



Fellowship of First Fleeters Hunter Valley Chapter

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

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The Coal River Bulletin

January – 2010

What a happy end to our year of 2009!
We gathered once again at Monet's
Restaurant for our final general meeting
for the year, which was followed by a
delicious Christmas Luncheon.



Chrissy snaps at Monet's

The meeting was a busy one. As well as
general business, there were discussions
concerning our Australia Day Stall on the
Newcastle Harbour Foreshore; the format
of our new Hunter Chapter Banner; and
the possibility of changing our meeting
venue.

1. We received Council approval for our
participation in the Australia Day
celebrations on January 26th at the
Newcastle Harbour Foreshore.

A space was allocated for us and Council
will supply a marquee which we will
decorate with Australian flags, bunting,
balloons, FFF posters and information.
Volunteers to assist on the day will be
very welcome. Please contact President
Barbara for a time slot. You never know
you might meet an unknown relative!

2. Special thanks to Barbara, Yvonne
and Phil and to all who contributed ideas
and suggestions for the format of our
Banner. The firm making the banner
also had helpful suggestions. When our
web master put it altogether it was easy
for the meeting to confirm the final
design. Our FFF Hunter Chapter Banner
should be an eye-catcher!!

3. Possibilities for a new venue for our
meetings were discussed. Most think St.
Johns Hall a lovely venue but parking is
proving to be a problem and will become
a bigger issue if and when parking meters
are introduced.

***** Meanwhile our February meeting on
the 15th will be at St. Johns Hall as usual –
10 am for 10.30am.**

Our Guest Speakers at this Christmas
Meeting were our own John & Beth
Brooker who had just returned from a
most interesting and moving experience
in New Zealand to commemorate an
incident involving John's First Fleet
ancestor Ann Morley (nee Yeates).

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 John's F.F. ancestor Ann Morley (nee Yeates) - her six month old baby, Ann - 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 managed to buy his life for 2 weeks by making fish hooks from barrel hoops but 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. Beth & John purchased 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.



John & Beth showing their book with an illustration of the Boyd on fire in Whangaroa Harbour

Commemorations of this tragic event began for Beth & John at a Choral Eucharist at St. James Anglican Church, Sydney on Sunday 28th November 2009. There they met up with some 60-70 descendants of Betsey Broughton. The following day they flew to New Zealand and travelled to Kaeo-Whangaroa where all the visitors were welcomed by the Maori community in true Maori style, including a Haka and rubbing noses. Many Maori elders spoke, always in Maori but John said although it was difficult to understand they all knew they were being welcomed.

The next day they gathered in a large marquee on the harbour front where three Waka (war canoes) arrived.

Two canoes were rowed by males and the third by a female crew who later formed a choir and led them in singing Maori songs.



One of the Wakas (war canoes) at the commemoration
Photo from the NZ Northern News

As the only Morley descendant present, and also as a member of the Clergy, John was asked to say a prayer for those who lost their lives and those who survived. Then a group were taken out into the harbour to the spot where the Boyd lies and John, together with a Maori Lady (also a member of the clergy) tossed a wreath.

Many thanks to John & Beth for sharing this memorable weekend with us.



It was agreed our visit to the **STATE LIBRARY of NSW** was one of our best so far. It was such a great day it has taken three of us to describe this outing !!



Thanks to Helen Pacey for the following:

On 16th November, 2009 our Chapter visited the State Library of NSW in Macquarie St. Sydney.

The Mitchell Library is a reference Library (not a lending Library) operated by the State Government and contains over 5 million items. The Library aims to collect, preserve & make accessible the documentary heritage of NSW.

These items include books, manuscripts, newspapers copied onto microfiche, CDs etc.

It is a requirement that all handbags & apparel are to be left in lockers provided before our tour began. We were greeted by Lyn our guide on the Ground Floor at 11.00am. Lyn is a volunteer, one of many attached to the ML. Actually there are 360 employees in the Library Building. Arrangements were made to meet David, an employee, back at the ground floor at 12 noon.

From the ground floor we went down to the Reading & Reference Room on the LG floor. Students can access books, microfilms, Newspapers, computer research, etc. Should any item not be available it can be sourced from the Stack rooms below. You order the item by form and within 20mins the request will arrive.

Every book published that has over ten pages must have one copy sent to the Library, which is one way of completing the collections. The Stack rooms are below ground (there are at least 5 stories of the library below ground level) where older copies are stored at a constant 20°C & 50% humidity. Some books have been found in book shops like A&R and Dymocks. Some have been donated by relatives of deceased estates.

Then President Barbara continues:

Our tour finished several floors up with Louise Annematt giving us an extensive talk on our origins and explaining about the FF journals they have in the library. I guess the most wonderful part was when she passed the journals around after explaining about each one and us holding them in our hands and examining their different neat hand writing. On one of the journals it showed hand stitching where inserts had been added and stitched them in to hold them there permanently.

To actually hold one of the original detailed maps of Sydney Cove showing where the ships were anchored and where everyone was housed in Australia's earliest days was wonderful. She made people like Joseph Banks, Cook, Phillip and Clark just to name a few come alive and take on personalities. Each one of us came away feeling elated. This trip made being a FF really something special.

Being the News Letter Editor I focussed on some photographic points of interest:

In the Entrance to the Macquarie wing of the Library hangs an eye-catching Tapestry.



The tapestry is the work of Martin Sharp and based on the sonnet 'Australia', by poet Bernard O'Dowd. The poem is also quoted in the Bicentennial Rotunda at Centennial Park and was the winning entry in a competition run by the Bulletin magazine in 1900.

The Mitchell wing of the Library was closed for renovation and will re-open in February in time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Library. However we were able to access the Mitchell wing foyer from inside to view the marble Tasman map featured there.



The marble mosaic is constructed from Wombeyan russet marble. The slabs of marble are 20mm thick and joined only where lines occurred on the map itself.

The original map is held in the Library and is drawn and decorated on Japanese paper. The map bears the Arms of the City of Amsterdam, with the date of 1644.

Following are two photos outside the Mitchell Wing – one of Matthew Flinders and the other of 'Trim' his cat.



The statue of TRIM was once positioned at the base of Matthew's statue but for safety reasons has been repositioned on a ledge at the base of the window behind.



We are now looking forward to our next outing which will be on March 15th 2010. Many thanks to Irma Forster for all the thought she has put into planning this day for us. It is hoped to visit the Historical Society Cottage on Nelson Head, the Coastal Patrol Headquarters and the Tomaree Library to hear a guest speaker from the Woromi tribe. The tribe sheltered four convicts who had stolen a boat and had escaped from Parramatta. The runaways landed in Port Stephens and were given native names and wives with whom they had children. More details of this excursion at the February meeting.

I'm sure we are all looking forward to another interesting year with FFF in 2010 and discovering more history of our ancestors.
Your Editor, Judy