First Fleeter Frederick Meredith

Frederick Meredith was a F.F. Seaman aboard HMS Sirius who, on his return to England, was discharged from the Navy.

Arthur Phillip had written back to England as early as 6 months after the NSW Colony was established, asking for free settlers with farming and other skills to be sent, as well as for much needed further supplies.

When a call was duly made in England for free settlers for NSW, Frederick Meredith volunteered and sailed on the "BELLONA" arriving in Sydney Cove after 163 days, on the 16th January 1793.

The BELLONA was captained by Master Matthew Boyd and sailed from Gravesend with five families of free settlers on board, together with 17 convict women and supplies for the colony. Unfortunately, on arrival a lot of the supplies were unusable.



Square rigged ship — similar in style to the Bellona

Frederick had several children by different women before marrying one of the 17 convicts on board the Bellona – Sarah Mason. He became No. 40 in the NSW Police Force eventually rising to the rank of Chief Constable. He was also the first Post Master at Liverpool. He had several land grants and the one at Punchbowl had a Meredith living there until 1989.

The Lansdowne Bridge in Sydney, designed by David Lennox, was built by convicts between 1834 and 1836. Supervisors of the construction included Frederick & William Meredith. The bridge is still in use today, large trucks being among the heavy traffic.

One of Frederick's female descendants was Gwen Meredith, the author of "Blue Hills", the long running ABC radio serial. The serial ran for 5795 episodes – an amazing story!!

Another noted descendant (among many) was Mary Meredith who was the second wife of Anthony Horden. She set out the gardens of Redford Park in Bowral which many of us have visited during tulip time!