

Ann Smith & Patrick Burn

Ann Smith had travelled with her husband, John Smith, when he fought in the American War of Independence. They had a daughter Ann. It is not known what happened to John Smith in America but after Ann returned to England she was convicted of theft and sentenced to transportation.

While on the hulk Dunkirk she was selected as one of the 183 female convicts to join the First Fleet and she and her daughter Ann sailed aboard the *Charlotte*. (Also aboard the *Charlotte* was a male convict, William Smith, who features later in Ann's story.)

Patrick Burn was also convicted of theft and sentenced to transportation and sailed with the First Fleet aboard the *Friendship*. He was employed as a baker. Ann and Patrick began a relationship in Port Jackson and a son Thomas was born in 1789. However, Ann and her two children were transferred to Norfolk Island in 1790 and sailed aboard the *Sirius* which foundered on the reef there, a few days after she landed. Patrick Burn remained in Sydney and married Mary Newton in 1790. Patrick died in 1791.

Ann and her children remained on Norfolk Island for 3 years and during this time Ann rekindled her friendship with First Fleet convict William Smith from the *Charlotte*. William was one of the small party of 7 freemen and 15 convicts who had sailed to Norfolk Island in February 1788 under the command of Phillip Gidley King.

Ann and her children returned to Sydney in 1793 aboard the *Kitty* and later, having served his 7 years, William also returned to Sydney and their relationship continued. On his return William was granted 30 acres and in April 1797 a further 40 acres. In 1818, in her own right, Ann and the children were granted 20 acres.

When William died in 1830, aged 75, he left all his property and animals to Ann. Ann, with the help of her son Thomas, managed the farm until his premature death. She lived on there with her daughter-in-law Leticia until her death in 1837 at the age of 87. Ann & William are both buried at St. Johns Anglican Church cemetery, Parramatta.