

## Notes for sample chapter

### 5. Sydney Cove 1788

Reference to Sydney Cove's previous name 'Warran' or 'Warrane', see *Dawes' Notebooks*, op. cit. Notebook C, p. 52-53. Also see a map reproduced in Smith (2001,) op. cit. p. ix

Collins described a site adjoining Sydney Cove on which natives performed a special initiation ceremony known as '*Yoo-lahng erah-ba-diahng*', (involving the extraction of the upper front tooth of young males). It was performed in a specially prepared sacred space known as '*Yoo-lahng*'. Collins described the ceremony as taking place at the head of the little cove known to the natives as Wogganmagule (see reference to the map in Smith, 2001). The place was named 'Farm Cove' by the British & is now the site of the Sydney Botanical Gardens. See Collins op. cit. pp. 351-364 (The ceremony also took place in other locations.)

For evidence of natives watching boats enter Port Jackson then retreating into the shadows, see '*The Journal of Arthur Bowes Smyth: Surgeon, Lady Penrhyn, 1787 – 1789*', p. 64: 'Upon entering the Harbour mouth, we saw many natives on the top of the high rocks; none of them have appeared since we anchored.'

George Johnston's coming ashore at Sydney Cove on the back of James Ruse: see *Sydney Gazette*, 20<sup>th</sup> June 1827: '*Colonel Johnston claimed the honour of being the first who landed, but it appears he was carried ashore on the back of Ruse*'. Whether or not Johnston or Ruse were the first ashore is not debated in this book; it is only claimed that Ruse carried Johnston ashore, as he asserted. We know that on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 1788, while the fleet was still at Botany Bay, Lt. Johnston was among officers ordered to transfer to *Supply* to go ahead of the main fleet with a group of male convicts to Sydney Cove. He would have been among the first of the main fleet to land there. Arthur Bowes Smyth, op. cit. pp. 63, 64, mentions Lt. Johnston's instruction to '*proceed on Supply to go with a detachment on shore at Port Jackson*'; Also see Roberts, '*Marine Officer, Convict wife*', (2008) p. 19, for reference to Johnston's son Robert, retelling the story of his father wading ashore, and the officers and men laughing when, after stumbling, his hat floated across the water. See Mitchell Library: MSS6485, part 4, folder1 & 2, '*Items relating to Douglas Hope Johnston*'. Also, an article 'The First Hawkesbury Farmer' in *Windsor and Richmond Gazette*, 22 April, 1899, supports the story. See also an article: '*Lieutenant-colonel George Johnston*' in *Manly Daily*, 14<sup>th</sup> Aug, 1924: '*George Johnston was the first man to land both at Manly and at Sydney Cove, being ordered by the governor...*'

See Esther Abraham's listing as a convict on board the *Lady Penrhyn*, see, '*The Journal of Arthur Bowes Smyth*', op. cit. p. 7 (listed as Esther Abram) George Johnston is also listed on the same ship as Lieutenant of the Marines. See Chapman, (1986). 1788: '*The People of the First Fleet*', pp. 21-23 for entries on Esther and her daughter, Roseanna.

For further detail on Esther Abraham's background, crime & sentence, see Roberts, op. cit. pp. 200-201. Also De Vries, (2009) '*Females on the Fatal Shore*', devotes a whole chapter to Esther and Roseanna, pp. 11- 41.

For Esther's appearance see her portrait painted in 1824 by Richard Read, when she was in her early fifties, in Roberts, (2008) '*Marine Officer, Convict wife*', p. 68.

## ACROSS GREAT DIVIDES

The actual date of the beginning of George Johnston and Esther Abraham's lifelong love affair is unknown. Some historians have suggested that it began on board the *Lady Penrhyn*, others soon after disembarkation. George would certainly have met and spoken to Esther during their eight month voyage as part of his role was to supervise the 109 convict women on the *Lady Penrhyn*. Johnston's first dwelling was on the east side of the cove near the governor's marque. His and Esther's first child together, George junior, was born in early 1790. They remained partners for life.

January 26<sup>th</sup> 1788, see Lt. King's journal, op. cit. p. 36, for reference to 'English colours displayed'. Collins, op. cit. p. 60, says 'a flag-staff had been purposely erected and an union jack displayed'. See, '*The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay with an Account of the Establishment of the Colonies of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island*' entry for Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 1788.