

The Rev. Samuel Marsden.

1765-1838.

Elizabeth Marsden.

1772-1835.

Episode 3.

We are now up to when the Marsden family had settled down to live in Parramatta and had land grants at The Field of Mars and at St.Mary's. They would have five daughters and one son. I will do a family tree for you at the end of my story. Governor Hunter was by now engaged in serious disputes with Captain John Macarthur and the Officers of the NSW Corps over the import of rum and its use as currency in the Colony. In these disputes he was supported by Chaplains Johnson and Marsden. These disputes would continue until the Rum Rebellion in 1808.

These did not appear to have influenced the social lives of the Marsden and the Macarthur families. They were the only families in Parramatta not involved socially with convicts. Most of the Officers of the NSW Corps had convict mistresses and were therefore not acceptable in Society. The two families were the only ones able to mix socially. The two Elizabeths were close friends and their husbands, although said by History to be enemies, met with their families at dinner and traded cattle, sheep and land with each other.

In 1800 Governor Hunter lost the battle with the NSW Corps and was replaced by another Naval Governor, Captain Phillip Gidley King.

At this time there were 6,634 convicts of which 1,200 were Irish dissenters, many of whom were educated men. King saw them as possible leaders who would cause trouble and sent them to Parramatta where they would be dealt with by Marsden and Macarthur.

In 1800 the Rev Johnson left the Colony and Marsden became the Chaplain and was a very busy man. He now had to preach in Sydney and Parramatta. He was known to conduct morning Service in Parramatta, ride to Sydney and hold a Service and conduct some of his business affairs then ride back to Parramatta to conduct the evening Service. Most people went by boat as it was considered too dangerous to travel by road because of bushrangers and native attacks.

Samuel always managed to escape the attention of these people.

Another event occurred in 1800 that would help Marsden. A group of Protestant Missionaries arrived in Sydney Town. They came from Tahiti after being threatened by the local headhunters. They were not members of the Church of England, being Congregationists, Methodists and Presbyterians.

Marsden, being overburdened with work, told them that they were welcome to open their own Chapels in any part of the Colony.

A leader of this group was Rev. Rowland Hassell who, through Marsden's influence, was appointed Storekeeper at Toongabbie. Hassall's son, Thomas, would marry Marsden's eldest daughter Ann. In 1801 a Chapel was opened at Kissing Point (Ryde) and was used as a school on weekdays and as a Church on Sundays. It is now St. Ann's Church at Ryde. I was christened there in 1926.

Also at this time, a Presbyterian, Robert Campbell, came from India and settled at Dawes Pt. He was a member of a wealth Indian firm who wanted to invest in the new Colony. This would establish Sydney as a center of all Trade in the South Pacific area as he built new wharves and warehouses at Sydney Cove. He became firm friends with Marsden and was to share Marsden's role as the London Missionaries Agent in the area. This would be a rich and successful partnership for both men. Another of Marsden's schemes was The Orphan House Committee which set up orphanages in Norfolk Island,

Sydney and Parramatta. At this time there were 420 children who were either illegitimate or unwanted. As there were only 950 children in the Colony, Marsden saw this as a serious problem. The Committee was Mrs. King, William Balmain, John Harris, Mrs. Patterson and Samuel Marsden as Treasurer. It raised £1,500 and built a building at Parramatta and purchase Captain William Kent's mansion in Sydney. This rescue of unwanted children appealed to Marsden and he paid back to the Committee the commission that it had paid to him for his work.

These were busy years for Marsden. He had built a fine house in Parramatta and now had land grants at Dundas, Field of Mars and had purchased 230 acres at St Mary's where he had built the house named "Mamre" (The Plain in Hebron which God gave to Abraham) This was to be a Model Farm for the growing of fine wool. He purchased some Spanish Merinos from Captain Waterhouse and began a selective breeding program. At this time, in the Colony, sheep were only bred for food. It would be the beginning of the Wool Trade which would make Australia a very wealthy country.

Elizabeth had also been busy with a daughter, Elizabeth, born in 1796 and a son, Charles, born in 1798. Ann had been sent back to England to be educated and would live with Elizabeth's mother in Hull.

Samuel Marsden had the useful gift of being a great survivor. The Marsden family was away in England from February 1807 to 1810. He was able to bring substantial benefits to his private interests as well as his public causes. Being at the center of influence in London he had many successes.

Also the family was safely removed from the colony when events began the slide into Military Rebellion. Of which the leader was John Macarthur.

Marsden's reasons for going to London were compelling

1. Attempts to recruit Clergymen and School Teachers by letter had been unsuccessful and needed a direct approach to the Colonial Office and the Anglican hierarchy. He also had important Policy changes to put to the London Missionary Society to adopt New Zealand as its next venture.

Elizabeth's mother, Catherine Fristan, had died in 1804 and had left a large estate in Hull to her daughter and it meant that she must be living in England to inherit.

Samuel Marsden addressed the Colonial Office on "Positive Ideas of the Role of Church and School in NSW."

He also addressed the Archbishop of Canterbury with "Observations on the Toleration of and the Role of the Catholic Church in NSW."

He obtained the services and salaries of three Clergymen.

He also addressed the London Missionary society on how it should explore the bringing of religion to New Zealand.

On the 23 September 1808 disturbing news arrived in England giving details of a Rebellion in far away NSW. Major Johnson and the NSW Corps had deposed Governor Bligh.

Marsden heard that the rebels had taken all of his correspondence written to Bligh, warning him about "a general observation of the trading of spirits" and saying that Bligh should eliminate the trade. He also warned Bligh that John Macarthur would be the ring-leader.

Marsden knew that he must not return to NSW until the Government had regained control. He now postponed the family's departure until the new Governor, Colonel Lachlan Macquarie and his Regiment; the 73rd. Highlanders had arrived in NSW and taken control.

Marsden used the extra time to seek an interview with King George (Farmer George.) and they had long talks about farming in NSW.

When the Marsden family boarded *The Ann* on the 30 May 1809 also on board were five Merino ewes and two rams. They were a gift from Farmer George from his own flock of pure Spanish Merino Sheep. He sent a letter asking that Marsden should send him a “suit length of the finest wool as soon as possible.”

The long eight months voyage was not wasted by Samuel as he discovered that another passenger on *The Ann* was a young Maori Chief named Rautara. He was the son of the great Maori Chief Caparoo who was the brother of Te Pahi the High Chief of all Maoris. What luck for Samuel?

Samuel discovered that Rautara was ill with a lung infection so with medical aid, abundant food and the warm hospitality of the Family’s cabin he was soon restored to good health. Daily conversations between the two men were conducted in Maori with Samuel an eager learner. Samuel discovered that their religions had much in common and that the young Chief was deeply conscious of the inferiority of his people’s technology.

This gave Samuel a good idea about combining Religion with Trade with New Zealand.

At Rio de Janeiro Samuel purchased several hives of Honey Bees which appear to be the first introduced to Australia,

The Ann docked in Sydney Town in February 1810 and after a very long voyage the Marsden family disembarked to resume life in a Colony that was much changed since they had left it. The family now was Samuel, Elizabeth and four daughters and a son. There was also Mrs. Bishop a widowed lady from Hull who looked after the children.

Rev. Rowland Hassell, who had been managing the estate since the family had departed, had spent £6 preparing their house at Parramatta, was there to meet them. He would report that all the properties had

thrived in Marsden's absence and now had 1,184 sheep, 85 cattle, 39 hogs and 10 horses.

Samuel Marsden wrote in his diary;

My stock hath done well in my absence and all my servants have behaved well. I think that this very much to the credit of men and women who have been convicts, that they should do their duty for three years without their Master's eye.

Ann Marsden, writing with a teenager's view of an elder, delivered judgment on Governor Macquarie *after* he had ruled NSW for a few years;

The Governor is a great friend of The Gospel, tho' not pious, yet he is what the World calls a moral man which is much more than any of his predecessors. He has made good improvements in the Colony, particularly in Sydney Town.

Here may be seen why her father and Macquarie got on so well, apart from a few brushes, both set store by the observance of morality and Religious duty.

Macquarie reappointed Marsden as Principal Chaplain and as Magistrate in Parramatta.

Well that all for now folks. Episode 4 is coming up. I hope that you would like to keep going?? Please let me know how you feel.

(John Imrie, 4/5/2020)