

**Andrew Thompson is among the most inspiring men of early colonial Australia**

Born in rural Scotland in 1773, Andrew was transported to New South Wales aged 18 on an uncertain stealing charge and became one of the richest and most successful men in colonial Australia. As a police Chief Constable he gained prominence through his honesty, leadership and industry, and was appointed to official posts by Governors Hunter, King, Bligh and Macquarie.

He build a vast business empire despite opposition from the all-powerful NSW Corps and John Macarthur. Thompson was the first ex-convict to be made a Chief Magistrate. He became a friend of Governor Maquarie, to whom he bequeathed part of his estate.

Loved by the Hawkesbury settlers and honoured by Governors, Andrew Thompson gained more fame and fortune in New South Wales than he could ever have hoped for in his native land.

ANDREW THOMPSON  
ANNEGRET HALL

# ANDREW THOMPSON

*From Boy Convict  
to Wealthiest Settler  
in Colonial Australia*



HISTORY / BIOGRAPHY

Cover design by OzKunstPro

Cover background: 1850 painting by J.W. Lewin of the Blighon farm where Thompson was bailiff



ANNEGRET HALL

*Author of IN FOR THE LONG HAUL*

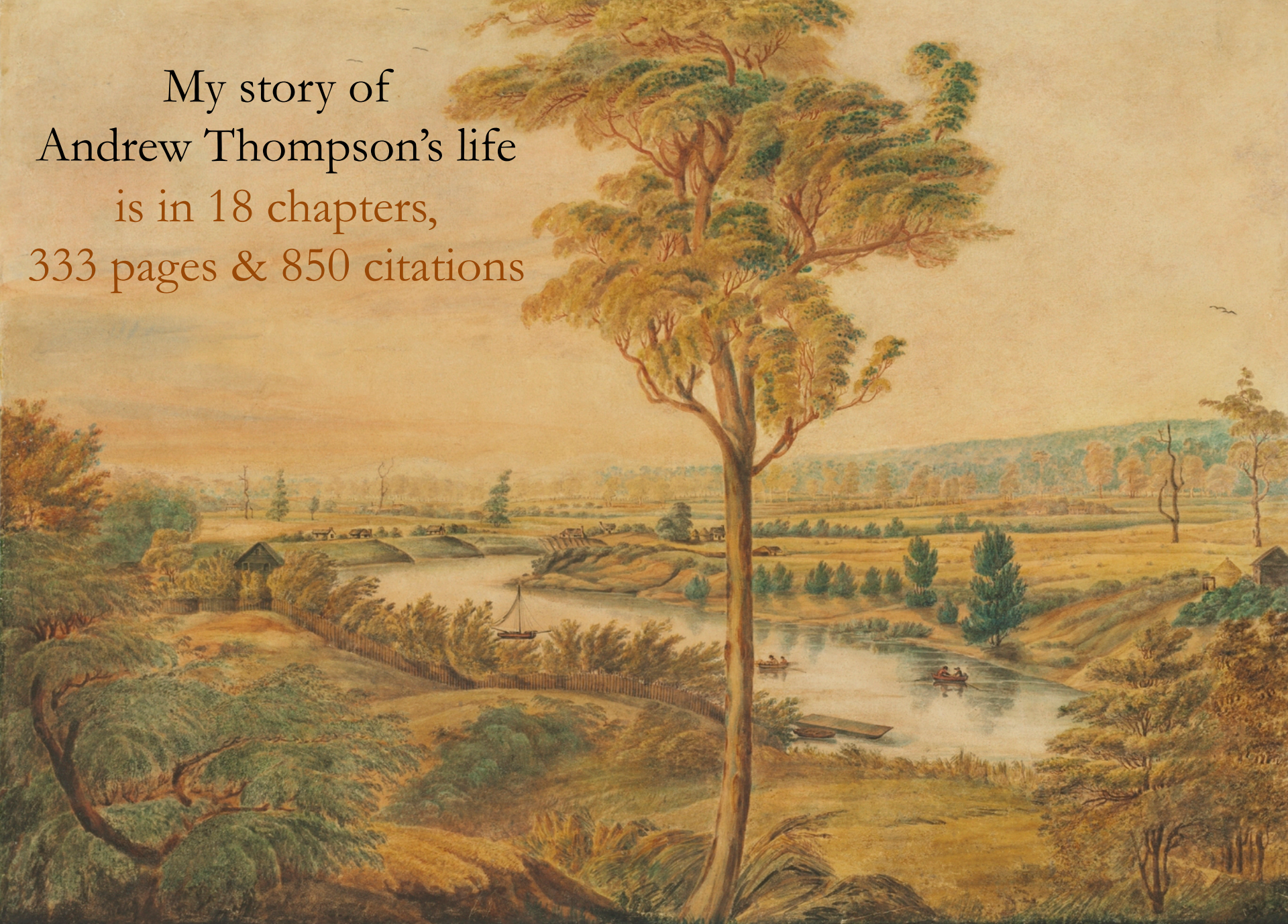


The biography of  
*The Father of Windsor*  
Andrew Thompson  
(1773-1810)





My story of  
Andrew Thompson's life  
is in 18 chapters,  
333 pages & 850 citations





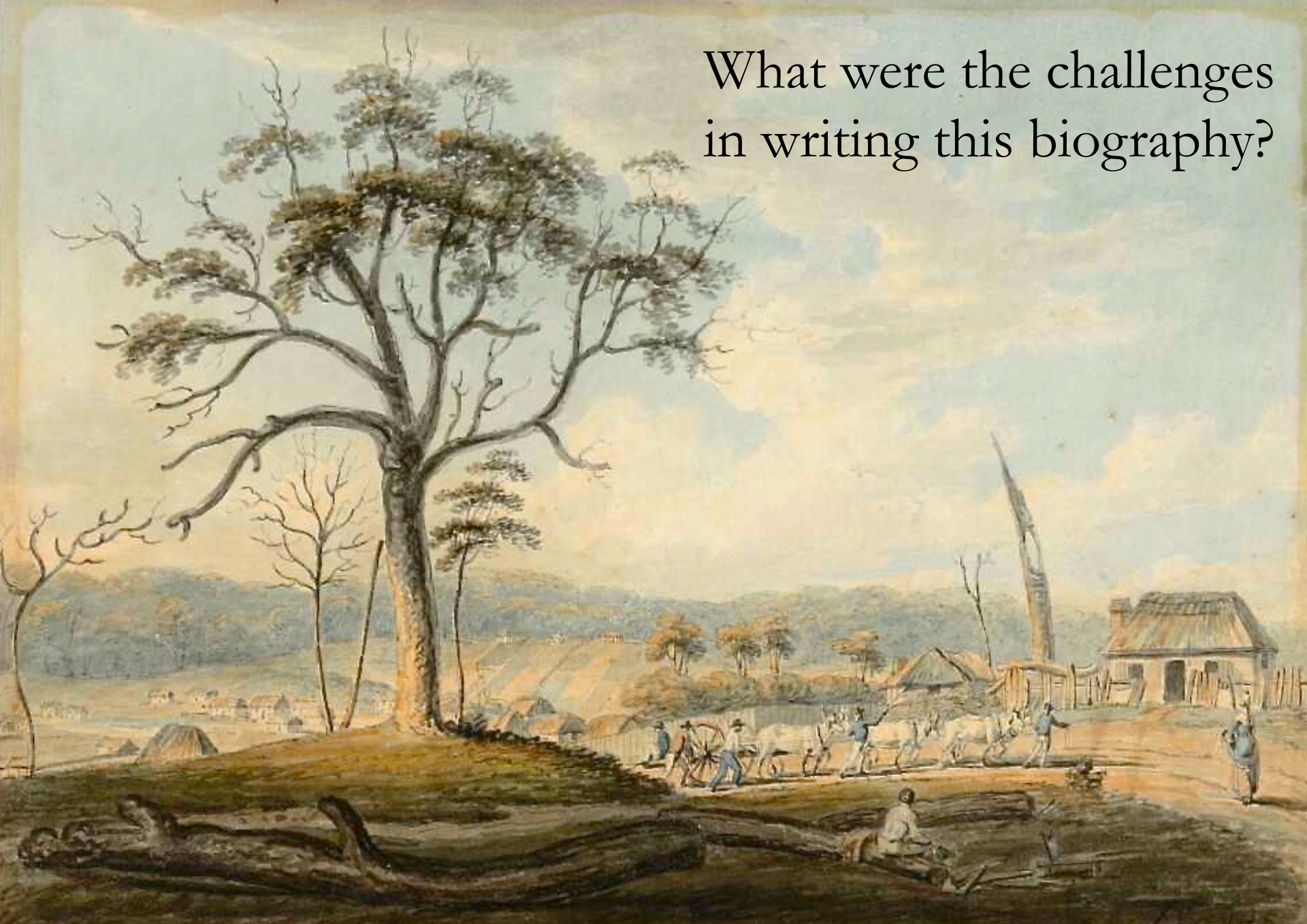
# *Andrew Thompson*

## Book Chapters

- |                        |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Great Expectations   | 10 Eleanor                     |
| 2 A Most Heinous Crime | 11 Bailiff of Brighton         |
| 3 Beyond the Seas      | 12 The Loyalist                |
| 4 A New Start          | 13 Rebellion                   |
| 5 The Young Constable  | 14 Loyalist Resistance         |
| 6 New Found Freedom    | 15 Local Hero                  |
| 7 Entrepreneur         | 16 First Emancipist Magistrate |
| 8 Chief Constable      | 17 A Remarkable Life           |
| 9 Settlers' Survival   | 18 Andrew's Legacy             |
|                        | Epilogue                       |



What were the challenges  
in writing this biography?





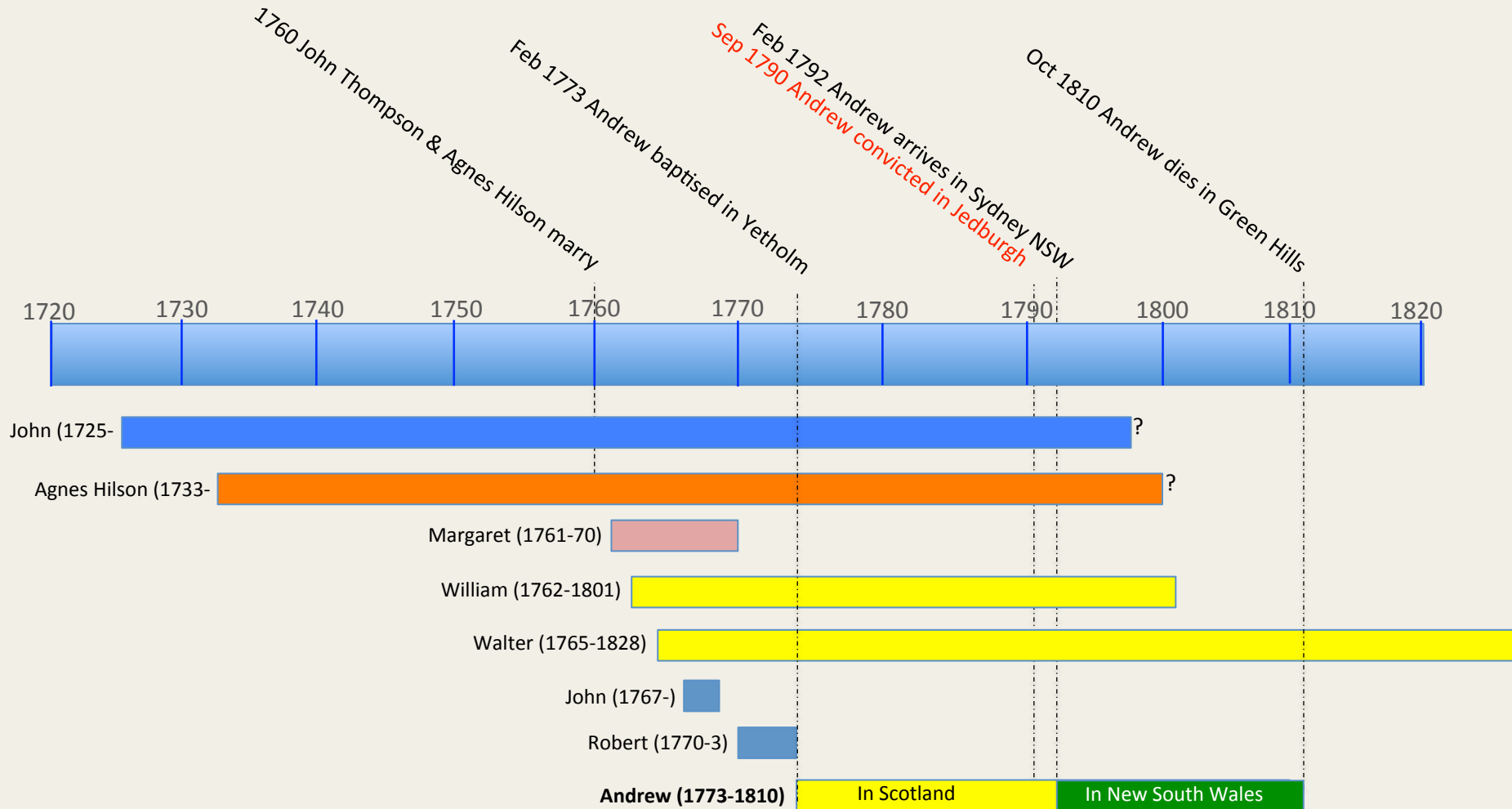
# Challenges in writing this book

Considering the prolific documentation on Andrew Thompson's activities in the NSW archives, it was surprisingly difficult to find material about his private life. This is because ...

- little is known of the 18<sup>th</sup>C Thompson family in Yetholm, and Scottish official records are fragmented prior to 1850.
- many official NSW documents from the chaotic years following the overthrow of Governor Bligh (1808-1809) are missing.
- there are few records about females in the early NSW colony – even those married to, or partnered with, prominent men.
- separating truth from intentional slander in the recorded interviews of the infamous *Bigge Report* is extremely difficult.
- none of Andrew Thompson's personal letters have survived.

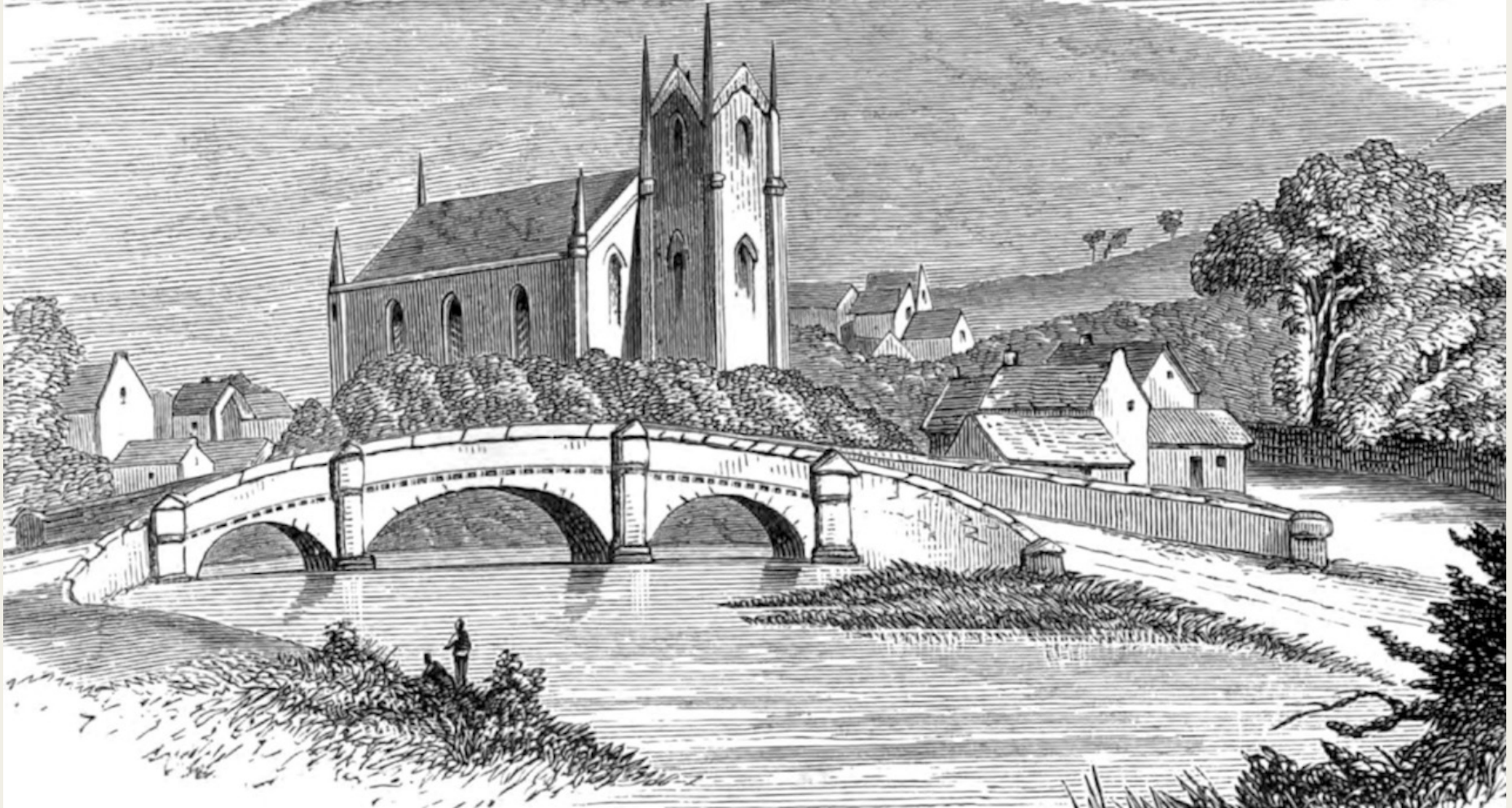


# *Timeline: Thompson Family in Yetholm*





In 1773 Andrew Thompson  
was baptized in Kirk Yetholm



18<sup>th</sup>C engraving of Kirk Yetholm village – over the Bowmont Water from Town Yetholm





Yetholm village in 1905 – 130 years after Andrew's birth

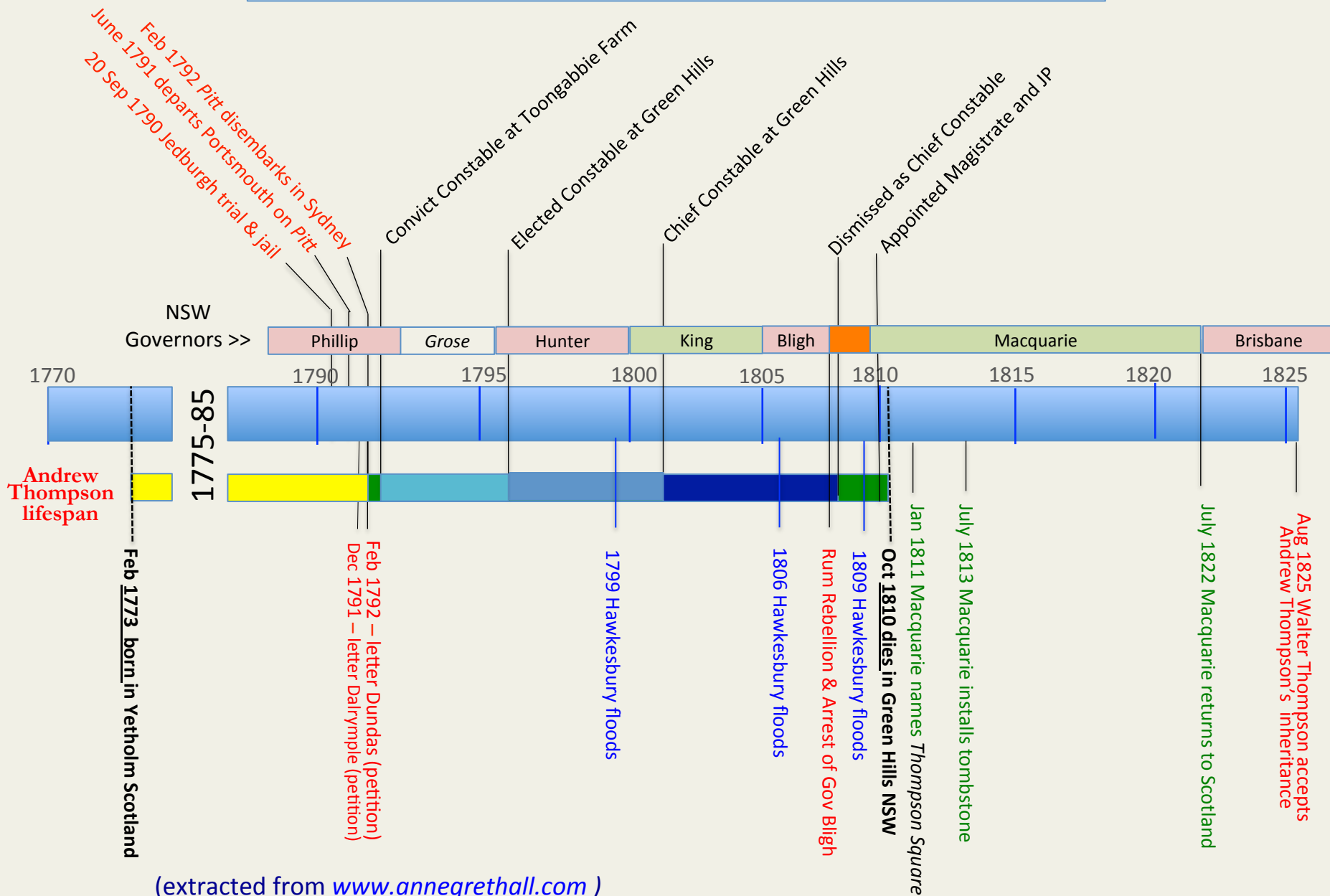




Main street of Town Yetholm today



# Timeline: Thompson's Life in NSW



I will concentrate on a  
few pivotal aspects of  
Andrew Thompson's life





## Pivotal aspects of Thompson's life

1. The crime he was accused of and transported for.
  2. Reasons for his rise to prominence in the colony.
  3. His personal life and companion Eleanor Moore.
  4. His loyalty and service to Governor William Bligh.
  5. The tortuous settlement of his bequeathed estate.
- On Wednesday evening I will talk at the Library on Andrew's legacy to the Hawkesbury district.

# Why was Thompson transported to NSW?



The *Pitt* transported 368 convicts to NSW on the voyage 17 Jul 1791 to 14 Feb 1792



# 1. Why was Thompson transported?

- In 1790 Andrew was charged with stealing from his brother and a local merchant. The main offender escaped.
- On 22 Sept he was found guilty of theft at the Jedburgh Assizes and sentenced to 14 years transportation to NSW.
- Andrew, aged 17, had been advised to plead guilty to avoid the death penalty. His 14 year sentence was unduly harsh!
- Three petitions for leniency from parents, MP & Laird of Niddrie were ignored. He was to be 'made an example of'.
- 17 July 1791 he sailed from Portsmouth on the *Pitt* with 46 of the first Scottish convicts transported to NSW.

In 1790 Andrew Thompson was  
imprisoned in the Jedburgh jail.







Early photo of the 18<sup>th</sup>C Jedburgh jail – it was demolished in 1929





Jedburgh market square today – the Town Crier's tower has been removed



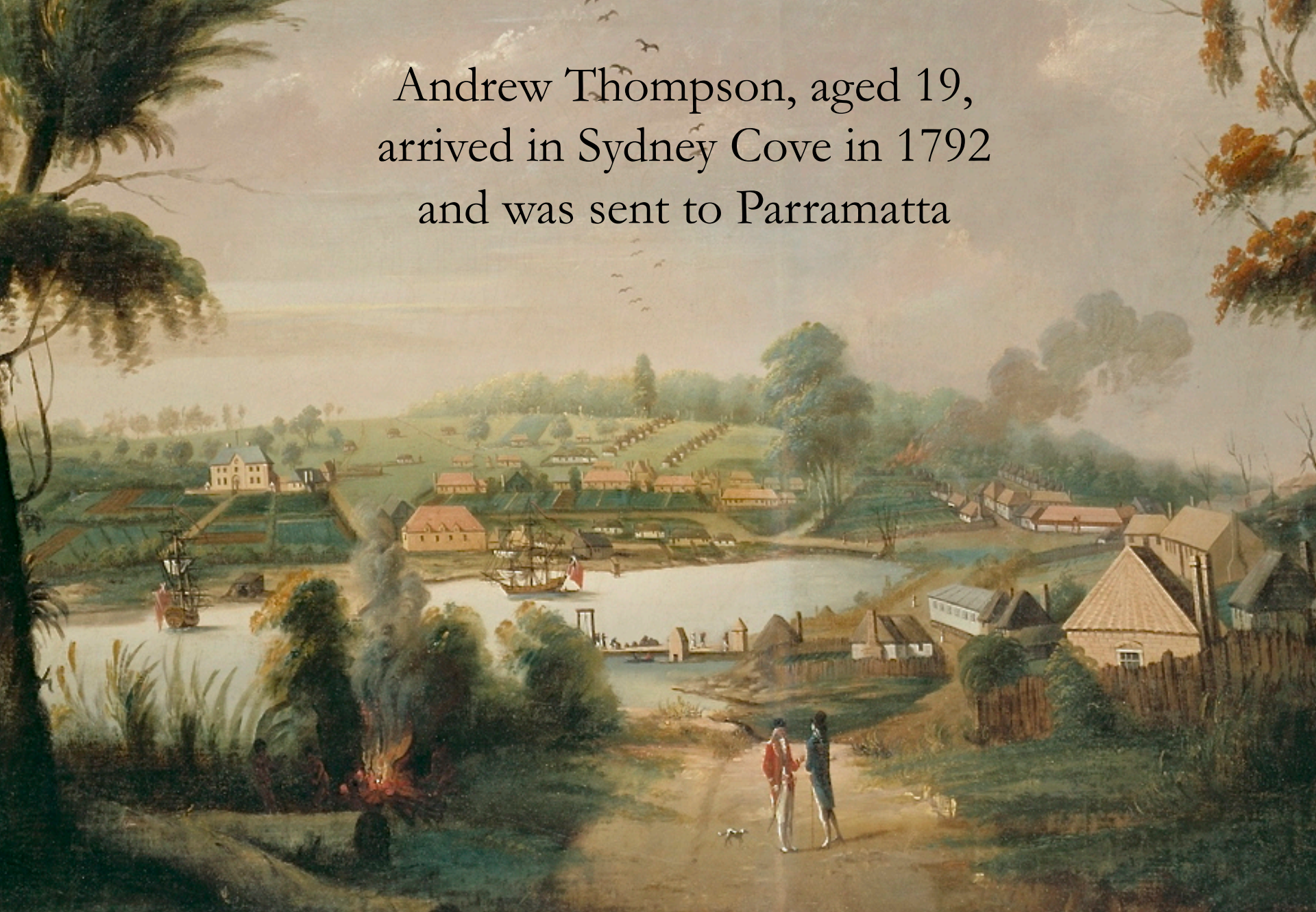


18<sup>th</sup>C Jedburgh  
bridewell jail  
& courthouse

where,  
at the quarterly  
assizes in 1790,  
Thompson  
pleaded guilty  
to burglary



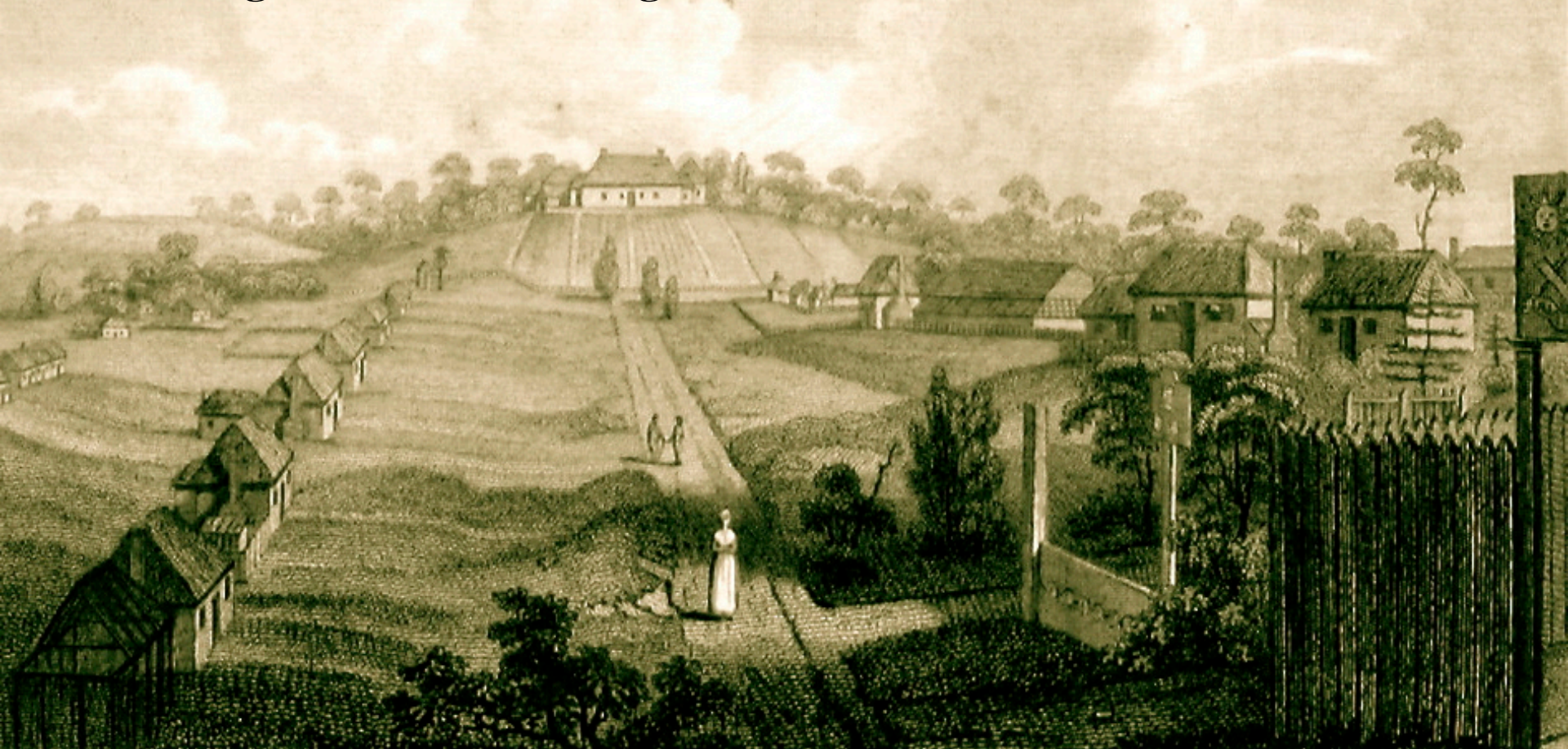
Andrew Thompson, aged 19,  
arrived in Sydney Cove in 1792  
and was sent to Parramatta



1794 view of Sydney Cove looking north



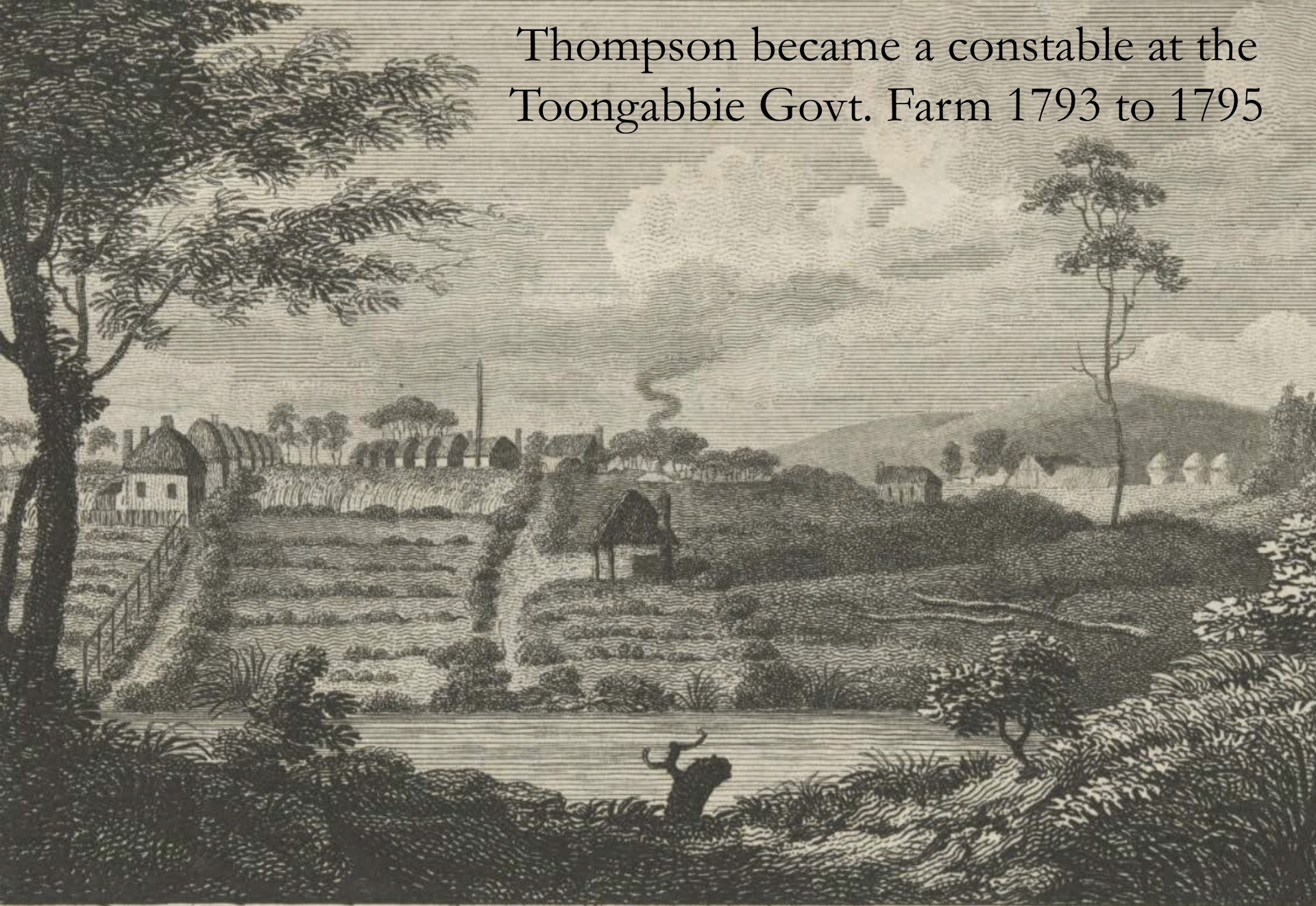
In Parramatta Thompson laboured as a stone mason and served rations in the govt. store, living with 17 other convicts in one of the huts along the road leading to Government House.



Track leading to Parramatta Government House with convict huts either side



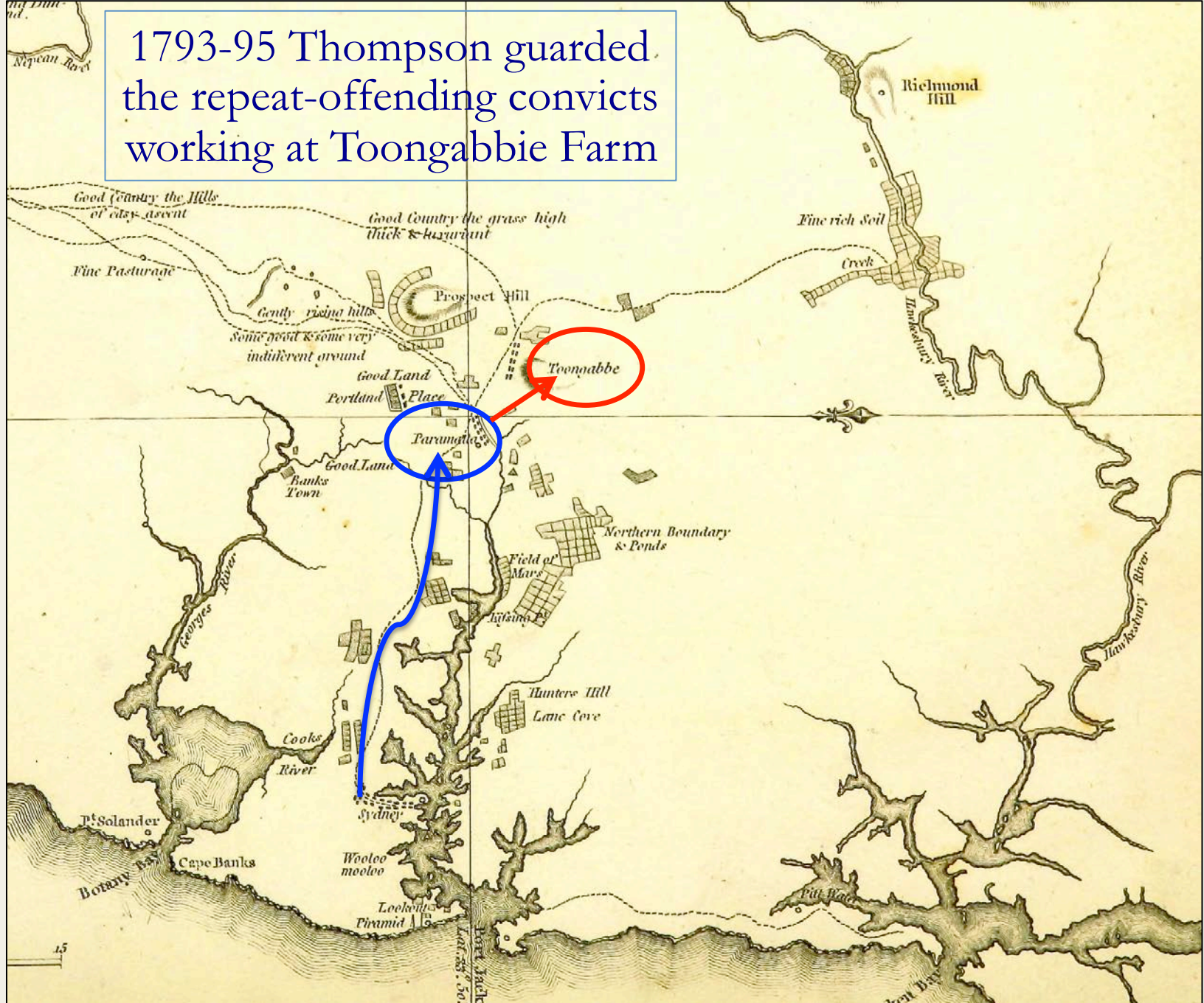
Thompson became a constable at the  
Toongabbie Govt. Farm 1793 to 1795



Toongabbie Government Farm in 1798

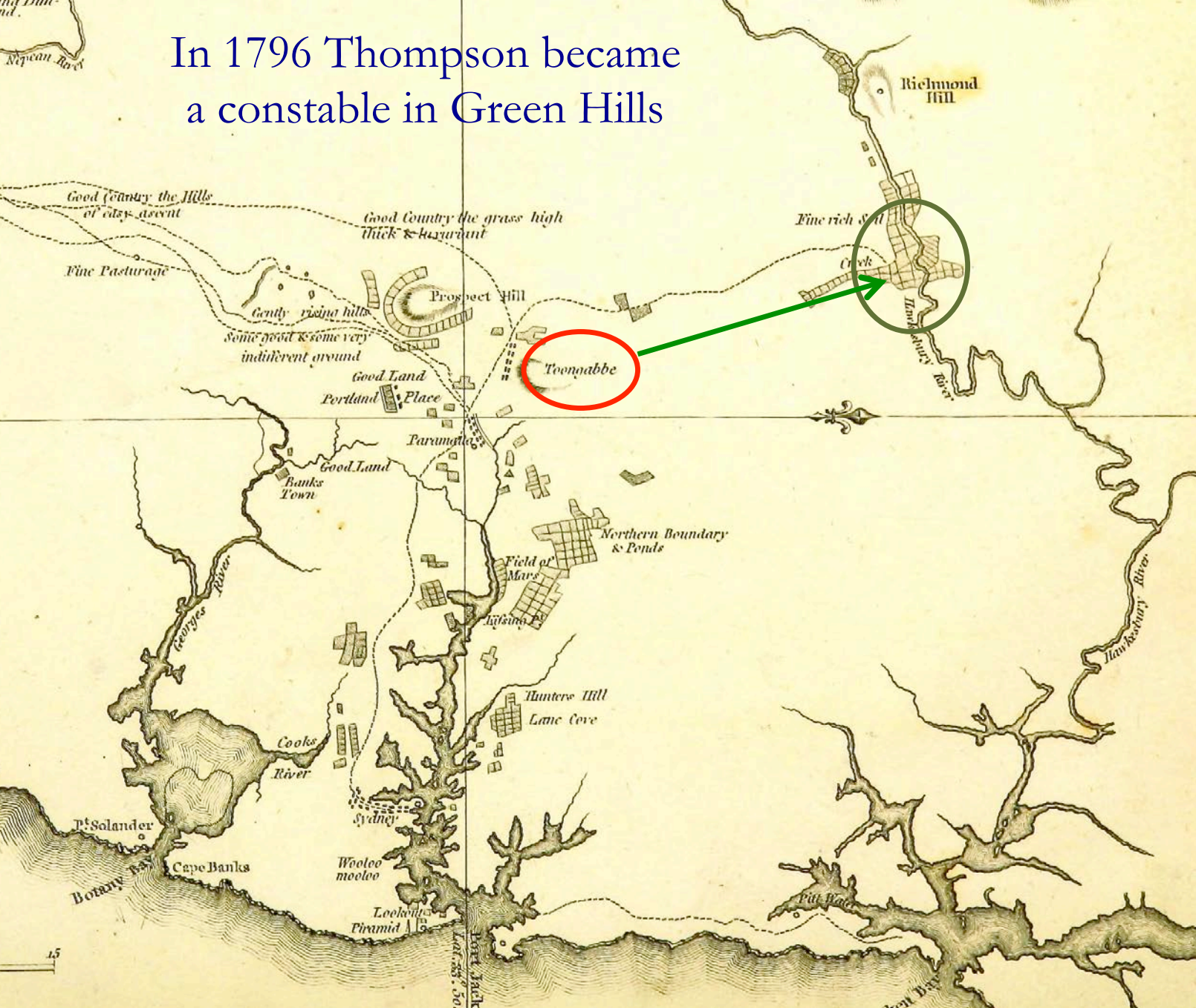


1793-95 Thompson guarded  
the repeat-offending convicts  
working at Toongabbie Farm





## In 1796 Thompson became a constable in Green Hills



Green Hills  
is the upper-right  
farm area on the  
Hawkesbury  
labeled  
'Fine rich Soil'.

The 'Creek' was  
later named  
South Creek,  
over which  
Thompson  
would build a toll  
bridge for trade  
to Parramatta.



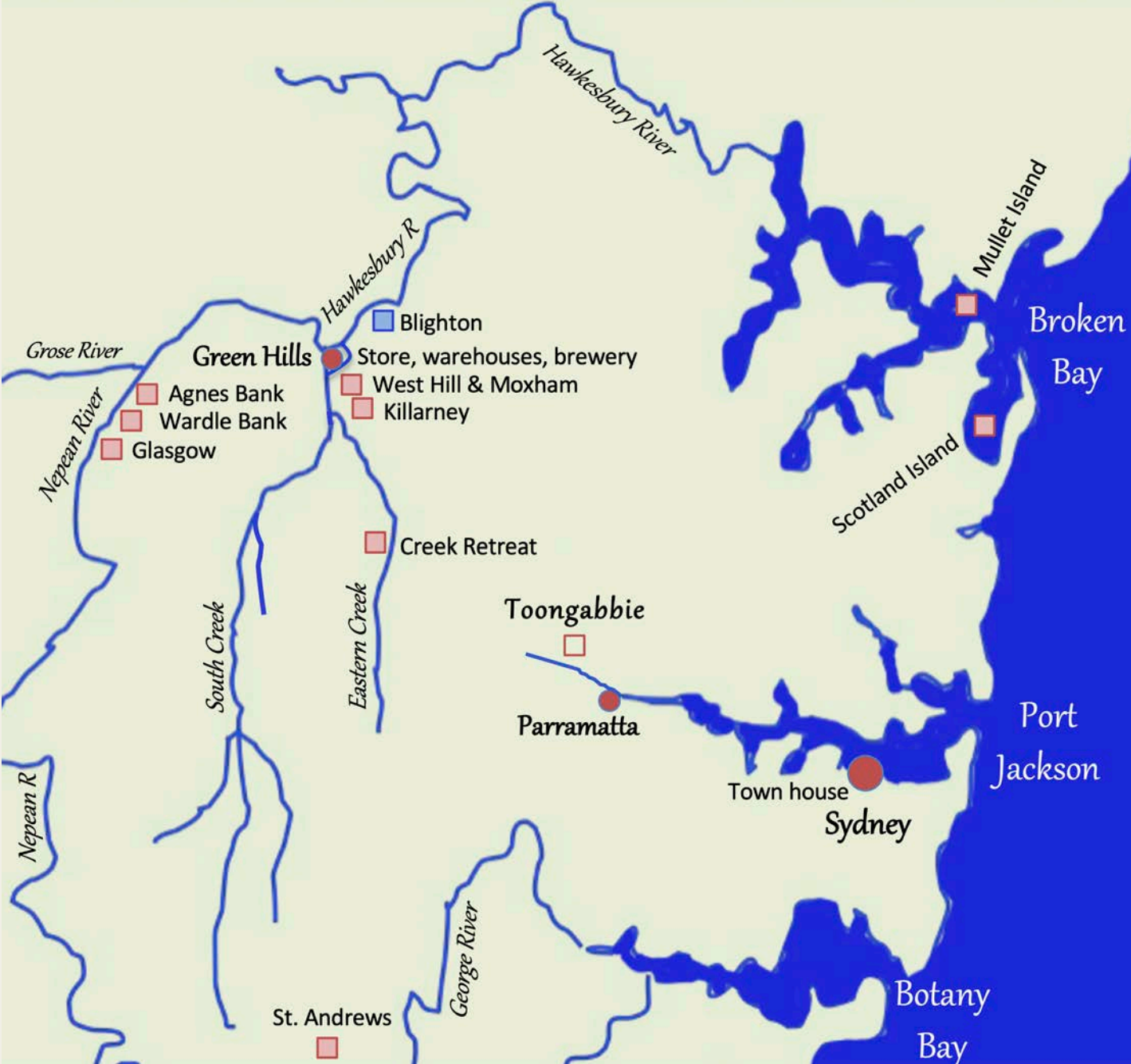
How did this young Scot rise  
to such prominence in the colony?



## 2. Why was Thompson so successful?

- Like many Scots Thompson had a good education and a trade, whereas most convicts in the colony had neither.
- He was generous with time & money, and helped anyone who sought it: settlers, soldiers, convicts and aboriginals.
- Thompson invested wisely and followed Govt. regulations.
- He cultivated friendships and employed many people in the district. This helped him in his policing duties.
- He accepted official responsibilities within Government.
- He was greatly admired for rescues during Hawkesbury floods and assisted devastated settlers with generous loans.





Map shows the properties (as pink squares) that Thompson owned in 1810.



In the mid-1800's Thompson was ordered to assist the Corps in trying to reduce conflicts between settlers and aboriginals.



View of the Hawkesbury River and Grose River in 1809





1816 painting of a typical flooding on the Hawkesbury River and South Creek



- a The Red House*  
*b Road to Parramatta*  
*c Toll House*  
*d A -- House*  
*e Old Burying Ground*  
*f Mrs Allcorns Farm*  
*g Mr Aspinalls Farm*  
*h Mr Marsdens Farms*  
*i Mr Fitzgeralds Farms*  
*k Mr Tibbells Farm (Mr Marsdens*  
*l Rochesters Farm*

*The dotted line is nearly the course of the South Creek*

Thompson's  
Red House



South Creek during time of 1816 floods



# What is known of Thompson's private life?



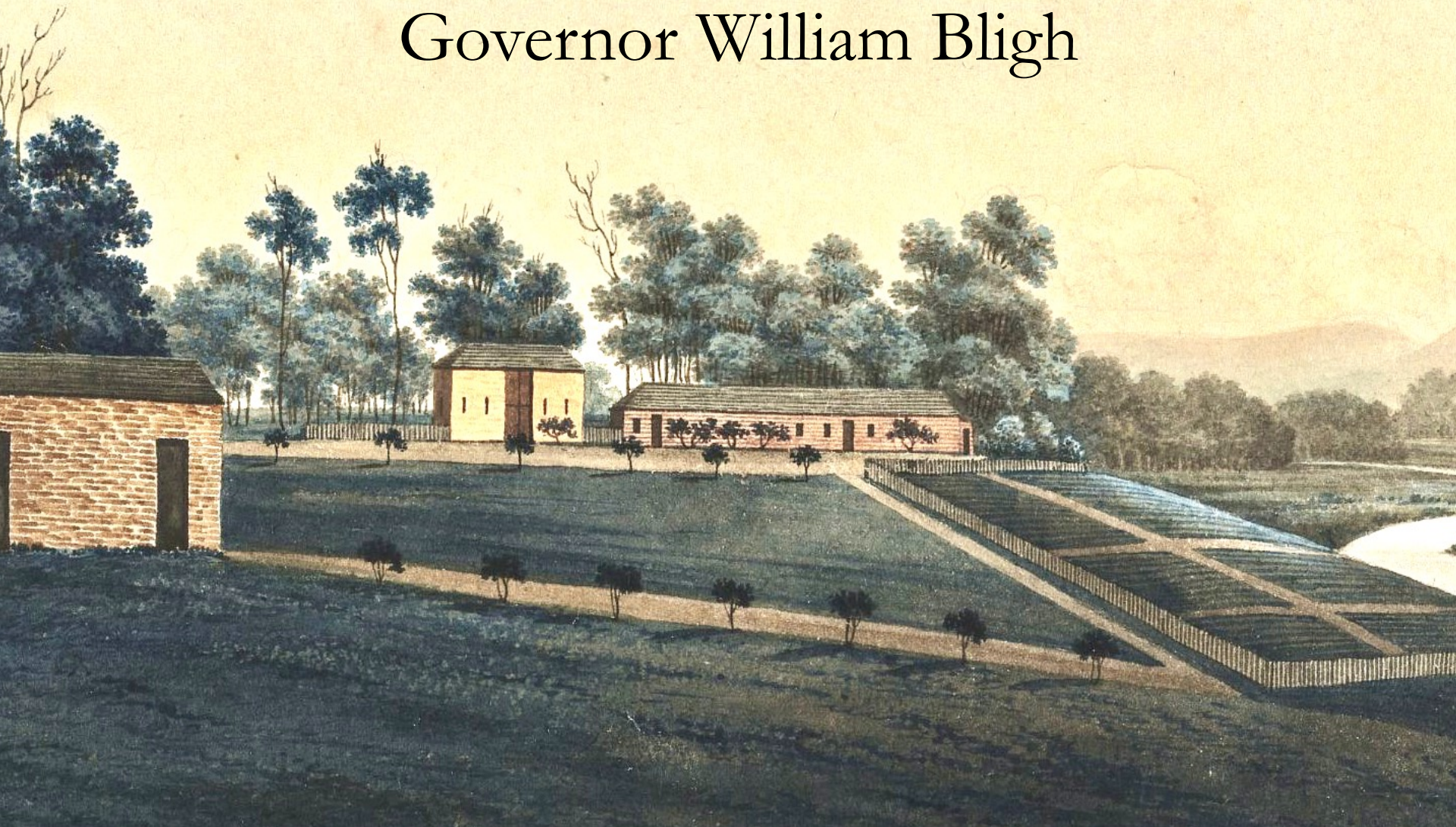


### 3. Thompson's private life

- He was very protective of his family and personal matters.
- Andrew was never reconciled with his brothers in Scotland.
- Evidence of his friendship with Mrs. Moore is all indirect.
- Few personal details exist of emancipist Eleanor Moore.
- Contrary to the *Bigge Report* interviews, there is no evidence that Thompson fathered any children.
- Andrew had many friends in the colony, and he became a close confidant of Lachlan and Elizabeth Macquarie.



# Andrew Thompson & Governor William Bligh



1810 painting by GW Evans of Blighton Model Farm



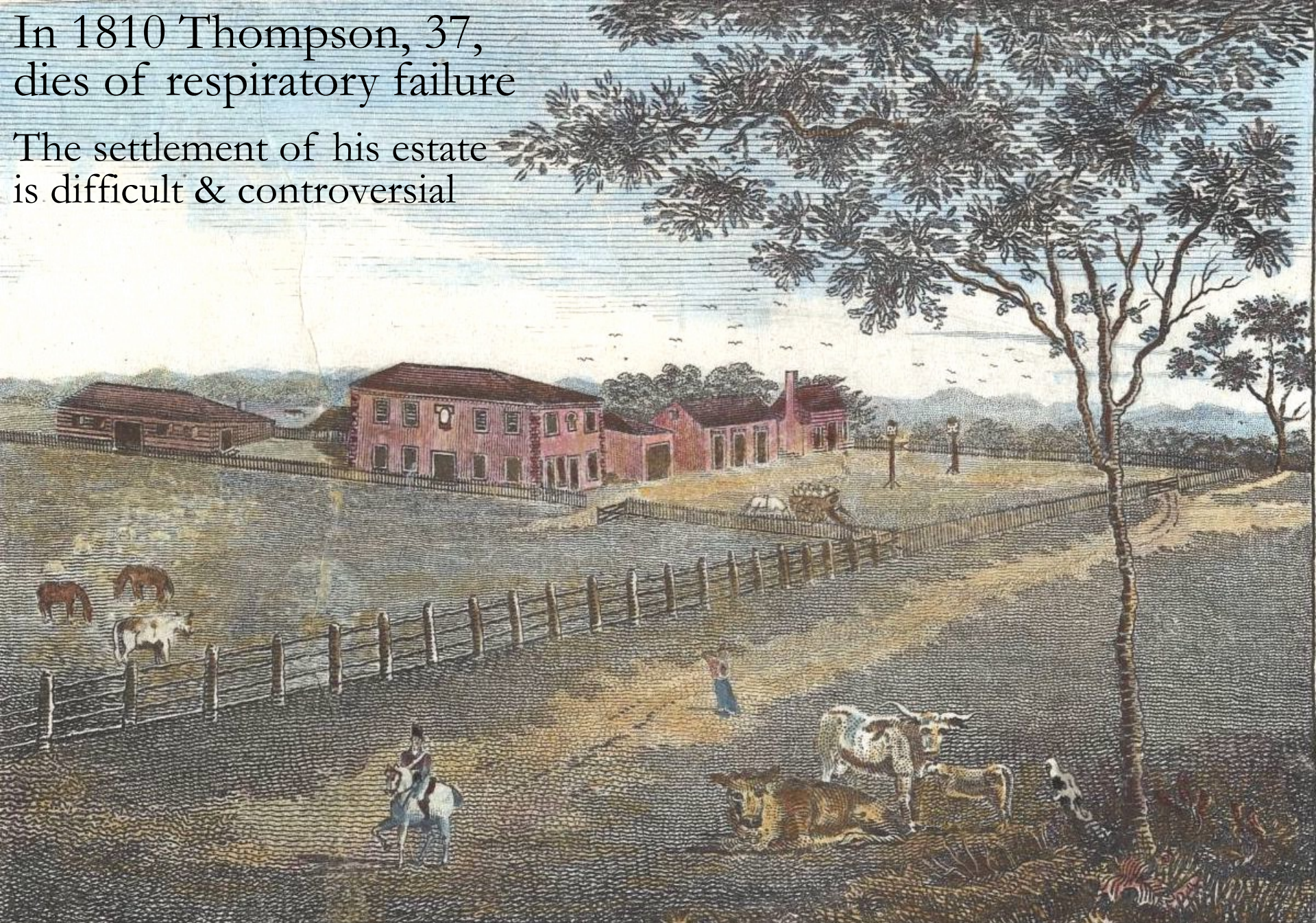
## 4. Thompson and Bligh

- William Bligh was by far the most controversial governor.
- Bligh supported, and was loved by, the Hawkesbury settlers and he recognized Thompson as one of their leaders.
- Thompson supported Bligh in trying to eradicate the trading monopolies of the NSW Corps and John Macarthur.
- He is appointed Bailiff of *Blighton Model Farm* in 1807.
- He plays a key role in the 1808 Hawkesbury loyalty address.
- He was interrogated and dismissed after the 1808 Rebellion.
- At an 1811 inquiry Bligh denigrates Thompson's support.



In 1810 Thompson, 37,  
dies of respiratory failure

The settlement of his estate  
is difficult & controversial





## 5. Resolving Thompson's Will

- Andrew Thompson died 22 Oct 1810 in Green Hills aged 37 and was buried in the St Matthews cemetery Windsor.
- His bequeathed estate was vast, and his Will controversial.
- He gave half his wealth to his Scottish family, a quarter to Governor Macquarie and a quarter to friend Simeon Lord.
- The likely reasons for Mrs. Moore's omission are proposed.
- It takes a concerted effort by the executors and Governor Macquarie, and a 15 year lapse, before Walter Thompson accepts his brother's bequest of the equivalent of £1m.

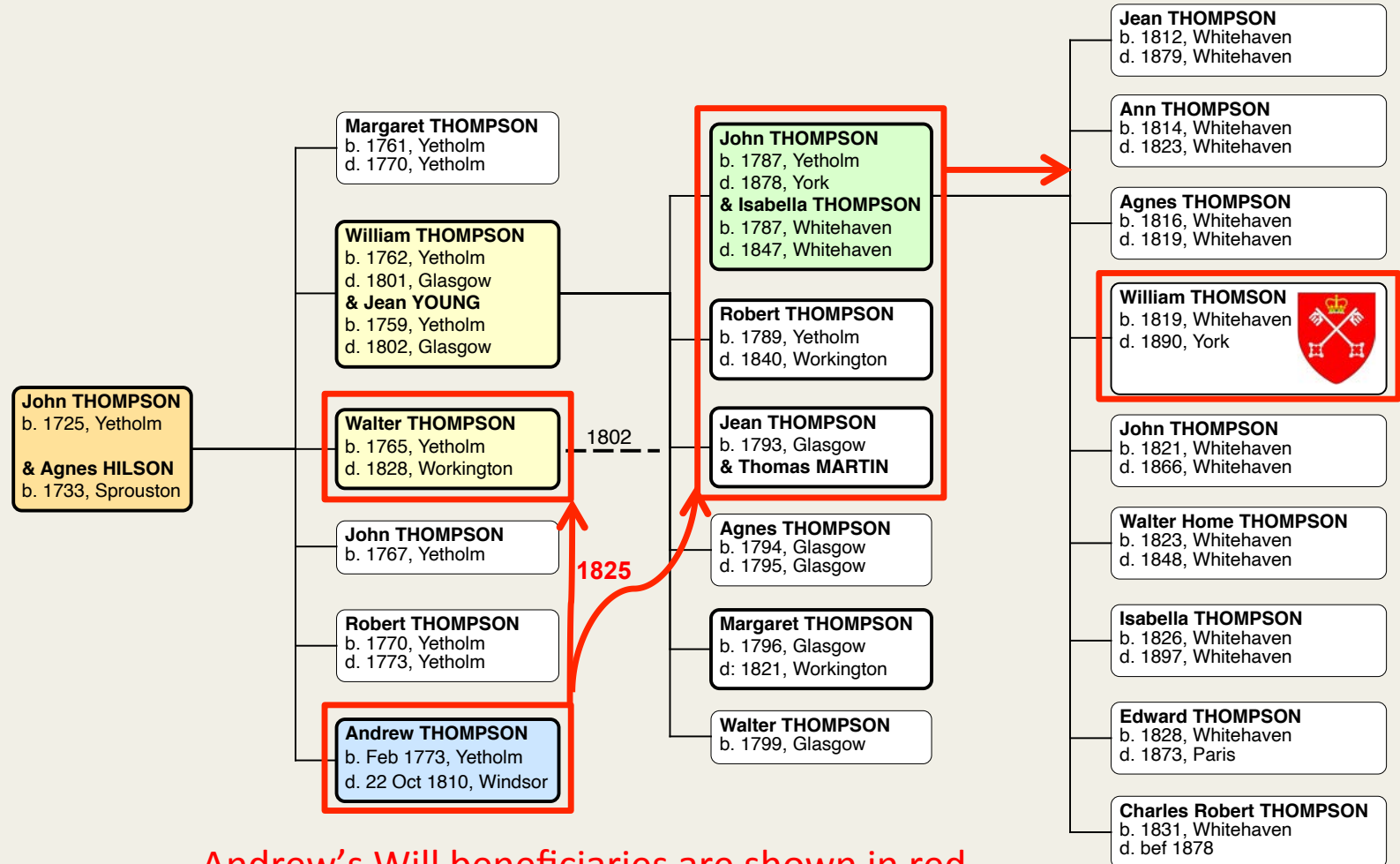




Andrew Thompson's grave at St Matthews cemetery



## Thompson Family Tree







Kelswick House in Whitehaven, England – home of nephew John Thompson and grand nephew William





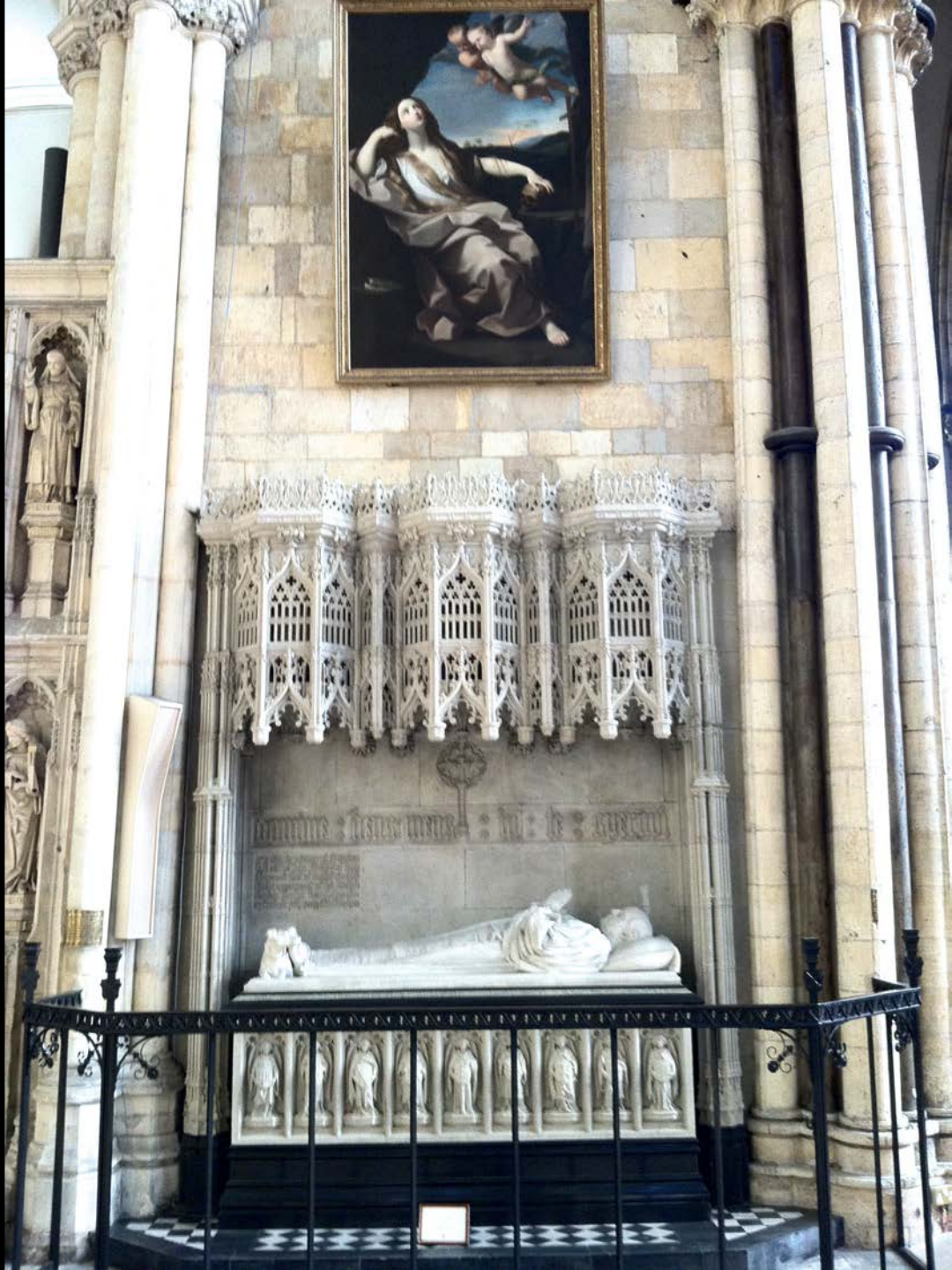
**Andrew  
Thompson**  
was the  
*grand uncle* of  
**William  
Thomson**  
*Archbishop  
of York  
(1862-90).*

**A family  
connection  
never  
referred to!**





Depiction of the  
"Archbishop of Society"  
in *Vanity Fair*





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He built a vast and all-powerful NSW empire. The first ex-convict to become Governor Macquarie's friend.

Loved by the Hawkesbury. Andrew Thompson was more successful in New South Wales than he was in Scotland.

**Thank you for coming today  
to share the history of  
this remarkable man**

# ANDREW THOMPSON

ANDREW

ANNEGRET HALL



HISTORY / BIOGRAPHY  
Cover design by OzKunstPro

[www.annegrethall.com](http://www.annegrethall.com)



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