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Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter

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SHARON'S CORNER

I have decided to return after 3 years to be President of this fabulous Chapter. I am looking forward to renewing friendships and making new friends. All Chapters have struggled over the last few years because of the many strains of COVID and flu, but I am certain that the worst is over, and as Spring will be here when we meet, everything will slowly return to pre COVID times. I am certain that Judith O'Donohue will arrange some interesting speakers for the year, Kathleen Forrest will again be producing a great newsletter for us to read, however she needs more stories. As a Director on the Board for 12 years and the Archivist for the Fellowship I have been lucky to receive a copy of all Chapter Newsletters, and our Newsletter is definitely one of the best. William's position as Secretary is extremely valuable and I appreciate his work and commitment. I hope he still understands all the technical equipment, which I try and avoid. I welcome Suzanne Shaw to the Treasurer's position. I also welcome all the 2022/2023 committee members and I am sure we will enjoy the year in fellowship. I am always open to new or old ideas to improve our Chapter and to keep it growing. Please remember the Fellowship's AGM at Tuggerong Homestead in Canberra in October. Founders will provide further details.

Sharon Lamb

UPCOMING MEETINGS

OCTOBER MEETING 2022

Date: Saturday 8th October

Venue: Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street, Windsor.

Speaker: Doug Knowles

Topic: The Murder of Lee Mueller at Glenbrook

Time: 11:00am



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNCTION DECEMBER 2022

Date: Saturday 10th December

Venue: Tebbutt Room, Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street, Windsor

Time: 11:00am



Quotes From The Colony

Friday 23rd September 1788

The good behaviour and industry of two convicts, both at Norfolk Island, have induced me to request to the under-secretary that their families may be sent to them from England as they do not wish to leave after the time for which they were transported expires. .

Captain Phillip

Sunday 3rd October 1788

The rations are now cut until the return of the SIRIUS, one pound of flour from the weekly ration to each person. I expect the SIRIUS back within six months and the above reduction will be justified if there be any delay

Captain Phillip

Saturday 22nd October 1788

It is only the iron will of the Governor that keeps him at the helm. I observe at social gatherings and as on this visit of inspection, that he is frequently a silent sufferer of intense pain.

Judge Advocate Collins

THANK YOU SO MUCH

I am eternally grateful for the years I shared with each of you as Chapter President.

The highlight had to be the friendships created between you and I.

Your acceptance of me made me so happy and I loved sharing with you in "Pamela's Corner".

I looked forward so much to seeing your happy smiley faces again.

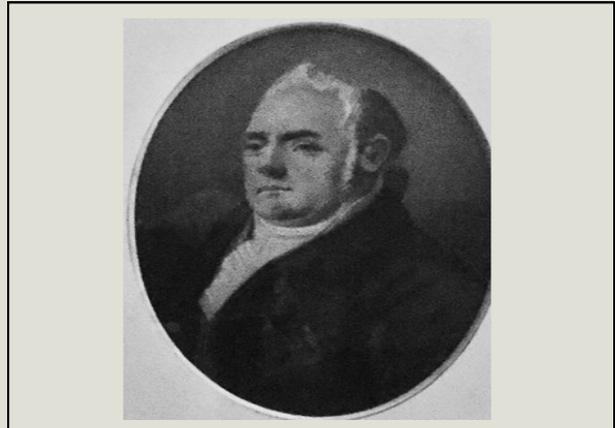
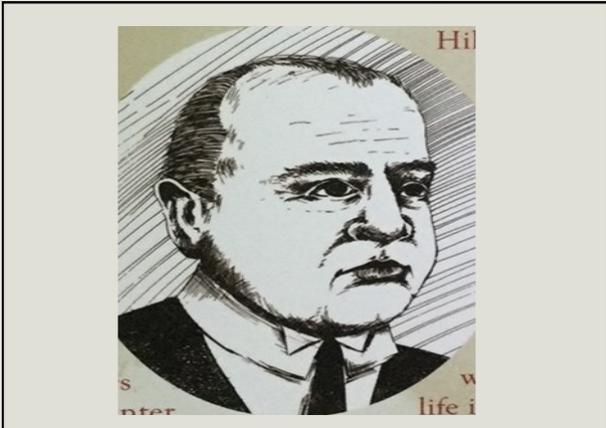
We now welcome Sharon Lamb as our President for the coming year.

I look forward to seeing you at the October meeting. Pamela xo



JAMES RUSE AND JOHN HARRIS

WRITTEN BY William Hempel



There is a connection between James Ruse, John Harris and the Nepean-Hawkesbury Area which members may find interesting .

James Ruse, a farmer from Cornwall arrived aboard the Scarborough with the First Fleet in January, 1788. He had been convicted of robbery in 1782 but spent most of his sentence in England aboard a “hulk” although he was supposed to have been sent to Africa. When he arrived as part of the First Fleet, six years of his seven year term had already been served. Unfortunately, when he claimed his sentence had expired in 1789, no records were available in New South Wales to prove he was correct. Lacking evidence, Governor Arthur Phillip, couldn't give James a grant of land, but instead allotted him a plot of land at Parramatta.

This plot, known as Experiment Farm, was given with the idea of proving that, an individual ex-convict farmer could both raise produce to support his family and with the excess then to be sold to the Government Stores. This was very important because the early settlement was in dire need of foodstuffs after early agricultural production around Sydney Harbour was insufficient. With more convict vessels arriving in 1789 without enough supplies to sustain the colony, this proved to be even more important.

James Ruse was successful and the “experiment” at his farm was able to send supplies down the Parramatta River to Sydney. Due to his success, James received the title to this property and thus received Land Grant Number 1 in 1789. A few free settlers and especially his neighbour John Macarthur at Elizabeth Farm were not impressed with a convict being able to receive such a grant. In late 1793, he sold his property to John Harris with the intention of returning to England. Early in 1794, he was part of the first group of settlers that opened the Hawkesbury area for agriculture. James was quite successful at first, but after flooding in 1809, he received a new grant at Bankstown before eventually becoming an overseer at Minto where he died in 1837.



The original of James Ruse's Grave-stone is now located in an enclosure at Glenalvon in Campbelltown. It was relocated there by the family to avoid any damage by vandals as it was originally carved by James Ruse prior to his death. A copy has been placed in the cemetery

John Harris was also quite successful in the early years of NSW, although he did not arrive as a convict. Born in County Londonderry in Northern Ireland, he had spent several years in India as a naval surgeon before his arrival in 1790. He held several government positions depending on the governor of the time. He was at various times a Government Surgeon, a Magistrate, a founding director of the First Bank of NSW (now Westpac) in 1817 as well as building the current Experiment Farm Cottage located at Harris Park sometime between 1793 and 1837. There is an interesting controversy about this raised by Dr Sue Rosen which can be heard on an ABC podcast.



Experiment Cottage was the first house built in the Indian Bungalow style with shuttered windows opening onto a circling verandah similar to structures in India at the time and appropriate for the Australian climate. Harris was also successful with Experiment Farm and added to his holding over the next few years.

John owned a number of properties in various locations in New South Wales, building Ultimo House which was on Harris Street in Sydney and including land in Bathurst and in the Nepean Hawkesbury area.



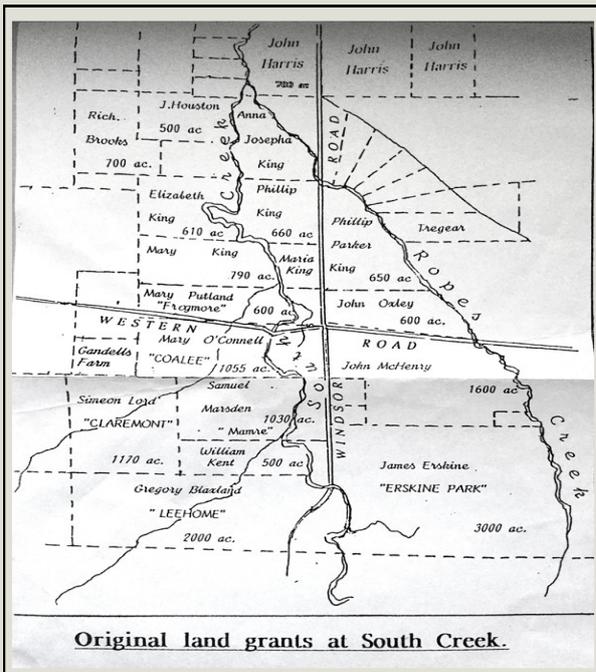
The original Ultimo House on the left and the redesigned House on the right was demolished to be replaced in the 1930's by the construction of Ultimo TAFE College.



The John Harris property at Shanes Park near where South Creek and Ropes Creek meet, just north of St Marys is where John Harris died in 1838 with his burial at the Parramatta St Johns Cemetery. This marker can be found next to his gravesite.



The Experiment Farm property remained in the Harris Family until sold in 1921 when the property was then subdivided to become the suburb of Harris Park. As a further note, Experiment Farm Cottage was the first property in 1961 to be purchased by the New South Wales branch of the National Trust and is currently an interesting place to visit along with nearby Elizabeth Farm maintained by Sydney Living Museums and Hambleton Cottage maintained by the Parramatta Historical Society where they also hold their meetings.



John Harris had land grants at Shane's Park. On this map, three separate allotments just near where both South Creek and Ropes Creek meet. Most of these land grants were made in the few years prior to 1810. Many were relatives of the Governor or other officials of the time.

Notice the location of present-day St Marys is on the map where the "Western Road" meets the "Windsor Road" (present day Mamre Road and Queen Street). The new suburb of Ropes Crossing is near where Ropes Creek meets the Windsor Road and the suburb of Jordan Springs is on the top left on the map.

Various sources have been considered for this article with many located at the Experiment House Cottage at Harris Park NSW in the care of the National Trust. The photos were taken by myself between 2015 and 2020. The origin of the National Trust photos of the land grants, Ultimo House and both James Rise and John Harris is unknown but presumed no copyright.

The James Ruse marker at Glanlvalon, Campbelltown is in the care of the Campbelltown and Airs historical Society and the Campbelltown City Council. It is worthwhile viewing this marker in the area to view the stone reportedly carved by James Ruse himself prior to his death with interesting spellings.

A Snippet of the Tizzana Winery

Thomas Henry Fiaschi was born in Florence in 1853 and received his education at the Universities of Pisa and Florence. At the age of 22 he migrated to Australia and proceeded to build a reputation as an outstanding surgeon. He came to Windsor in 1876 ,where he commenced a medical practice at Thompson Square and was surgeon at Hawkesbury Hospital. Fiaschi's Windsor practice continued for about 7 years until his appointment as Consulting Honorary Surgeon to Sydney Hospital and examiner to Clinical Surgery at Sydney University. In addition to his vast amount of surgical work which he was able to get through, he was also a leading authority on viticulture and planted vineyards on the Hawkesbury in 1882 and Mudgee in 1920,He was president of the Wine Association and a member of the Royal Agricultural Society .It was his early days in Windsor he became interested in Viticulture, In 1882 he purchased 230 acres at Sackville Reach which he planted with 5 acres of grapes as an experiment. This led to a vineyard of 55 acres in 1889. It was during this time that he built Tizzana Winery in 1887.He continued his Tizzana and Mudgee wineries until his death in 1927. His second wife Amy carried on for a further 25 years .The last vintage from the early plantings took place in 1949.

In 1955 vandals broke in and set it on fire. It became a stone shell and in 1969 restoration of the crumbling ruins took place under the new owners .It has become a National Trust classified building and once again grows its own grapes.

Acknowledgement to TizzanaWinery.com.au/history



Looking For Members

The Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of Fellowship of First Fleeters is looking to grow the chapter, particularly for those who are new or who visit our chapter. The Fellowship of First Fleeters has three categories and would love to have new members join in any category.

Full membership is reserved for those who are direct descendants of those who arrived on the First Fleet.

An Associate membership is available to spouses of full members.

A Friend membership is available to those who have a general interest in early colonial history or anyone who would like to support the Fellowship.

If you would like further information see:

<https://fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au/> or see Sharon or William at our next meeting.

Fellowship of First Fleeters Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday 26th October 2022

Where: Tuggeranong Homestead,
130 Johnson Drive,
Richardson, Canberra

Hosted by: The Canberra Chapter

Contact First Fleet House for further details

The Fellowship of First Fleeters Goldcoast Chapter is looking for new members. If you have family or friends currently living on the Gold Coast who may be interested in joining the Chapter please contact: joseph.quilty@bigpond.com

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For contributions to the Newsletter please email to

ffhnc2015@gmail.com

Website: www.ffhnc.com

Looking For Thomas Acres-submitted by Suzanne Shaw

Thomas arrived in Sydney Cove 26th January 1788 and so the family tree was established in NSW. Thomas was the son of Thomas and Mary Acres and was born in England in 1758, possibly in Devon or Cornwall. On 14th March 1785 at Exeter Castle, in Devon, Thomas appeared at the Lent Assizes before Sir Beaumont Hotham where he was sentenced to be hanged for feloniously assaulting John Squance on the King's Highway, feloniously putting him in corporeal fear and danger of his life then violently taking from his person and against his will 10s in monies. Mercy was shown to Thomas when his sentence of hanging was later commuted to a sentence of transportation for 7 years.

Thomas could write his name as he signed "Thomas Akers" on the transport documents.

After Thomas was transferred to the prison hulk Dunkirk on the 5th April 1786, he was described as "troublesome at times". From the Dunkirk, Thomas was transferred to the Charlotte as part of the First Fleet, leaving Portsmouth on the 11th March 1787 and arrived in Botany Bay on the 18th January 1788. The weather was fair with south westerly winds and the temperature was 74 degrees F.

The entire Fleet lay at anchor and Surgeon John White expressed the feeling of relief as "we're in good health after such a long journey" to Botany Bay. Conditions at Botany Bay did not prove suitable for settlement and so Port Jackson was chosen by Captain Phillip and the colony was then established there. On the 26th January the entire convoy was at anchor at Sydney Cove. As the day ended the official party made its way to where a flag pole had been erected and from it flew the Union flag, a symbol of the old country in this new land, a land that would now change forever.

Captain Phillip and officers of the settlement along with lower ranks drank a toast to the King and the success of the colony. On Sunday 27th Jan 1788, Lt. Clark ordered all male convicts of the Charlotte be landed so as to help with the establishment of the camps, and so Thomas Acres set foot for the first time on Australian soil. In 1792 Acres was emancipated and in the same year Thomas saw the birth of his first child with Ann Guy. Mary Ann was born the 25th May in Sydney Cove. Acres and Ann Guy did not marry, as Ann had a living husband in England.

On the 3rd November 1794, Thomas was granted 20 acres of land at Mulgrave Place on the Hawkesbury River. Sophia Acres was born there in the 15th May 1795. In 1798 Thomas was attacked and speared by aborigines at Mulgrave Place. In the same year a son was born, also named Thomas.

The following year 1799 saw the birth of Henry.

In 1800, Acres along with 14 other landholders lodged a petition for fair prices for their produce with the Governor. By mid 1800 devastating floods had destroyed the property and he had to abandon the land grant and rent a property for his family. Some good news followed with the birth of Catherine in 1801. Returning to Mulgrave Place in 1802, Thomas had ten acres sown in wheat and six more in maize, he had two pigs and the family was self supporting.

In May 1805 he sold the land at Mulgrave Place for 180 pounds.

In partnership with Thomas Phillips at Cattai, Acres had 23 acres. Fourteen acres of grain, one acre of orchard and garden with the rest of pasture. With 12 sows and 4 bushels of wheat in store, he was considered to be a success.

By 1814 Thomas was living in the Liverpool area, his land is where the current suburb of Glenfield sits.

The 1814 muster states -

Thomas Acres was free of servitude, a landholder of Liverpool, living with wife Ann, off government stores. By the 8th October 1816 he owned a further 40 acres at Ambervale, near Campbelltown.

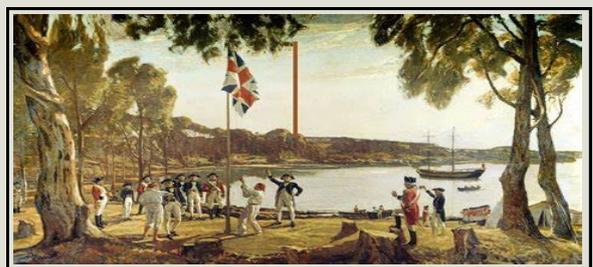
Thomas Acres died on or near 4th January 1824 at Cowpastures NSW.

His place of burial is debated to this day. There is no original headstone in existence. Plaques have been erected to his memory at St. Peter's Church of England in 2008 and St. John's Catholic in 2015.

He is honoured, no matter where he may lie. Thomas Acres Public School and Thomas Acres Reserve at Ambervale bear his name. The aforementioned are located on his land grant.

A framed print of the Charlotte was presented to the Thomas Acres School by the society in his remembrance. In 2013 a reunion of descendants met to celebrate his life and contribution to our country.

Acknowledgment: James Bruce.



**FAMILY
MUSTER**

Andrew Goodwin ~ Lydia Munro

Hobart 30 Oct – 2 Nov 2022

**First
Fleeters**

**“The Next
Generation”**

*Arrived Hobart from
Norfolk Island Jan 1808
HMS Porpoise*



*Early Hobart History ~ Bushrangers and the Law
Family History Research and DNA ~ Old Pubs and Hotels
St Davids Cemetery ~ Shipping Merchants of Hobart
Norfolk Island ~ Hobart Orphans School
Opening up the Midlands ~ Hobart Heritage Tours*

*Family Connections: Underwood ~ Frost ~ Hines ~ Hardy
Briscoe ~ Bunker ~ Bunster ~ Sharman ~ Ulmer ~ Everall*

www.australianhistoryresearch.info/goodwin-munro-family-muster-hobart

