

Image Courtesy of the SLNSW

Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter Newsletter

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SHARON'S CORNER

The weather was finally kind to us at last. We have survived fires, road collapses, COVID and repeated floods. It was great to chair my first meeting for the 2022 year and the last general meeting for the year. The meeting had twenty-nine members attend and seven apologies. There were seven visitors. We were extremely fortunate to have the Hawkesbury City Mayor Sarah McMahon attend. Mayor Sarah has found her First Fleeter James Peaulett, after talking to her father and grandfather, who are already members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Her comments on her Facebook site praised the work that the Fellowship of First Fleeters is doing to preserve history in the Hawkesbury. Sarah left the meeting armed with the application forms to join as an ordinary member and I am certain that the Fellowship will welcome her early next year. It was also a privilege to have Director Brooke Smith and one of my carers, Lee Anne Kelly. Lauren and Simon Jones and their two children attended as well as Tony and Jenny Holden from the Eastern Farms Chapter. Lauren and Simon have renovated the Old Methodist Church at Sackville North and found the old North Sackville Cemetery of which they are custodians and have now found that their cemetery has a First Fleeter buried there. If you did not attend the meeting, you will have to come along to the February 2023 meeting to hear Lauren tell her story. I also look forward to the December meeting where we will enjoy the end of the year festivities for Christmas, our special time of the year. Thank you Kathleen for your lovely newsletters and thank you to all on the committee plus the helpers. I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year with your family and friends.

Sharon Lamb

President

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNCTION DECEMBER 2022

Date: Saturday 10th December

Venue: Stan Stevens Room, Hawkesbury Central Library
300 George Street, Windsor

Time: 11:00am



FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING

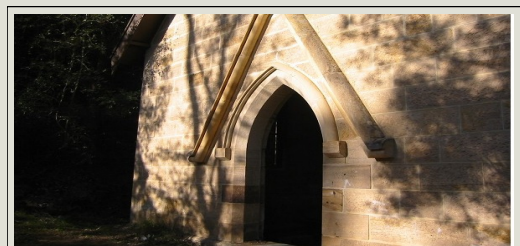
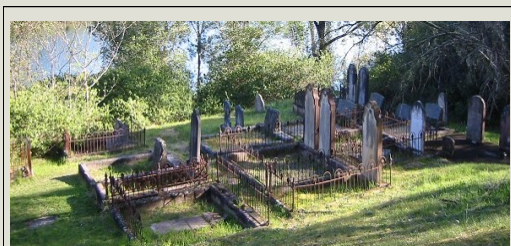
Date: Saturday 11th February 2023

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

Time: 11:00am

Topic: Restoration of the old Methodist Church at Sackville North

Speaker: Lauren Jones



Quotes From The Colony

Thursday 1st December 1788

Fresh food including fish was essential for the hospital. I, as with others volunteered for daily fishing duty which had become a necessity rather than a pleasure.

Chief Surgeon White

Thursday 22nd December 1788

By the surgeons returns, it appears that twenty have died from disorders of long standing and which is more than probable would have carried them off sooner in England.

Captain Phillip

Saturday 31st December 1788

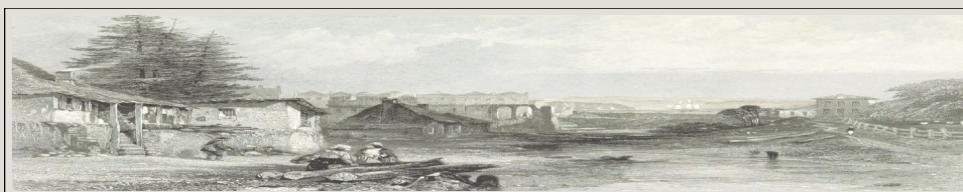
I will give a dinner for all the naval, marine and civil soldiers for tomorrow, New Years Day. I intend to also invite "Manly" who I found out this day that his name is "Arabanoo". Nothing will give me greater pleasure than to see him at ease with the party.

Captain Phillip

SNIPPET OF THE TANKSTREAM-Judith O'Donohue

Named for the "Tanks" cut into its sides to save water, the Tank Stream which wound its way through the colony before emptying into Sydney Cove, was Sydney's original water supply. The First Fleet had arrived in Botany Bay to find little fresh water so its officers were delighted when they came to Bennelong Point and found a cove deep enough to accommodate ships of some size, and a stream flowing into the Western corner of the cove. They soon discovered the stream had its source up the hill at what is now Hyde Park.

By 1792 the colony was in drought and the water supply had declined. Someone had an idea and the sandstone was excavated to create three storage tanks. One at Pitt and Spring Street and two more in Bond Street. The British Officer who conceived the idea of Tanks would have learnt it in India where it was very widespread. By 1826 The Tank Stream had become an open sewer and it was abandoned. Although no longer widely visible, this storm water drain carried fresh water under the city to the Harbour and was the water source that founded a city and a nation.



A Visit from Hawkesbury Mayor Sarah McMahon

The Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter of Fellowship of First Fleeters was visited by Hawkesbury Mayor Sarah McMahon on Saturday 12th November. Sarah not only had a meet and greet, she also picked up her forms to officially join the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Through her mother's side, Sarah is a descendant of James Peaulet, (Scarborough). James lived his adult life around the Hawkesbury district and is buried in an unmarked grave at Pitt Town. Sarah's grandfather Des Burke has researched this history and contributed his article to the Fellowship, which can be found here:

<http://www.fellowshipfirstfleeters.org.au/jamespeaulet.htm>

As Sarah gets older, she is increasingly interested in her connection to the pioneering Hawkesbury families. Sarah believes we have such a rich history here, both indigenous and European, and that all stories from all perspectives should be shared, as part of a history that cannot be changed, but for a future that we can all embrace.



In this photo: Mayor Sarah Mc Mahon with Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter President Sharon Lamb

Photo used with kind permission of Sarah McMahon



A NEW HANGMAN FOR THE COLONY! Submitted by Pam McAdam

In the early days of Port Jackson capital punishment was common but finding a willing hangman was a problem from the very start.

George Worgan, Surgeon of the First Fleet ship *Sirius* recorded in his journal of 1788 how the colony's first hangman couldn't face performing the colony's first execution.

The condemned man Thomas Barrett, was hung instead by the sheriff. Another man, James Freeman who was sentenced like Barrett for stealing, was reprieved on the condition he should in the future perform the disagreeable task of hangman.

At the time over 160 offences were capital crimes and while the death sentence was used more often as a threat and not always adhered to, many were "launched into eternity".

"Some" Worgan wrote, in reference to Fort Denison, "have been put on a rocky island and kept there on short commons and there is no end to flogging them". Punishment was harsher in 1788 but the system had its surprises. On June 4, the King's birthday, the Governor "issued his pardon to all convicts that were in confinement for trial, or under sentences or punishment for crimes they committed since they came to the country". While "each convict was allowed a pint of grog and all work was suspended for the day", the more privileged dined at the Governor's house. The meal there "consisted of mutton, pork, ducks, fowls, fish, kangaroos, salads, pies and preserved fruits. The potables consisted of Port, Lisbon, Madera, Teneriffe and good old English ported". At about 5 o'clock we walked out to visit the bonfires, the fuel of which a number of convicts had been two days collecting". But "while many of the convicts were rejoicing at the bonfire, there were many others practicing their old custom of thieving from officers' quarters".

One thief was caught in the act. "His head", Worgan wrote "is cut very much but it is hoped he will live to be tried and hung". Worgan's severe wish came true for the man was hung, along with another convict who'd driven off some Government cattle. While hungry convicts frequently robbed the public stores of provisions, Worgan and other members of the "free" establishment were able to supplement their dwindling rations with native game.

From the just discovered Lord Howe island, the diarist wrote how the supply brig "brought away 18 very fine turtles on which we feasted most luxuriously". "The kangaroo" Worgan wrote "are numerous here. We must have shot a great many of them. The largest that we have killed weighed 139 pounds". "The harbors of this coast are well stocked. We have never set down to dinner without fish of one kind or another". But in the Surgeon's opinion "convicts who committed robberies and skulked about the woods, evading work and only returning to camp for their weekly rations deserved strict punishment".

George Worgan returned to England with the rest of the crew of *Sirius* in March 1791, never to return to the thief colony of New South Wales.

Reference: Glen Howroyd-The Sun



Looking For Thomas Acres-submitted by Suzanne Shaw

Part 2

Day 2: Looking for Thomas Acres life in Exeter:

Today I went to Whitestone and found the church where Thomas was baptised. St Catherine's (according to the research of Agnes Acres). It was amazing and much like a set out of Midsummer Murders! The church was locked and the names on the grave stones had washed away. I also looked around the tiny village where Thomas had lived and even went down the Torrington Highway where Thomas was supposed to have committed his crime. After a drink in the only pub around, which was built in the 1700's, I realised that Thomas may have frequented there also. It was a beautiful area and I had a special day.

Ann Acres

Ann Hinchley was born 262 years ago. Her exact date of birth is unknown but we know she was baptised on 26th November 1757. Ann is often overlooked, as being the partner of Thomas Acres she does not draw the same attention of her husband. Having said that, Ann is no less important than he and if Thomas is the patriarch of the Acres clan (and it's extended branches) in Australia then Ann surely is our matriarch.

Ann arrived in the colony of New South Wales on 9th July 1791 with the Third Fleet aboard the 'Mary Ann'. Ann Guy (nee Hinchley) was the daughter of Henry and Mary Hinchley. She was born in London in 1757 and was baptised at St. Bartholomew's Church of England at Shoreditch, London.

Ann married Alexander Guy at St. Leonard's Shoreditch on the 18th May 1789.

Later that year, Ann was charged with stealing a linen shirt valued at 8s, one cotton petticoat valued at 4s. and two linen sheets valued at 5s. These were the property of her employer John Lee of Lower Street, Islington.

Tried at the Old Bailey before Mr. Justice Grose, Ann was found guilty and was sentenced to seven years transportation.

Shortly after arriving in the colony she met Thomas Acres. They did not marry, as Ann had a living husband in England. Ann and Thomas had five children together. Along with their children they carved out a life in the harsh existence of early Australia. Thomas was granted land at Mulgrave Place, Cattai, Liverpool and finally at Campbelltown. Ann became a midwife and often travelled throughout the colony assisting expectant mothers. Thomas died in 1824 and very little is known about Ann after that date. She is believed to have died in 1831 or 1832. There are no details of her burial.

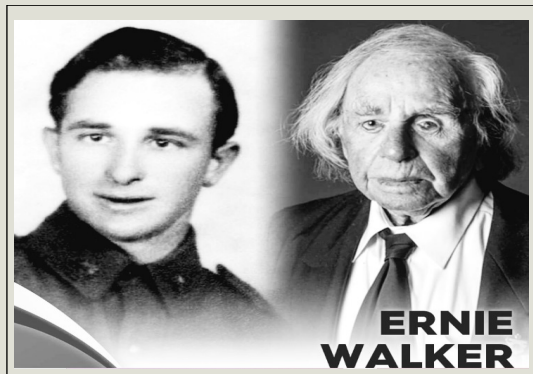
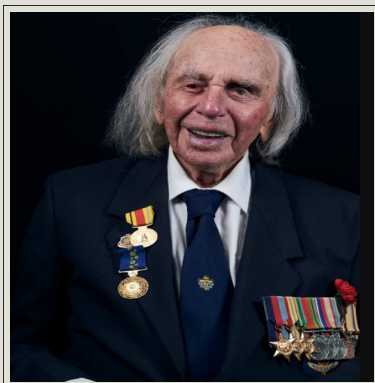
We remember Ann and her contribution to our family and country. We remember Thomas.

Reference: James Bruce.

IN MEMORIAM

ERNIE WALKER 1916-2022

Ernie Walker passed away peacefully on 22nd November 2022. Ernie was 106 years and 7 months old and was the last of the "Rats of Tobruk" in NSW. Ernie also served on the Kokoda Track. Ernie was descended from First Fleeter John Morris Stevens aka John Morris. Condolences to daughter Joy Jorgensen and family. Joy is an active member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters Hawkesbury Nepean Chapter.



Ian J White is an author who has written three books that may be of interest to anyone descended from Matthew Everingham and Elizabeth Rymes or anyone with a general interest in this early pioneer family. The book on Elizabeth Rymes who is 5x great grandmother to Ian was written as a COVID project whilst the country was in lockdown.

JAMES MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: A convict of the First Fleet

Sentenced in the Old Bailey at the age of fifteen years, Matthew James Everingham spent almost three years at hard labour while incarcerated on the prison hulk, Censor, moored on the River Thames, before being transported to New South Wales on the Scarborough as part of the First Fleet.

He witnessed Governor Arthur Phillip raise the British flag and declare the new settlement in Port Jackson, naming it Sydney Cove, then worked as a convict in Sydney Cove and in Parramatta. In June 1791, he married Elizabeth Rymes, a sixteen-year-old convict who had arrived on Neptune, the "Hell Ship" of the Second Fleet. After his emancipation in 1791, Matthew and Elizabeth took land grants and struggled to eke out a living as farmers in the Parramatta and Hawkesbury regions. They weathered droughts, fires, floods, attacks by Aboriginal raiders and exploitation at the hands of the Rum Corps.

ELIZABETH RYMES: A remarkable life

Elizabeth Rymes was convicted in the Old Bailey in 1789 aged of 15 years and was transported to NSW aboard the Second Fleet. After arriving in Sydney, Elizabeth married a young convict named Matthew James Everingham who had arrived on the First Fleet. Elizabeth would go on to become matriarch of the Everingham dynasty, a family with many descendants in Australia today. The story is about an amazing woman, and magically pulls the reader into the opening scenes at the Old Bailey as if they were standing by Elizabeth as she is sentenced and then follows her path through life.

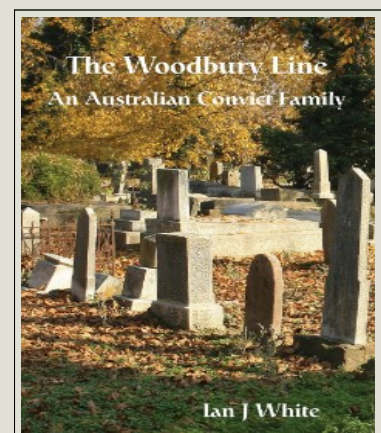
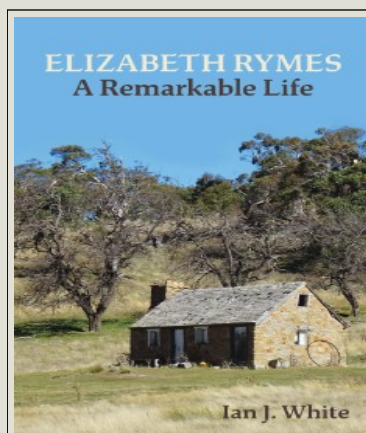
THE WOODBURY LINE: Australian Convict Family

This is the third book in the trilogy about the Everingham – Woodbury dynasty.

When Matthew James Everingham and Elizabeth Rymes married under a tree on the banks of the Parramatta River in 1791 after arriving in New South Wales in chains, as part of the First and Second Fleets respectively, they had little idea that they were embarking on a life together that would be the foundation stone of an enduring dynasty that lives on, more than two hundred years later.

The book follows one branch of the Woodbury family as they faced challenges including murderous attacks by escaped convicts, severe droughts, economic depressions, mining booms and two world wars — all whilst trying to eke out a living in the Hawkesbury region and in the northern tablelands west of the Great Dividing Range, in the areas around Tingha, Inverell and Glen Innes.

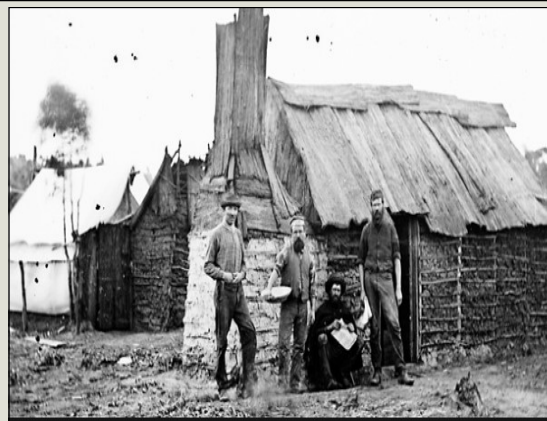
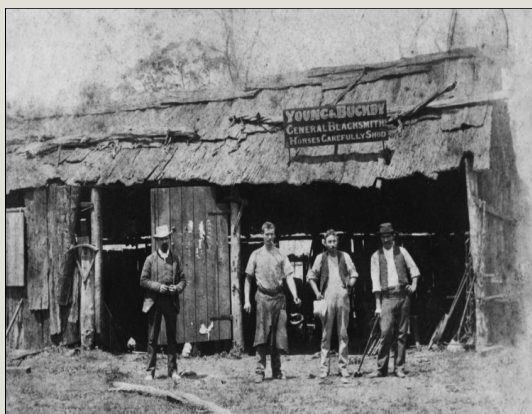
COVID PROJECT



All books are available from the website below:

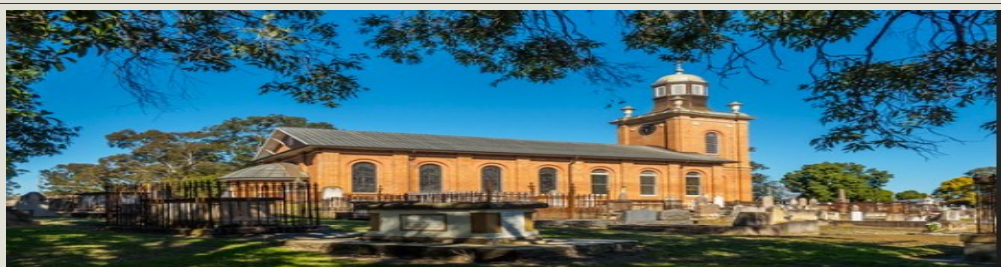
www.themustardseed.net.au

The Way We Were



Photos: Courtesy of NSW State Library

A guided tour of local cemeteries around the Windsor and/or Richmond area is currently being planned for March 2023. The walking tour will be conducted by Rebecca Turnbull who is a local historian and curator at the Museum. More information to be announced



The Fellowship of First Fleeters Gold Coast 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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