

Thomas Chipp and Jane Langley.

Descendant family members have done a great deal of research and produced a very large and detailed book "A New Beginning – The story of Three First Fleeters". This is the story of First Fleeters Thomas Chip, Jane Langley and her daughter Henrietta Fletcher (who was born on the voyage) and their descendants.



Holburn Lying-in
Hospital

Jane Langley was born at *Holburn Lying-in Hospital* in London on 16th September 1761. This was a maternity hospital for distressed, poor, married women only.

Nothing is known of Jane's early life but she did work as an apprentice Tambourer and so would have added embroidery to fine fabrics on a small circular embroidery frame called a tambour. Daily working hours were 12 in winter, 16 in summer.



Tambourer

Jane and her friend Mary Finn were charged with stealing money from a Robert Robinson who had been at a nearby Inn and was intoxicated. Apparently he had lost his money and was banging on doors when he saw Jane & Mary as they returned from work and blamed them for taking his money. The girls protested their innocence and produced witnesses, which the Judge refused to believe. They were both found guilty of stealing £5/9/6 and on the 14th September, 1785 were sentenced to transportation.

Jane was with the first group of 56 women for embarkation on the *Lady Penrhyn* however she was not listed on the ship's log until 23rd October at the Cape of Good Hope where she gave birth to a daughter, Henrietta. The father, Phillip Scriven, was employed by the East India Co. and as a crew member had to remain with the ship on its return voyage. It is thought he died at sea as he was very debilitated when he departed for London from Sydney.

Jane and her child, Henrietta, were sent to Norfolk Island aboard the *Sirius* in March 1790 and this is where her story combines with a marine, Thomas Chipp.

Thomas Chipp over his lifetime was a Marine, Soldier, Farmer, Police Constable and Baker. He joined the First Fleet with the 42nd Co. under Captain Lt. Watkin Tench aboard the *Friendship*. At the end of his marine service and the arrival of the NSW Corps Thomas took the option of becoming a settler and left for Norfolk Island in October 1791 aboard the *Atlantic*. It would seem Thomas & Jane were friends at Port Jackson and when he arrived on Norfolk they were married on 5th November 1791 in a mass ceremony conducted by the Rev. Richard Johnson. Thomas was granted land and farmed for several years. Their first child, Robert, was born on Norfolk Island but only survived a few weeks. A daughter Ann was born a year later.

Thomas sold their farm and the family returned to Sydney in 1794 aboard the *Daedalus* when he enlisted as a Private in the NSW Corps of Foot. He took his discharge from the Corps in 1802. After their return to Sydney the couple had 5 more children. By 1806 as a settler he was supporting himself, his wife and 7 children and employed one man on "Chipp's Farm" on the Georges River.

In 1811 he was appointed a Constable in Sydney Town and in the 1814 Muster he was still a constable. In 1822 Thomas was a Baker in Pitt Street Sydney and still there in the 1828 Census.

Jane died in February 1836, aged 74 years. Her profession on the death certificate was shown as a Tailor and at that time they still operated the Bakers Shop. She was buried in the Devonshire St. Cemetery – no headstone remains.

Thomas died in 1842, aged 88 years, and is buried in St. Johns Cemetery Parramatta - no headstone remains.