that witness Edward Smith is the same Edward Smith that travelled to Australia as part of the First Fleet aboard the *Scarborough*, and in light of evidence that he was not in New South Wales at the time of the weddings, it can be stated that it is highly likely that he wasn’t the Edward Smith listed as a witness to the four weddings at Rosehill on 5 September 1790.



Marriage record, Thomas Smith- Sarah Willis, 5 September 1790 St. John’s Anglican Church in Parramatta, New South Wales, Australia.

A review of those that travelled to Australia as part of the First Fleet in 1788 shows that there were two Edward Smiths – one aboard the *Scarborough*, and one aboard the *Charlotte*. At the time



of the four weddings at Rosehill, Edward Smith, per *Charlotte*, was in New South Wales, and research carried out into his time in New South Wales, shows that he spent time at both Rosehill and nearby Parramatta, marrying **Ann Griffiths** on 25 December 1792, at Parramatta. As such, it appears that it is highly probable that the ‘Edward Smith’ referenced by Boyd is Edward Smith, per *Charlotte*, and NOT Edward Smith, per *Scarborough*. **#8636 Brooke Smith**

This magnified section of the marriage record shows the witnesses

Botany Bay Chapter Celebration

THE BOTANY BAY CHAPTER INVITES YOU TO JOIN US, CELEBRATING THE 235th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF HMAT SUPPLY IN BOTANY BAY ON WEDNESDAY 18th JANUARY 2023 AT THE YARRA BAY SAILING CLUB. Meet at the club at 11am, food (Bistro Menu) and drinks at your cost.

RSVP (we need numbers for the club for catering purposes) to ffbbc.1788@gmail.com by 10th Jan 2023.

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MEMBERS' MESSAGE BOARD

12/10/2022

Good Morning All. Today marks the 35th anniversary of the Northern Rivers Chapter. Established in Lismore on the 12th October 1987 with a steering committee formed to guide the way.

One of the original members (**Lionel Phelps**) was later a Life Member who unfortunately is no longer with us. The chapter has moved to different places at various times and we now call the Cherry Street Bowls Club in Ballina our 'home'. Currently, we have 23 registered members and the North Coast Chapter was formed from our chapter quite a few years ago.

We have had lots of fun over the years, formed friendships and we do continue those guidelines under our President **Karin Brown**. I hope you are all well and safe.

Secretary - #8469.1 **Roddy Jordan**



Back Row left to right: Roddy Jordan, Karin Brown, Carollyn Nolan, Annette Hepburn, Sue Nunn, Barbara Barrett and Christine Jordan. Front Row left to right: Mary Burke, Des Burke, Marg Soward, Wilma Fife and Sue King.

ABORIGINAL SKIPPER IS "FIRST FLEET" MASTER

Mingaletta member **Mr Ryan Champley** has been signed off for the First Fleet Class vessels at Sydney Ferries. Three years ago he became the first aboriginal skipper at Sydney Ferries. Recently he qualified as a "Master IV", an unrestricted qualification, for the First Fleet Class vessels. "He is still the first and only aboriginal master at Sydney Ferries," said his father **Mr Mark Champley**. "The ironic thing is we now have the first aboriginal skipper on the class of



vessels that were named after the First Fleet that arrived in 1788." "It is a symbol of resilience and reconciliation." "Mr Champley said: "This news was shared at the Mingaletta Community meeting and the gathering supported the story be used to showcase how the Mingaletta membership are making a difference. "We are hoping the story will inspire other aboriginal people but also encourage the wider community to visit the Mingaletta premises in Sydney Ave, Umina, and hopefully join us. "Ryan's grandmother, **Aunty Fay**, was a respected elder of our community before her passing and was always encouraging Ryan to be 'his best self and a role model for others'. "We are sure Aunty Fay would be beaming with pride." Mingaletta is very proud of Ryan Champley who has been a member with his family for many years."

Editor: Mingaletta is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community hub based on the Central Coast. This article first appeared in the Peninsula News. Shared with permission from Editor Mark Snell, and source Mark Champley, Mingaletta

AT THE HELM



Founders apologises for misspelling the surname of **Keith Quimbach** on page 1 of issue 53.5.

Our Fellowship email account, fffaus@optusnet.com.au, was "hacked" recently. The problem has now been resolved.

In the 2022-2023 Federal Budget the Government has provided funding to add the Parramatta Female Factory to the World Heritage Listing of Australian Convict Sites.

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 Meetings:** 17 December: **Next Event:** Provisional Christmas Function at Lincoln Restaurant **Contact:** Ian Anderson 0426 147 365

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:** 16 December: *Christmas Party*, 17 February: *Stewart Reed Historic Houses of Sydney*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Judith O'Shea (02)9797 0240

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:** 13 December, 21 February: *Kerrie Anne Christian Dr C J Smee's Database* **Next Event:** 13 December: *Christmas Lunch Club Grandviews*, 18 January: *Lunch Yarra Bay Sailing Club RSVP* **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Toni Pike 0410 412 778

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 Meetings:** 10 February **Next Event:** 10 December: *Christmas Lunch Gosford RSL* **Contact:** (Pres) Gavin Plunkett (02) 4340 4435

DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, Old Sunday School, St John's Park, New Town Precinct. **Next Meetings:** 3 December: *Christmas BBQ* **Next Event:** **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

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:** 3 December: No Speaker: *Christmas Morning Tea*, January: No Meeting, 4 February: Speaker TBA **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jennifer Follers (02) 9799 1161

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:** **Next Event:** 3 December: *Christmas Party Charming Squire* South Bank, January: *Australia Day Lunch* **Contact:** Robyn Porter 0407 223 600

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

Venue: Windsor Library, Penrith Library and Springwood. **Next Meetings:** 10 December: 10:30 Hawkesbury Central Library, *Christmas Function RSVP req.*, 11 February: 10:30 for 11:00 Hawkesbury Central Library: *Lauren Jones Church Restoration at Sackville*, *RSVP req.* **Next Event:** **Contact:** William Hempel 0410 950 101

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 Meeting:** **Next Events:** 5 December: *Christmas Function*, **Contact:** Kerry Neinert (02)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:** **Next Event:** **Contact:** Heather Bath 427 018 566

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 Meeting:** 11 February: *Hilda Maclean Part 2 Mourning customs in the Victorian Era / cemeteries* **Next Event:** 3 December: *Christmas Party Charming Squire* South Bank, **Contact:** Jan Grant (07)54911891

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 February: Mylestom Hall, speaker TBA **Next Event:** 3 December: *Christmas Party Coramba Hotel* **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 0420 923 140 or (02)6653 6315

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:** 26 January: *Australia Day Meeting* **Contact:** Roddy Jordan (02)6687 5339

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meeting:** December 3: 11am Meeting, 11 February: 1:30pm Meeting in family history rooms **Next Event:** December 3: *Christmas BBQ*, Marsupial Park, Tamworth January 26: *Australia Day Celebrations* **Contact:** Janet McLean 0438 465 529

PORT PHILLIP – Melbourne and Regional Victoria.

Venue: Various; quarterly meetings, days and times vary **Next Meeting:** **Contact:** Sue-Ellen McGrath 0409 488 868

SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

Venue: Café Function Room at St Luke's Anglican Church, Moomba St, Dapto – monthly except. Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm **Next Meetings:** **Next Event:** **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe (02) 4232 1842

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings** 3 December: *Christmas Meeting Show & Tell, Wine & Cheese* at 18 Sharba Close, Willetton, 4 February: *General Meeting* **Next Event:** 26 January: *Brunch on banks of Swan River* **Contact:** Toni Mahony (08)9271 7630

EDITOR'S NOTES:

Closing date for this page for the next issue is 16 January 2023.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

JAMES SHEERS/SHIERS/MARY SMITH
#9201 Anthony Vernon Scott Gall
JOHN ANDERSON/ELIZABETH BRUCE
#9202 Robert Marian Podolski
THOMAS CHIPP/JANE LANGLEY
#9203 Helen Louise Connell
EDWARD WHITTON
#9204 Peter John Melville
WILLIAM HUBBARD
#9205 Kerry Margaret McKay
OWEN CAVENAUGH/MARGARET DARNELL-DOWLING/
ANN FORBES
#9206 Bob Brown
#9207 Sharron Brown
OLIVIA GASCOIGNE/NATHANIEL LUCAS
#9208 Patricia Anne Lucas
#9209 Wenda Joy Lucas
ANTHONY ROPE/ELIZABETH PULLEY
#9210 Matthew Peter Grice
MARY TURNER
#9211 Andrew Sunderland
JAMES PEAULET
#9213 Sarah Ann McMahon

Additional First Fleeter Added

ANN FORBES/MATTHEW EVERINGHAM
#9167 Tracy Dianne Harrison
Associate Member
8036.1 Roslyn Margaret Westbrook
Friend Member
#Friend 215 James Walter McLennan
Junior Member

MARY TURNER
#9212 Elizabeth Sunderland

DEATHS

NATHANIEL LUCAS/OLIVIA GASCOIGNE
#2417 John F C Wilkinson of Morewell, Victoria died on 24.8.22.
8101.1 Daryl Power of Wodonga, Victoria died on 10.9.22. Wife of Dawn Power. Daryl was a member of the Albury-Wodonga Chapter and although advanced age an illness meant he was no longer an active member he was still a keen recipient of their minutes.
EDWARD RISBY
#879 John Risby of Merewether Heights, NSW died on 24.9.22 aged 97 years.

Vale John Charles Risby OAM 1925-2022



In September this year, the Hunter Valley Chapter lost a respected and valued member of our Chapter.

John Risby had a long and distinguished career with BHP commencing at the young age of 16 with a traineeship in metallurgy and rose to the top of management. He oversaw great change in steel making during his 44 years of service, both overseas and in the Hunter. In 2021, John was awarded an OAM for significant service to steel making industry and the Newcastle Community. Cricket, football and golf occupied much of his leisure time.

John joined the Hunter Valley Chapter in 2011 and joined to share first Fleet stories and celebrations. He was a regular attender for many years and along with Past president **Ray Meredith** shared glimpses of their youth growing up in Maitland.

He was very proud of his ancestor **Edward Risby** and spent countless hours researching his family tree. Edward was arrested and sentenced to seven years with transportation to Botany Bay for stealing three yards of cloth. He was transported on the "Alexander". He first went to Norfolk Island working on the Sirius as a sawyer and eventually did well later in life in Tasmania. Sadly, Edward left behind a wife and three children in England who he never saw again. In Australia, Edward married a 2nd Fleeter convict, Ann Gibson.

John is remembered as "fair to everyone, a good listener and was a true gentleman".

His death has been met with much sadness but also admiration for a life well lived. John is survived by his sons, Phillip, Anthony and Peter and his sister Norma. **#8578 Kerry Neinert** and **# 7241 Yvonne Bradley**

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

(Pres)Gavin Plunkett 0243404435

DERWENT

Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

EASTERN FARMS

Jennifer Follers 02 9799 1161

GOLD COAST

Robyn Porter 0407 223 600

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

(Act) Sueie McGrath
0409 488 868

SOUTH COAST

Rob Ratcliffe 02 4232 1842

SWAN RIVER

Toni Mahony 08 9271 7630