

Owen Cavanough & Margaret Darnell

Owen Cavanough was born in Gosport Hampshire UK and at the age of 25 became an Able Seaman sailing with the First Fleet aboard the Flagship *Sirius*.

Margaret Dowling Darnell was an Irish Lass born 1766 in Dublin. In 1787 she was convicted of stealing a dozen desert knives and forks valued at 6 shillings. She was sentenced to 7 years transportation and sailed aboard the *Prince of Wales*. Margaret had a son by Private Charles Green in December 1788 and when she was transferred to Norfolk Island in 1790 on board the *Sirius* her child travelled with her. Also on board the *Sirius* was Owen Cavanough and the couple were married on Norfolk Island by the Rev. Richard Johnson.

The couple and their family left Norfolk Island in 1796 and farmed 60 acres at Pitt Town Bottoms. In 1802 they received a land grant at Ebenezer on the Hawkesbury River and gave 4 of their acres for a church to be built.



The Ebenezer Church was erected in 1809, funded by 15 of the pioneer families who each donated £10.

It is the oldest surviving church in Australia.

Owen & Margaret had 7 children together – four boys and two girls and Charles Green remained part of their family. In the flood of 1841 while picking wild tobacco to be used in the tanning process Owen accidentally drowned as, like many other seamen of the time, he couldn't swim. He was aged 79 years. His wife Margaret had died in 1834 and both are buried at Sackville.