



FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS NEWSLETTER

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

For some time members have been asking "What is the Fellowship doing for a Bicentenary project?" Finding a substitute for the abandoned tapestry project has not been easy; as a concept and a place for it to be staged. By degrees, the Executive Committee came to the conclusion that First Fleet Park adjacent to Circular Quay was the most desired position. Due to the tireless efforts of Vice-President Mr. Doug Oakes, most obstacles have been overcome with the municipal authorities with regard to siting the project. The Executive Committee has now accepted in principle the concept of a ceramic tile commemoration panel attached to a wall in the park and has commissioned Macquarie Galleries to produce a design by next August.

For a long time the Executive Committee has recognised the merits of incorporation for the Fellowship, particularly in respect of the liability of members for debts incurred by the Fellowship and to facilitate the acquisition of real estate. There are several minor advantages and some disadvantages: a more stringent form of accounting will be required and age limits will apply to members serving on the Executive Committee. The trend towards incorporation by many clubs and associations has led the NSW Government to produce a model set of rules and an examination of these rules has revealed many defects in our own rules. The Executive Committee has also been aware for some time of defects in our own Constitution: the difficulties in forming a branch in Victoria being a case in point. It has been found necessary, therefore, to review our Constitution and rules, and a sub-committee has been appointed to do this. Approval for the revised Constitution and rules and for incorporation of the Fellowship will be required at a general meeting of the Fellowship and, as it is unlikely that there will be sufficient time at the Annual General Meeting in September next to deal with these matters, the Executive Committee has decided to call a Special General Meeting for this purpose on Wednesday, 30th July 1986 at the NSW Leagues Club in Phillip Street, Sydney commencing at 7 p.m. Members will be advised in due course when the revised Constitution and rules will be available.

Of much concern to the Executive Committee is our tenure of office space in the Assembly Building in York Street. There are now two sub-committees seeking alternative accommodation, and individual members of the Executive Committee have undertaken to exercise whatever personal influence they can bear in securing Government and semi-government assistance. The Executive Committee feels that for historic and practical reasons we should seek to reside in the environs of The Rocks area and it is obvious we should endeavour to have this matter settled before the Bicentenary celebrations commence. Any assistance any member can give which will lead to the acquisition of a suitable property will be most gratefully received by the Executive Committee.

As reported in the last Executive Committee report, the unveiling of member Tom Silk's painting will take place on Wednesday, 10th September 1986. The venue will be the rooms of the Royal Australian Historical Society in History House, Macquarie Street, Sydney from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. Attendance will be limited to 100 guests at a charge of \$10 per head. Members are urged to book early to avoid disappointment.

The President has been granted leave of absence until next August and departed with Mrs. Christian on an overseas holiday in mid-March. The Executive Committee farewelled Peter and Joy at an informal supper, and the good wishes from all members of the Fellowship go with them for a happy holiday and safe return.

G.S.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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57 3059 (home)
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also James)
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84 2794 (home)
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FAMILY NOTICES

Descendants of **Frederick Meredith** are invited to attend a gathering at Liverpool on Sunday 22 June 1986, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of his death. For further details please contact Ray Meredith (02) 70 1137.

John Nichols and Ann Pugh — the next Family Reunion will take place on Sunday 17 August at Gunnamatta Park, Nicholson Pde., Cronulla, NSW.

The anniversary of the **John Palmer Society** will be held on Saturday 14 June 1986 at The Boulevarde Hotel, Sydney. Further information from Mrs. Palmer (02) 522 8317.

William Tunks — the book "Memorial to a Marine" by Joyce Cowell, FFF Archivist, is available from the Fellowship office for \$5.00 (postage please add \$1.00). An attractive Tunks Descendants Association badge is also available at a cost of \$3.00 including postage — contact Mrs. Cynthia Curry (02) 871 8666.

Greentree Family Society — Mrs. Mavis Riley, 45 The Strand, Gladesville 2111, (02) 817 4372 is interested in hearing from anyone interested in joining a proposed Greentree Family Society, open to descendants of Henry Greentree (arrived Maryborough Qld. on "Flying Cloud" ca1850), William Greentree (arrived "Marquis of Wellington" ca1815) and George Greentree who arrived in NSW ca 1870. The aim of the Society is to help complete and maintain the documentation of the Greentree Family Registers and to restore and maintain historic gravesites of the original Greentrees. Occasional reunions are planned for members.

A President's Reception and Lecture Night will be held on Wednesday June 18 at 7.00 p.m. at the Fellowship Rooms, third floor, Assembly Building, cnr. Margaret, York and Jamison Sts., Sydney. New and present members are most welcome. Supper will be provided.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? . . .

- about the Fellowship?
- about future activities you'd like the committee to organise? — what sort of functions do you want to attend and/or read about?
- about sending some contributions to the Newsletter — stories and bits of news about your own family?
- about the Newsletter? — what features do you enjoy? — what else would you like to see in it?

WE WANT TO KNOW!

Please write and tell us what you think! We are especially interested in learning about the impressions your children have about the First Fleet and the early days of the colony.

REMEMBER — it's YOUR organisation and YOUR Newsletter. Please write in and let us know your thoughts.

NEW FIRST FLEETER — JOHN RAMSAY, (1751?-1836)

From Valerie Ross.

The acceptance of Mr Alan Wallbank's joining application brings to the Fellowship the first of what is hoped will be a long line of descendants of First Fleeter, John Ramsay. Here we have another instance of late recognition of ancestry due to known Australian descendants having all come through the female line, — one female at that and the child of Ramsay's old age.

And what a remarkable woman she was! Alan's great grandmother, 'Granny Wallbank, the Grand Old Lady of Mangrove Creek', survived until August 28, 1914, dying at the age of 94. In her last years, she was interviewed by 'Pete' of the Gosford Star and took great pride in the fact that her father 'had helped to saw the ridge pole for the Government House built in the colony'. As a ridge pole is the horizontal pole of a long tent, this sounds very like the pole for the portable tent that had been brought out for Governor Phillip. Ramsay had been transported on the **Scarborough** and would have been one of those who came ashore on Sunday, January 27, 1788, erection of the Governor's house being their first job. They had 'stepped ashore literally into a wood' and their axes were the first sounds made by white men since its creation.

Ramsay's history has recently been researched with that of the **Sirius** sailor-settler, William Reid, as both were companions of Matthew Everingham in an attempt to cross the Blue Mountains in October/November, 1795, just 190 years ago. Research was confusing for Ramsay had been married three times and had had three children by his first wife, Mary (O') Leary, whose later histories are largely unknown.

Elizabeth Harriet Ramsay stated that she had been born in a house on the corner of King and Kent Streets, Sydney on December 27, 1819, her mother being Elizabeth Moore. At fifteen, she had married John White but there was no issue to this union. At 21 she married Roger Wallbank and by the time of her death had 46 grandchildren, 78 great grandchildren and 9 great great grandchildren. All the Wallbank descendants of Mangrove Creek qualify for First Fleet membership as do those of the Grafton/Clarence area, descended though a son, Thomas Wallbank who married Eliza Ellem. Another son, Joseph Wallbank, married Sarah Suzannah Singleton, while daughters Alice and Jane E. married Joseph Craft and a Mr Barrier respectively.

As well, prior to marrying Wallbank, banns had been said for Elizabeth, a widow to marry Richard Hibbs, son of First Fleeter, Peter Hibbs, who died before the ceremony was performed. Two children were born to Hibbs, whose family arranged for his property at Ironbark Creek to go to Elizabeth and the children. Descendants are among the Crossland and other families. Alan Wallbank is also a descendant of Matthew Everingham and in the family are descendants of all three First Fleeters, Ramsay, Everingham and Hibbs.

John Ramsay was said by Watkin Tench to have been a sailor and there were two John Ramsays on Captain Cook's voyages, one of whom accords fairly well with Ramsay timewise. The legend that Hibbs sailed with Cook may have been a case of transference. Hibbs certainly sailed with Matthew Flinders as did William Reid. Ramsay's and Reid's experience would have been valuable in the Blue Mountains expedition and they may have kept logs from which the Everingham Letters were later written.

(Mount) Ramsay Trig station can still be seen in a Gregory's Directory, the summit of his 410 grant at Long Reef and Narrabeen. Let us hope that much more history will come out of this and that we may even find descendants of Ramsay's son, who returned to England on the **Fame** in 1817 or even of William Reid and Ann (Grinslet) Greenslade.

WESTERN SUBURBS UNIVERSITY

The following letter has been received and is printed here for interest and comments of members:

"Dear Members

"I understand it has been suggested that the new university in the outer western suburbs is to be given a name designating its locality with the prefix "Western . . . etc."

"At our gathering held on 19 March 1986, for the welcome of new members, I suggested that, as nearly all our universities have been named after prominent, distinguished and revered men, we should name the new university after Governor Phillip, the father of our first colony.

"This outstanding, humane and brilliant man has only one mean street named after him (as far as I know).

"I would be grateful if your committee would consider this and pass the idea on to those administrators concerned."

Yours faithfully

Thea Rowe MBE (FFF Member 330)
122 Bay Road, Waverton 2060



ANY SUTHERLAND SHIRE MEMBERS?

Any members who live in the Sutherland Shire of NSW are asked to contact Vicki Lamb, 1 Marsh Avenue, Cronulla (523 8028) to be placed on a Register of First Fleeters to publicise the Sutherland Shire's Bicentenary Celebrations.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR MARCH, APRIL 1986

We extend a warm welcome to the following 36 new members, 11 junior members and 2 spouse associate members.

Thomas Arndell + William Dring — Ann Forbes: Shaun Michael THOMPSON (Jnr.)

Patrick Burn — Ann Smith: Miss Janet Barbara SMITH; Mr. Bradley David SMITH; Mr. Mark Alan SMITH; Mr. Matthew Robert SMITH.

William Eggleton — Mary Dickenson: Mrs. Kathryn Genevieve PEARCE; Mrs. Jennifer Margaret PAROZ; Ms. Laurie Margaret COWLED; Mrs. Sylvia May SIMPSON.

Matthew Everingham: Mr. Robert Le More WELLS.

Matthew Everingham — William Roberts: Andrew James DUCK (Jnr.)

William Douglas — Mary Groves: Mr. John BYRNES

Andrew Fishburn: Mr. Francis James SULLIVAN; Mrs. Frances Claire EAYRS; Miss Bronwyn Anne WILLIAMS

Edward Goodin: Mrs. Mavis Gwendoline STUART

Edward Goodin; James Squire — Nathaniel Lucas — Olivia Gascoigne: Mrs. Maureen Anne BRIAN

John Herbert — Deborah Ellam: Mr. Lester John BESANT; Mr. Joseph Wallace HERBERT

Peter Hibbs + Matthew Everingham: Lela BOOTH (Jnr.)

Henry Kable — Susannah Holmes: Mrs. Patricia Robin CHAMBERLAIN.

David Kilpack: Miriam Joy RIHANI (Jnr.)

Nathaniel Lucas — Olivia Gascoigne: Mrs. Margaret Jean Hockin THOMASON

Frederick Meridith: Mr. Neil Douglas BURROWS; Mr. Colin Lawson; Bell MERIDITH

Richard Morgan: Mr. Richard Cecil Turner BURT

John Nicholls: Mrs. Julianne Peta MERRINGTON; Isabella Pallot MERRINGTON (Jnr.); James Cossar MERRINGTON (Jnr.); Even Theros MERRINGTON (Jnr.); Mrs. Nancy Jean PALLOT; Mrs. Vicki Gaenor NORTON; Casey Jo NORTON (Jnr.); Simon John NORTON (Jnr.); Miss Thelma Margaret BOND; David Andrew FINDLAY (Jnr.); Carolyn Louise FINDLAY (Jnr.)

James Ogden + William Tunks: Mr. Stephen William PEARCE

Anthony Rope — Elizabeth Pulley; John Summers: Miss Fiona Margaret BUSHELL.

Phillip Scriven — Jane Langley: Mrs. Irene Leone FORD; Mr. Dale Allan WALLER-FORD; Mrs. Vicki Lynn SMITH

Phillip Shewing — Jane Langley: Mrs. Isabel S. ARCHDALL-BEALE. (sp. Mr. Anthony Peter BEALE).

Thomas Spencer — Mary Phillips: Brett Stephen CRAWLEY (Jnr.)

William Tunks: Mrs. Leona Jeanne HENRY

Joseph Wright: Mrs. Betty Joyce BELLINGHAM; Mr. Laurence John STIRLING; Mr. Reginald STIRLING

SPOUSE ASSOCIATE OF EARLIER MEMBER: Mrs. Daphne Baxter wife of No. 3413 Mr. Leslie Raymond Baxter.

ADDITIONAL FIRST FLEET ANCESTOR: Mrs. Robin Elizabeth Cutts No. 792 adds "John Gowen" to "Edward Miles".

MEMBERS' NEWS

Marion Stuart (FFF 2880) has sent us the following Golden Wedding story:

"On 4 January 1986 my aunt and her husband (Rene and Harold Bennett) celebrated 50 years of marriage — not so unusual in these days of longevity, but what is unusual, I feel (perhaps even a record) is that my mother and father (Dorrie and Rupert Winning — Dorrie being Rene's older sister) celebrated their Golden Wedding on 29 September 1979, whilst the youngest of the trio of sisters, Jean, with her husband Ted Camfield, celebrated their Golden Wedding on 25 August 1984 — a total (in 1986) of 159 years of marriage between the three sisters and their husbands! In November 1987, their elder brother Fred and his wife Margaret will celebrate 50 years of marriage, whilst the younger brother Wal Bell and his wife Esme will celebrate 45 years of marriage in December 1986.

"The family of five are all descended from First Fleeters Patrick Burn and Ann Smith, through their son, Thomas Burn Smith (born 15/10/1789) and his son George Thomas Smith (born 16/7/1829)."

More wedding news comes from Keith Ross — he writes to tell us that another Australian-American alliance has taken place with the wedding on 11 April of David Ross, only son of Keith and FFF Life Member Joan Ross, to Kathryn McCubbrey of Aspen Colorado. Kathryn is the youngest of three daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Jim McCubbrey of Birmingham, Michigan, USA, and Keith tells us that the background to their marriage is as follows:

Kathryn has an uncle and aunt living in Sydney, Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Fisher, of West Ryde, close friends of Joan and Keith Ross. Mrs. Fisher and Mrs. McCubbrey are sisters, born in Wales. Mr. Fisher served in England in the Royal Australian Air Force in World War II, and Mr. McCubbrey was there in the Canadian Air Force, and it was there they met the sisters who became their wives.

Kathryn's parents have visited Australia several times over the past 20 years, staying with the Fishers. When they came out over the Christmas-New Year holiday period (1984-85), Kathryn came with them, and stayed here for six months before returning to the States. It was at this time that she met David, and subsequently she returned to Australia in November last. Mr. and Mrs. McCubbrey, who have been U.S. citizens for many years, came to Australia for the wedding, as did an uncle and aunt of Kathryn's Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brown, of Windsor, Canada.

Another FFF association with the wedding was that the flower-girl was four-year-old Aimee Lovett, elder daughter of Joan Ross's daughter Karen and a junior member of the Fellowship.

The newly-weds are living in Dulwich Hill, and intend to reside permanently in Australia.

IN THE PIPELINE . . .

- computerisation of family records and accounting
- an International Bicentenary Costume Ball
- Bush Dance (August 1986 ???)
- formation of a Younger Set

INTERESTING EVENTS

LOCAL HISTORY CO-ORDINATION PROJECT

On Friday 2 May 1986 Dr. Brian Trainor, Director of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, will speak at a conference to be held from 7.00 - 9.30 p.m. in Room 212 Morven Brown Building at the University of NSW (entry through Gate 8 in High St., Kensington). Dr. Trainor's talk will be supported by two local speakers, Dr. D. Rollison and Prof. Ian Jack. There will be an opportunity for the audience to put their views about local history needs and problems for the information of the Local History Co-ordination Project (funded by the NSW Council of the Australian Bicentennial Authority). Entry to the conference is free, and there is an optional buffet meal (6-7 p.m.) prior to the conference, at a cost of \$8.00.

Those who wish to attend the conference and/or the buffet should contact the Local History Co-ordination Project, School of History, University of NSW, P.O. Box 1, Kensington 2033, by Friday 25 April 1986.

FRIENDS OF THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE SITE

Foundation Day Lecture 1986 — On 15 May 198 years ago Governor Phillip laid the foundation stone of the First Government House. This year Professor Isabel McBryde, Senior Lecturer in Prehistory, Aust. National University, will give the lecture at the Hall of Assembly, Sydney University Law School, cnr. King and Phillip Streets, Sydney at 8 p.m. on 15 May. All First Fleeters are invited as guests of the Friends of the First Government House Site.

MUSIC IN ANCIENT ISRAEL

The Australian Jewish Historical Society has advised that "Music in Ancient Israel" will be presented to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays during April through to July 1986 (inclusive), from 12.00-3.00 p.m. at the Great Synagogue, 166 Castlereagh St., Sydney. Adults \$1, children 50¢. Groups by appointment only (ring 267 2477).

NORFOLK ISLAND BICENTENARY

The response to our proposed visit has been overwhelming. We have had over 130 enquiries, but unfortunately the tour must be limited to 120. Anyone over this limit will be placed on a "wait list" as there are bound to be some later cancellations. All who have shown interest in the tour will receive a brochure in this Newsletter; we hope you will like the details of the tour. Please confirm your interest by sending your deposit and thus reserving your place on the list.

(Mrs) Wynne Anderson

DAY TIME AUXILIARY MEETINGS

Wednesday 7th May 1986

First Fleeter member Mr. Len Reid (Ellen Wainwright) will be bringing the Holtermann Collection of slides of Gulgong in the early days. This is a lecture not to be missed. Mr. Reid has worked on the collection at the State Library for some years. Do come along and have an enjoyable afternoon.

Wednesday 2nd July 1986

We will be visiting the State Library Macquarie Street for an inspection tour and all will find the tour most interesting. We have been advised to wear our most comfortable shoes as there is some walking involved, and the tour takes about 1½ hours. We will meet in the vestibule at 1.50 p.m. for 2 p.m. (There is no charge.) Please ring Mary Hope — Caten (407-1042) to confirm the numbers who will be attending.

THOMAS AND JANE ROSE OF THE "BELLONA"

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THEIR MIGRATION TO AND LIFE IN THE COLONY

After many requests by Governor Phillip, the British Government agreed to send some professional farmers to the New Colony as Free Settlers.

Thomas Rose, a farmer from Sturminster Newton, Dorset, England, was one who accepted the Government's offer. He left England on 25th July, 1792, in the sailing ship "Bellona" with his wife Jane and four children — Thomas 13, Mary 11, Joshua 9 and Richard 3. His niece, Elizabeth Fish, the 18-year-old daughter of his sister Mary, also came with him and one week after her arrival she married Edward Powell, also a free settler arriving on the "Bellona".

They arrived at Port Jackson on Tuesday, 15th January, 1793 and were received ashore the next day the 16th.

Thomas was the First Free Settler with a family to arrive in Australia and was the First Free Settler to be granted land in this Colony.

The grant was 120 acres at Liberty Plains, now Strathfield/Homebush, granted on 7th February, 1793. The other Free Settlers were his neighbours, with grants of 60 to 90 acres each. In May 1798 Thomas was granted a further 70 acres in the present Wentworth Road, Pomeroy Street and Parramatta Road, area of Homebush. During their first seven years in the Colony, they added another three children to their family — John, Sarah and Henry.

After about seven years of toil and perseverance, Thomas realised that the ground was not fit for agriculture under the conditions they had to work without fertiliser and very little water, so around the year 1800 they left and bought land from Lawrence May at Wilberforce, on the banks of the Hawkesbury River, known as "Laurel Farm." However, about 1806, after losing their possessions in three successive floods, Thomas bought land from William McKay about half a mile away on higher ground, where it appears Thomas built a hut on the property where "Rose Cottage" now stands. Later around 1811 Thomas built "Rose Cottage" and probably used some of the materials from the old hut.

Thomas and Jane lived in this cottage till their deaths, Jane in 1827 and Thomas in 1833. The cottage, which is now the centre of Australiana Pioneer Village, was continually occupied by some of the descendants until the last occupier, John, the great grandson of Thomas and Jane, who died there in 1961. He was the son of Charles, 1836-1911, and a grandson of Thomas 11, 1781-1869.



Sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. O'Reilly on the death of their son-in-law Paul. Olive O'Reilly is one of our faithful helpers in the office on Thursdays.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM THE F.F.F. OFFICE

		Posted
WINDCHEATERS	Navy or white (please specify size)	\$15.00 \$16.60
T-SHIRTS	Navy or white or gold (please specify size)	\$6.50 \$7.90
TEA TOWELS	Linen, 4 designs — <i>Waltzing Matilda, The Rocks Sydney, Early Colonial Transport, Early Sydney (3 colours), Historical Sydney, Colonial Australia, Banksias,</i>	\$3.50 \$4.90
TIES	(members only)	\$12.50 \$13.50
SOUVENIR SPOONS	Sugar Spoons, Fluted Spoons and Cake Forks, Tea Caddy Spoons	\$2.50 \$3.50
KEY RINGS	\$2.50 \$3.50
PAPER KNIVES	\$3.00 \$4.00
CAR STICKERS	\$1.00 \$1.50
CHARTS	<i>Voyage of the First Fleet</i>	\$5.50 \$6.50
	<i>Maps of Old Sydney</i>	\$3.00 \$4.00
PLACEMATS	<i>Individually</i>	\$2.00 \$3.00
	<i>Packet of 4</i>	\$7.00 \$8.00

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Early FF JOURNALS (3 editions) Package and Postage 50¢ each - Set of 4 in N.S.W. 80¢, interstate 90¢

"COMPILING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY"		\$3.00 \$4.00
"ARTHUR PHILIP"	by Thea Stanley Hughes	\$4.50 \$5.50
"THE FIRST FLEETERS"	by Fidlion and Ryan (list of all First Fleeters)	\$4.50 \$5.50
"PIONEERS OF PORTLAND HEAD"	by R. M. Arndell	\$20.00 \$23.00
"REMINISCENCES OF AUSTRALIA"	by James T. Ryan	\$12.50 \$16.00
"MEMORIAL TO A MARINE"	by Joyce Cowell	\$5.00 \$6.00
"A CONVICT'S LIFE"	by Janet Reakes	\$7.00 \$8.00
"EVERINGHAM LETTER BOOK"	by Valerie Ross	\$23.95 \$26.95

NAME BARS

Name bars may be ordered through F.F. Office. Approx 3 Weeks delay in delivery.

MEMBER'S NAME AND	ONE First Fleeters' Name	\$4.00 \$5.00
	TWO First Fleeters' Names	\$4.50 \$5.00
	THREE First Fleeters' Names	\$5.00 \$6.00
	FOUR First Fleeters' Names	\$5.50 \$6.50

200th Anniversary of the Trial of Joshua Peck

Joshua Peck was tried at the Devon Lent Assizes held at Exeter on 20 March 1786, before Sir James Eyre and Sir Beaumont Hotham. He faced two charges: firstly, "for stealing one cloth coat value 30/- and other goods valued at 17/6, the property of John Scadding, 3 linen shirts valued at 16/- and other goods valued at 12/-, the property of Samuel Thomas". Secondly, for "burglariously breaking and entering the dwelling house of Sarah Mitchell, widow, about one in the night and stealing thereout three silver castors valued at 58/- and other goods to the value of 20/-".

Joshua was found guilty of the first charge, on the second charge not guilty of breaking and entering but guilty of taking goods to the value of 35/-. His sentence was to "be transported beyond the seas for the term of 7 years".¹

Joshua, along with 22 others, was delivered to the gaol at the Castle of Exeter.² He arrived in Australia with the First Fleet on the Scarborough.



1. Assi 23.8 Devon Lent Circuit 1786.
2. Assi 24.26 Devon Assizes.