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# Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter

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## P A M E L A ' S C O R N E R

Summer was a great season for many reasons, first and foremost in relation to COVID, in that it became less restrictive. February was wonderful, with us being able to hold our Fellowship meeting in the Tebbutt Room at Windsor for the first time since early 2020.

It was a delight to see so many members present and it reminded me of a "Family Reunion". We were treated to yummy food that Rae and David made us for morning tea. David's fruitcake was outstanding!

Our speaker William Hempel gave an interesting presentation on First Fleeter Jacob Nagle. If you were not present at the meeting and would like to watch the presentation, please contact our site. On Saturday 17th April, we will meet again at Windsor and the details will be forwarded to you. By now, most of you would know that on Thursday 20th May we are going on a lunch cruise on the Nepean Belle. There are two reasons why we have chosen MAY, firstly the FF sailed from Portsmouth on the long journey to Australia and secondly it is our Chapter's Birthday- a double celebration.

I do hope this Newsletter finds you all travelling well and I look forward to when we see one another again.

Final note, please remember that if you would like to be President of our Chapter please let me know, as I am only the Acting President.

*Pamela Hempel*  
Acting President

## CHAPTER OUTING

Members of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter will be cruising on the Nepean Belle in May

**Event:** Winter Warmer Scenic Adventure Cruise

**Date:** Thursday 20th May 2021

**Time:** 12.00-2.30pm

Members will unwind on the Nepean Belle Paddle Wheeler this May cruising the spectacular Nepean Gorge. There is nothing so stunning as the rock formations carved out by the Nepean River - one of Australia's most beautiful and largely unknown, natural archaeological splendours at the base of the heritage listed, Blue Mountains National Park.

The combination of the unique scenery and the majestic Nepean Belle provides excellent photo opportunities you can treasure for years to come.



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## APRIL CHAPTER MEETING 2021

**Guest Speaker:** TBA

**Date:** Saturday 17th April

**Venue:** Hawkesbury Regional Library

Tebbutt Room

George Street, Windsor

**Time:** 11:00am

### Quotes from the Colony

#### Thursday 10th March 1788

*La Perouse, five days earlier than he had planned, slipped out of Botany Bay and he and his two beautiful ships and all who had so far survived the journey sailed into the unknown never to be seen again. (It was not until 1826 that the wreckage of the two ships was sighted on a reef in the Santa Cruz group of islands in the Pacific.)*

**Captain Phillip**

#### Tuesday 15th March 1788

*We have found three sorts of stone in this country: Freestone, which appears equal to Portland stone, a bad firestone and a stone that appears to contain a large proportion of iron. We have found clay for bricks, but no chalk or limestone has yet been found.*

**Captain Phillip**

#### Wednesday 23rd March 1788

*I record the catching of a great shark this day, 13 feet long and 6 and a half feet round. After his jaws were taken out they passed over the largest man in the ship without touching. The liver gave us 26 gallons of oil, he had four hooks cut from within him besides that which caught him.*

**Captain Phillip**

## A SNIPPET OF THE MACQUARIE ARMS IN WINDSOR

Submitted by Judith O'Donohue

The Macquarie Arms at Windsor can safely be referred to as Australia's oldest pub on the mainland. Richard Fitzgerald erected the original "Inn" in 1815. The land was spacious and adjoined Thompson Square. Mr Fitzgerald was given "a large allotment in the square on the express condition of his building immediately becoming a handsome commodious inn of brick or stone and to be at least two storeys high". The funds were given to Mr Fitzgerald by Macquarie with the idea of saving the Government the cost of providing this kind of structure. (*Journal of Macquarie's Tours- 12th Jan. 1811*)

The heritage and history of the hotel holds many a story. Convict labour built the original hotel by hand enduring long hours of poor conditions and those convicts were locked into the cellar at night whilst the 73<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Red Coat Soldiers inhabited the upper floor.

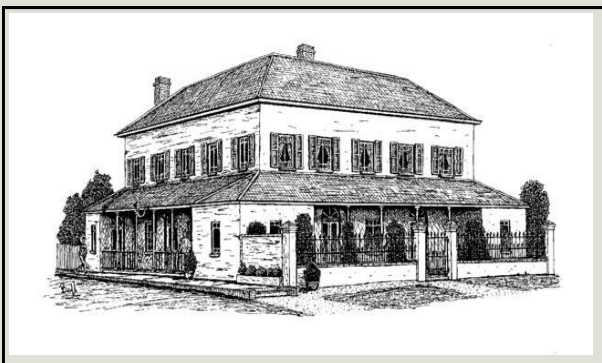
A clever way was found to smuggle illegal barrels of rum from the Hawkesbury River to the lower quarters.

This being through the "Rum Smugglers Tunnels". Two convict brothers known as Fitzpatrick and Richard were unfortunately blown up in the cellar when they mixed the chemicals wrongly in pursuit of the liquor.

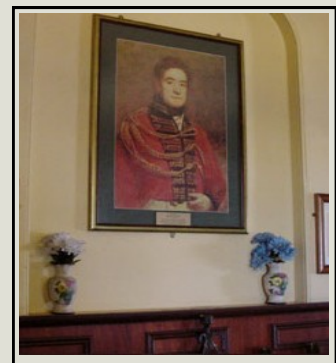
There are those who still believe that the brothers' spirits remain in the cellar to this day. Another death that occurred in the premises is that of young Mary, a seven year old girl who was unable to escape when a fire engulfed her bedroom on the upper floor.

### The Sydney Gazette of 29th July, 1815, reported:

*That spacious and commodious new Inn at Windsor, called The Macquarie Arms, was opened by the GOVERNOR, on Wednesday the 26th instant, when HIS EXCELLENCY entertained at dinner the Magistrates and other principal Gentlemen residing at Windsor, and in that neighbourhood. Mr. Ransom, who has taken on himself the duties of Innkeeper, is, from his experience in the avocation, thoroughly competent to the undertaking, which we are convinced will be conducted on a liberal footing. Its necessity has long been manifest as there was no house of public reception at Windsor capable of accommodating large and genteel companies, whereas the Macquarie Arms from its extent, plan of building, and adequate number of apartments will be doubtless found worthy of the most liberal patronage and support.*



As originally built in 1815. Drawing by Gary Bell



Right: Gov. Lachlan Macquarie portrait hangs in the dining room

## A Timeline of Jacob Nagle– submitted by William Hempel

Jacob Nagle's grandparents migrated in the early 1750's from Germany. The family purchased a grist mill in Reading, just north of Philadelphia and had a "degree of financial substance and education." George, Jacob's father, became a blacksmith and the local sheriff from 1770-1775. He and wife Rebecca Rogers had 4 children, Jacob being the eldest. George served in the French and Indian War in America in the 1760's.

**American Revolution** Jacob joined his father in Boston, at the start of the revolution, in early 1776 before his 15th birthday but was then sent home. Later that year, he again joined his father at the Battle of Brandywine near Philadelphia. He then joined Washington's Army with his father, who had by then risen to Colonel. Together they spent the winter at Valley Forge 1777-1778. In 1780, Jacob enlisted on a US Navy ship, Saratoga and served for 4 months before requesting permission at the end to join a "privateer" in Philadelphia.

**Privateer** With the revolution still happening, Jacob joined a "privateer" which was a ship owned by wealthy merchants to attack commercial ships for their cargo. On a "privateering" trip into the West Indies in 1781, he was captured by two British Naval Vessels and put into prison at St Lucia, WI. A month later, the French arrived and he was freed. He was again imprisoned in 1782 by the French for aiding a captured fellow American who had been serving with the British Navy.

**Royal Navy** Jacob, along with captured British Naval prisoners was exchanged in May 1782 at St Lucia. Later that month he officially signed on with the navy until April 1783 when the Revolution in America had ended. He was then discharged at Portsmouth, England with pay. Later in September, he again signed on to HMS Ganges and remained with the ship for almost 4 years which took him to Gibraltar several times. Jacob writes that these years were a mixture of boredom and harsh treatment. In March, 1787, along with several others of the Ganges crew, he transferred to HMS Sirius

Jacob had been assigned duties as "steward" on his previous ships due to his writing abilities. The ships logs state that he was an exceptionally intelligent sailor. Jacob was one of 7 "volunteers" selected from HMS Ganges to join HMS Sirius. Jacob's journal during the First Fleet's travel and arrival has become an important part of Australia's early settlement period. As a member of Governor Phillip's boat crew, he got to know the Governor well and travelled with him on early expeditions around both Port Jackson and Broken Bay. He travelled back to Cape Town in 1789 on the Sirius for supplies and remained with the ship although other crew members left there.

He was on the Sirius when it went onto the rocks at Norfolk Island in 1790. Jacob was a very good swimmer and as a result, helped to recover many items of cargo from the Sirius shipwreck. In March 1791, the "Supply" had returned with supplies from Batavia along with a rented Dutch ship the Waaksamheyd. This ship took the sailors of the Sirius back to Port Jackson and then back to England arriving in Portsmouth in 1792. Jacob then returned to London and lived in the "East End", before the days of its development as the East India Dockyards in the great trading era.

Jacob was "impressed" again in August 1792 while in London due to the start of the Napoleonic Wars. After spending the next few years based in home ports, during which time he married Elizabeth Pitman in 1795, he left on HMS Gorgon in Nov. 1795 serving in Gibraltar and the Mediterranean. After various engagements between 1796-1798, serving on HMS Blanche, he returned to Portsmouth where he was able to meet up with Elizabeth, his wife and eldest child. In 1802, with a peace treaty and for other personal reasons, he retired from the Royal Navy to spend time with his family although he had been offered a position as master of one of the "ships of the line."

**Merchant Sailor** Jacob departed for Lisbon, Portugal with his family in order to book passage on a ship back to America. While in Lisbon, a Yellow Fever epidemic erupted. While waiting there, his wife and children died. He returned to America, staying with relatives and meeting a sister born after he had left to sail. Jacob joined merchant ships travelling to various places in South America, the Caribbean, India and China. Often, he served as second in command due to his experience and scarcity of officers and crew. Jacob retired from sailing in 1824 when he was 63.

**Jacob's Last Years** Jacob spent the first years of retirement with various relatives in Philadelphia and with his sister Sarah (Sally) Webb in Canton, Ohio. He spent most of the 1820's and 1830's travelling around Northern Ohio. He also worked in the offices of Bezaleel Wells, a surveyor. Ohio was still a frontier state having been admitted in 1803. Jacob applied for a pension from the US government for service during the Revolution in 1833 and was finally granted one of 30 dollars a year.



Above L: East India Docks, London Above R: Sea Battle near St Christopher 1782



Above: HMS Sirius wreck, Norfolk Island 1790

*Stark County Democrat, Canton, Ohio. Saturday, 20 February 1841*

**ANOTHER REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER GONE.**

**DIED**—On Wednesday morning last, the 17th inst. Mr. Jacob Nagle, in the eightieth year of his age. Mr. Nagle was a soldier of the Revolution, and did his first service at the celebrated battle of the Brandywine, in that war, when he was not yet seventeen years of age. He afterwards entered the naval service, and was a sailor fifty years of his life, during a great portion of which time he was in foreign countries. He died, like most of that band of brave and unconquerable heroes who perilled all for the liberty we enjoy, **POOR, AND DESTITUTE OF THE COMFORTS OF LIFE,**—the only reward his country ever bestowed upon him was a miscalled pension of **THIRTY DOLLARS** a year. He was ill but four days, and retained his senses to the last.—On Saturday he attended the funeral of his sister Mrs. Webb at which time he expressed a wish that his might be the next.

His remains were interred in Canton, on the 18th with military honors by Captain Weber's company of German Guards, accompanied by the German Brass Band, and a numerous concourse of Citizens, who respected the honesty, and patriotism of the old sea beaten veteran. We are requested to offer the thanks of the surviving relatives of the deceased, to the military and to the public, for the sympathy which was manifested, for them, in their affliction.

Project of placing FFF Plaques on or near known graves of First Fleeters. Efforts at recognising Jacob Nagle in Canton. Contacts made in Ohio at Library and Canton City Government. To date the project has stalled. Perhaps a plaque may eventually be placed in McKinley Park where the Plum Street Cemetery was located at some time in the future.