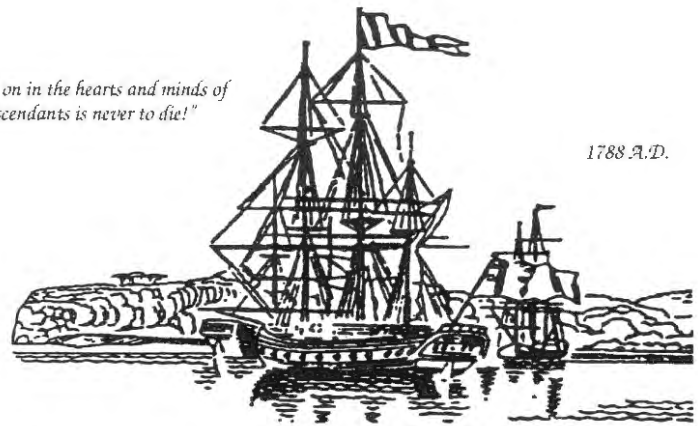


# Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"To live on in the hearts and minds of  
Descendants is never to die!"*



## NEWSLETTER

**JOURNAL OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS INC. NSW 1988**

PRICE 50¢ Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 1271

**PATRON:** His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC, Governor of New South Wales

**OFFICE ADDRESS:** First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street Woolloomooloo NSW 2011 **PHONE:** (02) 360 3788, 360 3988  
**MAY/JUNE 1995 VOLUME 26 NO. 3**

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**D**uring a whirlwind trip to Brisbane recently I visited the headquarters of the Queensland Family History Society. Mary Geiger, vice-president of the society, met me on arrival and guided me on an impressive tour of the library and splendid facilities available to members. The Executive of the Fellowship requested that we donate to the Queensland Family History Society a copy of 'Where First Fleeters Lie', a current poster of the ships of the First Fleet and, in conjunction with the William Roberts - Kezia Brown Family Association, a copy of 'A Rich Inheritance Vol. II.'

I was pleased to meet two of our members on that day, Barbara Moorcroft and John Gibbins, both descendants of Frederick Meredith.

On Monday 15 May last I attended the 12th Foundation Day Lecture organised by the Friends of First Government House at the Mitchell Library, State Library.

Accompanied by four members of your Executive, we were treated to a most interesting illustrated talk by Richard Mackay on the subject 'On the Rocks: Across the Cove From the Governor's House.'

Mr Mackay had been closely involved in the recent archaeological dig in the Rocks area. I was privileged to propose a vote of thanks to the speaker at the conclusion of the lecture.

During the evening I presented, on behalf of the Fellowship, a copy of 'Where First Fleeters Lie' to the Premier, the Hon. Bob Carr MLA.

Vice-president Doug Oakes accompanied by our Archivist Joyce Cowell represented the Fellowship at the opening of the Museum of Sydney, on the Site of First Government House on Saturday, 20 May last. Both were pleasantly surprised and agree that the museum is well worth a visit. I am more than pleased that on this occasion, unlike the opening of the forecourt January last, that there was no attempt to exacerbate relations between our First Fleet ancestors and the ancestors of the indigenous people.

Mollie Gillen - F.F. John Small/Mary Parker and the author of a number of volumes including that magnificent biographical volume on First Fleeters, 'The Founders of Australia' - was in Sydney recently to receive two awards. One an Honorary Doctorate of Letters awarded by the University of Sydney, and the other, an Officer of the Order of Australia. I was privileged to meet with Mollie during her visit before her return to the United Kingdom.

Your Executive at its May meeting resolved to put forward Mollie Gillen's name to the next Annual General Meeting as an honorary Life Member of the Fellowship.

Unfortunately the Fellowship has lost yet another stalwart in the passing of Marj Macpherson (#2456 F.F. Andrew Fishburn) early in May.

A number of members joined me at the funeral service. For many years Marj helped in the Fellowship rooms on a Tuesday.

Her obituary is in this issue.

In Fellowship,  
**PETER**

### COMING EVENTS

Soup and Damper Day on Wednesday, 5 July, at First Fleet House. For \$3.00 enjoy a soup and damper lunch, afternoon tea, and a talk by historian Jack Gibbs on the old mansions of Potts Point such as Bomera, Tarana and Grantham Castle.

The meeting will begin at 11.30am with lunch following at about midday, and then Jack's talk.

We would appreciate a phone call to give us an idea of how much damper to cook.

The September outing on Wednesday the sixth will be a visit to the Homebush Olympic Site; 1 November is the date for a visit to the ABC complex at Ultimo, and our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Renaissance Hotel, near the Quay, on Wednesday, 6 December.

More details will be in the next Newsletter.

**PHYL SELBY**  
Social Secretary

**See page 2 for details of Glebe Walk**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(for period 23 March to 17 May 1995)

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period – 12 adults, one junior and four spouse associates.

ANN COLPITTS: Mr Adrian Troy Butler.

PATRICK BLIRN – ANN SMITH: Mrs Jennifer Jean Thomas (sp. Mr Colin Maxwell Thomas).

WILLIAM DOLIGLAS – MARY GROVES: Mr Charles Alick Marsland OAM.

ANDREW GOODWIN – LYDIA MUNRO: Mrs Ioan Elizabeth Greer.

WILLIAM HAMBLY – MARY SPRINGHAM: Mr Desmond Charles Price.

STEPHEN MARTIN: Mr Geoffrey Harkshaw (sp. Mrs Francis Harkshaw); Mrs Colleen Patricia Scott (sp. Mr John Stanly Scott).

ANTHONY ROPE – ELIZABETH PULLEY: Mr Ronald David Player.

THOMAS SPENCER – MARY PHILLIPS + WILLIAM TUNKS: Mr Ian James Pieper (sp. Mrs Louise Teresa Pieper).

WILLIAM WALL: Mrs Judy White.

THOMAS WILLIAMS: Mrs Thelma Eileen Leman.

THOMAS WILLIAMS + RICHARD PARTRIDGE – MARY GREENWOOD + JOHN RANDALL + JOHN MARTIN: Mrs Ann Carolyn Wiles; Mr Rhys Christopher Withers (jun.).

New First Fleet Ancestor: STEPHEN MARTIN, Convict, Alexander.

## BIRTHS

A warm welcome to the following New First Fleeters:

ANDREW PHILIP BUCKLEY (F.F. Edward Kimberley – Daniel Stanfield – Alice Harmsworth – William Stanley). 18 April at Camden. Son to Vince and Susan. A grandson for Bonney Savill.

SARAH JANE HANSEN (F.F. Peter Hibbs). 10 May 1995. A daughter to Leanne and Mark Hansen. Eighth generation.

NATHAN DEAN ROD KNIGHT (F.F. Peter Hibbs). 2 May 1995. A son to Danielle Vella and Rodney Knight (deceased). Eighth generation.

## THE FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE SITE

The Site occupies a pre-eminent position within the cultural heritage of this nation. The Site, beyond all others, symbolises the colonial world of Eastern Australia. For over half a century it was the epicentre of life in the new colony. From this Site the Vice-Regal incumbent controlled the future of Australia and beyond in perhaps the most critical time in its history. It was also the most important political post of the British Empire in the Pacific and as such represents the tangible accoutrements of the political and administrative power of the British Empire in the Age of Imperialism.

This Vice-Regal occupation of the Site spanned the arrival of the convicts to the dawn of the anti-transportation debates – from the imperial outpost to the birth of a free nation.

After the demolition of the House the Site remained largely vacant although its former existence remained in the minds of many. This existence was brought to the public attention upon the discovery of the foundation plate and a few bricks in 1899.

Because of the significance of these items they were placed within the Mitchell Library. The Royal Australian Historical Society erected a porcelain plaque on a plinth commemorating the Site in 1918. This remained in situ informing all passers-by of the importance of the Site for another 70 years.

When preliminary redevelopment of the Site revealed footings of the earliest, 1788, building the Fellowship of First Fleeters and the Bloodworth Family Association immediately met with the developers. A public meeting followed and the Friends of The First Government House Site resulted.

The Friends unsuccessfully lobbied for the entire extant Site to be treated as a whole. The then Minister for Planning and Environment, Bob Carr, decided in 1987 to include the Phillip Street terraces in a separate conservation study and these were then leased independently of the remainder of the Site.

Success did however come in the form of preserving the initial footings and the construction of a multi-storey building in such a way as to permit the display of the footings and the provision of an interpretation centre. All of this was specified as a part of the design competition launched on 30 November 1988.

Despite all of this activity arising from a recognition by the then Premier, Mr Wran, that the importance of the Site derives from the footings and what they represent the current area is mooted as a Museum of Sydney having a forecourt in which the footings are located. In the opinion of the Friends, this distorts the entire perspective on the Site.

To then further this distortion, signage identifying the Site for why it has been erected in minute letters. While others might question the statutory power of the Historic Houses Trust to establish a Museum of Sydney without any connection in its operations to a historic house, the concern of the Friends is with a fundamental issue of the role of the Site.

The Friends acknowledge that it is not a simple task to convey the importance of this site in the cultural heritage of the nation.

But this does not seem to justify a subsuming of the Site into a museum dealing with the history of Sydney – as necessary and as worthy that may be.

For some 70 years only a few historians, passers-by and those who worked on the Site knew of its significance. After more than a decade fighting to overcome this unjustified obscurity, the fear exists that the current proposals will result in the Site once more being returned to that obscurity.

Walk to the Site, look around. Do you see a Museum of Sydney emblazoned for all to see or can you readily spot the significance of the Site for all Australians?

It is difficult to find any reference to The First Government House or its Site.

ROD BEST (#1116)

**GLEBE WALK**  
**SUNDAY 13 AUGUST**  
**1.00 – 4.00pm**

Place to meet  
Dr H J Foley Rest Park  
Cnr Glebe Point Road & Bridge Road,  
Glebe

Cost \$5.00

Robert Irving, well known historian and author, will lead this walk of the beautiful suburb of Glebe.

We will visit the Church of St John Bishopthorpe and the Sze Yup Chinese Temple. We will learn about the historical architecture of the area as well as some conservation work and a few good modern buildings.

This walk is about 5 kilometres of fairly steady, level walking so wear comfortable shoes.



On Monday the 14 May five members of the Executive represented the Fellowship at the 12th Foundation Day Lecture held at the State Library for the 207th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation-stone of the First Government House by Governor Arthur Phillip.

The principal speaker was Mr Richard Mackay BA MBA MAACI and managing director of Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants.

Mr Mackay's topic – On the Rocks: Across the Cove from Governor's House. This included the early years of the Colony from first Government House to early diggings in and around the Rocks of convict dwellings supported by coloured slides of recent archeology digs in the area. Many interesting artefacts have been uncovered ie: dinner plates from the First Government House site (where now stands the Museum of Sydney), and more interesting the quality of china discovered from the convict housing area, children's dolls, pottery, army buttons, etc. all of which help the archeologist piece together the jigsaw of those formative years and deliver a vivid picture of the lives of our early pioneers and ancestors.

The Honourable R. J. Carr attended in the capacity of Premier, and Minister for Arts and Ethnic Affairs.

Warm fellowship during the light supper that followed the lecture was evidence of a very informative evening which concluded about 9pm.



With much respect, gratitude and pride we list the names of First Fleet descendants who gave their lives for this Country to enable us to enjoy the freedom we have today-

We would like very much to thank those members who submitted the names of their loved ones for our Honour Roll. Further names will be honoured in future issues of the Newsletter.

**"LEST WE FORGET"**

## Honour Roll

**CARRALL:** Captain Nigel Bruce No. 432117 killed in Air operations over Germany on 4th Nov 1944, just 5 days before his 23rd birthday. FF: Samuel Piggott. Submitted by Mrs. June Stokes Memb. 3535.

**MADDEN:** Corporal H.St.I. No. NX40817. KIA Mersing Malaya on 27/1/1942. FF: William Broughton. Submitted by Mary G. Bailey Memb. No. 148

**HUGHES:** L/Sgt Geoffrey George No. NX126895 Aus Field Co. RAE enlisted 13/6/1941 discharged medically unfit 19/7/1944 and died as result of war wounds the 3/5/1946 at Randwick Repat. Hosp. FF: Mary Small/Matthew HUGHES Submitted by Leona Jeanne Henry HUGHES Memb. No. 3471 Ex AAMWS NFX 167176.



# LAST POST



# DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP TOUR TO CULCAIRN

Twenty-six members and friends enjoyed a six-day tour of southern New South Wales and north-eastern Victoria, staying at the 103-year-old Culcairn Hotel. It was a great holiday, full of fellowship and laughter, and we gained eight friends – fellow guests who joined us on the tour. They now have an understanding of and an interest in the Fellowship.

One of our number was lucky enough to be the 3,000th guest and received a free holiday.

We visited Beechworth, Bright – whose magnificent autumn colours painted an entrancing natural picture for us – Wangaratta, the beautiful Botanical Gardens of Wagga Wagga and Albury.

The 'pokies' at Corowa and Culcairn bowling clubs inveigled a number to invest – most losing their modest investments with a few receiving a healthy dividend.

A cruise on Lake Mulwala, an inspection of Drage Air World, and many other interesting visits all contributed to a memorable holiday.

The food was superb, the hotel having a Master Chef whose culinary skills have made our home efforts seem rather dull.

The weather was good to us, the rains came the day we left and accompanied us all the way back to Sydney.

All are looking forward to the next tour.









# MEMORIES OF THE CULCAIRN HOLIDAY

By Joy Cordeiro (#6155)

It was only after receiving the itinerary and looking on the map that I realised we more than likely would pass through the village of Walla Walla which followed after the building of Walla Walla Station, very famous for its huge run of sheep on 90,000 acres in the 1860s. However, its beginnings were with the convict Mary Weir who arrived on the Indispensable in 1796. Not a grant but purchased by her in 1838!!!

My Great-great-grandmother Ellen Stitt (from my father's side) and her husband Walter Stitt owned this station from 1864-1874, only being forced to subdivide to her son John Riddle on Walter's death in 1873.

Ellen moved to a smaller homestead called Piney Range, still on Walla Walla land, and John finally got himself a bride and built Thorn Hill Station at Walbundrie, next door to Walla Walla.

Never in my wildest dreams did I expect any of these three homesteads to be still standing, let alone be occupied.

My luck still held when I found out by telephoning the local pub that Walla Walla Homestead and property was now owned by the local historian.

Well, he was just as thrilled to meet me as I was he, because of all the information we could exchange, me being a Riddle descendent (from Ellen's first husband.)

Rupert Paech, the historian, had just published a book all about the German migration to Walla Walla, which contained Ellen's photo, and for the first time I saw Walter.

Anyway – Rupert gave me a wonderful day, taking me to the properties and through the homesteads, with permission of



the present owners, of course. It was all very emotional for me, as my forebears are still very much remembered in the area, John only leaving in 1924.

The greatest thrill of all for me was to climb Morgan's Lookout, which still stands on Walla Walla property. This huge beautiful outcrop of boulders is where the bushranger Mad Dog Morgan hid and from here did his raiding. In 1865 he rounded up all the womenfolk of Walla Walla Station and locked them in the sandstone dairy (which is still standing).

My Great-great-grandmother is famous locally for having "the courage" to kick him in the shins. Luckily for us and all concerned, he did not retaliate, as he "did respect" women.

So, the memories of my seven-day trip to Culcairn with the Fellowship of First Fleeters will be so special to me. Those magnificent hundreds of acres of greenery, and my forebears' homesteads are well-etched into my memory.

*(P.S. My thanks to the organisers for making this possible, and P.P.S. I did buy that oil painting of Collecting the Wool Clip.)*

## ROPE – PULLEY REUNION RESOUNDING SUCCESS

Melrose Hall, Emu Plains, New South Wales, was packed on Saturday, 20 May, by descendants of Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley. The event was the Family Reunion celebrations.

Many came from country towns in New South Wales and a large number came from interstate, staying overnight at the local motels.

Saturday was occupied by long-lost relatives meeting each other, talks by Lorna Parr and George Gyford on life in the colonies for First Fleet settlers. Numerous walks were organised and family trees were exhibited.

Sunday, 21 May, was the big day with the Dedication Service for the Anthony Rope Memorial at Castlereagh Cemetery.

In 1985 the Fellowship of First Fleeters had a memorial plaque attached on the tombstone of Elizabeth (Pulley) Rope at Castlereagh Cemetery.

The Rope Pulley Association had a memorial installed next to Elizabeth for Anthony, they knew he was buried at Castlereagh Cemetery but no tombstone could be found.

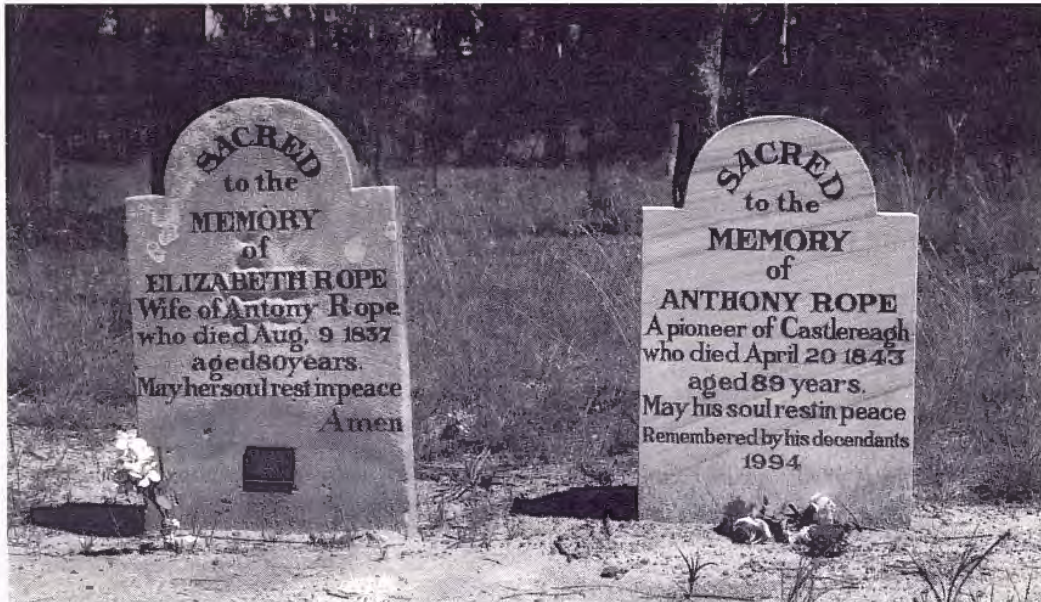
The Castlereagh Cemetery is being restored by the Friends of Castlereagh

Cemetery with help from the Castlereagh Shire Council.

The master of ceremonies for the Service was Ray Edwards, a fifth generation descendant. Mr Pat Sheehy, Mayor of Castlereagh Shire Council, gave details of his council's endeavours to restore dilapidated cemeteries in the shire. Kelly Byrne, eighth generation descendant, read the eulogy for Anthony Rope.

I had been delegated, as Vice-President, to speak on behalf of the Fellowship to the gathering and in doing so congratulated the Family Association on its project.





The Reverend Samuel Marsden from Holy Trinity Church, Kelso, outside of Bathurst (a descendant from 'the' Reverend Samuel Marsden), gave the Address of Welcome and led the Dedication Service.

This would have had to have been the largest gathering of First Fleet descendants at a Dedication Service that I have witnessed. This gathering showed that Family Reunions are still very popular.

Congratulations must go Bunny Sloan and his committee for the organisation of a very successful weekend.

**DOUGLAS OAKES**  
Plaques Convenor

## 'ONE FINE DAY' AT EMU PLAINS

After a week of rain, Saturday 20 May dawned bright and clear as promised. Yes, the weather was good, the programmed activities rewarding, and visiting with cousins – some rather distant – was most enjoyable as

approximately 300 Rope-Pulley Family members gathered at Melrose Hall in Dukes Park, Emu Plains, to celebrate the 207th wedding anniversary of their ancestors, Anthony and Elizabeth. And Norma Edwards had arranged for a beautifully decorated cake to commemorate the occasion!

The oldest family member present at the 11.00am Welcome was 87-year-old John Greenhalgh – a descendant of Mary Rope and Thomas Hobby, and the youngest member present was one-year-old Owen Weisback – a descendant of Mary and Michael Ryan. (Mary got around!) Each received an award. Present from across the oceans were Margaret Clark from St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, and Laurie and Pam Mutch from Maungaturota, New Zealand; also, we had several 'cousins' from out-of-state. How good to see them all!

The day's activities kept everybody busy. We had an overflow audience for Lorna Parr's talk, 'How Convicts Became Settlers'. Although the river had risen, so many joined Sue Sewter on her conducted walk along the banks of the historic Nepean, that Lorna Parr had to assist with a second group. Local

archaeologist George Gyford's talk at 3.15pm on 'Life at Birds Eye Corner - Early 1800s' was well-attended and received. Finally, many took advantage of the well-mapped and documented Self-guided Tour during the afternoon.

Barbara Drady's Charts, together with the Wall of Photos provided by attendees, drew much attention all day. Our selection of memorabilia was popular with Mugs being sold out by noon. They have been reordered giving those who missed out an opportunity to buy this attractive memorabilia. Several books about the families and the district were also on sale.

After a break for a picnic lunch and the opportunity to take family photos and photos of photos, thanks to Wendy Pepper, the program continued into the afternoon.

Advance planning by our Committee paid off! However, the most important ingredient for success was the presence of so many of Anthony and Elizabeth's descendants on the day.

**BUNNY SLOAN**  
Convenor

## VALE MARJ MACPHERSON

Marj was a very proud descendant of First Fleet marine Andrew Fishburn.

For a number of years after joining the Fellowship Marj, week by week, helped the membership subcommittee in its endeavours – she was considered an important member of that team. Unfortunately ill-health prevented her from coming to First Fleet House.

Being a keen genealogist and family historian Marj collated over the years important data on her family line to F.F. Andrew Fishburn, information which will be of important value to all of her descendants.

Personally I deem it a privilege to have been associated with Marj over the past eight years. I valued her friendship, her advice and her encouragement at all times, realising she had the aims and objects of our Fellowship close to her heart.

On behalf of the Fellowship I express deepest sympathy to daughters Vicky and Christine and granddaughters Angela and Nicole.

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

**PETER CHRISTIAN (#1881)**

# TUNKS FIRST FLEET TOUR TO THE COLONY

## *How Private William Tunks came to join the Voyage of the First Fleet to the Colony of New South Wales.*

William Tunks's life in New South Wales has been well documented already. Joyce Cowell's book, 'Memorial to a Marine', sets out his story from the time when he arrived in Australia aboard Sirius as a private in the Marines. It also covers his transfer to Norfolk Island, where he began a liaison with a female convict, Sarah Lyons, and their subsequent resettlement in Sydneytown.

William's family (descendants) tree has also been thoroughly researched and documented. However, till now, his origins before boarding Sirius have been clouded in mystery. I have now been able to piece together a picture of William Tunks's life prior to his emigration to the embryo colony of New South Wales. In doing so, I have drawn on information researched by Joyce Cowell, and by her First Fleet colleague Alice Clarke. I have also drawn on the information supplied by English researcher Gillian Hughes, who was employed by the Tunks Descendants Association to find out what records of William's military career are in existence. Ms Hughes's letters itemised a number of records searched, many of which yielded no references. However, no attempt to collate the clues obtained had been made.

I have sorted these clues into order and there now emerges a picture of William's career in the Marines from 1778 to 1788, where it slots into his known activities in the Colony.

The Description Book discovered by Alice Clarke whilst researching her own forebears in England yields the only

clue to his birth, namely that he came from Worcester and gave his age as 18. Armed with these facts, I have searched the International Genealogical Index, available on computer through Family History Centres of the Church of Latter Day Saints. There is only one William Tunks (Tonks) born in Worcester anywhere near the required period. He was in fact 20 on enlistment, not 18, which could be explained simply by a 'yes' answer to an enlistment officer's demand 'are you 18, sonny?'. There are still considerable gaps in our knowledge of our First Fleet ancestor, but I hope that the following may be of interest to William's descendants. I have also been successful in tracing William's family tree back several generations.

William Tunks was baptised on 4 June 1758 in the parish of North and Middle Littleton, Worcestershire, England. This village is in the picturesque Vale of Evesham, noted for its agricultural produce, particularly fruit. North and Middle Littleton is about 25 kilometres east of the city of Worcester and thus in the north-east quarter of the county, the sector of Worcestershire that is associated with coalmining and hardware industries. William was the son of John Tonks and Mary; no marriage is recorded between William's parents. However, 21 months later, his father married a Margaret Perkins in the same village church.

In 1778 the 100th Company, Chatham Division of Marines, was raised, in response to the American War of Independence. By 14 June of that year we find William listed among this company as follows: 'Age 18. Height 5'4". Hair/Complexion fair. Trade collier. Born City of Worcester. Enlisted 14/3/1778.'

During the latter half of 1780 Tunks was not victualled ashore so was presumably at sea with the 100th Company, or possibly a POW of the American privateer The Bonhomme Richard, which engaged and captured HMS Serapis in September 1779.

In 1783, 100th Company of Chatham Division was disbanded in response to the end of the American War of Independence, confirmed by the cessation of pay and subsistence lists. William Tunks was discharged from the 100th on 21 July 1783, and the peace settlement was in place from 29 July onwards.

The next mention we find of William is 18 months later, when he appears in a muster list as a member of 69th

Company of Portsmouth Division, dated 20 January 1785. Portsmouth Division was known to have been assigned Worcestershire and Warwickshire among others for a recruiting drive at the time, so possibly William returned to civilian life after the war then re-enlisted when recruiting officers arrived in his district.

Twenty months later, on 20 September 1786, William was discharged from HMS Ganges, a British training vessel which forms part of the naval establishment at Shotley, a harbour-side village in Essex on the east coast of England, to Haslar Hospital. Haslar, in Gosport which is near Portsmouth on the south coast, has been the British military hospital from its completion in 1753 – at the time the world's largest brick building – to the present time.

Meanwhile, discussions had been taking place in England, now deprived of an offshore prison in the American colonies, to send a party of marines together with a large complement of convicts to the great unexplored land beyond the East Indies discovered by Captain Cook over a decade before.

A month later, while William probably still languished in Haslar Hospital, HMS Sirius was being readied for this voyage. She commenced wages and sea victualling at Deptford on 25 October 1786, and two days later received her warrant to sail with a complement of 160 men. William was being victualled onshore at headquarters in Portsmouth from 15 February 1787, when his age is listed as 26, consistent with the original two-year error when he first enlisted in 100th Company, Chatham Division. He remained there until mustered in May 1787 for the voyage of the First Fleet.

William's activities aboard HMS Sirius were not remarked upon by his senior officers. Coming from the strict class system of eighteenth century England, this is not surprising, although it might be disappointing to his descendants trying to unravel his past. We therefore can assume that he fulfilled his duties throughout the eight-month-long voyage, until the First Fleet arrived in Sydney Cove under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip on 26 January 1788.

Judith M. Steele (#1112)

