

Fellowship of First Fleeters

Hunter Valley Chapter

"To live on in the hearts and minds of Descendants is never to die."

All correspondence to: 22 Ruskin St. Beresfield. 2322

www.firstfleetershunter.com.au

President:
Barbara Turner
Ph. 49439105

Vice President/Membership:
Cynthia Huggup
Ph. 49558045

Secretary:
Ray Green
Ph. 49641328

Treasurer:
Helen Pacey
Ph: 40234979



The Coal River Bulletin

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Meeting held on Saturday, 19th October, 2013

This was the first Hunter Valley Chapter meeting held on a Saturday and it was a pleasure to welcome first time visitors Jan Davis, Bill Hepp, Jim Kable, Verna Lumby and June Mackie as well as some other familiar faces who aren't always able to be with us on a weekday.

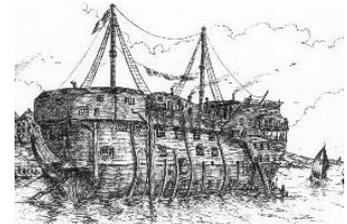


Today the Guest Speaker was our member, Lorraine Valent, who introduced us to her First Fleet ancestors Ann Smith and Patrick Burn. Lorraine gave a very detailed presentation which had been researched by other descendants - a very brief summary follows.

Ann Smith had travelled to America 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.

Lorraine with a photo of her great grandmother

While on the hulk *Dunkirk* (right) 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. Ann with her two children was transferred to Norfolk Island in 1790 and sailed aboard the *Sirius*, the sad story of its demise on a reef being described in our May 2013 Newsletter. 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 their 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.

Our Chapter Outing 6th September 2013

We were once again blessed with a lovely spring day to head to Sydney for a guided tour of THE ROCKS with Liz Parkinson who we met for coffee at Circular Quay at 11am.

We then headed towards the Harbour and First Fleet Park – the only notable points of interest there as we walked towards the Museum of Contemporary Art were the *Master Chef* Marquee, a large Cruise Ship and a statue of William Bligh.



Passing the Argyle Centre we arrived at the Discovery Museum for a supposedly 20-30 talk on local history – unfortunately we didn't pick the best day to visit in this regard as the speaker was John Mundine an artist who spoke mainly on Goulburn and the art program he ran there for the prisoners in Goulburn gaol. While somewhat interesting his talk ran for well over an hour!

After a quick lunch nearby, our next stop was the BIG DIG now under the Youth Hostel.

The Rocks quickly became home to many of the convicts of the First Fleet, who arrived in 1788. The ridges, known as "the lines", were named after the lines of tents and huts that housed the new arrivals. It was these people that set about transforming the rugged area – cutting, terracing and draining the landscape. Tracks leading from Sydney Cove were cut into the rocks; one of these was Cribbs Lane, the site's first lane-way.



Cribbs Lane in early days and on right - as we walked along it.



Foundations of early dwellings



Some of the artefacts found in the dig

Due to the lengthy talk at the Museum and the time spent at the Dig, for some of us, this was **unfortunately the end of our tour as it was time to catch the train home.** Others were able to continue on to see the First Fleet Memorials. Below are some photos off the Net – it's a good excuse for those who had commitments at home to return to The Rocks and explore further another day!

First Fleet Memorial "Bonds of Friendship"

Sculpture known as "The Bonds of Friendship" commemorates the First Fleet of eleven ships which brought to Australia the first European settlers under the command of Captain Arthur Philip. It is a companion piece to one erected at Portsmouth Harbour, England. *The Bonds of Friendship* sculpture was originally erected outside Customs House, Circular Quay but now resides in the Jesse Street Gardens, just near Macquarie Place in the Sydney CBD.



Sirius Anchor and Cannon

Location: Macquarie place, Sydney: A cast iron bow anchor and cannon from HMS Sirius, the Flagship of the First Fleet, which was wrecked off Norfolk Island in 1790.





And many happy returns to those celebrating a birthday in November or December!



November

- 5th – Noelene Snowden
- 8th – Athol Searston
- 9th – John Brooker
- 21st – Albert Burgman
- 26th – Brian Appleyard
- 30th – Ray Meredith

December

- 1st – Helen Pacey
- 1st – Barbara Turner
- 1st – Pam Welham
- 2nd – Sam Pacey
- 4th – Bettye Searston
- 5th – Barbara Trigg
- 10th – Helen Moore
- 20th – Shirley Anderson
- 22nd – Cynthia Huggup
- 24th – John Turner
- 26th – Don Huggup

Vale Elizabeth Guildford

Elizabeth was a *Friend Member* of our Chapter, an historian and author who willingly shared her knowledge and donated many of her books.



For your diary:



*****Monday 16th December.**

Christmas Luncheon - details over.

There are two special events to take note of in January 2014. It seems a long way off as we haven't yet got our diaries for next year or have we??

Both of these events focus on Australia Day celebrations and unfortunately take place over the same weekend!



***** On Saturday 25th January** the annual First Fleet Australia Day luncheon is being held in Sydney at the Pullman Hotel Banquet Room. This is always a lovely event and details and booking form will be in the next issue of the *Founders* magazine.

Our Chapter members usually travel by train but there is also parking available at the Hotel if you wish to drive- this is at your own cost. Details will be available at the December meeting.

***** On Sunday 26th January** our Chapter will once again take part in the Australia Day celebrations held on the Newcastle Foreshore. We have reserved our usual spot between the Harbour and the 'duck pond'.

This event is a highlight for our group as we fully enter into the spirit of the occasion – some even dressing in period costume!

Our aim is to promote the Fellowship of First Fleeters and to chat to those interested in the early history of our Nation.

Again further details will be available at our December meeting.



*Your invitation to the
Fellowship of First Fleeters
Hunter Valley Chapter
Christmas Luncheon*



When: Monday, 16th December 2013



Where: Senior Citizens Hall, Bruncker Rd. Adamstown



Time: A short meeting will be held, commencing at 11am.
This will be followed by a spit roast lunch at 12 noon.



Cost: \$32 includes a spit roast main and choice of dessert.
The usual door fee of \$5 will not apply. BYO Drinks.

Please pay by 1st December if possible to our treasurer Helen Pacey
by cheque or on line.

Between main course and sweets, a Tombola will be held.

If you would like to donate an item for the Tombola on the day it would
be appreciated. If you wish to wrap the gift please use clear cellophane.

**We hope you are able to join us as we celebrate the Festive season
and the end of another successful and interesting year
for our Hunter Valley Chapter!**



Your Newsletter Editor: Judy Aubin