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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

Christmas Blessings & Wishes to each of you!

During the Year 2020, we have experienced days and months like no other in the past. Personally, I believe we can be proud Australians, as we respected what was asked of us during the restricted months.

New Year 2021 is just around the corner and I wish so much that we will be reunited on 20th February, the third Saturday.

A special thank you to Kathleen who has created our Newsletter throughout the seasons of the year.

May each of you have a memorable Christmas and a HAPPY New Year.

Pamela Hempel



CHRISTMAS MORNING TEA AT EBENEZER

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER



***Please Note:** This event has sold out



For contributions to the Newsletter please email to

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Website: www.fffhnc.com

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING 2021

Guest Speaker: To be announced

Date: Saturday 20th February 2021

Venue: Hawkesbury Regional Library

George Street, Windsor

Time: 11am

Topic: To be announced

Quotes from the Colony

Monday 5 December 1788

“My Judge Advocate advised that he had heard a complaint brought by Deborah Herbert, who accused her husband of beating her without just cause. Both gave evidence and Collins sentenced Deborah Herbert to ‘receive 25 lashes and return to her husband’.

Captain Phillip

Wednesday 14 December 1788

“... he had not for more than a week past eaten his allowance...he was accustomed to deny himself even what was absolutely necessary to his existence...selling his provisions for money...in order to purchase his passage to England when his time should expire”.

Judge Advocate Collins

Thursday 22 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

TOM TILLEYS TOKEN-Judith O'Donohue

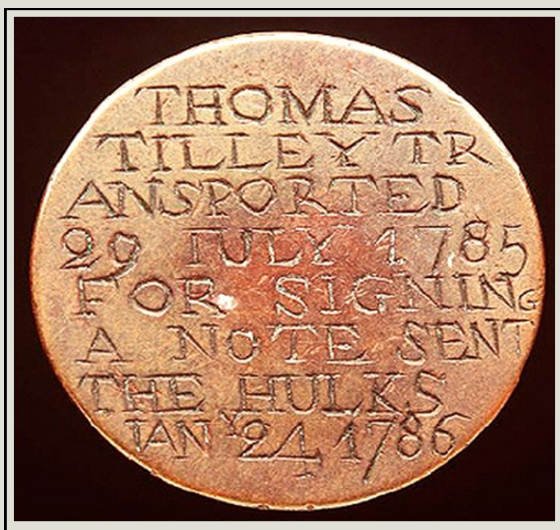
Thomas Tilley was a First Fleet transportee, who was sentenced to seven years transportation for theft. Thomas spent time aboard the "Censor" Hulk from 1786 before being transported as did many others. During his time on the hulk Thomas commissioned an itinerant engraver to make him a Love Token that would be engraved on a copper coin. To appear more gracious, Thomas Tilley told untruths on the token he left for his loved one. It was highly unlikely that the person for whom the token had been made would ever see Thomas again. On one side is a bird chained from its neck to the ground, and on the other side it is inscribed, 'Thomas Tilley TRANSPORTED 29 July 1785 for signing a note sent the hulks Jan 24 1786'. Shame perhaps caused him to ascribe his own crime as fraud rather than theft.

On 31 January 1787, thirty year old Mary Abel (alias Tilley) was convicted of grand larceny after being caught stealing and was sentenced to 7 years transportation. Mary embarked aboard Lady Penrhyn in January 1787. Whilst in Worcester Gaol, Mary became pregnant and was then taken to Southwark Gaol in London in November 1786. Mary would ultimately end up on the Lady Penrhyn where she would give birth to a baby she named William Abel on 20 April 1787. At this time the Lady Penrhyn was anchored in Plymouth. Baby William takes a special place in Australian history as the first recorded birth on the original early New South Wales Births, Deaths and Marriages register after being born aboard the Lady Penrhyn. Whilst in Sydney Cove on 4 May 1788, Thomas Tilley and Mary Abel were married. Fifteen days later on 19 May, baby William was buried. Mary died and was buried there on 21 July 1788.

After the arrival of the Second Fleet transport ship *Lady Juliana*, Thomas Tilley married convict Betty (Elizabeth) Tilly on 12 August 1790. Betty had been transported for her crime, and had been described as wife to a Daniel Tilly. Four years later, Thomas Tilley was farming 30 acres at The Ponds and by mid 1800 he was listed as owning 16 hogs and had ten acres sown in wheat and three ready for maize. He was off stores with a convict employed and one woman and four orphan children. In 1802 Tilley had lost his land when he assigned the title of *Tilley Farm* to George Bass. By 1803 he was living with First Fleet settler Robert Forrester and he was most likely employed by him. The death date of Thomas Tilley is unknown, but Elizabeth (Betty) Tilley was recorded as a widow in 1814 after a burglary had been reported in Mrs Tilley's house near George Street Sydney.

Somehow, Thomas Tilley's Love Token survived and in 1987 it came in to the collection of Sydney's Powerhouse Museum where it has now become a rightful part of Australia's History.

Reference: Museum of Applied Arts and Science



Convict Love Token, c.1787. Courtesy Powerhouse Museum

The Sirius Letters OF Newton Fowell Part 4- by Rae Moore

A review of the book by Nance Irvine

Botany Bay: at last the long journey has come to its planned destination. Those on board the Sirius were surprised to find the Supply had only been in port for 2 days and the transports for 1 day.

One immediate task was to get grass on board for the cattle. Unfortunately, 2 cows were lost on the journey from the Cape.

The great journey of nearly 9 months was over. In his letter to his father Newton relates his usual precise details of the harbour; all the coves and bays. He imagines that they will be able to visualize from his readings all that he sees. He gives a description of the thick wood and sandy shore.

Their immediate need of fresh water meant clearing grass to allow a run of scarce water.

He comments on the red gum (Sanguis Dragonis) that when cut produces a juice like port wine. ["The juice was used by Surgeon White in treating dysentery with some success"].

At this point the Governor and some officers went ashore in boats looking for creeks with fresh water. During these searches they encountered several natives and although a lance was thrown at Mr. King, once the party had landed, the natives presented trinkets and appeared friendly. The native people appeared to remember the guns of Captain Cook and brandished spears until the gun was lowered to the ground.

The Governor and Captain Hunter went to examine Port Jackson – 9 miles north of Botany Bay.

While waiting the return of the Governor and for the decision whether the settlement was to be at Botany Bay, Newton comments on the number of natives who came to the boats at sunset and he went into a lengthy description of their spears, in which he seemed to show great interest.

He noted the spear length of 12 ft, (3.6 metres) which can be thrown 70 yards (64 metres). Their fishing spear about the same length but with 4 prongs and a fish tooth fastened with gum.

Newton comments on (what we know today as a woomera), which the natives used to hook into the end of their spear "and throw with exact greatness". It is evident from Newton's letters that he finds everything in this new land of great interest, worthy of recording in his letters to his father. He gives an account of the natives: describing their features, their leanness, their nakedness. Their abodes when available in the rocks, but in Botany Bay, they would make huts from the bark of the trees and he goes on to describe the manner in which the bark is bent and shaped into a shelter.

The climate, he tells "is exceedingly fine and healthy" and they had only lost 39 convicts, and 3 marines. It appears most people had a touch of "flux" (diarrhoea) but which soon wore off. The convicts he reported were "pretty healthy." The Fowell family would have been pleased and proud to read that Newton had been made a Junior Lieutenant – until further orders.

Onto more practical things in his life in the Colony, he reports he is well off for clothes, but his shoe supply is down to 2 pair and that he would "be obliged" if they send a "dozen and half pairs of shoes and some of the shooting sort... another sort thick and a few pairs thin" He believes his feet have grown much. Instructions follow, to be passed onto the boot maker, the leather in the upper is stinted, his foot 10", so the boot maker should make them "in every way proportionate". Furthermore, as Newton expects he won't be anymore expense for at least 5 – 6 years except for his shoes.

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Historical note: Shoes were in serious shortage and at one stage Marines appeared on parade with no shoes. Rough ground and heat not being the best for soft English leather.

It appears that Newton’s father in 1788 wrote to the Admiralty, enquiring about the possibility of sending goods to Newton. Evan Nepean, returned by post a letter saying “that until the Admiralty received a letter from Governor Phillip, there would be no idea of sending to Botany Bay, but that he would be apprised when it happens”

No doubt any disappointment of this news would have been put aside by the remark, in the letter from Evan Nepean, that the Governor speaks highly of “your son” in his letters “in very handsome terms”.

On 24th January 1788 2 ships “working up for the bay and were soon out of sight” On 26th two French ships arrived this a.m. and proved to be Boussole and L’Astrolabe on discoveries; commanded by Mons. De La Perouse and De Langle. On being asked what discoveries he had made, complemented Cook by saying “He had left nothing undone, which was very handsome of him”.

Newton relates voyages made by others on Supply to Norfolk and Lord Howe Islands. On 4th June they celebrated the King’s birthday and found all the cows brought out on the Sirius had wandered away – a great loss to the Colony. *[Although not found at the time, notes tell us “some years later” their flourishing descendants were found running wild at Cowpastures nr Camden.]*

Always on the lookout for the wildlife, Newton displays great curiosity and gives details and if possible compares them to birds and animals back home. Several different sort of snakes, long and beautiful, but he believed none venomous. (!)

In 1789 food was scarce in the Colony and although Parramatta was beginning to offer more food from those with farming knowledge, most convicts however were city dwellers. Unbeknown to the Colony, the hope of food coming on the “Guardian”, was unfulfilled as she had an encounter with an iceberg and was forced back to Cape Town – after jettisoning her stores.

Newton was sent on the “Sirius” on 2nd October 1789 back to Cape Town for Supplies. While in Cape Town, after finding a ship ready to sail to Europe, he was able to write a letter to his father.

In this letter dated 5th January 1789 - Cape of Good Hope, he told his father, the Colony was “as flourishing as could be expected on so short a time”. He was in good health although he reported they suffered greatly from sea sickness and he had to “throw his dinner overboard”.

He was very pleased that the rout (sic) they made was round Cape Horn, “so now we have been entirely round the globe”.

Newton along with other crew carried the Lt Govenor Major Ross and 2 companies of Marines and about 100 convicts to Norfolk Island which was proving to have fertile soil. Sirius was sent to Norfolk Island and on 19 March 1790 it was wrecked on the reef. Most of the convicts were landed at Cascade Bay because on the settlement side of the island the winds proved impossible to land.

Because of the continuing winds they returned to the settlement side, the next day they were able to land the rest of the convicts.

Newton's letter goes into great detail of the eventual sinking of the Sirius on the reef. As the Sirius had landed on its broadside, it made a breakwater for boats. They were loaded with bread and flour. The timekeeper went first but was forgotten to be wound up – for the 2nd time.

The rescue of all onboard was helped by a Hawser (mooring rope) fastened to a tree. Much clothing was lost, although Newton was able to save half his clothes – albeit stained despite being in a chest.

Two convicts were sent to heave the livestock overboard who had been without water for 3 days. Instead the convicts got to liquor and became very drunk. They had also made a light. They were called to come on shore but did not obey. One convict offered to go to the ship using the hawser with orders to throw them overboard if they did not obey. He was to search to find if they had left a light onboard, which he did find and it had set the deck on fire and burnt through, which Newton declares would have been a “greater misfortune” than her wrecking.

After returning to Port Jackson in the Supply, Governor Philip ordered the little ship to be made ready for Batavia, once there to hire a vessel and load it with provisions. Governor Philip decided that Newton would bring back the newly hired vessel, as he had a knowledge of the coast. On 10th April they left Port Jackson. During their voyage they were approached by a boat with sailing made of mat. One of the men pointed several times NW. They obtained from them about 150 cocoa nuts and a few yams and a payment was exchanged. Hours after they discovered a shoal (coral reef), and then understood what the Malay men had intended to convey to them. As they could not see the extent of the reef, they remained overnight until morning when they were able to safely continue on their journey.

Upon their eventual arrival in the city of Batavia (Jakarta), Newton describes the town as having wide and well paved streets with canals running through the middle of them carrying off dirt. A number of the crew, although well when they arrived, had become ill and he believes it to be a drink which Newton believes is very unwholesome.

Newton is wanting to get on his way back to Port Jackson and although he wishes to write more to his father about this place, he is at urgent business and wishes he could sail soon. He is the only person left on board the Supply to get her ready for sea.

They have got a brig of about 300 tons and he hopes to be at sea again in a fortnight. The Supply will sail before him. Again the subject of money for his needs returns. It seems that no other Bills than those on London will be accepted there and has had to borrow money.

He expects he will be back in Port Jackson about the end of September, says he will likely be in England in about twelve months from this time, anticipating he will go in the first vessel that sails after his arrival back in Port Jackson. He has heard of ships leaving the Cape bound to Port Jackson.

Newton as usual, finishes his letter sending his respects and “Compts” to all his acquaintances. His duty to his mother and all his aunts, and my love to my brothers. He honors his father. His letter is dated Batavia July 31st. 1790 ...Mr King sails tomorrow at Daylight

This is the last letter that Newton Fowell writes to his father.

On this last letter he sent to his father is the annotation:

This Letter arrived at Black Hall December 22 1790

Governor Philip wrote on 14 March 1791 to the Admiralty ...

The Supply lost 5 men on the voyage and left six in the hospital in Batavia ...
Mr Newton Fowell who I had appointed second lieutenant of the Sirius (when Lieutenant King was sent to Norfolk Island) and the gunner of the Sirius likewise died on the Voyage. Both these officers were to have been landed at Norfolk Island and the Supply made it in her passage to Batavia.

It was Nance Irvine who in 1987 was given these amazing letters to bring to life for us to read. We thank her.

Sydney

The Fairfax Library

1988

They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters; These see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep.

Psalm 107:23

