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.

ISBN 978-0-9876292-2-7
90000

9 780987 629227

ANDREW THOMPSON

ANNEGRET HALL

ANDREW THOMPSON

From Boy Convict to Wealthiest Settler in Colonial Australia

ANNEGRET HALL

Author of IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

The Legacy of Andrew Thompson

His contributions to the early development of the Hawkesbury district and the colony

1809 painting of Green Hills by JW Lewin, from the north bank of the Hawkesbury

Thompson's Legacy Windsor Library– 29 June 2022

The Legacy of Andrew Thompson

Andrew Thompson achieved a remarkable amount in his short time in NSW. Tonight I will focus on several crucial parts of his short life:

- **the reasons for his transportation to New South Wales**

- **his achievements and responsibilities in the colony**

- **the importance of his contributions to the district**
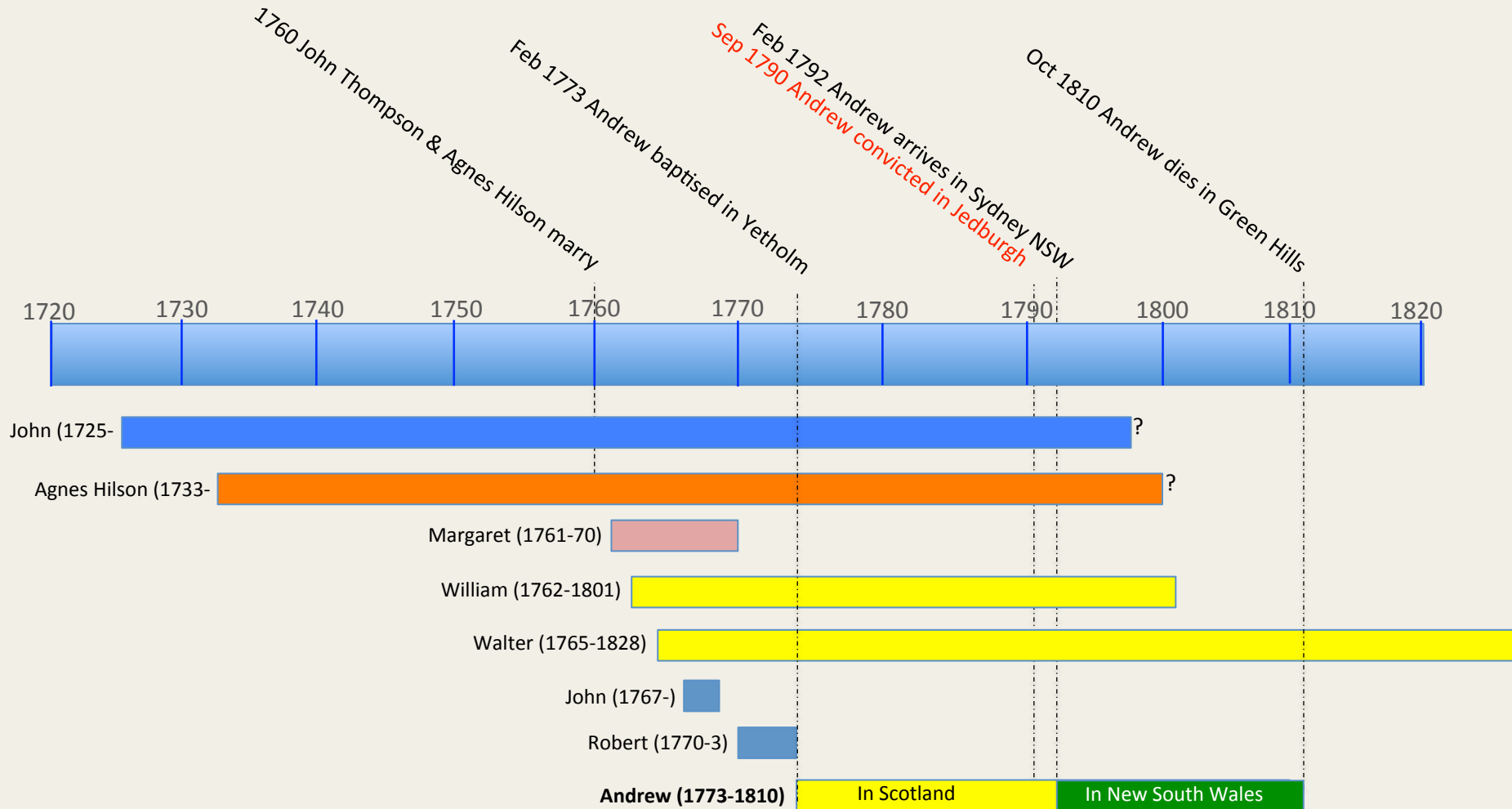
3

Why was Andrew Thompson sent to NSW?

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

Thompson's transportation

- Although Macquarie proclaimed Thompson *The Father of Windsor,* it is important to remember he did not come willingly to this land.

- Raised in a respected textile family in the Scottish village of Yetholm, he was educated to be a customs officer and apprenticed as a weaver.

- In Aug 1790 he was charged with stealing from his brother William and a local merchant – the older 'accomplice' Aitkin fled to England.

- Andrew was advised by Judge Lord Hailes to plead guilty at the Jedburgh Assizes, and then sentences him to 14 years transportation.

- In 1791 he is transported on the *Pitt* to NSW, aged 18, with 46 other Scottish convicts. The voyage encounters many difficulties, and the boy convict becomes known to Grose, Foveaux, Hunter and Bligh.

5

Timeline: Thompson Family in Yetholm

1760 John Thompson & Agnes Hilson marry

Feb 1773 Andrew baptised in Yetholm

Feb 1792 Andrew arrives in Sydney NSW

Sep 1790 Andrew convicted in Jedburgh

Oct 1810 Andrew dies in Green Hills

1720 1730 1740 1750 1760 1770 1780 1790 1800 1810 1820

John (1725- ?

Agnes Hilson (1733- ?

Margaret (1761-70)

William (1762-1801)

Walter (1765-1828)

John (1767-)

Robert (1770-3)

Andrew (1773-1810) In Scotland | In New South Wales

In 1773 Andrew Thompson was baptized in Kirk Yetholm

18thC engraving of Kirk Yetholm village – over the Bowmont Water from Town Yetholm

Kirk Yetholm today

Town Yetholm from The Post Office.

Yetholm village photographed 120 years ago (150 years *after* Andrew's birth)

Main street of Town Yetholm today

A surviving 18thC weaver's cottage in Town Yetholm

The Cheviots countryside surrounding the Yetholm villages

18th C Jedburgh jail across the Jed River from the old Abbey

13

Old photo of the 18thC Jedburgh jail – it was demolished in 1929

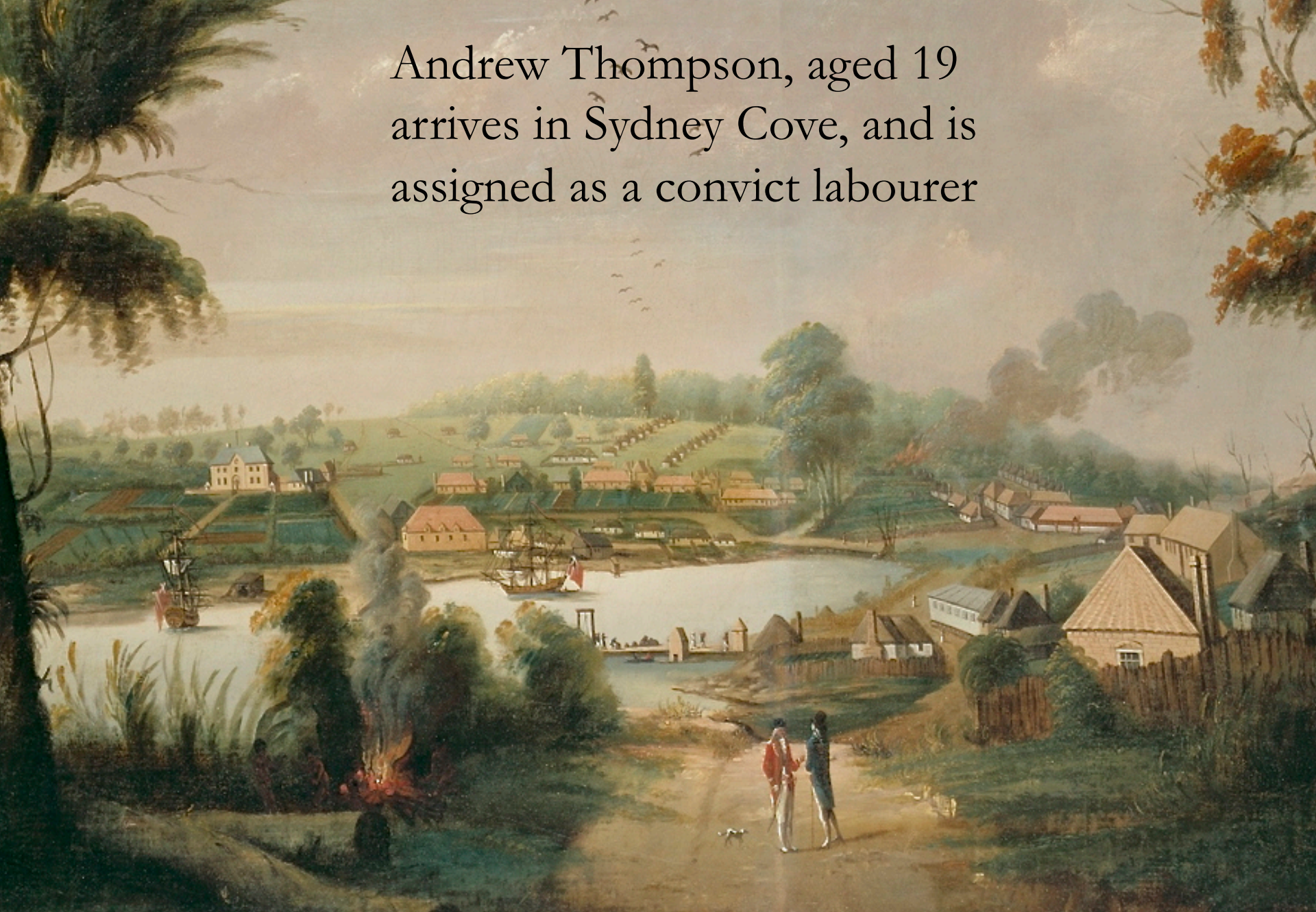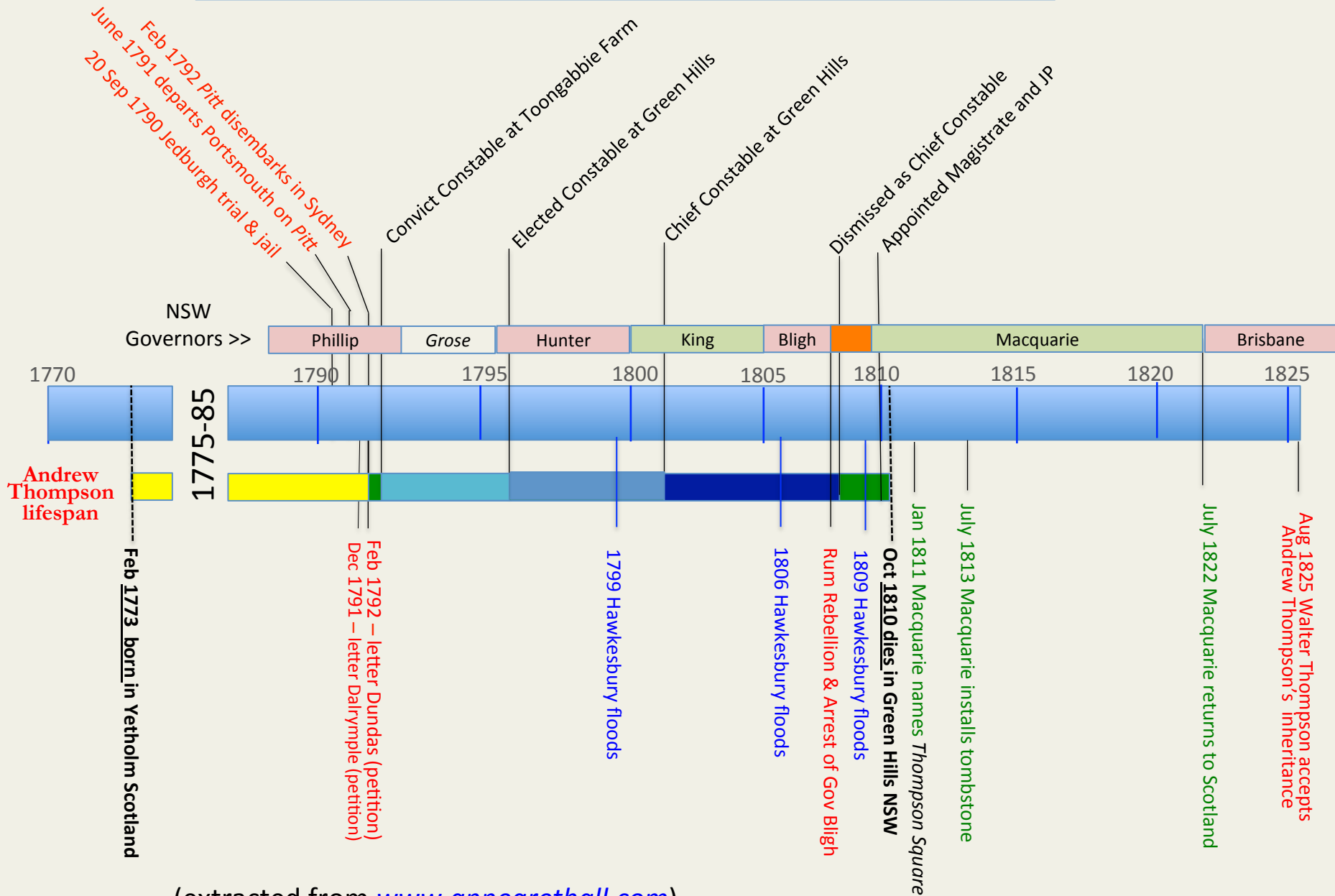The ancient Jedburgh Abbey ruins today

Jedburgh market square

18[th]C Jedburgh bridewell jail & courthouse

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

Andrew Thompson, aged 19 arrives in Sydney Cove, and is assigned as a convict labourer

1794 view of Sydney Cove looking north

Timeline: Thompson's Life in NSW

20 Sep 1790 Jedburgh trial & jail
June 1791 departs Portsmouth on *Pitt*
Feb 1792 *Pitt* disembarks in Sydney

Convict Constable at Toongabbie Farm

Elected Constable at Green Hills

Chief Constable at Green Hills

Dismissed as Chief Constable

Appointed Magistrate and JP

NSW Governors >>

| Phillip | *Grose* | Hunter | King | Bligh | | Macquarie | Brisbane |

1770   1790   1795   1800   1805   1810   1815   1820   1825

1775-85

Andrew Thompson lifespan

Feb 1773 born in Yetholm Scotland

Dec 1791 – letter Dalrymple (petition)
Feb 1792 – letter Dundas (petition)

1799 Hawkesbury floods

1806 Hawkesbury floods

Rum Rebellion & Arrest of Gov Bligh

1809 Hawkesbury floods

Oct 1810 dies in Green Hills NSW

Jan 1811 Macquarie names *Thompson Square*

July 1813 Macquarie installs tombstone

July 1822 Macquarie returns to Scotland

Aug 1825 Walter Thompson accepts Andrew Thompson's inheritance

(extracted from www.annegrethall.com)

| Year	Date	Event
1760		John Thompson marries Agnes Hilson of Sprouston
1762		Brother William Thompson is born
1765		Brother Walter Thompson is born
1767		Sister Margaret Thompson is born; dies in 1770
1770		Brother Robert Thompson is born ; dies in 1773
1773	**Feb 7**	**Andrew Thompson baptized Kirk Yetholm**
1786		William establishes firm with Gillespie & Sweet
1788		Andrew starts a weaving apprenticeship
1789	Jul 14	*French Revolution*
1790	June	Stops his apprenticeship and returns to school
	Aug 5	Thompson family attends St James Fair in Kelso
		William's house burgled pistols, gunpowder
	Aug 7	Walter Turner's shop burgled of linen and woolen cloth
		Journeyman weaver John Aitkin flees Yetholm
	Aug 24	Constable Kerr takes Andrew to Sheriff in Jedburgh
	Aug 25	Andrew charged with theft
	Aug 31	King's Advocate Norris prepares detailed indictment
	Sep 4	Advocate's presents indictment to Andrew
	Sep 5-6	Indictment announced in Jedburgh marketplace
	Sep 10	Thompson released on bail until Sep 20
	Sep 21	Assize Court trial of Andrew Thompson and pleads guilty
	Sep 22	Judge sentences Andrew to 14 years transportation
1791	May	Duke of Buccleuch petitons Home Office for mercy
		Andrew among 46 Scots for transportation to NSW
	June	Transport *Pitt* arrives at Spitwater ready to receive convicts
	Jul 17	*Pitt* departs Portsmouth for NSW
	Aug 16	*Pitt* reaches Cape Verde; departs Aug 20
	Oct 8	*Pitt* docks in Rio de Janeiro; departs Nov 1
	Nov 27	*Pitt* docks in Cape Town Harbor
	Dec 4	Judge Haile denies Laird of Niddrie appeal for mercy
	Dec 22	Ship *Waaksaamheyd* rescued in Cape Town harbour
	Dec 24	*Pitt* departs Cape Town for NSW
1792	Feb 7	Dundas refuses Duke of Roxburghe plea for mercy
1792	**Feb 14**	**Thompson arrives on *Pitt* with 368 convicts**
		Andrew on stone mason's gang Rose Hill govt house
		Andrew appointed Parramatta govt store by Phillip
	Dec 10	Arthur Phillip departs colony arrives back 19 May 1793
	Dec 11	Major Grose become Lt Governor
1793		Andrew constable at Toongabbie farm, w Barrington
	Dec	Aboriginal attacks in the Toongabbie area
1794	Dec	Grose resigns ; William Paterson acts in the interim
1795	Sep 7	*HMS Reliance brings John Hunter as 2nd Governor*
1796	July	At 23 Andrew becomes a constable at Green Hills
	Dec	Andrew *elected* Constable of the Hawkesbury district
1797	Oct 17	Andrew given an absolute pardon by Gov. Hunter
1799	Mar	Andrew heavily involved in flood rescues
	Apr	Andrew buys his first farmland; 30 acres from Henry York
	Aug	Lt Hobby commandant – aborigine hostilities increase
	Oct 1	Andrew granted lease on land in GH govt precinct
	Nov 19	Andrew surveys grain production at Hawkesbury
1800	Jan 14	Andrew drafts petition to Hunter on high costs

Year	Date	Event
	Feb	Second petition sent to Hunter
	Mar	Hawkesbury floods again
	Apr 15	Capt King arrives on Speedy to be governor
	Sep 25	*Philip Gidley King installed as 3rd Governor*
	Nov 13	Appointed Registrar of Agreements at Hawkesbury
1801	Feb 21	Eleanor Moore arrives on the *Anne*
	Mar	Third flood in succession in the Hawkesbury areas
	July	Has 34 acres under cultivation; employs 20 people
		Appointed Chief Constable at Green Hills
	Nov	John Macarthur banished to England (1st time)
1802	early	Thompson builds Red House West Hill
	May	Granted permit to build toll bridge over South Creek
	Aug	Thompson 2nd largest grain grower; employs 32 men
	Oct 18	Launches boat *Hope* 16 tons for Hawkesbury trade
1803	Sep 17	Andrew launches boat *Nancy* 40 tons
	May	Thompson arrests McLaughlane for Palmer murder
1804	Feb	Andrew launches boat *Hawkesbury* 30 tons
	Mar 4	Irish rebellion suppressed at Castle Hill; 12 killed
	May	Granted 78 acres at the Nepean & Yellow Mondays Lagoon
		Purchased 200 acres; becomes Agnes Banks farm
		Constructs retail store & warehouse on govt precinct
	Aug	Granted 260 acres near Chain of Ponds; Killarney Farm
	Nov	Thompson purchases *Speedwell* (18 ton) from JohnGrono
	Dec	Thompson's salt boiler on Mullet Island in prod.
1805	Apr	Thompson party captures men for murdering settlers
	Jun	John Macarthur returns from England (1st time)
1806		Mediates settler-Aborigine conflicts
	Mar	Thompson trials the growing of flax on one of his farms
	Mar	Massive floods; involved in many rescues over 3 days
		Sells sloop *Hope* to repair buildings
	May	Buys three new properties incl Wardle Bank and Glasgow
	May 11	Thompson granted licence to build brewery at Green Hills
	Aug	Muster show 918 acres ; 703 cultiv.; employs 124 men
	Aug 6	*William Bligh arrives on Sinclair; becomes 4th Gov*
	Sep 18	Macarthur sues Thompson over promissory note
1807	Jan 1	Bligh buys Blighton and appoints Thompson bailiff
	Jan 29	Settlers send Bligh petition on grain prices –
	Feb	Philip Gidley King departs on *HMS Buffalo*
	Feb 25	Settlers thank Bligh for his support; letter by Thompson
	Mar 21	Thompson launches new ship *The Governor Bligh*
	Apr	Expands West Hill farm; 6.5 acre on Govt. Precinct
	May	Falsely accused of distilling; Bligh dismisses charge
	July	Macarthur appeal on promissory dismissed
	Oct	Lease granted to Thompson for prime land in Sydney
	Nov	Macarthur charged with escape on his boat *Parramatta*
	Dec	Thompson accused selling barrel of rum
		Found guilty and fined £100
1808	Jan 1	Thompson tells Bligh of Hawkesbury Loyalty Address
	Jan 14	Macarthur refuses to give up prime lease in Sydney
	Jan 25	Trial of Macarthur; abuses Atkins and is released
	Jan 26	NSW Corp led by Johnson arrests Bligh

| Year	Date	Event
	Jan 27	Interrogated by the rebels on Blighton farm
	Jan 28	Letter congratulates Johnson on Bligh's arrest
	Feb 2	Dismissed as Chief Constable; mock trial for Macarthur
	Feb 26	Macarthur takes £10,000 capias on Thompson
	Jul 28	Foveaux back in Sydney, takes charge of rebel government
	Nov 4	Hawkesbury request Secr Castlereagh to reinstate Bligh
	Oct	Eleanor Moore property goes to Thompson for £40
	Dec 31	Sydney land grant from Foveaux; builds mansion
1809	Jan 1	Patterson arrives from Launceston to lead the rebels
	Jan 21	Appointed official auctioneer at Hawkesbury by Paterson
	Jan 30	William and Mary Bligh imprisoned in barracks
	Feb 20	Bligh boards *HMS Porpoise* to leave colony
	Mar 17	*HMS Porpoise* departs and sails to Hobart
	Mar 28	Macarthur depart for England (2nd time)
	Mar 29	*HMS Porpoise* arrives Hobart, Bligh seeks Collins' help
	Apr	*HMS Porpoise* blockades Hobart harbour
	May 15	Major flooding Hawkesbury; Thompson rescues many
	July	New floods at Hawkesbury reach 86ft
	Dec	Thompson's health declines; Howe appointed manager
	Dec 28	Lt. Col. Macquarie arrives on the *Dromedar*
1810	Jan 1	*Lachlan Macquarie is installed as 5th Gov*
		Bligh ends blockade of Hobart; sails back to Sydney
	Jan 14	Thompson appointed Chief Magistrate at the Hawkesbury
	Jan 17	Bligh arrives back in Sydney on HMS *Porpoise*
	Mar	Thompson appointed to Turnpike Road Trust
	May 12	Bligh departs Sydney on *HMS Hindostan*
	July	Thompson so weak he is confined to bed
	Oct 6	Thompson's will is witnessed by Lock, Bladdey & Ruse
1810	**Oct 22**	**Thompson dies aged 37 in Green Hills**
	Oct 25	Thompson buried at new cemetery St Matthews
	Oct 27	Thompson's obituary appears in *The Sydney Gazette*
	Nov 6	Macquarie leads tour of all western farming districts
	Dec 6	In Windsor Macquarie announces 5 new towns
1811	Jan 12	Macquarie names Windsor park *Thompson Square*
	May 1	Macquarie visits cemetery with Thompson's grave
	Jul 2	Court martial of Lt. Col. Johnson concludes
1813	July	Macquarie installs a tombstone on Thompson's grave
1817	Apr	Macquarie opens *The Bank of New South Wales*
	Sep	Macarthur returns to colony from England (2nd time)
	Dec 1	Macquarie sends resignation letter to Colonial Office
1818	Jan 26	NSW becomes 'Australia'. 1st Australia Day celebration
1819	Sep 20	Commissioner John Thomas Bigge arrives
1820	Feb	Macquarie resigns for second time
	Dec	Thompson's last property, St Andrew's farm, is sold
1821	Feb	Commissioner Bigge returns to England
	Dec 1	*Thomas Brisbane becomes 6th Governor*
1822	July	Macquaries back in London; Bigge's Report tabled
1823	July	Macquarie rebuts the Bigge Report
1824	Jul 1	Macquarie dies on the Isle of Mull aged 62
1825	Aug 25	Thompson family accepts Andrew's inheritance £1m

20

Thompson's path to prominence

- In **1792** the *Pitt* docks in Sydney and the young Andrew Thompson is quickly assigned to convict work in the Parramatta settlement.

- In **1793** made Constable at the notorious Toongabbie Govt. Farm.

- In **1796** Thompson becomes an *elected* Constable at Green Hills.

- In **1797** Hunter gave him an absolute pardon for his staunch service.

- In **1799** he buys his first Hawkesbury farmland from Henry York.

- In **1800** assists in petitions to Hunter on the high cost of essentials, and he coordinates the rescue of settlers from Hawkesbury floods.

- Gov. King makes Thompson *Registrar of Agreements* for the area.

- In **1801** more flood rescues, and he is appointed Chief Constable.

- In **1802** buys more land; builds Red House; builds toll bridge ; 2nd largest cereal farmer with 32 men; constructs *Hope* for river trade.

For a year in Parramatta Thompson worked as a stone mason and served govt. store rations

1797 Brickfield Hill on the road to Parramatta

Thompson's Legacy Windsor Library– 29 June 2022
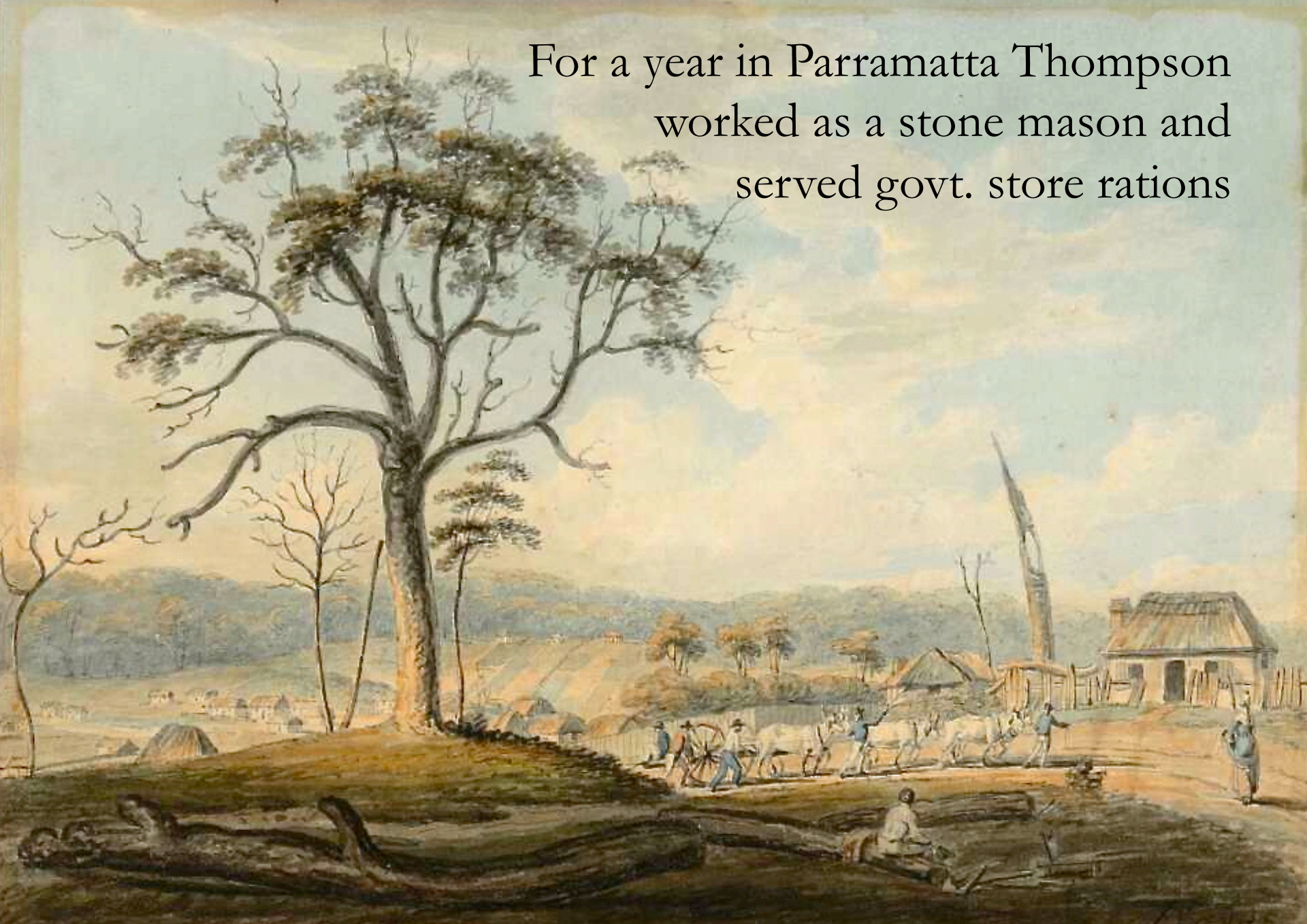
Andrew lived with 17 other convicts in one of the huts on the road to Parramatta Government House.
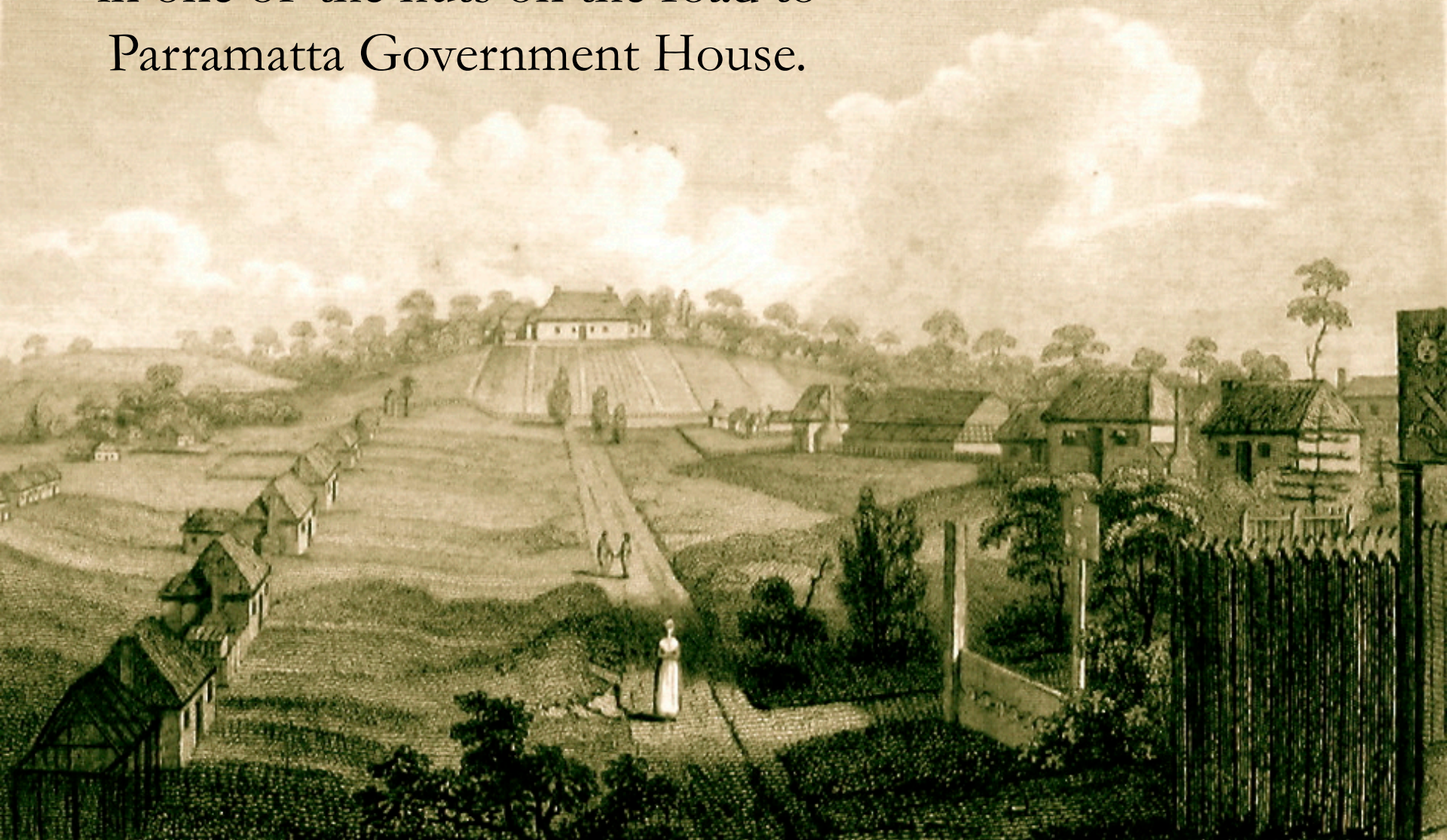
Track leading to Parramatta Government House with convict huts either side

Thompson remains a constable at the Toongabbie Govt. Farm 1793 to 1795
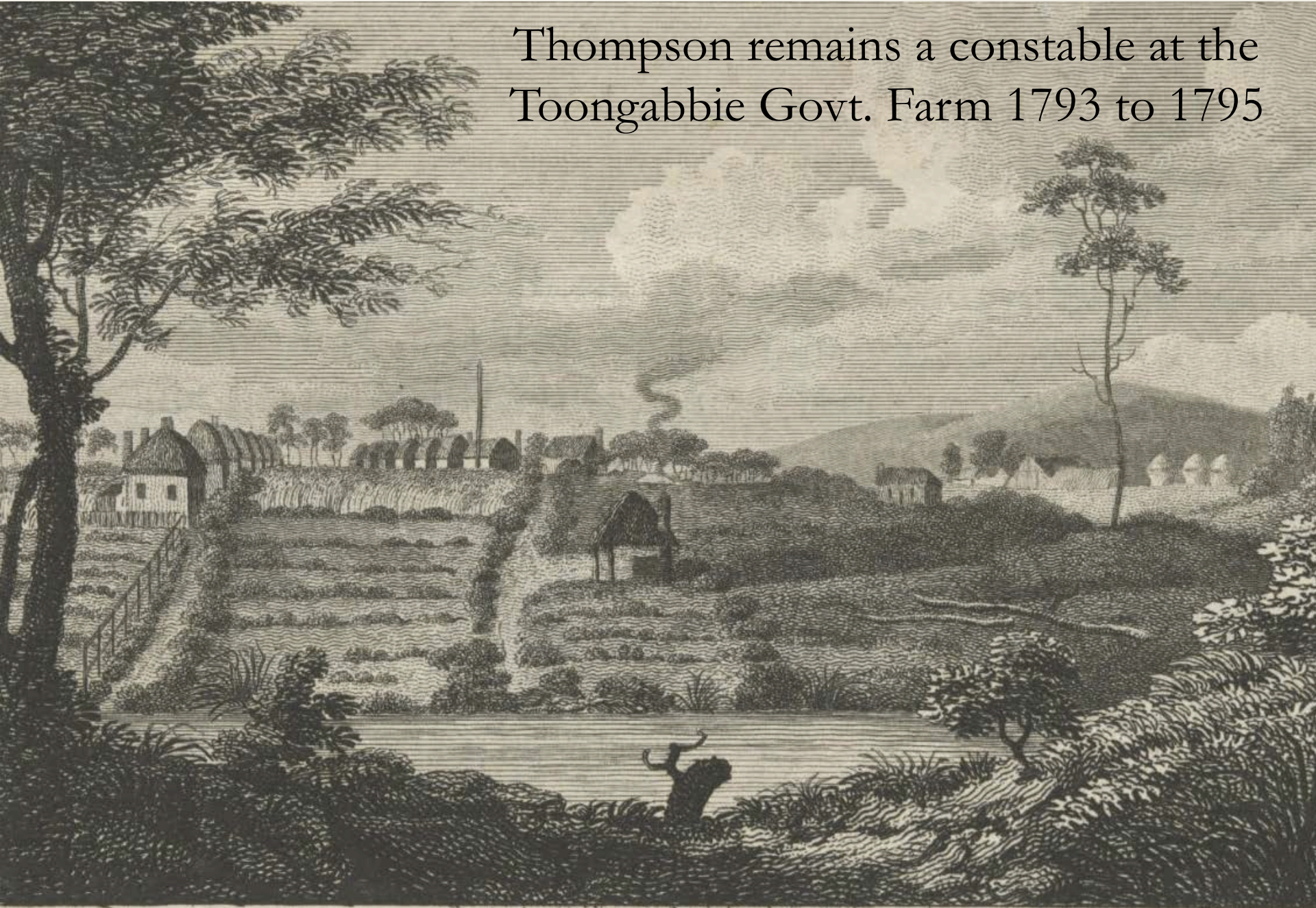
Toongabbie Government Farm in 1798

24
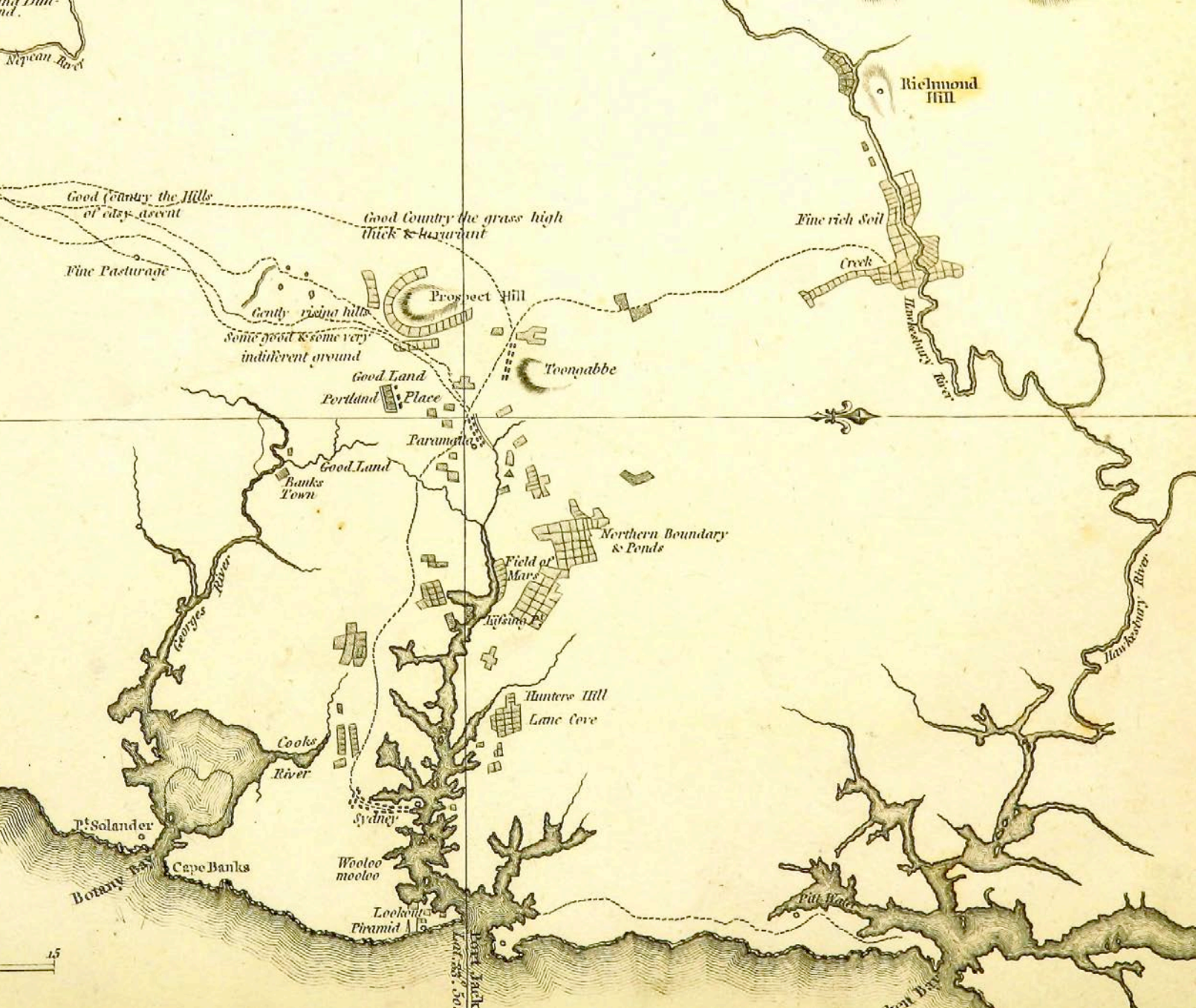
Green Hills is the upper-right farm area on the Hawkesbury labeled 'Fine rich Soil'.

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

The David Collins 1796 map of the NSW colony.

Thompson riding past the Red House
followed, perhaps, by Eleanor Moore

1810 The Red House - painting by Absalom West
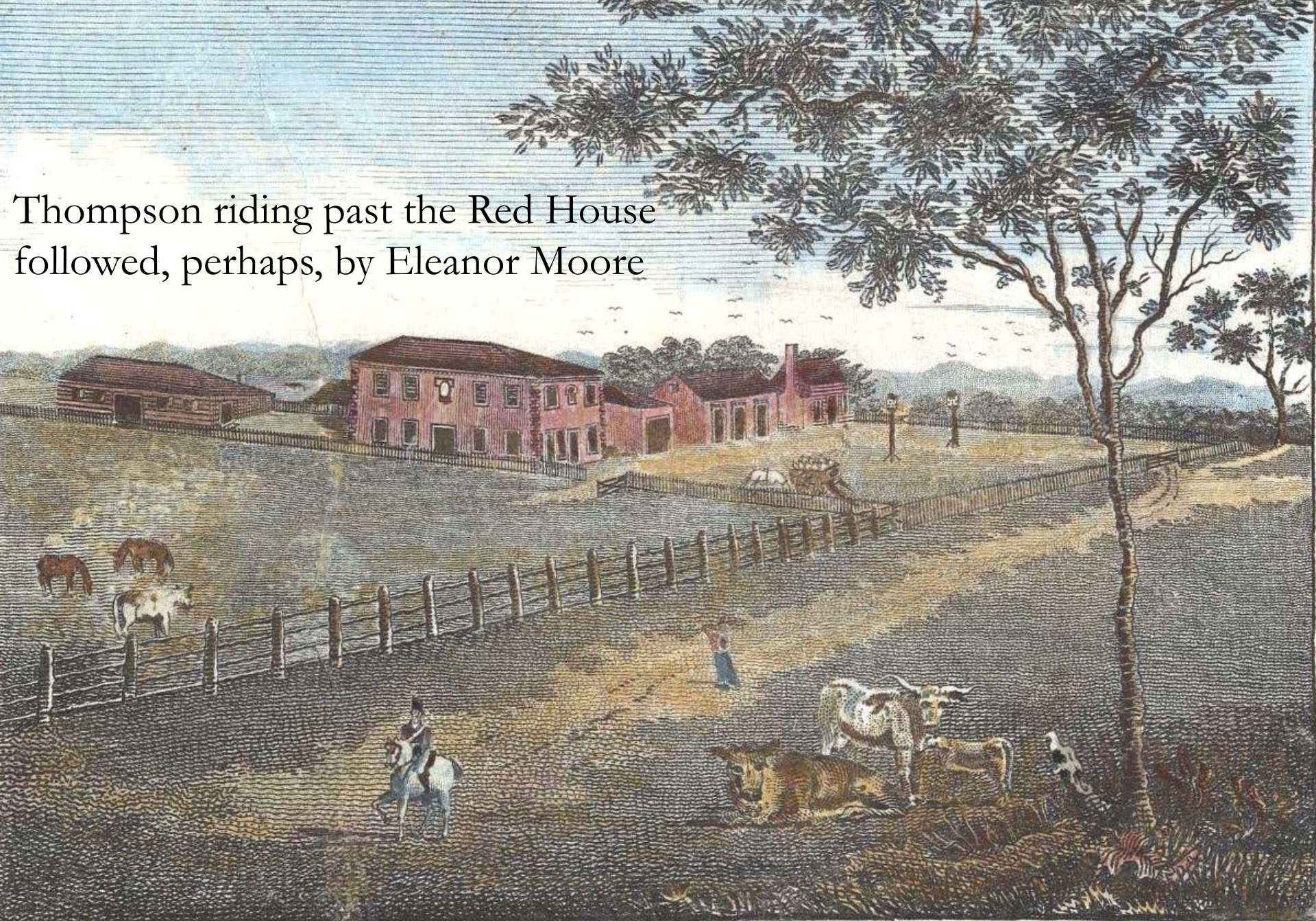
South bank of the Hawkesbury River showing some of Thompson's buildings in the govt. precinct and ships for trade with Sydney

1809 painting of Green Hills by JW Lewin, seen from the north bank of the Hawkesbury
Thompson's Legacy Windsor Library- 29 June 2022

Thompson's path to prominence

- In **1803** Thompson builds 2nd boat the *Nancy* for trade with Sydney.

- In **1804** he launches 3rd boat the *Hawkesbury*; enlarges *Agnes Banks* and *Killarney* farms; opens a retail store & warehouse in Green Hills; buys the *Speedwell* from John Grono; builds salt boiler on Mullet Is.

- In **1805** ordered to capture Aboriginal raiders in the Nepean area.

- In **1806** Thompson asked to mediate with Aboriginal elders; massive floods and 3-day rescues; buys farmland *Wardle Bank* and *Glasgow*; builds Green Hills brewery; pays and feeds 124 employees.

- In **1807** appointed bailiff of *Blighton*; petitions Bligh for better grain price; launches large *The Governor Bligh*. He wins a court action against Macarthur on a promissory note and is accused of illegal rum sale.

- In **1808** he coordinates loyalty address of 833 settlers supporting Gov. Bligh, who is overthrown in a rebellion by the NSW Corps.

As bailiff, Thompson manages the *Blighton*
"model farm" owned by Governor Bligh
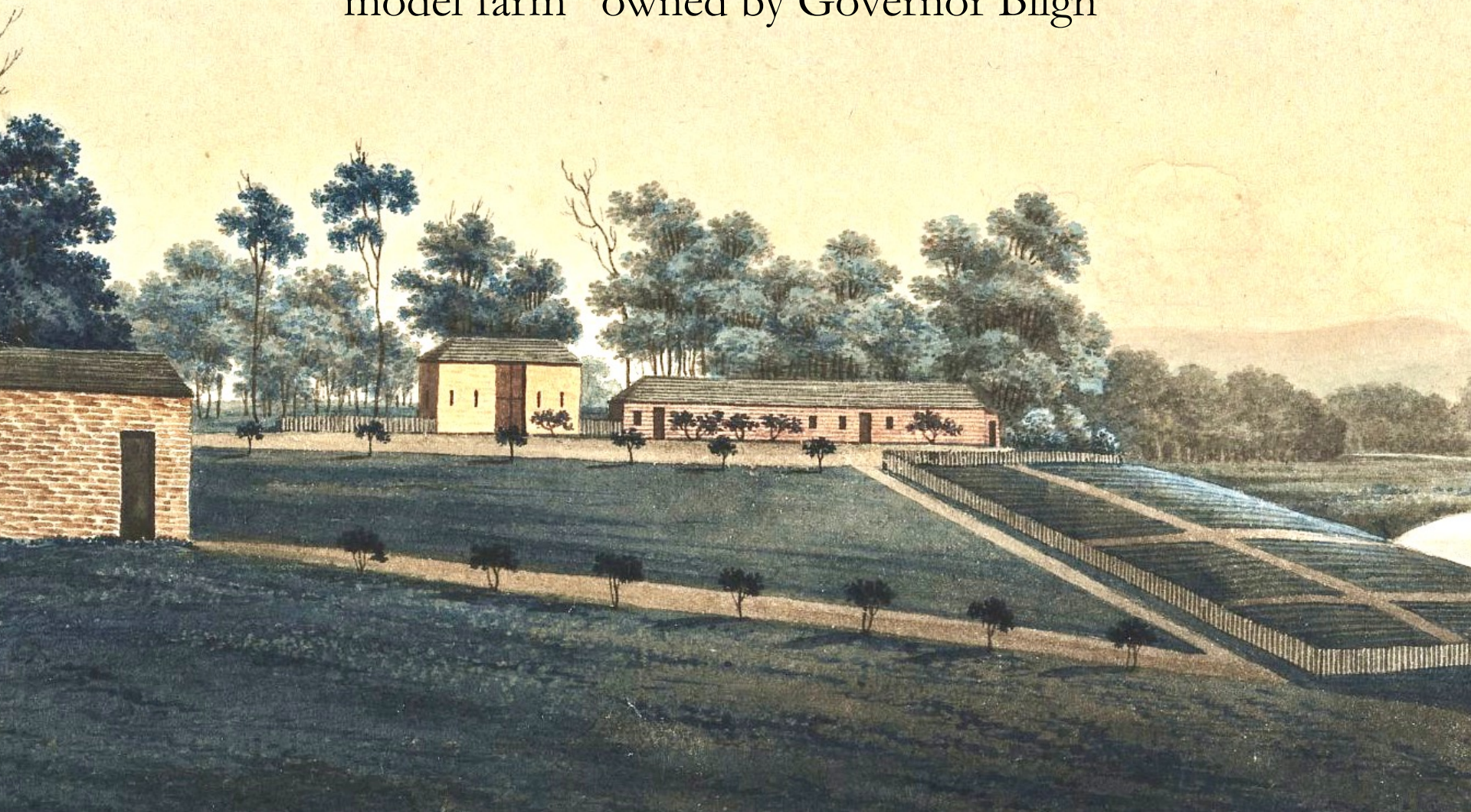
1810 painting by GW Evans of *Blighton* Model Farm

Bligh and Macquarie, in particular, recognised Thompson's abilities

Governor William Bligh and Governor Lachlan Macquarie

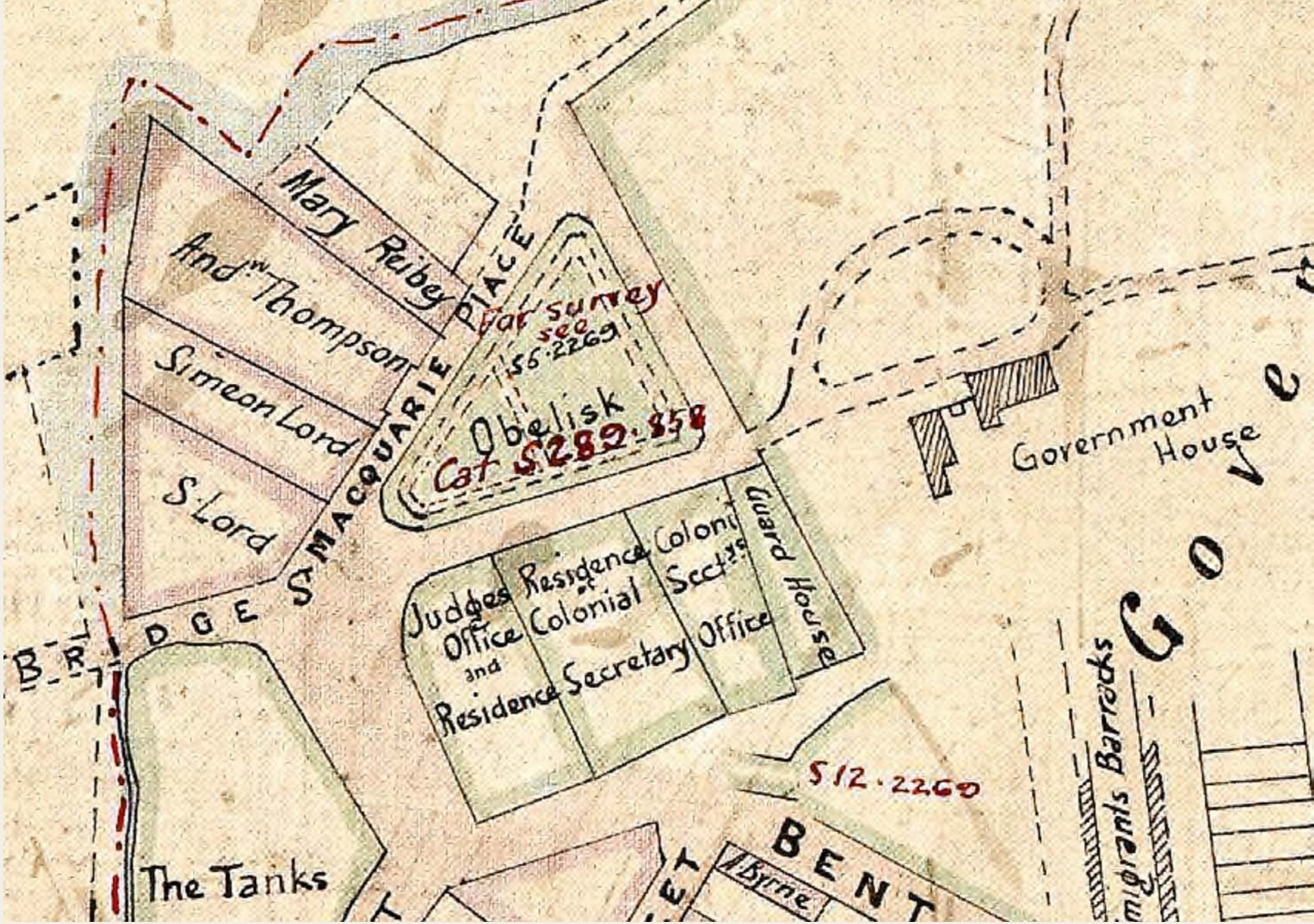1808 cartoon of the arrest of the governor, falsely lampooning Bligh as a coward

Thompson's path to prominence

- In **1808** after the rebellion Thompson is interrogated in attempt to implicate Bligh in corruption and is dismissed from all govt. posts; Macarthur imposes £10k bond to stop Thompson going to England; granted 5000m² land on Sydney harbour he builds a grand mansion.

- In **1809** Patterson appoints him official auctioneer in district; rescues during massive repeated floods severely affect Thompson's health; Macquarie becomes Governor; Ellis Bent rents his Sydney mansion.

- In **1810** he is made the first emancipist Magistrate in the Empire; on 22 Oct Andrew Thompson dies of respiratory failure and buried in St Matthews cemetery; Macquarie renames Green Hills as *Windsor*.

- Andrew Thompson leaves a vast estate, and it takes over 15 years to execute his will and reward the beneficiaries: his family in Scotland, Lachlan Macquarie and Simeon Lord. Ellen Moore is not mentioned.

- In **1811** Macquarie names central Windsor land *Thompson Square*.

32

Thompson's Sydney house

33

1810 painting of Sydney Cove by John Eyre

BENNELONG'S P.t

Macquarie Fort

SYDNEY COVE

FARM COVE

Var. 10°E.

GOVERNMENT DOMAIN

Mary Reibey
And.w Thompson
Simeon Lord
S. Lord

MACQUARIE PLACE

Obelisk

Government Stables

BRIDGE ST.

Judges Officers Residence

Residence of Coll. Secret.y

Colonel of Society

Coll. Secret.y Office

Guard House

The Tanks.

BENT STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

The

BOTANIC GARDEN

WOOLLO

P.t OF S

Details of Sydney central district

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

Newspaper illustration showing rescues during Hawkesbury floods

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 i Mr Fitzgeralds Farms
k Mr Tibitts Farm (Mr Marsdens)
l Rochesters Farm

The dotted line is nearly the course of the South Creek

Thompson's Red House

Painting of South Creek during 1816 floods

38

Why was Thompson so successful?

- First and foremost, Thompson was an honest, hardworking, ambitious, well-educated, approachable and generous young man. These were not common attributes in a remote penal colony where most men, convicts and soldiers, were illiterate and hardened.

- Andrew made friends easily and heeded the advice of his seniors.

- He was prepared to take responsibility and could be relied upon.

- Andrew was an outstanding policeman because people trusted him.

- Thompson was astute at business but not avaricious. Generous with his time, he was well-liked, and sought after, as an honest employer.

- During frequent Hawkesbury floods, Thompson showed leadership and bravery rescuing settlers by rowing small boats thru the night.

- A Bligh loyalist, he coordinated community petitions to the govt. and assisted many flood victims by providing loans on generous terms.

What should Andrew Thompson be most remembered for?

1824 painting of Windsor from the Parramatta Road – by J Lycett
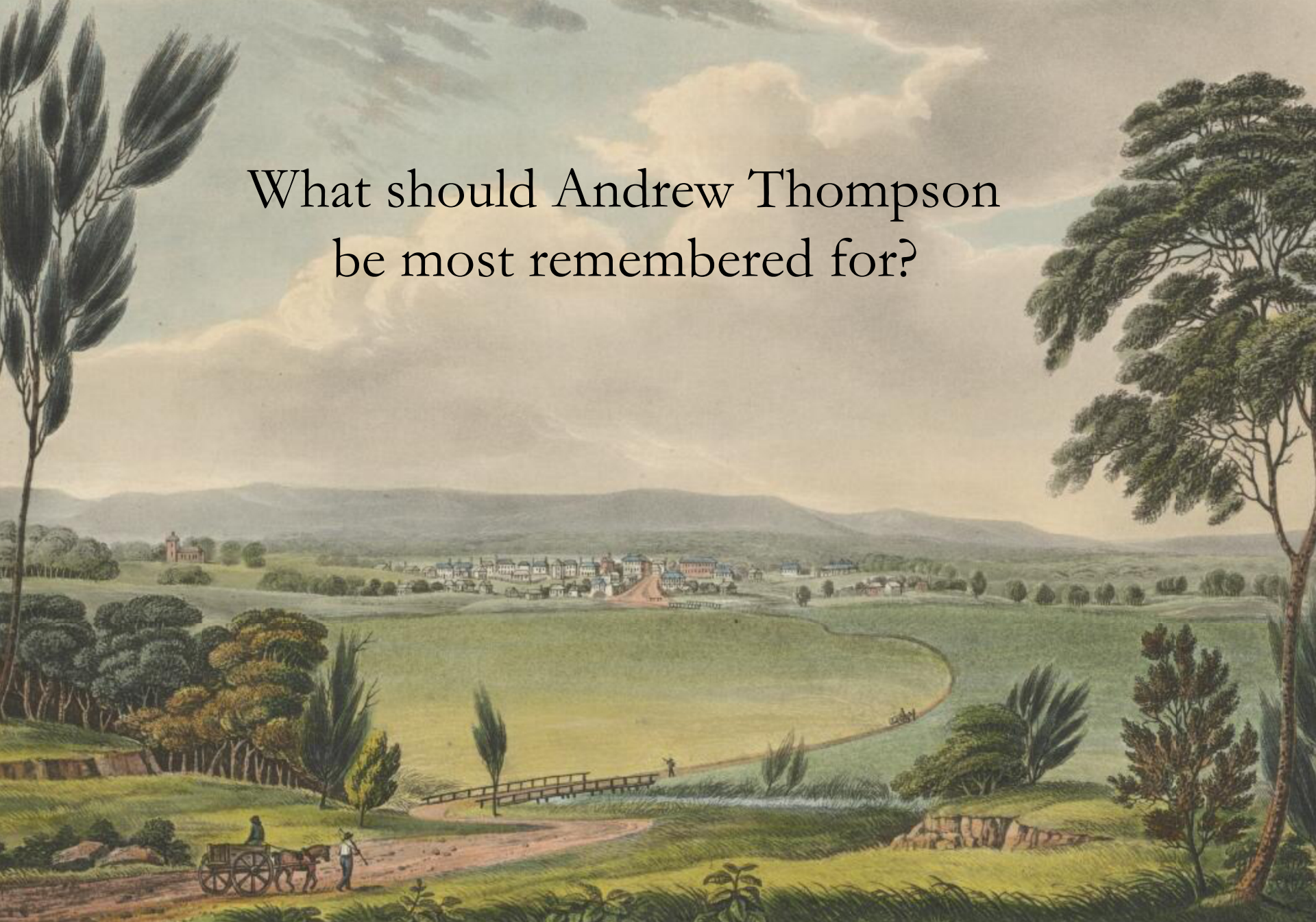
Thompson's Most Important Legacies

- As a policeman in the area for almost 15 years, Andrew Thompson worked tirelessly to improve the viability of the Hawkesbury settlers. The district was the "bread basket" of the colony and it was an era when a few trading monopolies dominated both the retailing of essential goods and the purchase of grain crops. Against the intrigues and nefarious dealings of the NSW Corps and John Macarthur, he strived to give the farmers a fair deal.

- Thompson played a leading role in organizing support for Governor Bligh among the Hawkesbury settlers. The 1808 Loyalty Address was signed (or marked) by 833 men – incredible support when you consider the lesser number of Corps soldiers in the colony then. It is entirely possible that the fright that this Address gave the Corps officers triggered the arrest of Bligh, the start of the Rum Rebellion.

- Thompson was a visionary in the development of Green Hills, and the largest private employer of men in the colony.
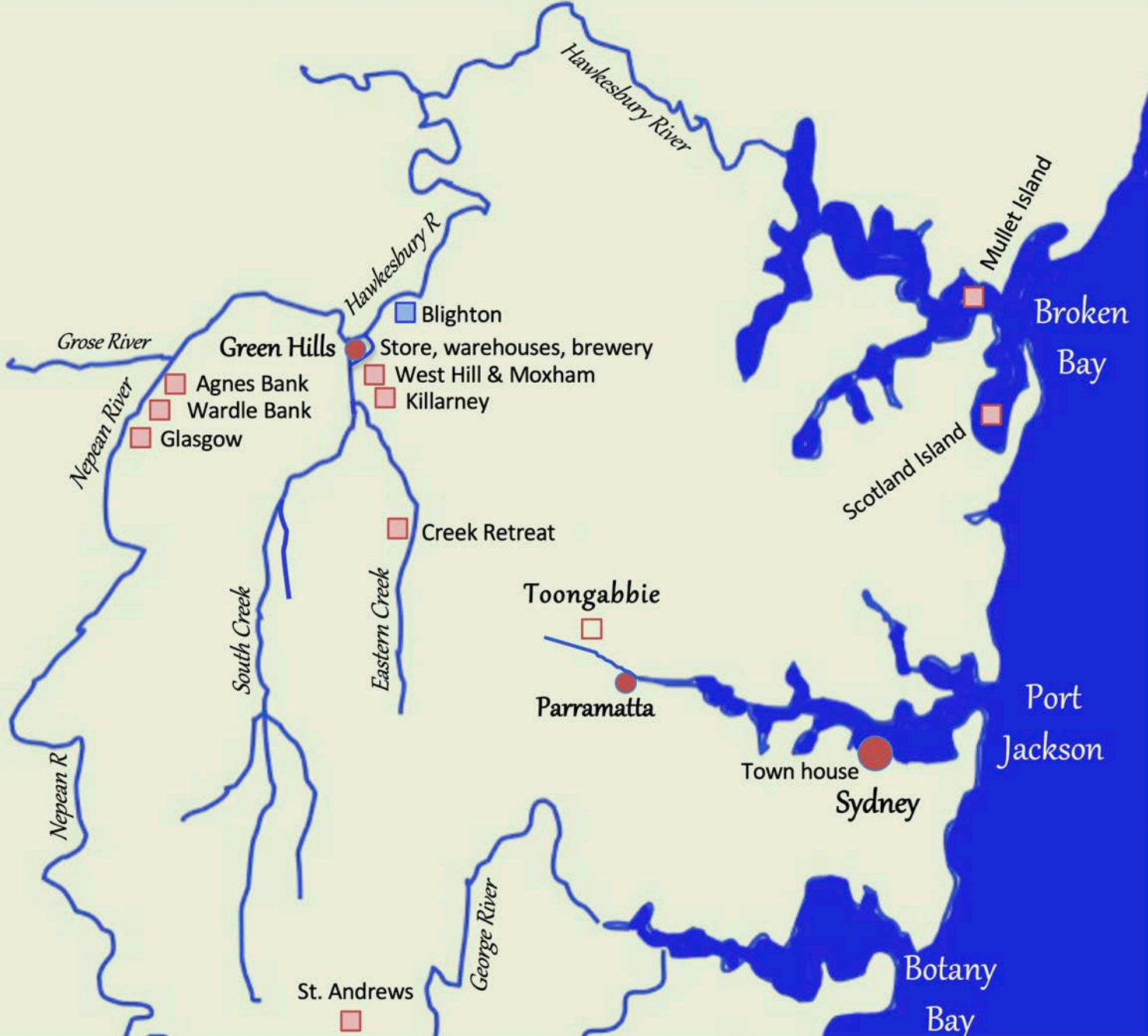
Map showing **Andrew Thompson's properties & enterprises** in 1810.

Recent confirmation of the love 19thC Hawkesbury
residents held for Andrew Thompson.

44

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 honour... Andrew Thompson gained more fame and fortu... Wales than he could ever have hoped for in h...

ANDREW THOMPSON

ANDREW THOM...

From Boy Convict to Wealthiest Settler in Colonial Australia

Thank you for coming tonight!

ISBN 978-0-9876292-2-7
90000
9 780987 629227

HISTORY / BIOGRAPHY
Cover design by OzKunstPro
... the painting by J.W. Lewin of the Bligh...n farm where Thompson was bailiff

eSh
PUBLICATION

ANNEGRET HALL

Author of IN FOR THE LONG HAUL

www.annegrethall.com