



Chapter 4 - The Settling of the Browns

(1800 - 1804)

Departure at Last

The Earl Cornwallis, with the Brown family aboard, had finally sailed from Cowes, Isle of Wight, on Tuesday, 18 November 1800. Its journey to the colony of New South Wales via Rio de Janeiro and Cape Town, painfully slow.



A three masted, square rigged ship indicative of the Earl Cornwallis arriving in Rio de Janeiro⁸¹

Ship's company was down to 67, not the 70 envisaged. From Scott's earlier assessment, this was most probably still too many.

Being a big ship, there was theoretically ample space for water butts. However, the £10,000 worth of speculative cargo placed in the ship by the master and officers is likely to have used some of that capacity.⁸² Robert Scott was one of those who took the opportunity of the government approved practice, choosing to buy in Rio 'a great deal of tobacco' with hopes of making a profit in Sydney.

The Earl Cornwallis arrived in Rio de Janeiro, on 3 February 1801, or before. On that date, the officer in charge of the guard escort of the convicts, Lieutenant Henry Crawford, was unfortunate enough to fall over the side of the ship and get himself drowned.⁸³ Crawford is noted as having been late in joining the ship.

At Rio the Earl Cornwallis needed water, supplies, caulking, and ballast. Ballast had been denied Captain Tennent in London. Tennent clearly knew his ship and the conditions that were to be experienced when he reached the Roaring Forties, and was determined to be prepared.

After a stay of some weeks in Rio, the Earl Cornwallis set sail for Cape Town in Table Bay. That leg of the journey is said to have normally taken about two to three weeks. The Pitt made what is regarded as a favourable passage from Rio to the Cape in 24 days.

In Cape Town, Tennent would have been ensuring that the Earl Cornwallis was as shipshape and provisioned up as possible. This would account for three to four weeks of the journey. On 23 April 1801, the Naval Agent aboard, Lt Marshall despatched his report to London. The Earl Cornwallis sailed for NSW on or soon after that date.



A three masted square rigged ship of the period the Earl Cornwallis, leaving Cape Town.⁸⁴

Robert Scott's comment 'after a voyage of 7 weeks from the Cape' to Port Jackson suggest that this last leg of the journey would have encouraged a great sense of relief when the Earl Cornwallis finally reached its destination. For 'it blew a continual gale of wind most of all the voyage, with most tremendous squalls.'⁸⁵

⁸¹ Derived from the watercolour by Julian N Briere

⁸² Transported Beyond the Seas. P59.

⁸³ Historical Records of Australia. Series I, Vol III, p289. & John Macarthur, p176.

⁸⁴ Derived from the watercolour by Julian N Briere

⁸⁵ Dates at Downs, Portsmouth and Cowes, and arrival per Voyage on the Earl Cornwallis 1800-1802, 9th letter.



End of a Long Journey

The Earl Cornwallis sailed into Port Jackson on 10 June 1801, 205 days after departing Cowes.⁸⁶ More than two months longer sailing than the McMahons had to endure aboard the *Minerva*.

There were 166 male and 87 female convicts⁸⁷ on board – 35 convicts having died during the voyage. The death toll amongst the convicts is likely to be indicative of gaol fever (typhus or typhoid) and an exceptionally slow trip in cramped conditions. Scurvy also proved to be a major problem for the inmates.

There was said to be a surgeon aboard, Mr H Sharp. Regardless of the surgeon, treatment available at that time for typhus would have been of little help. As mentioned in the previous chapter, the Earl Cornwallis was one of five convict transport ships to enter Port Jackson in 1801. The others were *Anne*, *Canada*, *Minorca* and *Nile*.

First Impressions

The Earl Cornwallis having sailed through ‘the Heads’ on that winters day in 1801 and passed by ‘Sow and Pigs Reef’ anchored at Watson’s Bay⁸⁸ just inside South Head. Many of the passengers would have been hungry to view whatever they could of their new home, especially any signs of European settlement. The lighthouse and the flagstaff at the harbour entrance were probably the subjects to excite their interest well before entering the harbour. Just inside the harbour entrance, their ship ‘hove to’ at Watson’s Bay to await the boarding of a pilot, so that they could complete the journey up harbour to Sydney Cove. As with the *Minerva*, a shot fired for a pilot, and a signal, relayed from the flagstaff at Dawes Point to Government House, announced the arrival of the ship.

Unfavourable winds kept the Earl Cornwallis at Watson’s Bay for two days. “With the usual June westerlies blowing, a sailing ship would make little progress up the harbour.”

In those two days, the Browns and most others aboard would have taken the time to study whatever in the harbour was on view to them. They would have seen the Pilot Station, and nearby the encampment of a small detachment of soldiers. Any small boats about with curious onlookers (one of them likely to be Terrance McMahon) must have been the subject of reciprocal attention. Passengers would have also noticed the tiny stone hut close to a small beach (Gibson’s Beach). Perhaps they saw other evidence of the McMahon family, then residents of the colony for some 17 months. There may have been other encounters, but it was to be another 14 years later before their relationship became more significant, and evident.



View of Sydney C1800 by Thomas Watling. Oil on Canvas, Dixon Galleries

⁸⁶ This date also accords with Acting Governor King’s Despatch of 21 August 1801.

⁸⁷ *The Convict Ships 1787-1868* by Charles Bateson.

⁸⁸ Watson’s Bay was named after the quartermaster of HMS *Sirius* for her first entry into Port Jackson. In 1811, the unofficial name for the Bay was formally adopted. *Gazetteer of Sydney Shipping 1788-1840*.



On the arrival of the 'Earl Cornwallis' at Sydney Cove, Robert Scott, wrote:

"This is one of the wildest looking places ever was seen" "The town is pretty large, at first sight you would take it for a camp," "The houses all straggling, all one story and white,"⁸⁹

A description similar to that given by John Washington Price, ships surgeon who had arrived in January 1800 on the C.T. Minerva. The same vessel that has brought the McMahon family.

The population of the whole colony, including Norfolk Island, when Scott made his observations, was less than 7,000 people.

Where to Stay?

On anchoring at Sydney Cove, the Earl Cornwallis convicts not immediately selected for assignment to public servants, officers, or free settlers, were probably sent to Toongabbie. Of that ship's convict cargo, Governor King noted that '*greatest of those who landed are afflicted with scurvy*'.⁹⁰ The *Earl Cornwallis* left Port Jackson on 4 October bound for India.^[8] She carried on board 150 tons of coal from Coal Bay (Newcastle). This is believed to have been the first export of coal from Newcastle.^[7]

As for the small party of free passengers disembarking, at the time, it was normal practice for newly arrived free settlers to be initially housed in tents at the cricket ground at the southeast edge of Sydney Town. That area, in conjunction with an adjoining racecourse, was proclaimed a public recreation area to be known as 'Hyde Park' on 6 October 1810 by Governor Macquarie.⁹¹

Richard Rouse and his wife Elizabeth together with two children arrived in Australia on the "Nile" on 15 December 1801 and lived in a tent at the cricket ground until he was given his first grant of land at Toongabbie, Mulgrave Place, on the Hawkesbury'.⁹² It is likely that the Browns, Dights and the few other free settlers, who came aboard the Earl Cornwallis six months earlier, were dealt with similarly.

The promise of government work to David would have been promptly mentioned. The Colonial Government had pressing needs for a variety of carpentry skills in the colony. David and possibly his eldest boy, James, would have been put to work quickly.

'The Green Gate' Inn owned by Edward Willis was located in The Rocks area, at the Hospital Wharf end of Market Place (now George Street) at the time of their arrival. Perhaps the family spent some time there? For whatever reason, David junior seems to have been favourably impressed by the establishment, for he gave the same name to his first inn at Jerry's Plains many years later.

Bizarre Sequel to Events at Rio

Lieutenant Marshall RN, Naval Agent aboard the Earl Cornwallis for its voyage to the colony, was accused of misappropriating the effects of the officer, Lieutenant Henry Crawford, including his gun, who had drowned in Rio de Janeiro. The incident came to the notice of Captain John Macarthur of the New South Wales Corps, and then acting Commandant. He promptly reported it to the Governor, who reprimanded Marshall. A few days later, Marshall met Macarthur on the parade ground and called him a liar. Macarthur responded by calling on the services of Captain Abbott, a friend and challenged Marshall to a duel. The duel was aborted because Abbott refused to deal with Marshall's second - A crewman of the Earl Cornwallis, whom he regarded as too inferior in rank.

⁸⁹ Voyage on the Earl Cornwallis 1800-1802, 9th letter .16 August 1801. The Earl Cornwallis sailed from Port Jackson on 5 October 1801

⁹⁰ King Letter 8 July 1801

⁹¹ Serenade to Sydney.

⁹² The Story of Gulgong,



Manuscript : Alpha 2 July 2016

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Extracted from map of early Sydney 1803-10 by Bryan Thomas 1979.



Street, Marshall stopped and looked to see Abbott walking up the hill with a fellow officer, from the direction of Tank Stream and Government House beyond. Marshall approached them and tried to talk to Abbott, who refused to speak. In response, Marshall called him a ‘damned scoundrel’ and hit him with the bludgeon. Abbott, a small man, escaped in the direction of the Lieutenant Governor’s house close by, and called for assistance from the sentry, who intervened. Marshall walked away but not before informing them of what he planned to do to Captain Macarthur, should he meet him.

Adjutant Munch soon caught up with Macarthur and briefed him about the situation. They set out from the Lieutenant Governor’s house, down Market Place towards the Cove, but soon returned to the vicinity of the Bonded Stores. There, within an hour of Marshall’s attack on Abbott, they spied Marshall. Marshall it seems was some way up High Street and was heading in the direction of the Cove when he saw Macarthur. Still carrying the club Marshall arrived opposite the Lieutenant Governor’s house and approached Macarthur.

Macarthur, a much bigger man than Abbott drew his sword, and told Marshall that he would run him through. Marshall’s bravado deserted him and he withdrew. Macarthur immediately called the guard who escorted him to the ‘Guard House’ conveniently nearby. Lieutenant Marshall was later court-marshalled.⁹³



Captain John Macarthur (1767 – 1834)

In consequence of this he was sentenced to pay a fine of £50 to the King and a year's imprisonment in the gaol. The sentence was partially remitted in August because of some legal irregularities. This was conditional to Lieutenant Marshall departing the colony on the Albion whaler.⁹⁴

This anecdote is useful on several levels. The account when read in conjunction with the map of the town at that time helps to give a ‘feel’ and character of the times. It is also a useful pointer the military’s domination of the colony at that time. It was a bizarre event that could not help but have been a source of interest to the colony’s small community. For the soldiers and settlers who came on the Earl Cornwallis, it would have been especially so!

Getting Settled

It is in this frontier setting that David, a fifty one year old widower, arrived with his four children. David and his family were settled on 100 acres of land that was formally granted by Governor King in November 1801.⁹⁵ In between times David would have been kept busy with his government work.

The ‘King lists’ of 1801 indicated that the Brown family was seven in number (this is likely to include two government servants, which was the normal allocation to newly arrived settlers) had two sheep.

The ‘land on the northern shore to the west of the Lane Cove River has fertile soil of shales and clays whereas that to the east is sandstone. Thus, the area to the east of the river remained uninhabited in the early years. The area to the west of the river developed as outposts of Parramatta and thus were known as the ‘Eastern Farms’ or ‘Eastern Hills’ because they were east of Parramatta.’⁹⁶

As happened on other occasions, it is likely that David was given informal consent to occupy the Eastern Farms property in anticipation of the grant being approved. Many of the grants in the area were much smaller allocations of 30 acres and said to have been predominantly occupied by settler soldiers or Ticket of Leave men. David’s land these days is bounded on the East by Badajoz Road, West by Boyce Street and

⁹³ John Macarthur, p176. Sydney’s George Street

⁹⁴ <http://www.jenwillets.com> - Earl Cornwallis

⁹⁵ ⁹⁵ Settlers Muster Book 1801 King’s List 1801 List 1, BA 013.

⁹⁶ The History and Description of Sydney Harbour, p312



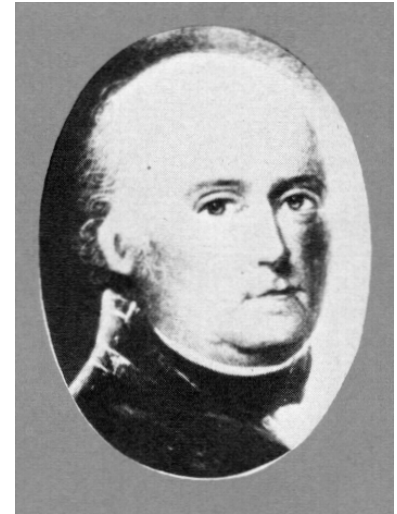
Wicks Streets; South by Quarry Road, and on the North by Coxs Road. The grant was formed of southern and northern portions – The dividing boundary between them is these days represented by Twin Road. The Macquarie Hospital (previously the Ryde Psychiatric Hospital) is now located on the northern portion of David's grant.

The Ryde region became known very early for produce from its orchards. Indicative of this is the famous 'Granny Smith' apple which had its beginnings there.

Why David was granted land in this location and not Mulgrave Place (now Richmond) on the Hawkesbury, such as was the case with John Dight and many others is a mystery. Perhaps David's particular allocation was a reflection of some privilege to which he was deemed to be entitled?

Getting About the Colony

For many years there was very little in the way of public roads in the colony. Transport from place to place close to the shores of Port Jackson, Parramatta River, and the Hawkesbury River was for the most part by boat. This was especially the case for anyone with property on the north side of the harbour, such as David Brown.



Captain Philip Gidley King (1758– 1808)
Governor of NSW
28 September 1800 to August 1806

Settlement of land on the north side of the harbour had begun in February 1794, after Phillip's departure. "*Major Grose decided to establish a farm settlement for old soldiers on the northern side of the Harbour, at a place which was jocularly named 'The Field of Mars', in the vicinity nowadays known as St Leonards and Artarmon. The settlement did not prosper, for the soil was unsuitable for farming, but it was from that experiment that boat transits across the harbour began.*"⁹⁷

A boat building industry rapidly built up in the colony to meet this need. A good supply of timber, conveniently located near the water way foreshores, facilitated the construction of all sizes of vessels.

People travelled by boat to social events, church, weddings and funerals and to visit each other. In later years, many children went to school by boat; it was part of a teacher's duties to row along the rivers and creeks to collect the pupils, returning them home in the afternoon. Store-boats with a complete range of household goods called periodically at the many small wharves, so residents could do their household shopping.⁹⁸

Kissing Point / Eastern Farms proved to be a convenient stopping place for travellers plying between Parramatta and Sydney Cove. An inn, 'The Malting Falcon', established in 1798 by one of David's neighbours, James Squire, was an added attraction; and one of several public houses much appreciated by the locals. James Squire is noted for having brewed beer in 1800 at Kissing Point, the first person on record in Australia to have done so. Squire had produced his first beer from hops imported from England. In 1806, he succeeded in growing and harvesting his own hops.

A register of arms listed on 10 April 1802 showed that David kept a gun and a bayonet at his property in the 'Kissing Point District'.⁹⁹ It is evident from the survey that all settlers had at least one 'gun' in their household. Guns in that event would have been, in fact, muskets.

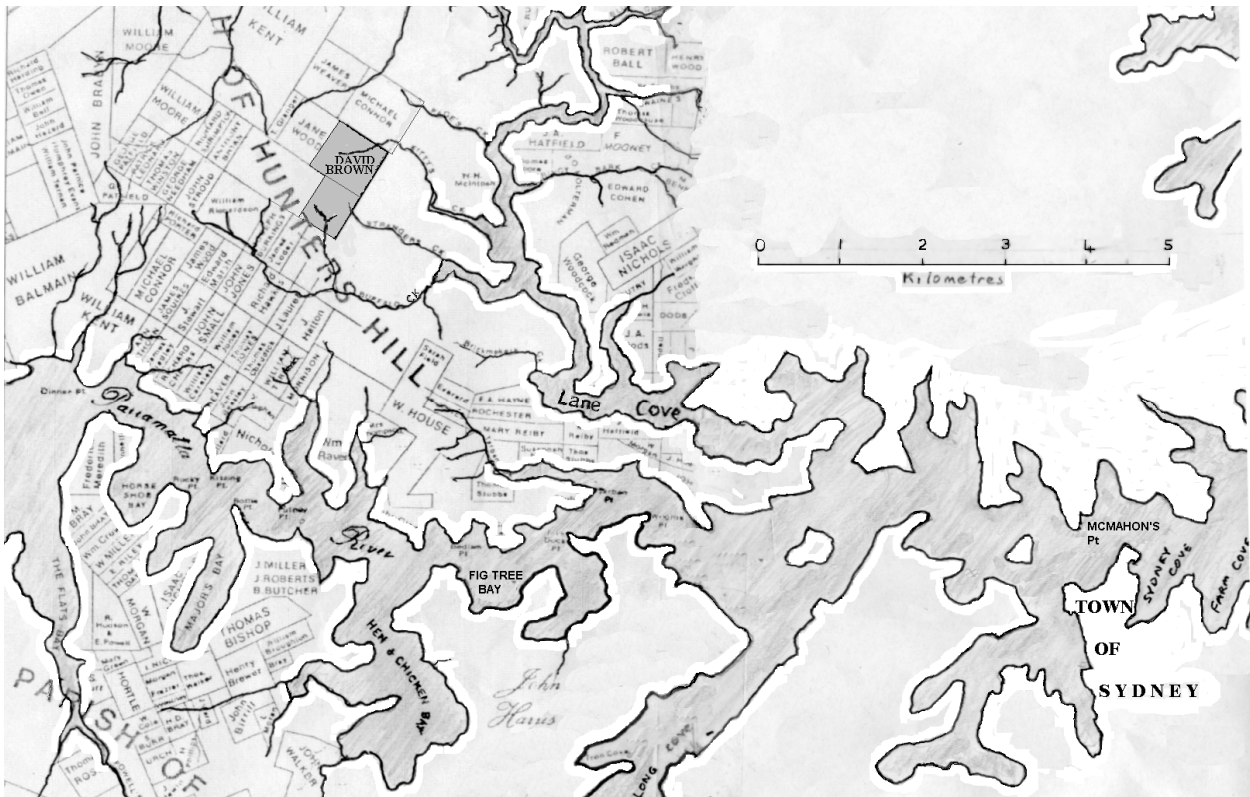
⁹⁷ The History and Description of Sydney Harbour, page 178. Two years earlier Governor Phillip made land grants on the Parramatta River to a corporal and eight privates of the marines. Phillip himself had 'jocularly named that settlement the Field of Mars. Those farms were presumably along the river flats of present-day Rydalmere, near Schaeffer's Vineyard; but confusion arose when Major Grose, established his soldier's settlement further east, and named it also the Field of Mars. Thereafter a large tract of the North Shore, from Parramatta eastwards to North Sydney, was loosely termed the Field of Mars, or alternatively the Eastern Hills.' p304. The term Field of Mars is said to come from the Latin Campus Martius, which was the field outside the walls of Rome where the soldiers trained. Mars in any case was noted in Roman legend and religion to be the God of war, and would have been familiar to anyone with a classical education, especially with a military bent.

⁹⁸ Around and About Wisemans Ferry – A Guide to the District. Loraine Parks & Jocelyn Powell. 1992.

⁹⁹ Colonial Secretary: Register of Arms, 10 April 1802. Entry for David Brown at Kissing Point (SRNSW ref: 4/1719 p89; SR Reel 6041).



Swords and pistols were also listed and seemed to be as plentiful as one another, though far less prevalent than 'guns'.



David Brown Snr's property 1802 – 1821 at Hunters Hill, comprising two adjoining blocks is shown shaded - 'Transport from place to place close to the shores of Port Jackson, Parramatta River, and the Hawkesbury River was for the most part by boat.' - JIG¹⁰⁰.

Bayonets were a much rarer weapon among the civilian population. The possession of a bayonet then was indicative of a person who had served as a soldier in war. Soldiers commonly souvenir bayonets from captured enemy. It is a pointer to the likelihood of service in foreign lands, probably in Europe. The question then arises as to whether it was a memento of David's service or someone else in the family, perhaps an earlier generation?

Perspective of a Foreign Visitor

A significant arrival to Port Jackson on 20 June of 1802 was the expedition of Nicholas Baudin on *Geographe* and *Le Naturaliste*. A member of this expedition, naturalist 'François Péron' kept a record of his impressions of Port Jackson and Sydney Town at this time. Browns and others aboard the *Earl Cornwallis* probably observed noted a year earlier much of what Péron described¹⁰¹:

'Towards the middle of this magnificent port, and on its southern bank, in one of the principal creeks, rises Sydney Town, the capital of the country of Cumberland, and of all the English colonies in this part of the world; seated at the base of two hills, that are contiguous to each other and having the advantage of a rivulet, which runs completely through it; this infant town affords a view, at once agreeable and picturesque.

To the right, and at the north point of Sydney Cove, you perceive the signal battery, which is built upon a rock, difficult of access; six pieces of cannon, protected by a turf entrenchment, cross their fire with that of another battery, which I shall presently mention; and thus defend, in the most effectual manner the approach to the harbour and the town.

Further on, appear the large buildings that form the hospital, and which are capable of containing two or three hundred sick. Amongst these buildings, there is one particularly worthy of notice, as all the parts of it were prepared in Europe, and

¹⁰⁰ Composite of three maps including Pioneer landholders - City of Sydney and Environs 1892

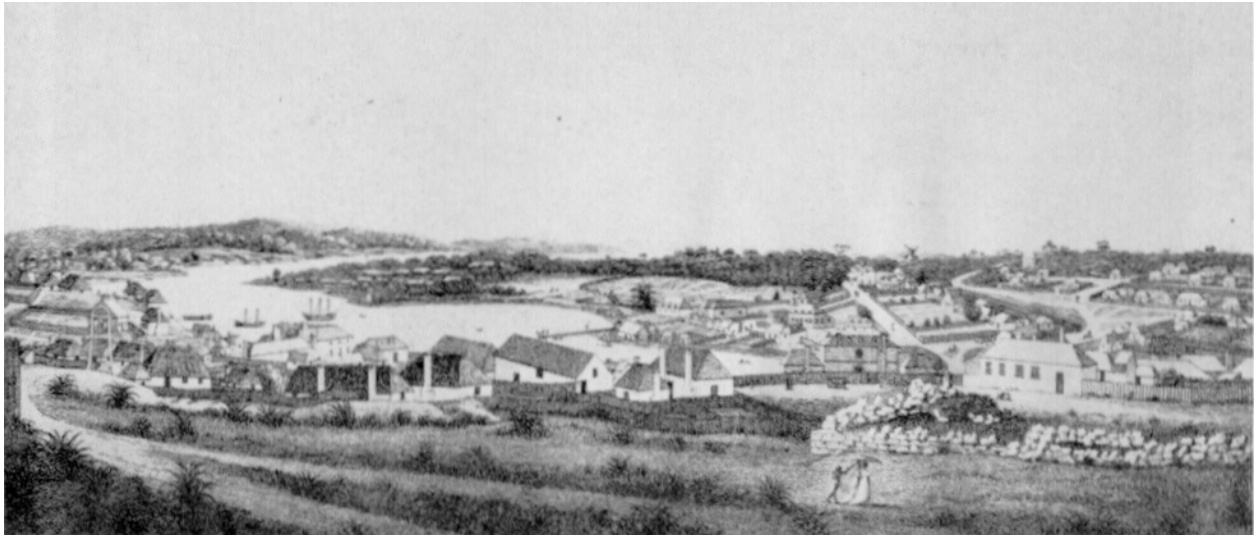
¹⁰¹ Sydney and French Explorers Colin Dyer - 2009



brought out in Commodore Phillip's squadron; so that in a few days after its arrival, there was a hospital ready to receive such of the crews as were sick.

On the same side of the town, at the sea shore, you observe a very fine magazine, to which the largest ships can come up, and discharge their cargoes. In the same direction are several private docks, in which are built brigs and cutters, of different sizes, for the purpose of trading either inland or beyond the colony. These vessels which are from fifty to three hundred tons berthed are built entirely with the native wood; even their masts are obtained from the forests of the colony.

It is at the spot called Hospital Creek, that the ships of individuals unload their cargoes. Beyond the hospital in the same line is the prison, which has several dungeons capable of holding from an hundred and fifty to two hundred prisoners; it is surrounded by a high and strong wall, and has a numerous guard on duty, both by day and night.



From View of Town of Sydney by W S Blake 1802.

A short distance from the prison is the storehouse, for the reception of wines, spirituous liquors, salt provisions etc. In the front of it is the armoury where the garrison is drawn up every morning; accompanied by a numerous and well composed band, belonging to the New South Wales regiment.

The whole western part of this spot, is occupied by the house of the lieutenant governor general; behind which is vast garden which is worth the attention both of the philosopher and the naturalists on account of the great number of useful vegetables which are cultivated in it; and which have been procured from every part of the world by its present respectable possessor, Mr. Paterson, a distinguished traveller, and member of the Royal Society of London.

Behind the house and the magazine just mentioned is the public school; here are educated in the principles of religion, morals and virtue, those young females who are the hope of the rising colony; but whose parents are either too degenerate too poor to give them proper instruction. In the public school however, under respectable matrons, they are taught from their earliest years, all the duties of a good mother or a family.

Behind the house of the lieutenant governor in a large magazine, are deposited all the dried pulse and corn, belonging to the state. It is a sort of public granary intended for the support of the troops and the people who receive their subsistence from the government.

The barracks occupy a considerable square, and have in front several field pieces; the edifices for the accommodation of the officers, form the lateral parts or ends of the building; and the powder magazine is in the middle. Near this, in a small private house, the principal civil and military officers assemble. It is a sort of coffee house, maintained by subscription, in which there are several amusements but particularly billiards, at which any person may play, free of expense.

Behind the armoury is a large square tower, which serves for an observatory to those English officers who study astronomy.¹⁰²

¹⁰² http://www.jenwilletts.com/convict_ship_earl_cornwallis_1801.htm#%283%29



Progress

In November of 1802, a survey of settlers reveals David as having: 10 acres cleared of his Eastern Farms property, 11 acres under cultivation; and that he was growing 6 acres of maize, and 5 of wheat. He was in possession of 3 sheep, and 4 hogs. It tells us that David, his four children, and two assigned servants were all dependent on government stores. John Dight and his family, is also listed in the same survey as having received a grant of land of 155 acres at Mulgrave on the Hawkesbury. Their property was to become known as 'Durham Bowes'.

Up to this time, farms in the colony were cultivated by hoe. Land was cleared by cutting down trees, and leaving the stumps to rot, or be burnt out at a later date. The ground was then turned over with a hoe and wheat seed scattered and hoed in around remaining stumps. The number of stumps and the scarcity of bullocks or horses precluded the use of ploughs. Harvest took place in December when wheat was reaped and bound up into sheaves, then carried by men to a stack or barn; it was then threshed with a flail and taken to market. The district was noted even then for its fruit orchards. The timber in the region being cleared included Cedar, which was in demand by cabinetmakers for furniture production.

Farms tended not to have fences. Generally, the limited amount of livestock owned by small farmers as pigs and sheep would have grazed on the common.¹⁰³ After 1820, commons ceased to be made available in newly settled areas. Settlers increasingly made use of fencing on small properties; and on paddocks and stockyards on larger properties, to control stock.

David had drawn government stores since the day of his arrival on 10 June 1801. The government victualling book shows that he, James, and Thomas ceased to need them after having drawn them for 732 days, that is, just on two years - to June of 1803. Two years, was the normal period that the Government at that time could normally be prevailed upon by new settlers to provide food and other stores to facilitate their survival.

David junior and his sister, Mary, are shown as having come off stores, together, six months earlier, at the end of 1803. It seems likely that brother and sister were not living at the farm, but in the Sydney Town?¹⁰⁴ Mary, then a young lady of eighteen years is likely to have been a well educated – As such she had potential to have been in demand as a tutor; or paid or kept companion to one of the 'Ladies' of the colony. David junior, then a youth of about thirteen years of age, possibly had been offered employment nearby? Another possibility is that James Chisholm wanted and was willing to pay for her services as Housekeeper for his large premises. In such circumstances, David jnr's services as assistant, companion, and chaperone would have been very 'proper'.

Field of Mars and Eastern Common

Along with Francis Oakes, and James Squire, David became 'Residentary Trustee' of the Field of Mars and Eastern Common on 11 August 1804 by Government Order.

Francis Oakes was a lay preacher of the London Missionary Society who was appointed as head constable at Parramatta in 1805. In 1807, he married Rebecca Small who was claimed to be the first white child born in Australia. Her father was a successful farmer and later and inn-keeper at Kissing Point.¹⁰⁵

James Squire, the proprietor of the popular 'The Malting Falcon' inn, had emigrated to NSW as a free settler at the age of forty. He was granted land at Kissing Point in 1795 and had become a successful farmer and bought up other blocks of land in the area. Squires resided in the Kissing Point area for the remainder of his days.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰³ Macquarie Country, p7,8.

¹⁰⁴ The King Papers, Vol A 1976, p107. No of days settlers victualled up to 30 June 1805. Mitchell Lib ref CY904. David and Mary Brown are shown as 570 days.

¹⁰⁵ The History and Description of Sydney Harbour, page 317.

¹⁰⁶ The History and Description of Sydney Harbour, page 306.



David Brown, Francis Oakes, and James Squire remained trustees of the Common into the 1820's.¹⁰⁷ The office may have bestowed some small financial benefit? One explanation offered regarding David Brown's appointment was apparently on the basis of David being one of the few free settlers amongst the many 'ticket of leave' farmers. His land, like some of Squire, abutted the Common at his eastern boundary is also likely to have been a factor?

Unrest in the Colony

In 1804, thirty-four convicts involved in an uprising at Castle Hill were banished to Coal River penal settlement as the first intake of that settlement. It was established for convicts who had committed a colonial crime.¹⁰⁸ Later the settlement was known as 'Newcastle', and the river, 'the Hunter'. At the time, and for many years to come, the only access to the Hunter River was by boat. Convicts were put to work mining coal, timber-getting, and making lime. The initial settlement of 1804 was the beginning of a series of events that were to ultimately draw the Browns, and other free settlers, to the Hunter. The Hunter remained a penal settlement until about 1819, when land in that area was made available to ticket of leave men and free settlers. By then there were 850 convicts working in Newcastle. However, until then it was the land at Cattai Creek on the Hawkesbury, near Windsor, that was to absorb the Brown family's interest in the colony's expansion.

Many of the convicts involved in this revolt were Irishman. Many of those, if not involved in the 'troubles' of 1798, were motivated by it, and the circumstances that led to it.

¹⁰⁷ SG Sunday, 20 January 1805. 1a.

¹⁰⁸ Lt John Shortland visited the Hunter River in 1798 while pursuing escaped convicts. He saw the coal seams at the mouth of "a very fine coal river which 'I named after Governor, Hunter'". Explore the Convict Trail: The Great North Road.