Traders, Pirates and Blackbirds: Maritime connections between Colonial Sydney and the Pacific, 1788-1888.

Dr Wayne Johnson
Senior Archaeologist,
Property NSW
In the port we saw several vessels recently arrived from different quarters of the world... Here from the banks of the Thames or the Shannon were some about to proceed to the foggy shores of New Zealand, and others... about to sail for the Yellow River of China; some laden with coal for the Cape of Good Hope and India; many of the smaller build ready to depart to Bass’s Strait, to collect furs and [seal]skins obtained there by men left on the different islands ... there was all bustle to fit out store-ships for the Navigator, Friendly and Society Islands, to bring back to the colony the exquisite salt pork of those islands. Already the road to Port Jackson had become familiar to the Americans, their flag was incessantly flying in this port throughout the whole course of our stay. (François Péron, 1802)
FOWEN'S FIRST GOVERNMENT HOUSE, RISDON, IN 1804.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time of entry</th>
<th>Vessel’s name</th>
<th>Master’s Name</th>
<th>Built</th>
<th>No. of Tons &amp; Feet</th>
<th>Where and when built</th>
<th>Where and when registered</th>
<th>Owner’s name</th>
<th>General cargo</th>
<th>From whence</th>
<th>Where bond given</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 Jan.</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>J. Pendanton</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>90 4 27</td>
<td>Barnstable</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Fanning &amp; Co</td>
<td>5,000 skins</td>
<td>King’s Island</td>
<td>Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Harrington</td>
<td>Wm. Campbell</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>149 6 10</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Messes, Chance &amp; Co</td>
<td>Sugar and tea</td>
<td>Madias</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Ferretti</td>
<td>Philip, Shelton</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>393 16 25</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>David Bennett</td>
<td>Ballast</td>
<td>Cape Barren</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>Sbd. Bichle</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>311 4 14</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Paul Gardiner</td>
<td>General merchandise</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Rose</td>
<td>J. Carey</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>385 8 21</td>
<td>Nantucket</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>20 tons ebony wood</td>
<td>Isle of France</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Scorpion</td>
<td>Wm. Dagg</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>345 14 22</td>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Messes, Mathers</td>
<td>114 casks pork</td>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 April</td>
<td>Mersey</td>
<td>Jas. Wilson</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>236 16 72</td>
<td>Fort Williams</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Jan. Wilson</td>
<td>4,750 skins, 90 barrels oil, 100 tons salt</td>
<td>Bengal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Cannele</td>
<td>Geo. Quedenv</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>301 6 34</td>
<td>Dorset</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Messes, Harrys</td>
<td>120 tons oil, 7 hogsheads butter</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>R. Rhodes</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>210 6 25</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>J. E. Farrell</td>
<td>118 tons oil</td>
<td>Manila</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>Buffalo</td>
<td>Wm. Kent</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>356 14 62</td>
<td>Bengal</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>J. E. Farrell</td>
<td>General merchandise</td>
<td>Calcutta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Lady Barlow</td>
<td>A. McSkill</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>356 14 62</td>
<td>Bengal</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>General merchandise</td>
<td>General merchandise</td>
<td>England</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 July</td>
<td>Experiment</td>
<td>J. F. Withers</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>368 15 45</td>
<td>Wigram &amp; Co</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>General merchandise</td>
<td>General merchandise</td>
<td>England</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Nov.</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>J. Pendanton</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>99 4 27</td>
<td>Barnstable</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Fanning &amp; Co</td>
<td>12,000 oaks, 6 hogsheads whalebone</td>
<td>Bass’s Strips</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Aug.</td>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>O. F. Smith</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>322 10 10</td>
<td>Kangaroo Islands</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Messes, Champion</td>
<td>1,400 barrels oil</td>
<td>Bass’s Straits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Aug.</td>
<td>Pilgrimes</td>
<td>Sbd. Dahlen</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>67 6 9</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Bradbury &amp; Co</td>
<td>Ballast</td>
<td>Bass’s Straits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>Jno. Mertho</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>283 12 50</td>
<td>Howden</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Messes, Harrys</td>
<td>1,000 barrels sperm oil</td>
<td>River Derwent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Adonis</td>
<td>R. Turnbull</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>256 2 46</td>
<td>Sunderland</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Messes, Harrys</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Fish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Lady Barlow</td>
<td>A. McSkill</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>356 14 62</td>
<td>Bengal</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>J. E. Farrell</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Fish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Myrtle</td>
<td>H. Barber</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>280 12 30</td>
<td>East Indies</td>
<td>Fort William</td>
<td>Willm. Kinlock</td>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Fish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Union</td>
<td>Dl. Wright</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>99 4 19</td>
<td>Barnstable</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Fanning &amp; Co</td>
<td>Ballast</td>
<td>Tongataboo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Nov.</td>
<td>Policy</td>
<td>C. S. Foster</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>273 19 25</td>
<td>Dartmouth</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>General merchandise</td>
<td>General merchandise</td>
<td>From Batavia, bound to Ambonays</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Swift</td>
<td>J. Lawrence</td>
<td>Foreign</td>
<td>248 9 10</td>
<td>Taken by the Policy, 13 Sept. 1804, off Sumbawa.</td>
<td>Condensed at Sydney, N.S.W.</td>
<td>Fanning &amp; Co</td>
<td>Ballast</td>
<td>Port Banyu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Nov.</td>
<td>Swift</td>
<td>J. Lawrence</td>
<td>British</td>
<td>248 9 10</td>
<td>Taken by the Policy, 13 Sept. 1804, off Sumbawa.</td>
<td>Condensed at Sydney, N.S.W.</td>
<td>Fanning &amp; Co</td>
<td>Ballast</td>
<td>Port Banyu</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J. Harris, Actg Naval Officer.
Sydney Gazette, 23 Oct 1808, p2 ‘Brig Elizabeth arrived from Fiji with about 120 tons of sandalwood from “Sandalwood Bay”’ (Bua Bay, Vanua Levu)

(1851- Wesleyan Juvenile Offering VIII: p60)
SALES BY AUCTION.
BETTINGTON'S WHARF,
STORES,
HEAVING-DOWN-PLACE,
AND COTTAGE.

A. POLACK.

Has just received instructions from the 
Proprietor, James Bradley Betting-
ton, Esq., who has retired from business to the interior, to dispose of at Public Auction, without any 
reserve, in one Lot, the whole of the 
above extensive and valuable water-
side Premises, known as Bettington's 
Wharf, on MONDAY, the 1st of May, at 12 o'clock precisely, on the 
Wharf.

THE Stores are spacious and substantially 
built, containing a ground floor, and two 
stories over, also a Cooper's Shop and Blacksmith's 
Shop, and Men's Dressing Room, Oak 
Wardrobe, and Dressing Closet, with 
shelves, &c., &c., &c., all admirably adapted for a Pill 
Shop, detached Office, containing two rooms fitted 
with Books, Store, &c., &c., &c., with patent copying 
Machines, &c.

The rear-storied place has been prepared for commodities business, is very complete, and capable of 
being drawn rooms, wide halls of the greatest magnitude, and from the depth of water alongside, ship of the 
largest tonnage may land and discharge with the 
greatest facility. A very powerful Crane has also 
been erected thereon.

The cottage contains an Entrance Hall, with 
seven side-rooms, one Dining Room, with separate 
entrances into a Drawing Room, two back Bed 
Rooms, under which is an excellent Kitchen, with 
large range, oven, &c., complete, and in excellent 
repair; a large stand Pantry, and two servants' 
Bed Rooms, with an entrance Hall or large Passage 
from the garden, with an enclosed Yard, in which 
is an excellent well of pure Water.

The Dining and Drawing Rooms are fitted up with 
French Windows, opening into a balcony, 
overlooking the Wharf, Darling Harbour, &c., &c.
The Garden is in front of the Cottage, is of good 
size, surrounded by a stone wall, capable of great 
improvement, and is enclosed with Water 
Closet, with patent Cisterns, &c., &c.

Title a Grant from the Crown.

A. POLACK begs to remark that 'Bettington's 
Wharf' is so well known, that no comment is 
required from him; he will, therefore, merely add, 
that should any gentlemen desire to purchasing the 
Wharf, Stores, &c., &c., consider that the cottage is too 
small, that there is sufficient space towards of 
arable additions thereto.

A Plan of the whole is in the hands of the 
Surveyor, which, as soon as completed, with further 
particulars, will be made known in a future 
advertisement.

TERMS—Ten per cent. cash deposit on the 
fall of the hammer; half of the purchase money 
must remain on mortgage, at Ten per cent., for one 
year; or, if not paid, the vendor having approved bills at 
three, six, nine, and twelve months, with security on 
the property. Purchasers to pay their own 
monies.
Town’s Place warehouse excavations 2010.
Rocks merchant, and ex-convict, James Simmons (1795–1849) commissioned a dinner service, c1830-31, featuring a coat of arms and the inscription:

*Ships, Colonies & Commerce*
*For Sydney*
*New South Wales*
*James Simmons*
Millers Point and Darling Harbour, 1858
PUBLIC NOTICE.

MR. RICHARD KEMP respectfully announces to his Friends, and numerous Patroners, that he has carried on the Business of SAIL MAKER and SHIP CHANDLER, since the 31st December, 1827, ON HIS SOLE ACCOUNT, and he respectfully solicits their distinguished Patronage and Support to his present Undertaking.

Wharf, 1st February, 1828.
Self-portrait sculpture of Hongi Hika, carved at Parramatta in 1814 from a fence post.

Hongi Hika (centre) with Thomas Kendall (right), 1820
“Deptford Dockyard” at Hokianga, New Zealand. Painted by Augustus Earle in 1827, the dockyard was constructed by Sydney merchants Captain Ranulph Dacre (1797-1884), Thomas Raine (1793-1860), David Ramsay (1794–1860) and Gordon Davies Browne (d1841), to build and repair their trading vessels.
Long’s Lane (“Maori Lane”)

... from the fact that a colony of Maori whalers lived in and adjoining it. ... Mr. Cotton ...was known as the friend of the Maoris on the Rocks. For some reason not explainable at this distance in time, the little colony of New Zealanders became stranded, stone broke in fact, when Mr. Cotton stepped in and relieved their wants. One of the Maori women died in the lane, and as was the native custom, the body was wrapped in mats, and was being conveyed to the burial ground, when Mr. Cotton interfered, and had the remains properly coffined and decently interred at his own expense. (Truth 22 Jun 1902)
“Pioneer”, built by ASNCo at Darling Harbour in 1863

“Pioneer” gun turrets preserved at Ngaruawahia and Mercer, NZ

Rangariri Pa, Waikato River

“Rangiriri” remains preserved at Hamilton, NZ.
Royal Naval House ("Goodenough House"), The Rocks
HMS Alacrity, built as a schooner in 1873, (29 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1882, later used as accommodation during WWII, scrapped after 1945. (Graeme Andrews)

HMS Beagle, built as a schooner in 1873, (27 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1883, sold and last heard of in South America.
**HMS Conflict**, built as a schooner in 1873, (27 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1882, when it was sold, and was wrecked between Suva and Levuka in that year.

**HMS Renard**, built as a schooner in 1873, (27 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1883, later used as a trading vessel in Solomon Islands. Model made c1880s, now in National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.
HMS Sandfly, built as a schooner in 1872, (27 crew) patrolled the Pacific against “Blackbirding” until 1883, sold and used as a trading ship in Samoa.
William Henry “Bully” Hayes (c1827-1877). American sea captain, engaged in kidnapping Pacific Islanders from Tahiti, Fiji and Samoa in 1866-77 to work in Queensland. HMS Renard was sent to capture him in Tuvalu in 1876 but unsuccessful. Hayes was killed in a fight in Kosrae (Federated States of Micronesia) the following year.
Aunty Emelda Davis and Aunty Shireen Malamoo, descendants of South Sea Islanders blackbirded from the Pacific to work in Australia. (Photograph: Ben Doherty for the Guardian, 2017)

Social Activist Faith Bandler (1918-2015) was a descendant of South Sea Islanders. At the age of 13, her father was kidnapped from the island of Ambrym, in what is known as Vanuatu, and brought to Australia to work as an unpaid labourer in the Queensland cane fields.