



**JAMES BRYAN**

**CULLEN**

**1742 - 1821**

**A JOCKEY'S JOURNEY**

Compiled and Edited by

**JON FEARON and STAN KEOUGH**

**2007 - revised 2014**

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Horse racing in England, the 'Sport of Kings', had developed after the knights returning from the Crusades in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, brought with them their newly obtained and much prized steeds. Over the centuries the racing of horses, along with betting on the results, became very popular and by the time of Queen Anne, 1702-1714, it had become a professional sport and there was a need for a central governing authority. The Queen opened the Ascot course in 1711 and ever since then it has been the venue for the Royal Meeting, a 4-day event, attended by royalty and of course the upper echelons of fashionable English Society.

Other race courses were developed all over the country and major races have become a regular part of the Jockey Club's (founded 1750) calendar at Newmarket, Epsom, Doncaster and Aintree.

All of this information may well be inconsequential to our story, except for the fact that one James Bryan Cullen, who appeared before the Old Bailey court in Middlesex on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 1785, gave his occupation as Jockey and Land Holder and his address as with Captain Frederick and Lady Harris at the King's Palace! It's not known where or when he rode the horses but perhaps the royal connection has some glimmer of truth about it! We could assume, however, that James was small in stature.

Cullen is a name with an Irish connotation but it seems that

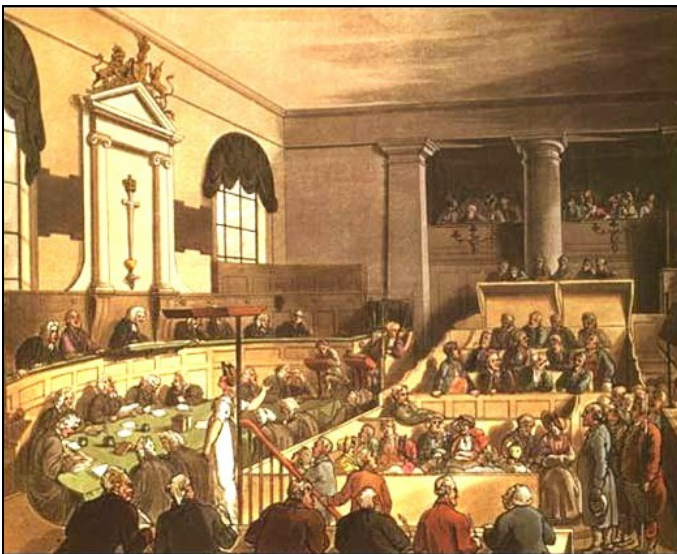
IGI Individual Record		Page 1 of 1	
<b>IGI Individual Record</b>		FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0	
Search Results   Download   Pedigree		British Isles	
<b>JAMES CULLIN</b>			
Male			
<b>Event(s):</b>			
Birth:			
Christening: 02 JUL 1742 Allhallows London Wall, London, London, England			
Death:			
Burial:			
<b>Parents:</b>			
Father:	THOMAS CULLIN	Fam	
Mother:	ELIZABETH		
<b>Messages:</b>			
Extracted birth or christening record for locality listed in the record. The source records are usually arranged chronologically by the birth or christening date.			
<b>Source Information:</b>			
Batch No.:	Dates:	Source Call No.:	Type:
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James may have been born in London about 1742. There is an IGI entry of a christening of a James Cullin, the son of Elizabeth and Thomas at Allhallows London Wall, on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1742. This may or may not be the James of our story.

Nothing is known of the first forty years of James Cullen's life, how and when he became a jockey and whether such an occupation preceded or followed his 'land-holding' ventures, but there may have been a rural background for him to have been chosen, later, to be sent to Norfolk Island to clear land for grazing and cropping and assist in the provision of the first settlement's food supplies.

When he, along with Eleanor Welch, appeared before Mr Justice Nares and the second Middlesex Jury at Justice Hall in the Old Bailey, his crime was described as theft: simple grand larceny. Eleanor was referred to by Cullen as his wife during the trial. She was acquitted of the charge of receiving stolen goods. Cullen (spelt Cullien in the proceedings) was indicted for :

'feloniously stealing, on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March last, one pair of thickset breeches, value 1s. 6d., two cloth coats, value 18s., one fustian waistcoat value 2s. 6d., one pair of leather boots value 6s., one pair of leather breeches, value 10s. 6d., one pair of cotton stockings value 2s., one linen shirt, value 1s., one pair of leather shoes value 5s., one pair of worsted stockings, value 3s., and three muslin neckcloths, value 3s., the property of John Crandell; two cotton caps, value 2s., one woollen cloth, value 1s.,



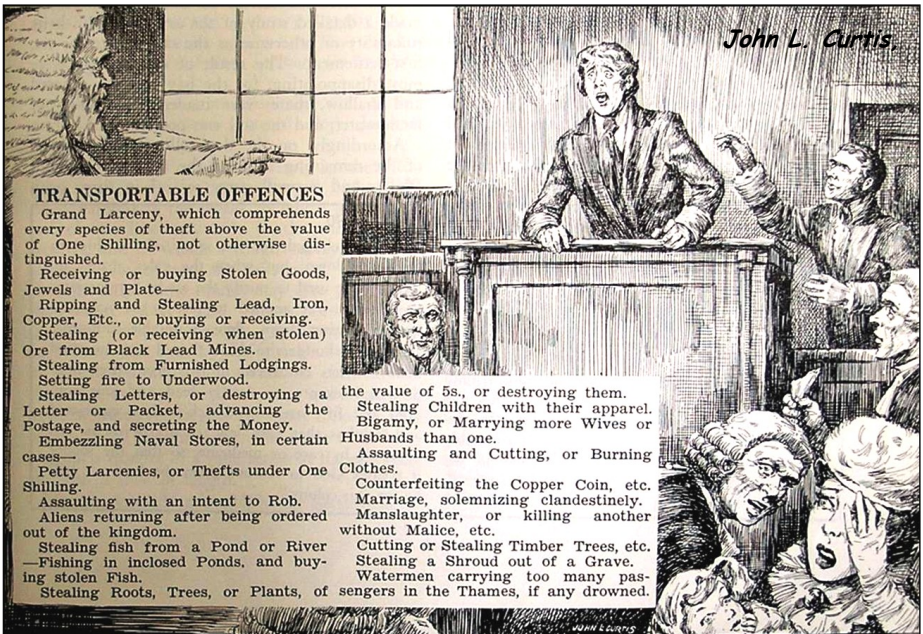
Old Bailey,  
Rudolf Ackermann,  
from *Microcosm of  
London* (1808)

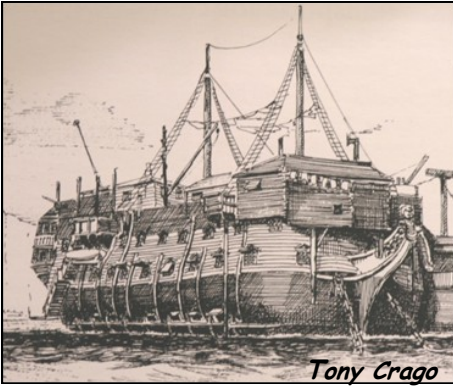


one silk and cotton waistcoat, value 12s., three cotton waistcoats, value 19s., three pair of worsted stockings, value 7s., three pair worsted stockings, value 6s., one pair of breeches, value 17s., one linen shirt, value 6s., two handkerchiefs, value 1s., one pair of silver knee buckles, value 5s., one pair of leather shoes, value 5s. and one silk handkerchief, value 2s., the property of John Shingler.

And ELEANOR WELCH was indicted for feloniously receiving, on 14<sup>th</sup> of March last, part of the said goods, knowing them to have been stolen.'

For the theft of these goods, to the value of 130s., a sizeable amount at the time, James was found guilty and sentenced to transportation to Africa for 7 years. He was immediately placed on board the *Ceres* hulk in Langston Harbour, Plymouth, but was later transferred to the *Censor* hulk on the Thames. Fortunately for James, and while he awaited transportation to Africa, the first convict settlement in that continent which had begun back in 1782 was deemed to be unsuccessful. Many convicts either died of





tropical jungles and were killed by the natives. In fact after just 12 months only 30 of the original 200 survived. The government was deeply embarrassed and was forced to find another solution for its 'unwanted' people, having lost the American option as well.

As a result of political decisions in England at the time, James Bryan Cullen became part of the grand 'Botany Bay' solution. He, along with some other 750 convicts, was to be transported to the Antipodes in a flotilla of eleven ships, which became known historically as the *First Fleet*. The ships had begun to assemble at the North Bank, Isle of Wight, from about the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 1787.

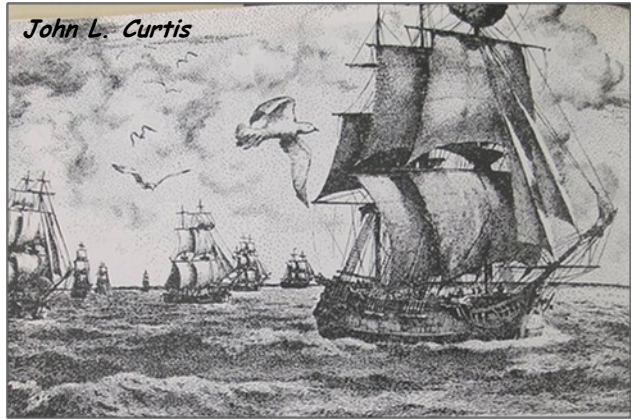
James was delivered to Portsmouth on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 1787 for eventual embarkation on the *Scarborough* a



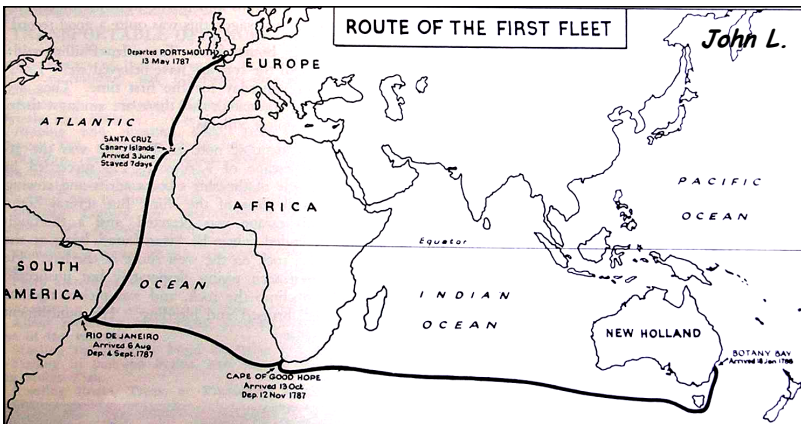
430 ton fully-rigged convict transport ship belonging to the East India Company. There were 208 male prisoners on board, together with officers and marines. The *Scarborough*, under the command of Master John Marshall, set sail for Botany Bay, with ten other vessels, on the 13<sup>th</sup> May, 1787 with Arthur Phillip in command and on board the flag-ship, *HMS Sirius*, a 20-gun frigate. Phillip was to become the first governor of the new settlement once the fleet arrived.

The journey of 8½ months is well documented elsewhere, so here we

will simply record that the ports of call were Teneriffe, Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town before the arrival at Botany Bay on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 1788. We are fortunate that John Easty, a private marine on the *Scarborough* kept a



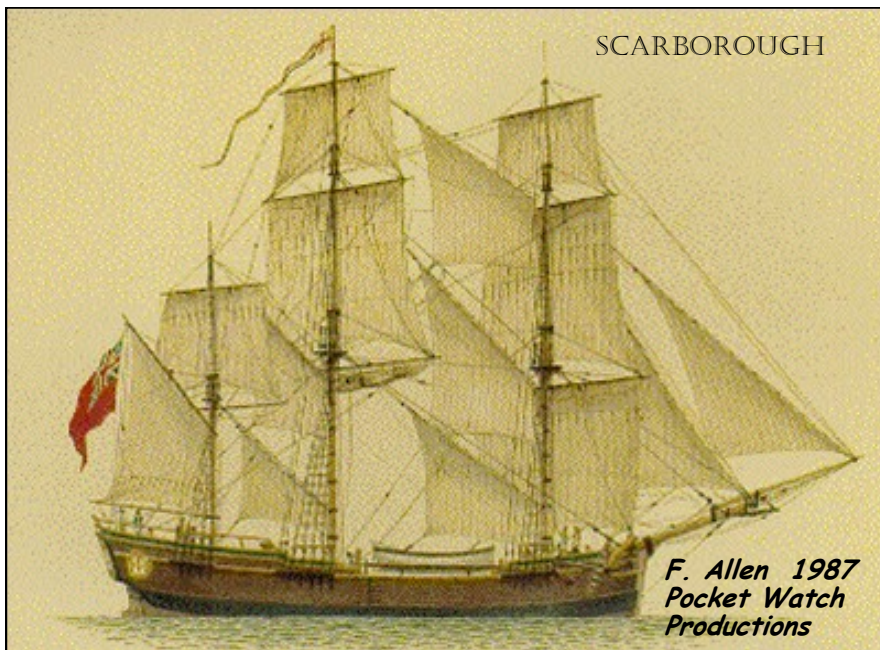
diary over a period of six years 1787-1793 and small glimpses of life on board can be obtained therein. Easty reported, for example, a convict mutiny which broke out on the *Scarborough* only 5 days into the voyage (18th May, 1787). We have no record of James Cullen's involvement in this if any, but we do know that alert guards nipped the mutiny in the bud and prevented its spreading. Two ring leaders were removed to the flagship where they were given two dozen lashes each and then transferred to another transport. Phillip generally wanted to show leniency to the convicts under his charge despite the fact that, when writing home from Teneriffe after he had seen all of them for the first time he said "They are quiet and contented, tho' there



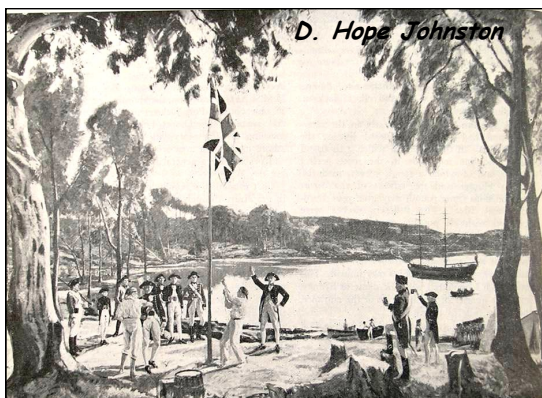
John L. Curtis  
ar



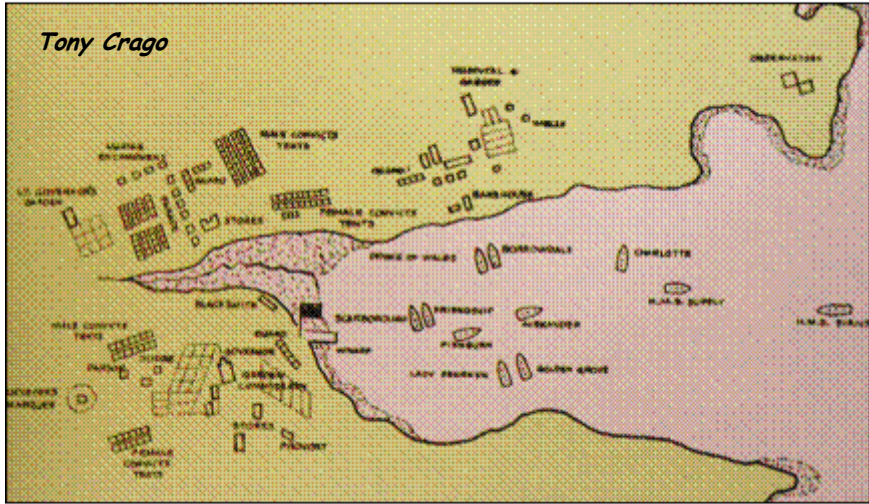
are amongst them some compleat villains" [quoted, p.20, in "The Story of Australia Illustrated"; by H. Blanche, North York Publishing, Sydney, ca 1956.]



The move to the more suitable Port Jackson from Botany Bay was carried out within a few days of the fleet's arrival at the latter, and on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1788



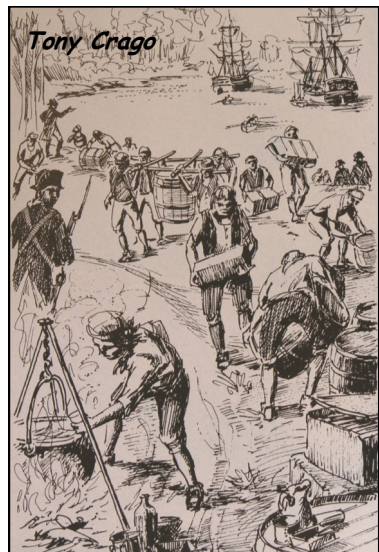
the Union Flag was raised, officially inaugurating the new settlement. J. B. Cullen and the rest of the *Scarborough* convicts came ashore over the next two days and all were soon involved in settling themselves in the new land,



some constructing huts, some clearing the alien bush and others forming gardens and planting food crops.

In his new land Cullen was not without trouble and just 4 months into the new settlement, he was involved in a work-place altercation. On 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 1788, he appeared before the Sydney Bench of Magistrates charged with insolence to Sergeant Thomas Smith about the felling of a tree which he maintained had been marked for shingles and not, as Smith said, for building barracks. He was sentenced to 25 lashes with a cat-of-nine-tails on his bare back for having made use of some improper words to the sergeant!

James must have conformed to the wishes of his masters for the remaining two years he was in Port Jackson for there is no record of any misdemeanours committed in that period. Perhaps he had



become a model citizen in the interim and this may have been the reason he was chosen amongst others to help with the development of the new settlement that was proving quite successful on Norfolk Island.

The beginnings of Britain's second southern hemisphere settlement at Norfolk Island took place under Governor Phillip's direction only 5 weeks after the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove, Port Jackson. Phillip could see that there was going to be a need for more food production for a growing settlement and so, acting on the strength of Captain Cook's favourable report after his 1774 visit there, he sent a small party of just 23 persons with two boats of equipment and provisions to start the new settlement on Norfolk Island. Lieutenant Philip Gidley King was to be commandant and he had with him 5 seamen, 2 marines and 9 male and 6 female convicts, the latter specially selected because of their prospective skills. The group landed from the *Supply* on the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1788 and this date is celebrated each year as Foundation Day by the Norfolk Island community and perhaps more enthusiastically by visiting tourists with First Fleet connections!

King's two years on the island saw the gradual development of Sydney Town, later re-named Kingston, and the spread of agricultural pursuits into nearby Arthur's Vale and beyond. Several more





shiploads of convicts were sent during King's time as there was a need to step up food production to relieve shortages at Port Jackson and to try and make Norfolk Island self-sufficient. The urgency of the situation was exacerbated when supply ships didn't arrive at Port Jackson as expected and yet another fleet with convicts - more mouths to feed - was on its way.



Our story centres on the major crisis of 1790. Food in Sydney was running out. Lieutenant Governor King was recalled to England on a special mission and Major

Ross was appointed to take his place on Norfolk Island and install a new group of settlers there. The *Sirius* and *Supply* were to take the party to the island and then *Sirius* was to go on to China to get much needed supplies for Sydney.

Sirius Model, Colonial Hotel, Norfolk Island



The two ships left Port Jackson together and made good time for the crossing, Captain Hunter of the *Sirius* pleased to be lying off the northern side of the island on 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1790, a voyage of 7 days. On board both ships, 275 people in all, were 2 companies of marines, 5 free women and children, 183 convicts, their 27 children and all their belongings, and of course the normal cargo of stores and provisions. Included among the convicts was our James Bryan Cullen, now selected amongst others to help develop the growing settlement and nearing the end of his 7 years' sentence. Other convicts, some on life sentences, were also sent to the island so they could "cultivate the flax plant" (Phillip's words in a letter to Lord Sydney) and perhaps to get them to a place from where they could not easily escape.

Hunter had chosen the northern (Cascade) side to disembark his complement and after waiting a few days, was able to put the new governor ashore and offload many of the convicts. Lieutenant Clark, the diarist, remarked on the rough way Major Ross got to shore. (Eldershaw p.325). He was "shoved out of the ship (by Captain Hunter) into a boat loaded full of coats, hammocks, hogs, pigs, geese, turkeys, fowls, etc, so much that he had no room for his feet and when he landed on the rocks he was so much cramped that he could hardly stand."



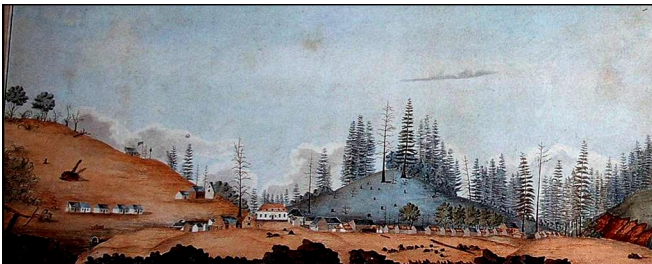


We might wonder what any watching convicts, including our James, who was still on board, might have thought of this very unpropitious beginning for their new governor. All those who disembarked that day, including all the women and children, had to traipse across the island to Sydney Bay where the settlement was and many of them had to spend the night in the bush as there was no accommodation.

The weather worsened then, so Hunter took the *Sirius* around to the Sydney Bay side, now in the lee of the prevailing winds and awaited an opportunity to bring the ship to land. Unfortunately, a sudden wind change and the reef intervened, the *Sirius* stuck fast and no amount of lightening the ship by throwing some of the cargo overboard hoping it would float to shore, was

of any assistance. There are many graphic accounts of this disastrous day - it was now 19<sup>th</sup> March 1790 - from marines, diarists, free men and bystanders, but suffice it to say here that our James Cullen did go ashore that day as the ship's manifest was salvaged and against each prisoner's name is the date of discharge. Against Cullen's name is the entry 'discharged 19<sup>th</sup> March'. We don't know whether he swam ashore

as some did, or helped with the un-



Kingston, 1795

loading of supplies and eventually came ashore along the hawsers connected to nearby pine trees. Fortunately everyone got ashore safely as did most of the cargo but the loss of the ship was a huge disaster. Not only was it the life blood of the NSW settlement now that *Supply* had gone to Batavia with Lt Governor King, but there were no other ships available for either of the two settlements until more came from England. Settlers in both places were now on their own and on Norfolk there were extra naval mouths to feed as they'd lost their ship.

The *Sirius* remained stuck fast on the reef and finally disappeared below the waves in 1792. The wreck is the only remaining Australian link with the eleven ships of the First Fleet. In 1906 an anchor of the *Sirius* was raised and sent to Sydney where it was placed on a pedestal erected in Macquarie Place. Two more anchors were discovered by skindivers in October 1965 and these were freed from the reef in 1973. Other items such as two cannons, copper nails, bars and some lead shot were recovered later and many of these are now on display in the Pier Store at Kingston Museum where the story of the *Sirius* is exhibited on the lower floor.

Although the volcanic soil, once cleared of trees, was good for agriculture, the Norfolk Island settlers had to deal with many natural predators - birds and grubs. The population, greatly expanded by the



1790 arrivals from 149 to 498, avoided starvation by living on a species of petrel (*Pterodroma melanopus*), called by Hunter the 'bird of Providence', thousands of which started nesting in April in their holes on Mount Pitt. Using torches of pine knots split and bound into small bundles to light their way through the thick bush the hungry Norfolk people made nightly excursions up the mountain to plunder the birds and their eggs. The birds were killed in their

thousands - one source indicates over 170 000 in just four months - but 'with the fish caught in good weather and the heads of the palm trees eaten as cabbages, the local food kept the remaining public stores off the *Sirius* from dwindling away altogether' (Hoare p.21). So thorough was the bird kill that the petrels never returned and by the time of the next year's expected nesting season, two more ships had arrived with supplies and the great hunger was over.

Now that Major Ross had taken over from King as Lieutenant Governor there was a major change in the policy of governance on the island. Tom Keneally in his book "Commonwealth of Thieves" p.259, says that Ross leant towards incipient socialism, the form of which he calls 'cooperativism'.. Convicts were allocated land in groups of six and they were jointly responsible for growing what they needed on community - shared acreage. James Cullen was listed on 1<sup>st</sup> July, 1791 as 'subsisting on a Sydney Town (NI) lot with 25 rods cleared'. This was just a few months before he was emancipated and thus able as a free settler to lease land on his own behalf in more distant locations on the island.

**Arthur's  
Vale 2007**



By November 1791 when P.G. King returned to Norfolk Island after his leave, a large group but less than half of the convicts on allotment, dissatisfied with the stealing of produce and other abuses, inherent in Ross's agrarian commonwealth', petitioned King to abandon the socialist project. (Keneally p.370). Ross, during his time at the helm had also instituted cohabitation principles which would have had a major bearing on the social structure of the island. Crittendon, p.51, in his book 'King of Norfolk Island', summarises the policy thus: "Each male was encouraged to keep a female who was to devote her time entirely to him and to do no public labour except for hoeing the corn on the appearance of rain and picking the caterpillars or grubs off the corn".



So it was that quite early



in his time on Norfolk Island, James Cullen was registered in the muster as living with Ann Coombes, also a First Fleet convict. Ann was 27 years old when tried at Taunton in Somerset on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 1786 for breaking into a house and stealing

three petticoats plus other goods and was sentenced to transportation for seven years. She was received on the *Dunkirk* hulk on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 1786. She left Portsmouth on the *Charlotte* but was transferred to the *Friendship*,





and lastly, at Capetown, was put aboard the *Prince of Wales*. Apart from the need to move the women convicts to the latter ship to modify the *Friendship* for livestock, the reasons for her transfer between the other ships can only be speculated but it is recorded that during the voyage she received six lashes for theft.



On 17<sup>th</sup> February 1788, just 10 days after disembarkation, Chaplain Richard Johnson conducted a multiple marriage ceremony at Sydney Cove. On that day, Ann Coombes married John Bryant, a trusted and responsible convict and later the same year, October, the couple were sent to Norfolk Island on the *Golden Grove*, just the third ship to arrive

at the island from Port Jackson. On the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1789 John Bryant and four others learned of a plan by convicts to hijack the *Supply* on its next arrival (2<sup>nd</sup> March 1789) and sail it to Tahiti. He informed the Commandant, Lt Governor King. Unfortunately, on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1789 John Bryant was killed when, it was reported, a tree fell on him. This may have been retribution! It may have been because of the death of her husband, or because she was a habitual thief but the very next day Ann was sentenced to 50 lashes for defrauding one Thomas Jones of a quantity of provisions. And the next month she was sentenced to 100 lashes for stealing 2 shirts from Francis Mee. It is not known if the complete number or even any of these lashes were actually carried out



*John L. Curtis*

clemency was normally shown.

The circumstances which caused the widowed Ann to link up with our James Cullen are not known but she may have cohabited with him for about 4 years. There is no record of their ever having been married, even

though clergymen such as Samuel Marsden and Richard Johnson had both been on the island on separate occasions to officiate in marriage rites. Marsden called in

**Headstones, First Settlement Cemetery**



While en-route to New Zealand on a mission trip and Johnson spent 48 hours on Norfolk from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> November in 1791 during which time he married 100 couples in common law relationships or courting. Perhaps Cullen and Coombes were not yet together on this occasion, but they certainly would have been during the incumbency of Chaplain James Bain who arrived on the *Gorgon* early in 1792 and left on the 22nd March 1794. Bain's marriage register was never located.

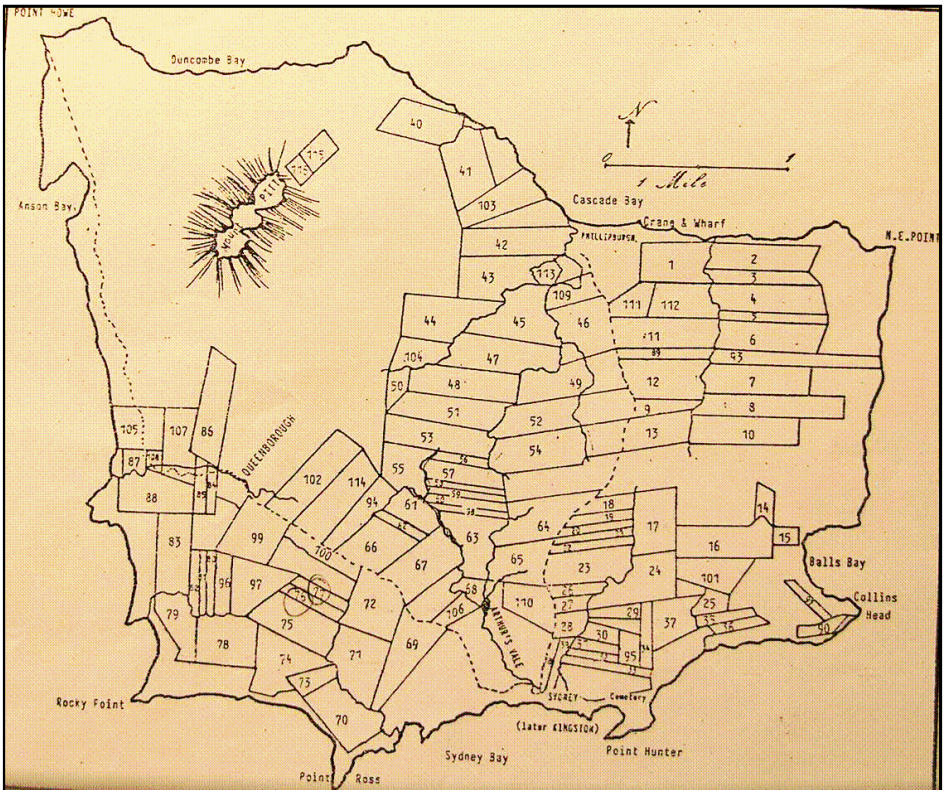
SETTLERS LOTS ON NORFOLK ISLAND 1791-1804						
NAME.	STATUS.	LOT No.	ACRES	SETTLED POSSESSION 1791/6 1804	LEASE or GRANT.	REMARKS.
Clark, Zac.	Dep. Com.	63	60	.	.	G.
Collins, Wm.		66	60	.	.	G.
Collier, Thos.	L. Con.	66	60	.	.	G.
Collis, Martin		84	12	.	.	G.
Cornell, Patrick. Mar.		75	60	1791	.	G.
Cross, Jno.	L. Con.	55	33	.	.	G.
Cropper, John.			B=2	.	.	
Cross, Will.	Sett.		12	1791	.	Mc. Pitt Path, Oiro.
Cruicker, Thos. R. Emanc.		28	15	1793	.	L.
		26	12	.	.	G.
		27	14	.	.	G.
		49	60	.	.	G.
Cullen, Jas. Bryen. L. Con.		76	12	1791	.	L. Gov't. Lot.
		77	12	.	.	L.
		111	73	.	.	L.
Croft, Assoo. L. Con.		62	12	1792	.	L. Gov't. Lot.
		9	55	.	.	L.
		9	17	.	.	L. (Renting in 1804)
Fonks, Will.	Mar.		60	1791	.	Left Cascade Road.
Townson, J. Lieut. NSW Cor.		100	30	1794	.	L. Gov't. Lot.
Triffitt, James. L. Con.		107	38½	.	.	L. (Renting in 1804).
Trimby, Joseph. L. Con.		51	12	1793	.	L.
		51	60	.	.	L.

James Cullen was emancipated on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1791 and was immediately given a lease on lot 76 of 12 acres, one of 100 such lots first allocated to the now free settlers. It is of interest to note that settlers who were 'late convicts' were given leases only, but marines were given full land grants and once the NSW Corps replaced the marines land speculation had begun. James would have been living with Ann Coombes at the time and together they set up as farmers or land



holders with the task of providing food for the settlement. Records of farm returns and musters indicate that James had 9 of his 12 acres on Lot 76 under cultivation by October 1793 so much work on clearing the bush must have been done in the intervening 2 years. For some time Cullen also had a lease on neighbouring Lot 77, but much later, in June 1798, he had sold this parcel, now a full grant rather than a lease, to a William Thompson. His neighbour to the south was Patrick Connell who had the very large Lot 75. These elongated lots were in a district known as Queenborough Path, Grenville Vale and can be located today about halfway along the lesser airport runway on the south-eastern side and stretching down into the gully below.

**Settlers Blocks - C. Grimes 1794**





Colleen McCullough in her fictional re-creation of life on Norfolk Island, "Morgan's Run", paints a fascinating picture of the hazards and successes of the early settlers, focusing in her case on Richard Morgan, a family ancestor who held lot 80. just 400 metres west of James's land.



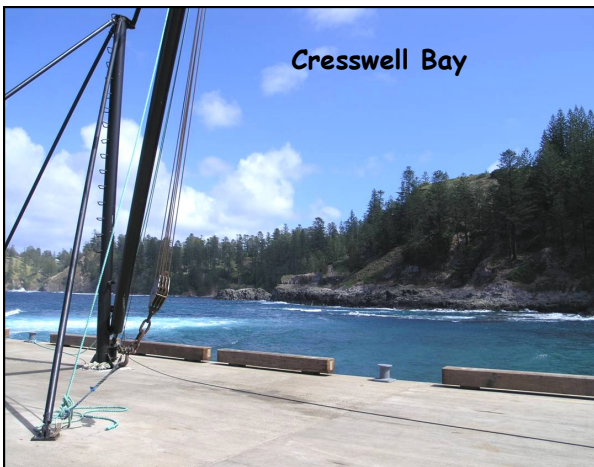
James Cullen had obviously become a responsible and trustworthy citizen in the Norfolk community and by September 1794 he was appointed Constable for Creswell Bay and the West Point Stream district, an area of which his land was

part, and had begun selling grain to the government.

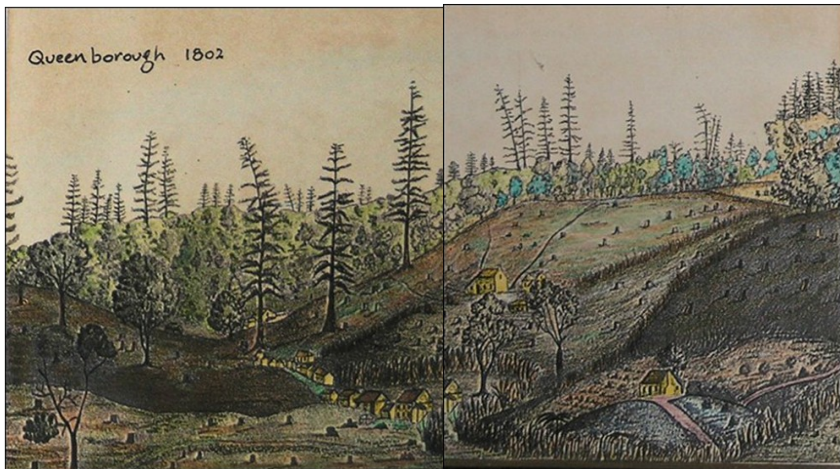
On 5th March, 1795 James Cullen took time out from farming to travel to Port Jackson on the *Fancy*, a ship of 170 tons often used to transport goods and passengers from NSW to New Zealand via Norfolk Island. On the *Fancy* was a shipment of flax and Norfolk pine. Perhaps James was given the task to accom-



pany the cargo as part of his constabulary duties, but this is only conjecture as there are no records apart from his name as listed on the ship's manifest. Nor do we know what he did in Sydney Town (NSW) for the 4 months he was there or who, apart from convict servants, cared for his farm while he was away. He returned on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, again on the *Fancy* which was taking Samuel Marsden back to New Zealand.



In the late 1790s, Ann Bryant, nee Coombes, was no longer living with James and a new partner, Elizabeth Bartlett, later to become his wife, was on the scene. Elizabeth was a native of Dublin, Ireland, born in 1774, thus making her 32 years his junior. In February 1795 she was tried at the Quarter Sessions, Kelmaham for the



County of Dublin, with stealing a gold watch and a pair of silver buckles from the house of James Dogherty. She was found guilty and sentenced to 7 years' transportation. She arrived in Sydney Cove on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 1796 on board the *Marquis Cornwallis* after one of the "most eventful passages in these years" (Charles Bateson in "The Convict Ships", p.148). There was a mutiny on board led by one of the NSW Corps soldiers and supported by several of the convicts. It began one month into the journey and continued simmering for nearly 2 weeks, culminating in a gun battle after which 7 men died of wounds. 42 of the male convicts and 6 of the women were flogged as a result of the abortive mutiny, but there is no record as to whether Elizabeth was involved.. Just 19 days later she was one of 14 female convicts from the *Marquis Cornwallis* to be despatched to Norfolk Island on the *Supply* along with more flax looms. It was thought that Irish women would be suitable workers in the flax industry which was then being established on Norfolk Island. Elizabeth was 5½ months pregnant when she arrived and it seems that her son, William, who was conceived on the *Cornwallis* in or near Port St Helena, Atlantic Ocean, died in infancy some time after October 1796. He was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Also during October 1796 it was reported of flax production that 18 people were producing 16 yards per week of Number 7 canvas on one loom. On the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month James Cullen was granted by Governor Hunter of NSW, another

**Site of Lot 111,  
Cascade**





lease, this time of Lot 111, 23 acres at Phillipsburgh, later to revert to its original name of Cascade. The actual location of this new lease is to be found today at the junction of Cascade and New Cascade Road, the



site of an agricultural station in the years of the second penal settlement. James and Elizabeth and later the children, are believed not to have lived on this land permanently, as by December 1796 they had been given a land grant of two lots of 12 acres by

the now Governor King of NSW. We can reasonably assume that this was official confirmation of the land that James had been leasing since 1791. It was on the now granted land that James and his family had, by the time they left Norfolk Island after 14 years as free settlers, built 2 two-storeyed houses of pit-sawn timber, boarded and shingled, one of them measuring 22ft by 15 and the other 23ft by 9. There was also a board outhouse.

At the time of the census that recorded these improvements prior to departure for Van Diemen's Land, August 1807, the Cullens had 1 ram and 6 ewes, 1 billy and 9 nanny goats,



28 boars and 20 sows and they also had 150 bushels of maize in hand. 16 acres were in grain, 36 as pasture and the rest fallow.

James Bryan Cullen had by this time too, become a worthy citizen and presumably on the strength of his land lease at Cascade he was made Constable and Overseer of the Phillipsburgh district by the end of 1796. The job may not have been easy, particularly in the earlier years, as Nobbs (p.93) indicates: 'constables were prohibited from apprehending soldiers even if they found them committing unlawful acts'.



The two main economic reasons for the Norfolk Island settlement - pines for ships' masts and woven flax for sail canvas - had not been realised quite early. The pines were not suitable for masts and the flax, though it had been glowingly reported by Captain Cook back in 1774, turned out to be little more than a flax-type native grass, really unsuitable for retting and cloth and sail making. So the flax industry that developed later would have to be based on imported root stock if it were to succeed. And even the kidnapping of two New Zealand Maori men as workers could not overcome the shortage of equipment. What they didn't know in this action of kidnapping 2 men to teach them better ways to make flax was that in that culture flax making is actually women's work! However, the rich volcanic soil was very good for agriculture.

Lieutenant-Governor King's report of 18<sup>th</sup> October 1796 was detailed and encouraging. He described the community as flourishing , 887 in number, of whom the civil and military staffs, with wives and children numbering 120; the remainder were settlers, people whose

sentence had expired and prisoners. Occupations listed included carpenter, boat builder, charcoal burner, shingle maker, stone mason, baker, quarry man, blacksmith, glazier, painter, baker, tailor, stockman, shoemaker, miller, butcher, jailer, rope maker, schoolmaster and flaxworker. With only 6 horses on the island there



probably wasn't an opportunity for James Cullen, now aged 55, to return to being a jockey! Other farm stock included 12 cattle, 12 asses, 374 sheep, 772 goats and 14,642 swine. Agricultural

crops included maize, wheat and potatoes. Sugar cane, bananas, guavas, lemons, apples and coffee were all grown successfully.

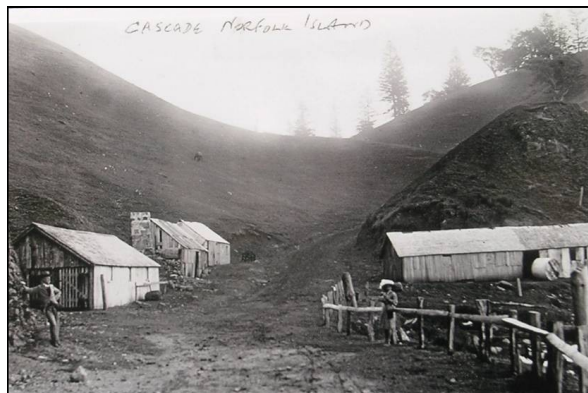
The report continued : Public buildings, some of stone and others 'framed and weatherboarded'- valued at over £6 000 had been erected. Two windmills and a water mill had been constructed.

**Top:**

**Cascade 2007**

**Bottom:**

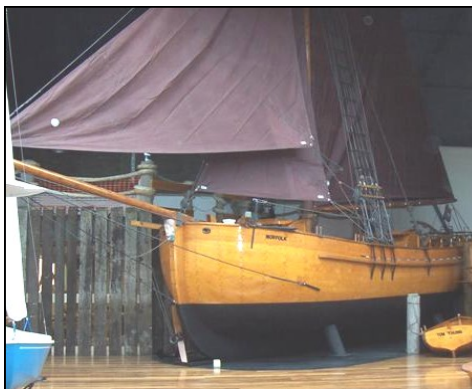
**Cascade 1890**



At Cascade Bay was a strong wharf, 126 ft long which connected the shore and the landing dock and at the end of which was a swinging crane and capstan used for boats and cargo. Cascade and Queenborough were established outstations, Cascade the head of the flax industry and Queenborough an agricultural centre.

The above report sounded most positive and encouraging, but due to the vagaries of climate and other unexpected crop failures, things were not always so rosy. In fact, in 1798 a Fraternal Society of Norfolk Island was formed to voice grievances of the settlers. There is no evidence of James being involved in this. Perhaps his family and farming issues were more pressing at the time. Some records indicate that a Stephen Bartlett was born about 1797 but there is no mention of who the father was and it is presumed that he too died in infancy. James and Elizabeth did, however, have three daughters; Sophia ca 1798, Catherine 1800 and Elizabeth 1805. These girls later took the surname Cullen once their parents' marriage was formalised in Van Diemen's Land.

There was always a shortage of ships at Sydney NSW during the first decade of settlement and intercourse between there and Norfolk Island became somewhat intermittent. This led Captain Townson, by now the Norfolk Island Commandant replacing King in Autumn 1798 to construct a decked boat by which to send his dispatches to Governor Hunter to acquaint him with the distress on the island due to shortages of clothing, tools and other commodities. This boat was a sloop *Norfolk* of 25 tons, built in secret because of its large size, of Norfolk pine



**The 'Norfolk' replica**  
**Image courtesy Lady Denman**  
**Museum**

and the island's largest venture into boat building up to that time. Almost immediately after she arrived in Sydney, Governor Hunter commandeered her and ordered her to be fitted out for an exploration voyage. Lt Matthew Flinders and George Bass, with a crew of eight sailed her in October 1798 to examine the coast of what was then called the southern promontory of New Holland and to search for a possible strait. The *Norfolk* returned early in the New Year with the credit of being the first vessel to circumnavigate Van Diemen's Land.

There is not a lot of detail on the Cullen family in the first few years of the new century. Elizabeth would have been caring for the children and assisting on the farm and James would be continuing his constabulary duties along with his farming. Being literate he may have enjoyed reading plays that he had perhaps been involved in staging during his convict days. He did engage in land trading and he is on record as having purchased 23  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres from Joseph Phillips in October 1798. . It is not known where this land was located, nor where the 45 acres were that he sold to W. Scattergood two years later, along with his original 12 acres at Lot 76. As Lot 77 had already gone to W. Thompson it would seem that they now had nowhere to live if his houses were back on the Queenborough farm! It is a mystery, but the fact that his lease on a small parcel of 19 perches at Cascade was officially granted in 1801 for a price at 2/6d for 14 years, may throw some light on it. Certainly, about that time his cohabitation with Elizabeth Bartlett was officially recognised, he being listed as aged 60 and his Elizabeth now 'free' and victualled all year.

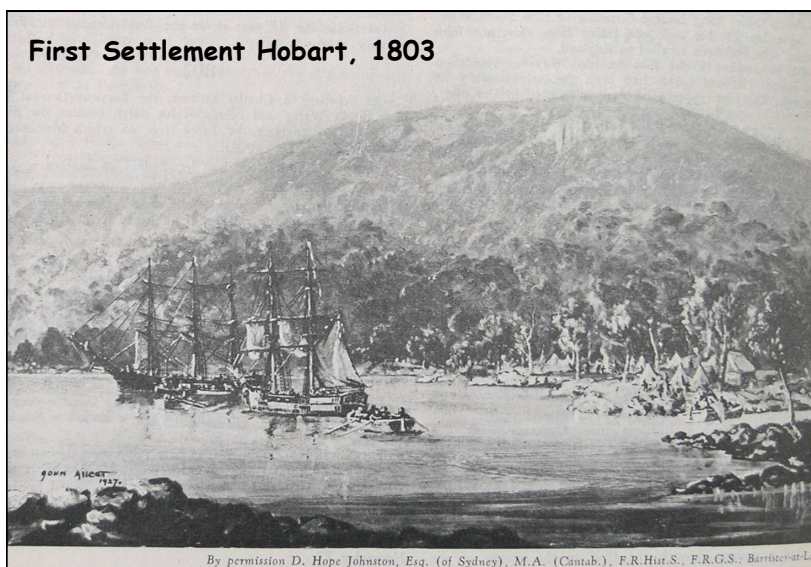
Musters and records of economic activity on Norfolk Island in the years 1805 to 1807 reveal a few statistics on James Cullen's agricultural endeavours. In the 1805 Muster he was farming 58 acres, 18 of them cultivated and pasturing 5 sheep, 8 goats and 20 swine. The next year, in December, his stock was valued at £10.10s. and on his eventual departure from the island he was reimbursed for



this amount.

There were several changes of commandants about this time as well, with Captain Thomas Rowley replacing the ill Captain Townson on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1799 in an acting capacity for 7 months until Major Foveaux, his replacement, arrived on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1800. In between these two there were 5 weeks without a Commander and the island was described as being "in a dilapidated state". Of interest to the Cullen family historians, Captain Rowley's grandson, Thomas Rowley Briggs, married the great granddaughter of James Cullen, Sarah Blay, in Collingwood, Victoria in 1855.

As early as 1803, Philip Gidley King, by now the 3<sup>rd</sup> governor of the NSW colony after Phillip and Hunter, had received instructions from England to close and abandon the Norfolk Island settlement. It was becoming too difficult and expensive to administer from Port Jackson, it had no safe harbour and the timber and flax industries had failed. King advised no one in the colony of this order, perhaps having a particular personal interest in the settlement from



so early on and having watched it develop as he would have no doubt put it, so successfully. However, orders were orders and by now King had to seek other parts of the country to settle. Expeditions were sent to explore Van Diemen's Land for possible relocation sites and by September of that year, 1803, there were pioneer white settlers on the Derwent (Hobart) and one year later at the mouth of the Tamar (later to be moved upstream to Launceston).

Major Foveaux left Norfolk Island for England in September 1804 on the *Albion* concerned, he said, for his safety among convicts and settlers. On the voyage he was formulating evacuation plans for Norfolk Island and the eventual resettlement of the population in Van Diemen's Land. It would seem that at the time of his departure unrest had increased on the island, but whether it was due to the proposed closure of the settlement is not known. Certainly, when Foveaux advised the people of the government's intention to move some of them to the mainland, a number of residents presented a petition to him. Perhaps James Bryan Cullen was one of the signatories as he was to similar community concerns in later years. They pointed out that many of them had originally settled as young men and they were 'too old to begin life again in a new and uncultivated settlement' (Hoare p.30). They also had wives and children to support and the inducements offered by the government for them to resettle were not enough to get them to leave their cleared land and comfortable homes.

The withdrawal of settlers began gradually but when almost the whole of the military staff and many convicts left on the *Investigator* for Port Dalrymple on the Tamar in March 1805 it was noted that it was the first major group to leave. Several more evacuation voyages followed, some to Sydney and some to Northern Tasmania. During this time, too, from her name appearing in shipping manifests, we meet up again with Mrs Ann Bryant, nee Coombes, who was still registered on Norfolk Island as "off stores" and who made a journey to Port Jackson either on the *Harrington* or the *Investigator*

early in 1805. She did not stay long in NSW however, as she is recorded as finally leaving Norfolk Island for Van Diemen's Land at Christmas time 1807 with a Thomas Fowles and, incidentally, on the same ship as the Cullen family. Records show that Ann died in Van Diemen's Land in September 1834 as Mrs Ann Fowles and there was no issue from any of her relationships as far as is known.

On the policy front, Governor King in 1805 and in early 1806 tried to slow the departures for Van Diemen's Land but the evacuations under Captain Piper the Commandant continued apace, particularly when Governor Bligh took over in NSW and commanded in December 1806 that the 700 settlers still on Norfolk Island be relocated to the new outpost on the Derwent. And so it was that from November 1807 through to October 1808, five voyages were made to clear the island of most of its remaining inhabitants, the Cullen family leaving on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 1807 on the *Porpoise*, the second of the voyages. Records indicate that James and Elizabeth travelled with their three daughters, Sophia, Catherine and Elizabeth together with a young convict servant, Robert Bishop. The Cullens were compensated for the stock, as mentioned above, to the value of £10.10s. and £65 for the value of the 38½ acres half cleared, together with their houses and outbuildings.

During the voyage on the *Porpoise*, the settlers and family members were rostered to take their turn on the watch and there was water rationing for the animals. The 22 day journey saw a large number of stock die, but it is not known whether these were still owned by the settlers or whether they had been requisitioned by the authorities for general redistribution at the Derwent. The *Porpoise*, a 399 ton vessel, mounted with 10 guns, had been in Australian waters since August 1806 and had arrived in the colony at the same time as the new Governor Bligh. This voyage, with the Cullen family and many of their settler friends and acquaintances, 180 in all, ended with their arrival on the Derwent on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 1808 in the middle of a bushfire surrounding the little town of Hobart. The *Porpoise* was

anchored in the bay by 10am and all those on board were ready to attend the 11 o'clock Sunday church service conducted by the chaplain, Rev Robert Knopwood. And so began the new phase of life for James Bryan Cullen and Elizabeth and their girls.

It is not known how long they stayed in Hobart itself but David Collins the Lt. Governor of Van Diemen's Land had no doubt that all these extra mouths to feed were going to cause problems. The Secretary in Downing St London had indicated that the new settlers were to be divided into 3 classes, the differences relating to the amount of assistance that was to be given in their resettling. The Cullen family, according to the Colonial Secretary's Norfolk Island papers, were to be 2<sup>nd</sup> class. These were those who had been convicts but had earned complete freedom; they were to be clothed and victualled and given two men to work for them for two years. All classes were to be supplied with farm implements and other tools for cultivating the soil on their land.

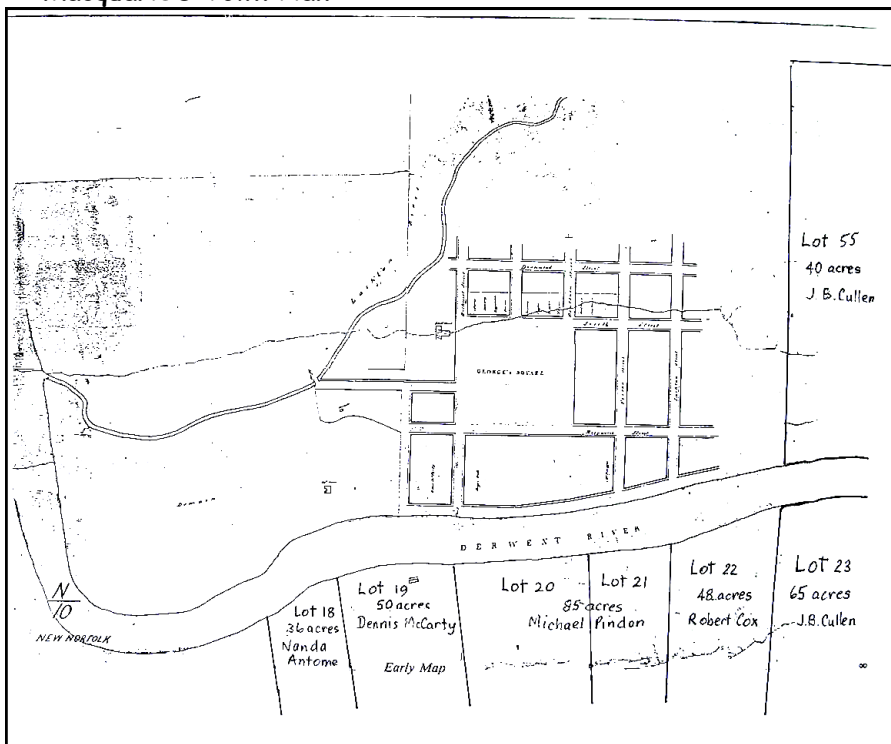
Collins's main concern was that he would never be able to fulfil the Colonial Secretary's requirements in providing for the new settlers, especially when so many ships started streaming into Hobart late in 1807. Some were billeted on the inhabitants of Hobart Town, while others offered to waive all claims against the Government if Collins would give them livestock equal in value to the homes they'd left behind in Norfolk Island. Collins did not have the clothing and bedding that the settlers had expected so he was eager to get those with families out to their new farms as soon as possible. Others were happy to have the sheep and Bengal cows that the governor was offering instead of the houses, outhouses and barns they'd been promised.

In exchange for the 38  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land which James Cullen owned but had to surrender on Norfolk Island, he was granted 65 acres at New Norfolk - the name chosen by the settlers to remind them of where they'd come from, but which Governor Macquarie

later renamed Elizabeth Town in honour of his wife. All families settling on the Derwent were given two acres for each one cleared and one acre for each acre of wasteland they had possessed on the island. Perhaps James was like many of the people transferred from Norfolk Island who found life in New Norfolk very difficult. The weather was much colder than they had previously experienced, the earth was hard and not as fertile as the volcanic soil of Norfolk Island and the initial absence of housing found some sharing the homes of the convicts who were employed to work for them. In the Cullens' case, presumably, they retained their servant Robert Bishop as a farm assistant but we have no record of how long he was with them.

### Elizabeth Town (New Norfolk)

#### Macquarie's Town Plan



It seems that about 20 of those originally granted land on the new subdivision at New Norfolk had been land-holders from the early days of Norfolk Island so they would have brought with them skills useful to set up their farms once again. James Cullen's 65 acres were on the north bank of the river just upstream from the planned town centre opposite. The northern section is occupied today by part of Fairview Primary School. James's neighbours were Robert Cox and Thomas Murphy. Two other New Norfolk settlers well known to the Cullens were William Mitchell, a seaman whose land at Cascade was across the road from James's block, and Abigail Barry, nee Cummings, who had been with Elizabeth Cullen (Bartlett) on both the *Marquis Cornwallis* to Sydney and the *Supply* to Norfolk Island. By the time of



the 1809 Hobart muster the Cullen farm is recorded as having 4 acres planted with wheat and 1 with barley. At the time he also had 2 cattle, 20 sheep and 10 goats.

There was a very rough track to Hobart Town but most of the

early settlers used the river if they could, as did Governor Maquarie when he visited the area and proposed a town centre, as Elizabeth Town, in 1811.

Perhaps the Cullen family went by river at the time of their wedding by banns on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1809. After living together as a family for about 10 years, they decided to formalise the relationship, perhaps at the suggestion of Rev Robert Knopwood who officiated at the ceremony in St David's church in Hobart. The witnesses were Roger Gavin and William Thomas Stockes. Elizabeth signed the register with an 'X'. James was then about 67 years old and Elizabeth 35. Some family researchers say that Elizabeth's Irish shipmate friend from the *Marquis Cornwallis* and the years on Norfolk Island, Catherine Kearney, also witnessed the wedding but her name does not appear on the main register page.

This is to Certify that Bryan Cullen single man and  
Elizabeth Bartlett single woman, both of this Town, were  
married by Banns, at Hobart Town, River Derwent, Van  
Diemens Land, this Twenty-fifth day of September, in the  
year of Our Lord. One thousand Eight hundred and nine  
By me Robert Knopwood

This marriage was } Jas Bryan Cullen  
solemnised between } Elizabeth <sup>her</sup> Bartlett.  
mark.

In the presence of } Roger Gavin  
- Wm Thos Stockes.

Governor Macquarie's visit of inspection of the farms at New Norfolk in November 1811 was much appreciated by the settlers there and he stayed overnight with Dennis McCarthy, the constable of the district from 1808, whose riverside farm was just four lots



from the Cullens'. On behalf of the early settlers four men, Dennis McCarthy, Bryan Cullen, James Triffitt and Abraham Hands prepared an Address to the Governor when he visited the area. It read in part:

"Our gratitude for allowing us to remain on the King's Stores shall never be effaced from our memories and our children shall be instructed, as soon as their articulation commence to lisp the name of Governor Macquarie"

*Address*  
From the Inhabitants of New Norfolk.

"To His Excellency Lieut. Genl. Macquarie, Esq.  
"Captain General and Governor in Chief in and over  
"His Majesty's Territory of New South Wales and  
"its Dependencies. &c. &c. &c."

"The Inhabitants of New Norfolk a Settlement formed under the Sanction  
"of His Excellency, most dutifully presume to return Your Excellency our most sincere  
"Thanks for your Consideration in visiting our Settlement. —

"Our most anxious expectations are fully compensated in receiving your  
"Honour's Approbation; and we hold our selves in future to persevere to the  
"utmost in honest industry, and every effort to conform by Agriculture to the  
"interests of the Colony in general, to merit a Continuance of Your Excellency's  
"generous and kind patronage. —

"Our Gratitude for allowing us to remain on the King's Stores shall never  
"be effaced from our Memories; And our Children shall be instructed, as soon as  
"their Articulation commences to lisp the Name of Governor Macquarie, to  
"dutifully say in behalf of their better settled Subjuncts, —

"Your Excellency's most grateful Servants

Signed } D. M<sup>r</sup> Barty      J. Triffitt  
          } J. M<sup>r</sup> Cullen     A. Hands.



New Norfolk from the Governor's House 1883



The Governor was 'highly gratified' with the appreciation of the settlers and in his reply he stated, in part:

"I shall ever take a lively interest in the welfare and prosperity of the Settlers of New Norfolk and it will always afford me sincere pleasure to extend every indulgence to such of them as prove themselves worthy of it."

The Cullens must have travelled between their farm to Hobart town quite frequently as one muster record, of 1811, had them living in Hobart Town at that time.

Colonial Secretary's  
Papers, NSW

His Excellency's Answer.

Hobart town, Van Diemen's Land,  
Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> 1811.

To Mess<sup>rs</sup> Dennis M<sup>r</sup> Parry, James

B. Cullen, James Triffiths, and

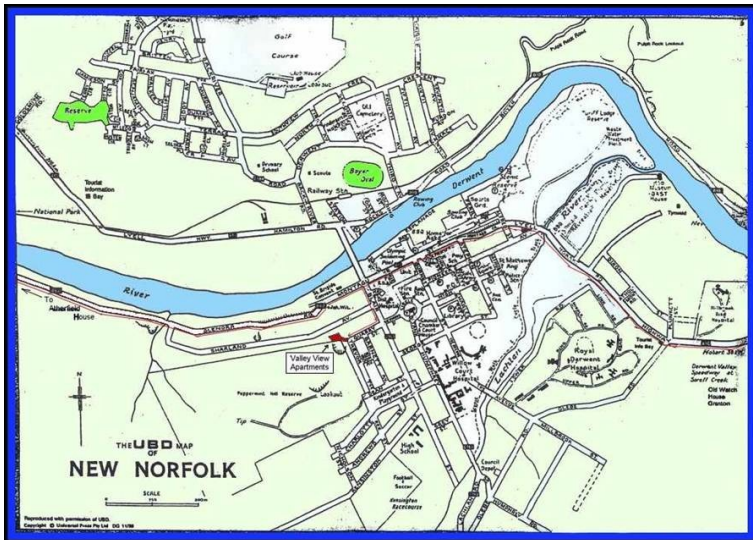
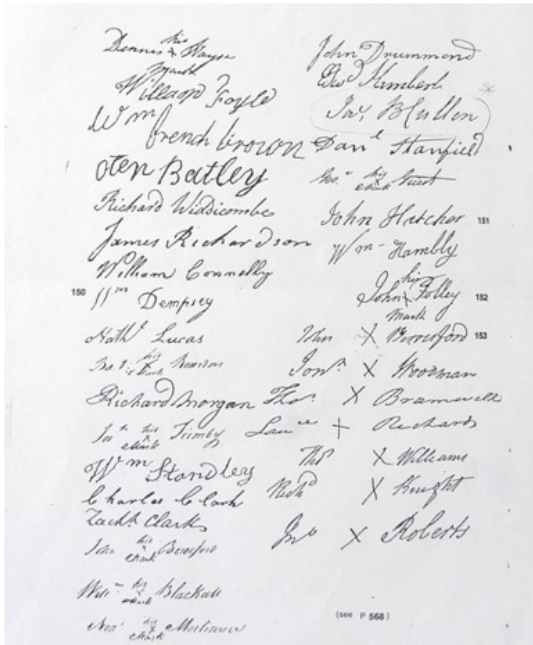
Abraham Kandy

"You will be good as to acquaint the inhabitants of the District of New Norfolk, that the Address you have this day presented to me from them has proved highly gratifying to me, and that I receive with Pleasure of their resolution to persevere in that course of honest industry so happily begun - the beneficial result of which, in the present pleasing prospect of their enjoying the fruits of their labour in an abundant harvest, I have so recently witnessed in my inspection of the District."

"I beg you will assure the Settlers and other inhabitants of New Norfolk, that I shall ever take a lively interest in their Welfare and Prosperity, and that it will always afford me sincere pleasure to extend every reasonable indulgence to such of them, as prove themselves worthy of it, by pursuing in habits of honest industry, Sobriety and Morality. - I am &c"

Signed "L. Macquarie"

And James himself could possibly have been there in 1815 when a group of citizens petitioned Governor Macquarie that a Criminal Court be set up in Hobart rather than transferring defendants and witnesses to Sydney. J. B. Cullen is one of the original signatories to this petition. One extract page lists 35 petitioners and 15 of these signed with an 'X'. Three names on the list (Foyle, Dempsey and Clarke) along with James were now at New Norfolk and all four had been farmers together on Norfolk Island before the evacuation.



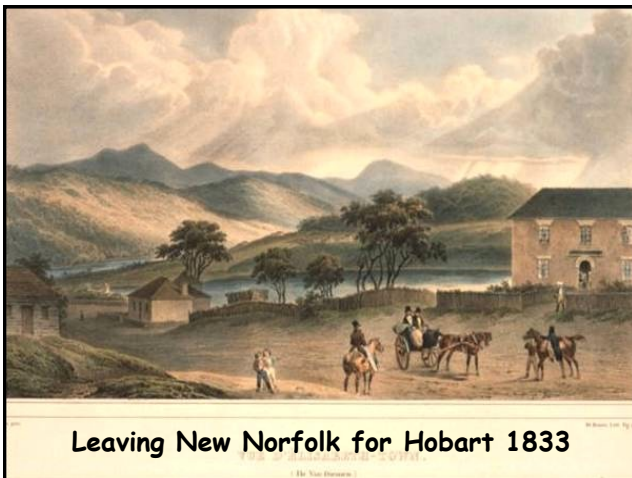
In 1818 James Cullen was granted a further 40 acres at New Norfolk, right across the river from his earlier grant. Today's lookout on 'Peppermint Hill Reserve' would exactly mark the western boundary of this new allotment which stretched east to what is now Trevor Terrace and north to the river. The Cullen land holdings now totalled 104 acres, 6 planted with wheat, barley and beans and 4 with potatoes. 93 acres were pasture and on this he had 41 cattle and 430 sheep. Despite getting on in years he was probably still keen to keep up his horse riding skills as he also owned 1 horse.

The former jockey had become a gentleman farmer! James had two servants at the time, one a free man and one a convict and he had a government contract to supply 4,500 lbs of meat over an 18 month period to December 1819.



Back in 1813, Major Geils had appointed James a superintendent of government stock in the New Norfolk area, a position his neighbour Dennis McCarthy had held before he fell foul of the law through illegal dealings with the aforesaid stock. It is not known if James held this position up until his death or whether he relinquished it on McCarthy's return.

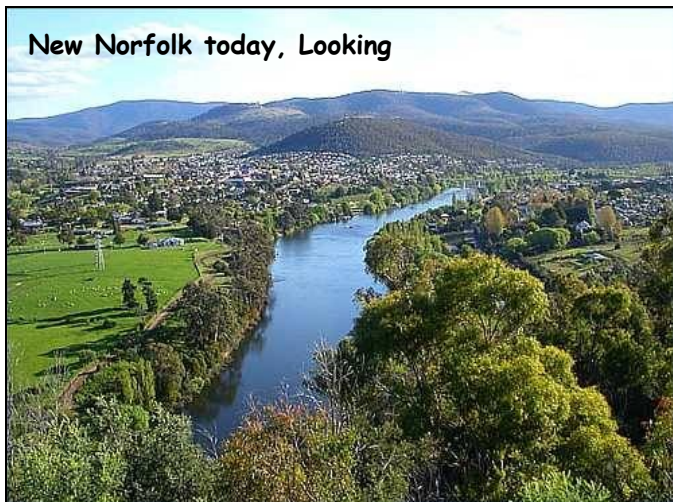
Life on New Norfolk was not without its excitements either. Mrs McCarthy was at home when two dangerous bushrangers raided her farm in October 1814. They turned the house inside out to find money and household treasures and then escaped down to the boats moored on the



river bank. She was not physically harmed but there were emotional scars for her and her visitors long after. Her husband, Dennis, was in Sydney at the time of the raid. On another occasion, James Triffitt whose farm lay on the northern outskirts of the district

lost 70 to 80 sheep to bushrangers.

Some of the agricultural settlers also had problems with aboriginals invading their properties. New Norfolk was on the southern edge of one of the main migratory routes of the local tribes so the livestock would be fair game for their hunters. The same James Triffitt who'd lost sheep to bushrangers in earlier years found 300 of his sheep dead on his outlying pastures in December 1819 and most of the rest of his flock of 1000 driven into the interior by the 'natives'. In general, however, incursions by aboriginals in this area were nowhere near as common or as damaging as they turned out





to be later in other parts of Van Diemen's Land. Many agriculturists in fact welcomed aboriginal children onto their farms as labourers due to the ever present labour shortages and when this led to the kidnapping of children by settlers, it naturally brought about retaliation by the aborigines who raided huts, speared and drove away cattle, burnt hayricks and harassed stockmen. Because of its proximity to the mountains and

on Tuesday last, 300 sheep, belonging to Mr. James Triffitt, sen. of New Norfolk, were found dead on his pasture ground at Stony-hut Plains. It appears that the natives, who had made their appearance at that place, committed this great slaughter during the momentary absence of the stock-keepers, which will be a serious loss to an industrious individual, most of them being fine ewes; and this misfortune is the more distressing when it is considered that out of a thousand sheep the owner can only find two hundred alive, of which number many were much disfigured by some of their eyes being taken out and others with their backs broken. It is evident that the remainder must have been driven farther into the interior by the hostile disposition of the natives: and within these few days, Mr. James Austin, settler in the district of Glenarchy, has met with the serious loss of nearly 300 sheep being stolen out of his flock by some persons unknown.

"HOBART TOWN GAZETTE"

18th. December 1819

Hobart Town, New Norfolk possibly avoided much of this type of damage and loss so prevalent elsewhere. We certainly have no record of the Cullens' attitude towards the original inhabitants of the region.

James Bryan Cullen died from a gun shot at his home on the Derwent on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1821 and was buried on the 8<sup>th</sup> April at St David's, Hobart Town. The nature of his death necessitated an inquest and the Hobart Town Gazette of Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April reported its findings:

'On Saturday last an inquest was held at New Norfolk, before A. W. Humphrey, Esq. Coroner, on the body of Mr J. B. Cullen, a settler residing in that district, in consequence of a rumour that he had shot himself on the Thursday previously. After an impartial investigation, it appeared in evidence, that about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the day stated, the deceased, with his wife and youngest daughter, were all very comfortable at home, the former sitting in the parlour reading a play; he, however, rose from his seat and went alone into the bedroom, when shortly afterwards the family heard the report of a pistol: the daughter instantly hastened to the chamber, where she saw her unfortunate parent lying on the bed breathing his last. The room was full of smoke and the blood was running off the bed profusely. Upon this awful sight, the young woman fainted and fell down on the floor senseless; and, upon the family examining the unfortunate object of their anxiety, they found that the deceased had received the fatal wound close to the heart. It did not appear by the evidence of any of the witnesses that the deceased was of a melancholy mind; but that he was perfectly steady at the time the unhappy affair took place. It was therefore considered, that the pistol, which was cocked and loaded, had been placed somewhere about the bed, had accidentally gone off while the deceased was handling it as it was found at the foot of the bed; and to which effect the Jury returned their verdict. The deceased who came from Norfolk Island at the evacuation of that place, leaves a wife and three daughters and was much respected throughout his neighbourhood; he had arrived at the age of nearly 80 years.'

Two items of significance in the account of James Bryan Cullen's death, the gun and the play, deserve some further comment. Back in 1792 Lt Governor King had issued each of the Norfolk Island settlers with a gun so that they could protect themselves against robbers. Perhaps this was the same gun. Also, James was reading a play before his death. It may have brought to mind again his convict days when popular plays such as "The Recruiting Officer" and "The Rivals" were presented by convicts once a month for the Norfolk Island community. One performance, on January 18<sup>th</sup> 1794 had ended in a riot when a supposed altercation between a convict and a

SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 1821.

her unfortunate parent lying on the Bathurst-street, with intent to steal, by getting | SALES BY AUCTION.

On Saturday last an Inquest was held at New Norfolk, before A. W. H. Humphrey, Esq. Coroner, on the body of Mr. J. B. Cullen, a Settler residing in that district, in consequence of a rumour that he had shot himself on the Thursday previously. After an impartial investigation, it appeared in evidence, that about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the day stated, the deceased, with his wife and youngest daughter, were all very comfortable at home, the former sitting in the parlour reading a play; he, however, rose from his seat, and went alone into the bed-room; when shortly afterwards the family heard the report of a pistol: the daughter instantly hastened to the chamber, where she saw her unfortunate parent lying on the bed breathing his last. The room was full of smoke, and the blood was running off the bed profusely. Upon this awful sight, the young woman fainted and fell down on the floor senseless; and, upon the family examining the unfortunate object of their anxiety, they found that the deceased had received the fatal wound close to his heart. It did not appear by the evidence of any of the witnesses, that the deceased was of a melancholy mind; but that he was perfectly steady at the time the unhappy affair took place. It was therefore considered, that the pistol, which was cocked and loaded, and had been placed some where about the bed, had accidentally gone off while the deceased was handling it, as it was found at the foot of the bed; and to which effect the Jury returned their verdict. The deceased, who came from Norfolk Island at the evacuation of that place, leaves a wife and three daughters, and was much respected throughout his neighbourhood: he had arrived at the age of nearly 80 years.

soldier over a seat developed into a full-blown mutiny which King, who was in the audience himself along with a group of settlers who may have included James Cullen, had to put down and discipline the soldiers involved. Their resultant court-martial in Sydney was quashed by Major Grose, aided no doubt by the continued conflict arising from soldiers living under naval authorities.

When he died, despite appearing to have been a successful farmer and respected citizen, James was in considerable debt, owing amongst others £105.7.2. to George F. Read, Esq. Letters of administration were granted by the Supreme Court to Elizabeth Cullen, his widow on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1824. Dr Robert Officer, Esq. J. P., who lived six months in the same house with Mrs Cullen made an affidavit that he was acquainted with the state of James Bryan Cullen's affairs at the time of his decease and that his estate which consisted almost entirely of the farm in question was burdened with a considerable debt, particularly to Mr Read.

Hobart Town Gazette, 1821

**E**LIZABETH CULLEN, the Widow of James Brian Cullen, late of New Norfolk, deceased, hereby gives Notice of her Intention to apply to the Supreme Court for Letters of Administration to the Estate and Effects of the said Intestate.

As in life, so in death, and it was land dealings that rounded off the financial chapters for James Cullen 'jockey and land holder' as recorded so many years before. Elizabeth Cullen transferred the title of the southern portion of land (40 acres) to her son-in-law John Pearce, husband of her youngest daughter, Elizabeth. John Pearce had already paid some of James's debts. Then in August of the same year, 1824, Elizabeth Cullen and John Pearce conveyed that land to Jacobina Burn, an immigrant Scottish widow for £400 and this allowed them to pay off all the debts. Mrs Burn, who was the first woman to be granted land in Tasmania, gave this land to her son David who had followed his mother to Van Diemen's Land in 1826. An inter-



esting footnote to this story is that this David Burn is remembered as having written the first known Australian 3 act-drama to be performed on any stage. It was called 'The Bushrangers' and was based on the arrest of Matthew Brady. It was performed in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1829.

Supreme Court records of dealing in and transfers of land in New Norfolk show that it was still some time before the Cullen estate was finally disposed of. In relation to the 40 acre parcel there was listed, on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1836 an

"indenture between Elizabeth Pearce, wife of John Pearce and the said John Pearce of the first part, Catherine Blay, wife of James Blay and the said James Blay of the second part, and David Burn of the third part - Reciting that the said Elizabeth and Catherine were the only children of Bryan Cullen deceased - In consideration of ten pounds a piece to John Pearce and wife and Blay and wife paid by said Burn. The said Pearce and wife and Blay and wife did grant, ratify and confirm unto said Burn and his heirs all the said forty acres of land ....."

At the time of this indenture, Mrs Elizabeth Cullen, the widow of James was, as appears by a certificate of Dr Officer, 'in a state of absolute dotage' and living in the hospital at New Norfolk. In fact, she only lived another 3 weeks and was buried at the New Norfolk cemetery on the 5th March 1836. It is of interest to note that this hospital, later to



be known as the Royal Derwent Hospital, was originally established in 1827 and its first permanent building, an open quadrangled structure now known as 'Willow Court' and classified by the National Trust, was constructed in 1831. In the early years the hospital served three purposes: as a general hospital for the district, as an invalid depot for convicts and as an asylum for the insane (to serve the whole colony). It remained under military administration until the official Tasmanian government takeover in 1855.



In the 1836 indenture between James Cullen's daughters and their husbands and David Burn, there is no mention of the elder daughter Sophia. She was no longer living at the time, having predeceased her mother by about a year. She is recorded as having died in Hobart on the 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1835 aged 37 and buried at New Norfolk Cemetery. She had married William Rayner, the Norfolk Island born son of another evacuee of the same name in 1815 in Hobart, his father having also been granted land at New Norfolk. William Rayner Senior's 80 acre block was behind and to the south of James Cullen's allotment on the south bank and it was without direct river frontage.

One other transfer of Cullen land needs to be mentioned to round off the land-holder story. It would seem that James's original 65 acres on the north side of the Derwent was already in process of leaving the family possession before James died. The Supreme Court Caveat Board Land report (SC285/38) includes the following:

"21<sup>st</sup> July, 1818 said James Bryan Cullen assigned the said land with a house, etc. to Thomas Triffitt in consideration of £400 by inventories of Thomas Triffitt conveyed to Judah Solomon in consideration of £327 and

lease and release dated 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1829. The said inventories of lease and release dated 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1829. The said Thomas Triffitt conveyed to Judah Solomon in consideration of £327 and by agreement dated 15<sup>th</sup> April 1837. J. Solomon agrees to sell to R. Armstrong for £2,500 ...."

So, as we have seen, within a few years of the passing of James Bryan and Elizabeth Cullen, their farms and land passed on to other ownership and thus it would seem, into history. It was an unfortunate fact of the times that free land was only granted to male members of the family. The Cullens, having three daughters, were not entitled to more than one such grant. But having said that, any increased wealth thus generated by the addition of sons' land to a family, would only come about if those sons themselves proved to be prudent managers through the good and the bad times on the land!

This story - one jockey's journey - does not really end here. His family has grown and no doubt there are many tales passed down through the years by and about the descendants of James and Elizabeth Cullen, hard working and long-lived pioneers of the founding and convict era of Australia.

Perhaps, family historians down all three lines might like to rise to the occasion and produce their own continuations of what our two forebears began. There may be thousands of us out there who can trace our ancestry back to James and Elizabeth Cullen.

Sophia and her husband William Rayner produced ten children and although Sophia herself died young, many of their adult children, including William himself, found their way to the mainland of Australia, some to Victoria, mainly the Footscray area, and a large number settled in South Australia in the Lyndoch, Carrieton and Aberdeen areas. Some stayed in Tasmania and were pioneers in the Longford region. William Rayner died in 1862 in Myrtle Creek in Victoria, aged 70.

Catherine married the convict James Tedder in Hobart in 1816. He was nearing the end of his sentence by then and later became the

land-holder of the 30 acre block behind his father-in-law's at New Norfolk. Catherine and James had three girls who married and remained in the Tasmanian midlands and Launceston areas. When James died at the age of 32, Catherine remarried, this time to James Blay, the son of a convict of the same name. There were two Blay daughters and descendants of theirs found their way to Victoria (South Melbourne) and NSW (Sydney). Catherine died in Hobart in 1866, aged about 66 and James Blay relocated to Adelaide where he may have remarried bigamously.

Elizabeth married John Pearce, a ship's captain, in 1821, just a few weeks before her father died. They only had three children, and in the 1840s moved to Victoria where John died. Elizabeth remarried and had one child. After again being widowed, she saw out her days at the home of her eldest son who had become a pioneer farmer in the Lake Colac/Beeac area. Elizabeth died at Weering in 1886 as Betsy Waldron. Her only daughter and family also moved to Victoria, settling in the Beechworth area.

Subsequent generations from all three Cullen daughters have been born all over Australia and in many parts of the world, including New Zealand, U.S.A., Canada and South East Asia. Many have left their mark in all walks of life and some zealous family historians may like to trace down the family trees, making a database of the thousands who belong and perhaps collecting and telling the anecdotes and outlining the endeavours of individuals who were and are proud to belong to the family of James Bryan and Elizabeth Cullen.

At the time when our convict ancestors were tried in the 1780s and sentenced to transportation to the far corner of the world, they may have thought they were lost to the human race. But those who survived and adapted to the new world left a legacy which helped shape this country, Australia, into the one we enjoy so much today. In the words of the motto of the Fellowship of First Fleetters, 'may the lives of our ancestors live on in the hearts and minds of their descendants'.



THE WHOLE  
P R O C E E D I N G S

ON THE  
KING's Commission of the Peace, Oyer and Terminer, and  
Gaul Delivery for the CITY of LONDON ;

AND ALSO

The Gaul Delivery for the County of *Middlesex*;

HELD AT

JUSTICE HALL *in the* OLD BAILEY,

On Wednesday the 6th of APRIL 1785, and the following Days ;

Being the FOURTH SESSION in the Mayoralty of

The Right Hon. RICHARD CLARK,  
LORD MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LONDON.

---

TAKEN IN SHORT-HAND BY

E. H O D G S O N,

PROFESSOR OF SHORT-HAND;

And Published by Authority.

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NUMBER IV. PART IV.

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S. BLADON, No. 13, *Pater-noster Row*.

M DCC LXXXV.

449. JAMES BRYAN CULLIEN was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the 12th day of March last, one pair of thick-set breeches, value 1s. 6d. two cloth coats, value 18s. one fustian waistcoat, value 2s. 6d. one pair of leather boots, value 6s. one pair of leather breeches, value 10s. 6d. one pair of cotton stockings, value 2s. one linen shirt, value 1s. one pair of leather shoes, value 5s. one pair of worsted stockings, value 3s. and three muslin neckcloths, value 3s. the property of John Crandell; two cotton caps, value 2s. one woollen cloth, value 1s. one silk and cotton waistcoat, value 12s. three cotton waistcoats, value 19s. three pair of worsted stockings, value 7s. three pair of worsted stockings, value 6s. one pair of breeches, value 17s. one linen shirt, value 6s. two handkerchiefs, value 1s. one pair of silver knee buckles, value 5s. one pair of leather shoes, value 5s. and one silk handkerchief, value 2s. the property of John Shingler.

And ELEANOR WELCH was indicted for feloniously receiving, on the 14th of March last, part of the said goods, knowing them to have been stolen.

*(The witnesses examined apart.)*

JOHN CRANDELL *sworn*.  
I am coachman to Mr. Milbank, on the

12th of March last, the prisoner called on me in the forenoon, as an acquaintance, I had seen him several times in Northamptonshire, he said he was going to a service at Woolwich on Monday; this was on Saturday about four in the afternoon, I left him in the stable; afterwards I was coming out with my fellow servant Shingler, and I went to the back door of the stable, which communicates with the house, and I found it fastened, it fastens on the inside: I thought my fellow servant had fastened it, I went to the other door, and found that was also fast, I still thought it was my fellow servant: I found the street door open, and when I went in, I missed the things mentioned in the indictment.

PETER THOMAS *sworn*.

I am one of the patrols belonging to Sir Sampson Wright, some of these were given me, and I found great part of the things; I had the things from King-street, Wapping, from one Mrs. Barry, who is in Court: the prisoner was taken on Sunday night, the 13th of March.

*Crandell*. The prisoner had a pair of shoes of mine on.

*(Deposed to.)*

The remainder of this Trial in the next Part, which will be published in a few Days.

### E R R A T A.

In No. IV. Part I. page 541, lines 4, and 5. leave out the words "*which was parted from the skull underneath.*"—Line 15, for "*maladies of membranes,*" read "*meninges or membranes.*"—Line 40, for "*os bregmatis,*" read "*os bregmatis.*"—In page 542, line 23, and following, leave out the words "*I believe that is the case of all wounds by the removal of the scalp. where it is in a state of putrefaction, the blood may come down from that aperture.*"—Line 28, for "*not externally,*" read "*externally,*" and omit "*not.*"—Line 4, second column, for "*but,*" read "*when.*"

THE WHOLE  
PROCEEDINGS

UPON THE  
KING's Commission of the Peace, Oyer and Terminer, and  
Gaol Delivery for the CITY of LONDON, &c.

*Continuation of the Trial of James Bryan Cullien.*

**JOHN SHINGLER** *sworn.*

The prisoner gave me this note, it is his hand writing, I know him before, I left him in the stable that night, he said, he wanted to speak to Crandell, he would stay till he came.

*(The note read.)*

“ Call at William Barry's, next door to the sign of the White Swan, King-street, Wapping; there you will find the flannel cloth, a pair of boots, and a pair of shoes.”

*Crandell.* The prisoner was taken to the watch-house, and there he wrote down an account of where the things were. *(Read.)*

“ Ask Mrs. Barry for Lilly Welch, and desire her to come to me directly; ask for those things in the name of James Brown.”—we all three called at Barry's and found a great coat, and boots, and a thickset pair of breeches; they were in two different bundles.

*Prisoner.* This gentleman said, I was the person that locked the door of the stable inside?—I cannot tell, I can tell the door was fastened, and the outer door was not, at the same time you confessed yourself, Sir, that you was doing the business.

*Prisoner.* Did Mr. Milbank give you warning, or you give him warning?—Mr. Milbank gave the warning.

When you met me, did I offer to go away?—I took better care of you than that, for your ingratitude.

*Prisoner.* I gave him the note, he told me to get such and such things washed, he was going to Greenland along with me, and I took them to my wife, this prisoner is my wife.

*Prosecutor.* I never proposed any such thing, I have not left my service yet, and my wife lives in High-street, Marybone; it is not likely.

**HENRY TURNER** *sworn.*

I am a pawnbroker, I received a white waistcoat, a shirt, two neckcloths, and three pair of stockings, I received them of one Catherine Kelly.

*(Deposed to.)*

**CATHEKINE KELLY** *sworn.*

I had those things from the woman prisoner, she lodged with me, I took her to be a very honest woman; she told me she was married, I used to call her Mrs. Briant,

but I pawned the things with Mr. Turner, in the name of Eleanor Welch.

*Court.* Was that the man you always took to be her husband?—Yes.

**MARGARET BARRY** *sworn.*

I know the prisoners, the man lay one night at my house, the woman was not with him; I never saw her till the Sunday night after, the prisoner had a bundle that night, he said, he was too late, he asked me for a bed, and he got up in the morning, he got up and went on board a Greenland ship, the William and Ann.

*Prisoner Cullien.* I have nothing further to say, I have lived with Captain Frederick and Lady Harris at the King's Palace.

**JACOB BRIANT CULLIEN, GUILTY.**

*Transported to Africa for seven years.*

**ELEANOR WELCH, NOT GUILTY.**

*Tried by the second Middlesex Jury before Mr. Justice NARES.*

450. **ELIZABETH BARRY** was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March last, one linen shirt, value 7s. one apron, value 12d. the property of John Moriarte.

*The prosecutor and witnesses were called on their recognizances, and not appearing, the prisoner was*

**ACQUITTED.**

*Tried by the first Middlesex Jury before Mr. RECORDER.*

451. **SAMUEL TOOME** was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March last, forty-two pounds weight of lead, value 5s. belonging to Christopher Lance, and then and there affixed to a certain building, there situate against the statute.

*The prisoner was taken some distance from the house at an unreasonable time, and the lead was very near him:—he had a good character.*

**GUILTY.**

*Whipped.*

*Tried by the first Middlesex Jury before Mr. RECORDER.*

452. **FRANCIS COOK** and **ABRAHAM SLATER** were indicted for feloniously stealing, on the 23<sup>d</sup> day of March last, two live fowls, value 2s. and one leather saddle, value 1s. the property of William Murrell.

**WILLIAM MURRELL** *sworn.*

I keep the Castle, at Kentish town, I missed my fowls out of my stable; about five in the morning I was called up, and I overtook the prisoners with the things on them: Slater had the fiddle, Cook had a bag with a cock and a hen, which belonged to me, they were speckled fowls, I had them from chickens, they were a year old, I can swear to them; the fiddle was mine, I imagine they got over the gates.

**WILLIAM CHALKLEY** *sworn.*

I was going to milking, and I saw two men go towards this stable, and I saw another come with a sack on his back as I thought, the other came from towards the stables, I gave information to the prosecutor, seeing the door open; I do not know that the prisoners were the two men.

**PRISONER COOK'S DEFENCE.**

I went out early this morning with my brother, who was going to Liverpool, and I parted with him at the one mile-stone, and this man overtook him with the things mentioned in the indictment, and he asked me to carry the bag, I did not think any harm in it, and in a hundred yards they stopped me.

**PRI-**



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# TREE LINES

## JAMES BRYAN CULLEN and ELIZABETH BARTLETT

b 1742

|

b1776

---

Sophia CULLEN

Catherine CULLEN

Elizabeth CULLEN

b 1798

b ca 1799

b 1805

3rd	-----	-----	-----
4th	-----	-----	-----
5th	-----	-----	-----
6th	-----	-----	-----
7th	-----	-----	-----
8th	-----	-----	-----
9th	-----	-----	-----
10th	-----	-----	-----

*Which is your family line?  
Insert your own from Sophia, Catherine or Elizabeth.*

## SOME DESCENDANTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Ern CROUCH**<sup>6</sup>, (*Elsie CROUCH*<sup>5</sup>, *Henry CROUCH*<sup>4</sup>, *Louisa PEARCE*<sup>3</sup>, *Elizabeth CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

Chief engineer of Radio 2GZ and Channel CBN NSW 1930s ->

**Jeff CROUCH**<sup>7</sup>, (*Leonard CROUCH*<sup>6</sup>, *William CROUCH*<sup>5</sup>, *Joseph CROUCH*<sup>4</sup>, *Louisa PEARCE*<sup>3</sup>, *Elizabeth Cullen*<sup>2</sup>)

VFL Umpire 1961-1970, TV Broadcaster and Director Royal Children's Hospital Appeal

**Alfred RAYNER**<sup>5</sup>, (*Augustus RAYNER*<sup>4</sup>, *Henry RAYNER*<sup>3</sup>, *Sophia CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

Footscray Premiership Cricketer 1930s - 1940s.

**Norman RAYNER**<sup>6</sup>, (*Arthur RAYNER*<sup>5</sup>, *Charles RAYNER*<sup>4</sup>, *Henry RAYNER*<sup>3</sup>, *Sophia CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

Footscray Sportsman, Contestant 1934 World Rodeo Championships

**Matthew WELSH**<sup>8</sup>, (*Patricia GOODWIN*<sup>7</sup>, *John TAYLOR*<sup>6</sup>, *Elaine JEFFREY*<sup>5</sup>, *Maurice THROCKMORTON*<sup>4</sup>, *Eliza RAYNER*<sup>3</sup>, *Sophia CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

**Jack RAYNER**<sup>6</sup>, (*Arthur RAYNER*<sup>5</sup>, *Charles RAYNER*<sup>4</sup>, *Henry RAYNER*<sup>3</sup>, *Sophia CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

Werribee Race Horse Breeder

**Robyn BROWN**<sup>7</sup>, (*Robert BROWN*<sup>6</sup>, *Albert BROWN*<sup>5</sup>, *Mary PIERCE*<sup>4</sup>, *James PIERCE*<sup>3</sup>, *Elizabeth CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

Instigated, with her husband Leslie Jackson, National Red Nose Day, ca 1975

**Caroline BLAY**<sup>4</sup>, (*Margaret TEDDER*<sup>3</sup>, *Catherine CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

With her husband, John Bulmer, Missionary to Lake Tyers' Aborigines (1875-1907).

**Frances BLAY**<sup>4</sup>, (*Margaret TEDDER*<sup>3</sup>, *Catherine CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

Private School Headmistress, 'Lilleslie', South Melbourne, 1875-1906

**William McBEATH**<sup>5</sup>, (*Elizabeth BLAY*<sup>4</sup>, *Margaret TEDDER*<sup>3</sup>, *Catherine CULLEN*<sup>2</sup>)

Business man, financier, philanthropist, advisor to state and federal government after WW1, KBE in 1920.

## **FAMILY MEMBERS' RESEARCH ACKNOWLEDGED**

Ruth Binny

Graeme Butler

Pauline Bonser

Gavin Brown

Joan Cartledge

Eric Crouch

Becci Davis

Leone Edwards

Fleur Jackson

Maurice Knight

Caroline Moorhouse

Joan O'Connell

D. G. Stubbs

Margaret Sutton

Bob and Lyn Venn

Norm Watson





Frederick's place, off Old Jewry in East London, was, according to James Cullen at his trial, where he lived with Captain Frederick and Mrs Harris. Even in 1785 it was an upmarket area and homes still there today date from before that. There is no sign now of any *King's Palace!* At the trial a



key witness, Mrs Barry was said to be living next to the *White Swan* on

King St, Wapping, just around the corner from the Thames wharf where the *William and Ann* was moored prior to its trip to Greenland.





The first Cullen home was built of rough stone and became the stables with convict quarters attached when the main homestead was built between 1817 and 1820. This fine heritage-listed building has retained the name *Glen Derwent*, given to it in 1854 by the Downie family who ran the property as a hops and later dairy farm for over 100 years. Before that, after the Cullen family sold it, it became the *King of Prussia Inn* and later *Elwin's Hotel* under different licensees. In those hotel years extensions were added and in the 1850s the exiled Irish rebel William Smith O'Brien leased a room there. In the late 20th century *Glen Derwent*, after extensive renovations, became a boutique Bed and Breakfast establishment and, more recently, again a private home.





**Norfolk Island looking across airstrip to Cullen's land 2007**

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Jon Fearon

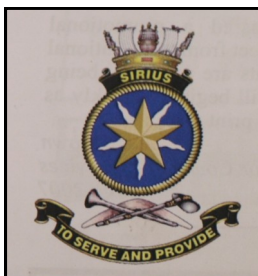
1 Clipper Crescent,

'TASCOTT, NSW 2250 Australia

Phone:- 02 43231849

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In 2007, the newly commissioned HMAS Sirius arrives in Norfolk Island, its adopted home port, for the first time. The ship's company, including ABCK Esler Kate Cartledge, an 8th generation descendant, receives Freedom of Entry to Norfolk.





**MEMORIAL TO  
THE FIRST FLEETERS AND NORFOLK ISLANDERS  
WHO CAME TO VAN DIEMEN'S LAND  
DURING THE EVACUATION 1807 - 1813.**

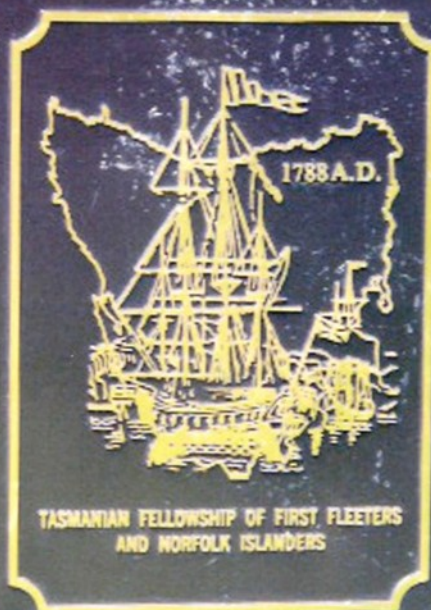
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**STONEMASON:**  
WILLY MONAGHAN

THIS MEMORIAL WAS DEDICATED BY  
**THE VERY REV'D KENNETH N. REARDON**, DEAN OF HOBART,  
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PREMIER OF TASMANIA, THE HON. RAY GROOM M.H.A.,  
THE RT. HON. ALDERMAN DOONE KENNEDY, LORD MAYOR OF HOBART,  
RT. REV'D P. K. NEWELL, BISHOP OF TASMANIA, REV. FATHER T. SOUTHERWOOD, P.P.  
AND RABBI JOHN S. LEVI, A.M., D.D., M.A.H.L., M.A., DIP. ED.

*THEY BE SOME OF THEM THAT HAVE LEFT A NAME BEHIND THEM THAT THEIR PRAISES MIGHT BE REPORTED  
'AND SOME THERE BE WHICH HAVE NO MEMORIAL, WHO ARE PERISHED AS THEY HAD NEVER BEEN.  
... THEIR BODIES ARE BURIED IN PEACE.'  
ECCLESIASTICUS XLIV.*

**THIS CONTAINS A TIME CAPSULE TO BE OPENED IN YEAR 2102**