

Story of a First Fleeter, Ann Morley (nee Yeates).

Ann Yeates arrived in Sydney Cove with the First Fleet aboard the *Lady Penrhyn*.

Some years later, as a married lady, she was involved in what must have been a terrifying and very traumatic incident in New Zealand.

The story of the 'incident' or the 'Boyd Massacre' in 1809 perhaps began when a young Maori Prince, TeAara (called George by Europeans in Sydney), decided to return to New Zealand. His employer, Simeon Lord, a former convict but now a successful businessman and owner of several ships organised for TeAara to return to his homeland on one of his ships. TeAara had a working passage on the *'Boyd'* under a Captain Thompson who did not treat him well from the start.

During the voyage to the North Island George refused to do certain jobs on board which he considered to be below his dignity and he was also accused of the crime of stealing which it seems he did not commit. For this, Captain Thompson ordered he receive 30 lashes which left him seriously scarred. On reaching Whangaroa Harbour he showed his father (the paramount chief of the area) and a UTU or revenge attack was planned. All but four of the 70 passengers and crew on the *Boyd* were killed and cannibalised.

The survivors were Ann Morley (nee Yeates) and her six month old baby, Ann together with Betsey, the 2 year old daughter of Anne Glossop and William Broughton (Assist. Commissary General of the Colony of Port Jackson who had arrived on the First Fleet as a servant to Surgeon John White) – and a cabin boy, Thomas Davis, aged around 14 years. The Second Mate had managed to buy his life for 2 weeks by making fish hooks from barrel hoops but he was then killed and eaten.

The Maoris towed the *Boyd* up the harbour until she became grounded on the shallow mudflats and she heeled over on one side when the tide went out. Over several days the ship was pillaged of her cargo. TeAara and his men were mostly after the muskets and gunpowder. Nobody knows exactly what happened next but it appears when the Chief was on board investigating the mechanism of a musket, a spark ignited a nearby barrel of gun powder. The resulting blast levelled the decks and killed most of the Maori including the Chief.

Others would have been hurt by the crashing down of the spars and masts, and the ship immediately caught fire which spread to the hold where there were barrels of whale oil. Soon all that was left of the *Boyd* was a burnt out hull. When the news spread, Sealers in whale boats sailed to the area and retaliated by killing Maoris. In total it is believed more than 200 people lost their lives.

Alexander Berry eventually rescued all four survivors and took them on to Lima in Peru aboard the *'City Of Edinburgh'* which he partly owned.

The story is told in a book which is classed as fiction but which is based very much on fact as told through the eyes of Ann Morley to Alexander Berry.

Unfortunately Ann Morley died in Lima sometime after their arrival. Betsey and baby Ann were cared for by Spanish noble families and eventually were returned to their fathers in Sydney some 2 years later.