

The Pleydell Newsletter

No.22, September 2011.

ISSN 0269-1590

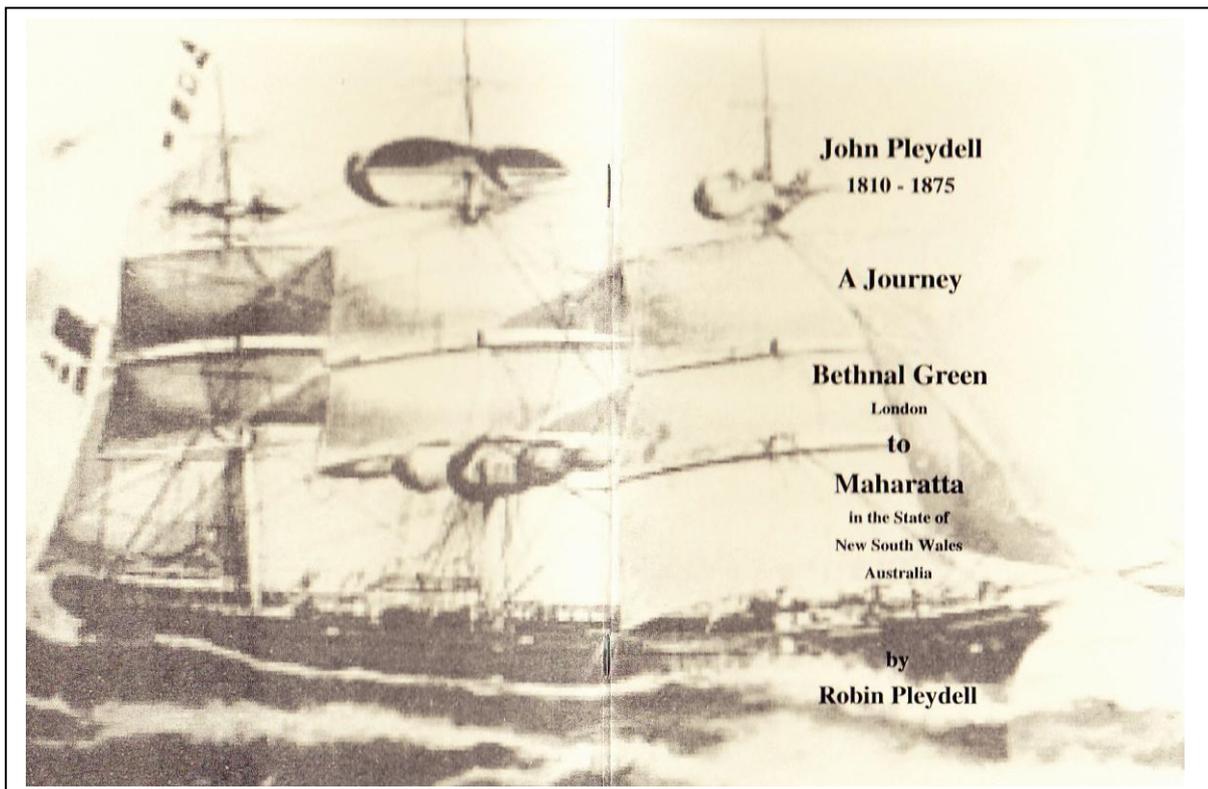
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The cover of Robin Pleydell's account of how his great-great-grandfather, John Pleydell, came to Australia in 1827 on the ship "Guildford", and of his new life in New South Wales. See review of the book inside on page 2.

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THE FRONT COVER

Our front cover this issue is a facsimile of the front cover of Robin Pleydell's book "John Pleydell (1810 – 1875) A Journey: Bethnal Green to Maharatta". Robin tells us that it was completed and published at the end of last year, 2010, to recognize that it was 200 years since his birth and to record his life and times, from the point where he was arrested in Bethnal Green and transported to New South Wales in 1827, through to his death in 1875. His many descendants live in Australia and New Zealand. Copies have been distributed to those in the Society who have direct links and have also been lodged with the National Library of Australia and the State Libraries of NSW and Victoria. In the book Robin acknowledges the contributions of many to the information gathered, and, in particular, to his wife Janice.

Editor David writes:

"On reading the book one is struck by John's fortitude in facing difficulties, and his perseverance in overcoming them, to the point where his obituary in the "Bombala Herald" could refer to him as "an old and respected servant of the Maharatta station". The "History Wall" at Cathcart (commemorating its

pioneers) sums up his achievements – 'A full and rewarding life'.

This book shows how much information can be discovered – baptismal records, Newgate Prison and Old Bailey trial records, a Petition for Mercy accompanied by character references submitted to the Home Secretary, the voyage of the ship taking him to Australia, detailed records of where and for whom he worked until his Pardon, his marriage and the birth of his children, and later community sources such as newspapers – all of these have been meticulously researched, and the book is illustrated with pictures of relevant places in London, reproductions of the principal documents, and a map of New South Wales with the locations carefully marked.

The book is an impressive, professional and very interesting publication, a delight to read, full of interest, and a notable contribution to the history both of the Pleydell family and also to the history of Australia. It is also a tribute to John, who after an appalling start, faced difficulties with fortitude and courage and ultimately triumphed over adversity - a founding father of whom Australia, as well as his descendants, can be proud".

Robin writes:

At the time of publication, no records (Birth/Death) of Mary Anne Reeves, who married John in 1846, could be found. Subsequently a special effort, including assistance from a professional researcher, has enabled further information to be located. The records show a James Reeves (a soldier with the 80th Regiment and a member of a guard contingent) and Jane Reeves arrived in Sydney on board the convict ship "Mangles" in July 1837, accompanied by their two children M(ary) Anne and Robert (as recorded in the surgeons journal).

At the time of Mary Anne Reeves' marriage to John Pleydell consent was given by K Robertson J.P. "legal guardian of minors", as she was under age at the time. Her Mother was deceased and her Father had been convicted of a crime after arrival in Australia and transported initially to Norfolk Island and later to Tasmania. They were therefore not available to consent. The IGI records show that she had been baptized at St Mary' Church, Carlisle, Cumberland, England, and her brother Robert at St Peter's Church, Liverpool, Lancashire.

Mary had three children with John. First, the eldest, John Joseph, whose Christian name followed a long history of the name being used through several generations. Second, James Reeves, after Mary's father, and the third child was Robert, who was named after her brother. We know Mary disappeared in 1856, as recorded in an advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald in 1866 asking that she contact John Pleydell's representative. Mary was regarded as deceased at that point for legal purposes as John remarried in that year. A theory is Mary took her youngest son Robert, who would have been three at the time when she left, as no record can be found of him except for baptism. Extensive research has been conducted under a number of names but with no result. It is quite possible she may have taken another name or remarried, etc., and Robert would not have known his family details. The marriage and death of Robert Reeves son of James and Jane has been found. The marriage took place in 1886 and he died in 1915 with no issue.

As often occurs with Genealogy, it is not always possible to be totally satisfied as to the veracity of all conclusions, but on the available information it is believed they are correct at this time.

THE CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

Welcome to the twenty -second edition of the Society's Newsletter. As always, it contains a variety of items ranging from accounts of detailed research, information about members, and items that, in one way or another, set generations in their social and historical backgrounds. This includes an update on the extensive and dedicated research being carried out by Eric and Larissa Pleydell into family linkages in the East End of London. Their enthusiasm has steadily narrowed down and has finally solved the missing direct ancestry of John Pleydell (1765 – 1836), and allied with this is the interest in Richard Pleydell (born c.1788 who married Hepzibah Herd) shown by members Sheila Coggan, Sheilah Dellow, Sue Odell, and David Gevaux.

We welcome new members from Australia: Tess Edwards Baldessin (great grand-daughter of John Joseph Pleydell) and also Mr & Mrs Max Pleydell. We are also pleased that Imogen Gumedede has joined us. Her mother, Lillian Pilling (nee Pleydell) of London and Lancashire was interested in the family history. We were able to provide Imogen with some background information. Another new UK member is Brenda Francis who has interest in Pleydell links with life and slavery in Jamaica and has been exchanging fresh research with Pat Hanby and David Jarman.

We received an enquiry from Jo Pleydell of Wellington in New Zealand whose father is Richard Gordon Pleydell and Grandfather was Ernest Gordon Pleydell.

Unfortunately there have been some technical problems in noting and responding to enquiries originating from the Society website. Hopefully these problems have now been resolved.

At various time we have commented in the informal nature of our one-name Pleydell Society. We have a constitution, drawn up by David Jarman at the outset, and we have, of course, our committee. We publish information about our committee meetings and our finances in the Newsletters. However we do not hold annual general meetings. This should not be taken as being insular and autocratic. It's really what we think is a practical view of what can be done. Our members are scattered geographically. Endeavouring to get people together through more social events has not always been successful. In reality we are open to your comments and suggestions, and indeed would welcome new members to join in the work of the committee. Please give it some thought – fresh blood, new ideas and impetus.