

EXTRACTS FROM
DIARY OF JAMES BELBIN for the years 1808 to 1810, in the possession
of Mr L.S. Rogers of Alma Road Lower Sandy Bay.

4th June 1808. City of Edinburgh arrived off Norfolk Island.

3rd September. Embarked on board.

Sept 9. Took departure from island.

28th Sept. arrived off Van Diemen's Land.

Oct 2. Anchored in the **Harbour**.

Oct 3 1808. Landed at Hobart Town.

5 Oct 1808. Victualled from the Stores.

Dec 2 1808. Beat to arms. Mr Harris put under arrest by Lt Lord,
Govr Collins being up at New Norfolk.

24 Dec 1808. (Inside cover of diary pocket- book). Sailed from Port
Dalrymple His Majesty's ship Porpoise, with Col Paterson.

1809. May 21st. Mr Knoxwood read Col Paterson's Proclamation and a
General Order enforcing the same by Col Collins.

(It was also read in the Lumber Yard)

The same _____ sent an address to His Excellency G.
Bligh signed by many of the Norfolk settlers.

March 31st. His Majesty's ship Porpoise with Govr Bligh and brought
back the Hunter with her. Govr Bligh landed and was
saluted with the Great Guns but did not remain on shore
to dine with Govr Collins.

April 4. At night 7 men ran away belonging to the Porpoise, taking
with them her Jelly Boat-destination not known.

6. Porpoise Boat found 2 men taken the same night.

24. Monday morning about 8 o'clock was forcibly dragged from my children and my dwelling by Mr Lord and a written address left in my hands for the signature of the loyal settlers and inhabitants of Norfolk Island and address to Excellency W. Bligh Esq Govr Chief was also forcibly taken from me and myself kicked and thrown down in the mud and otherwise ill-treated on the road to the Guard House by the aforesaid Mr Lord, who delivered me in charge to 2 of the ²/troops of the names of the Younger Taylor and _____ who conducted me to the Guard House. There I was given in charge to Sergeant Gangel as a Mutineer with the prohibition of not *buffering* me to speak to any person but my children and the said Mr Lord saying he would hang me for a Mutineer- where I remained until Wednesday morning 26 of April between 11 and 12 o'clock I was discharged by the Rev Rich(sic) Knopwood Esq the said Edwd Lord Esq sitting as a Magistrate on condition of my not sending written letters or addresses to His Exc W. Bligh without first showing them to his honor Govr Collins Esq, agreeable to a General Order issued the day before 25 April, which I acceded to.

Mr Knopwood behaved as a gentleman acting with candour and impartially. Mr Lord turbulent and prejudiced against me, upbraided me with once being a convict which sarcasm retorted on himself.

Tuesday 23 May. After sitting as one of the Jurors on the body

Boyd who was found dead the same morning I retired to spend the evening with Thos R. Crowder another of the Jurors, when on returning home about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an hour past eight o'clock I was met by Mr Knopwood and the Military Patrols, when I was confined to the Guard House from $\frac{1}{2}$ past eight o'clock till after six o'clock the next evening when I was discharged by the order of Govr Collins without even being brought before a Magistrate. The charge laid against me was for being out after hours by Mr Knopwood, tho' I behaved myself in a becoming and orderly manner and accounted to him where I had been

29. Went on board the Porpoise to see His Excellency Govr Bligh and had an interview with His Excellency, the first time of speaking to His Excellency.

Oct 3. Heard M C mention the particulars of the Spirits run by L and C at Newtown from the L. Barlow and lodged at Mr W - h - ds.

Note. At this time kangaroo meat was being issued from the Store instead of flour.

1809. Oct 12th. Farmer Tom free Settler from England punished for from writing a contumelious letter to G Collins at the time of punishment Govr Collins in the hearing of Thos Gay and Jos Peck expressed himself in the most malignant manner to W. Collins Suprt that Crowder and Belbin ought to have been there as deserving of the same punishment.
- 23 Oct. Mr K called to look at the house and began a conversation with me respecting the Bondage Spirits landed from the Barlow being all gone.
- 26 Oct. (Survey ordered by Collins of the Public Store, and deficiencies, and some stores condemned)
- Nov 7. Committed to the Guard House by Mr Harris on a False Charge of Insolence because I thought proper to correct my daughter Sarah for a fault the evening before.
- Dec 4. Brought before a Bench of Magistrates Messrs K and L and C being held in confinement from my children till that time altho Thos O, B, and G Porter, settlers offered bail for me, which was refused. The same day was sentenced to receive 500 lashes by Lt G Collins order for denying Col P Proclamation and because I would not acknowledge any person but H. E. W. B. Esq as the Govr in Chief without a legal cause for changing my opinion, but owing to the distress state of mind I laboured under from being confined 27 days from my motherless children I was rendered incapable of receiving but 50 lashes and was afterwards held in confinement till Monday the 15th of Jany 1810 when I was brought ^{before} ~~before~~ Mr K and H

and dismissed after being confined for 10 weeks wanting 1 day, during which time was prohibited from speaking to any person but my children, and during my unfortunate confinement my daughter Elizabeth was seduced by W. Sherrard which information I did not receive till the 9th of Decr in the evening 1809, tho the seduction took place a few nights after my confinement by Mr Harris, 23rd my son James received a hurt that obliged me to apply for medical assistance and to keep him in the Guard House with me till I was liberated.

1810. Jany 3rd. Sailed H.M. Ship Porpoise for Pt Jackson with His Ex W.B. Esq- the next day my children was locked out of the house I was billeted in _____ when my children Kitty Susan and James was obliged to lay in the G-d House with me.

10th. Application was made to me for my daughter Kitty by E. Eddington through the channel of M Michaels for her to live at Govt House to nurse her daughter's young child, when I denied her going, which was the means of prolonging my confinement till the 15th, as Sergt Davis told me that the Govr meant to release me that day, only that I denied him my daughter.

24th March 1810. Died Lt Govr Collins. Buried 29th.

July 2. Confined in the Guard House.

4. Punished by the sentence of the Court 300 lashes and 2 years fine for sticking up a Paper with the Settlers thanks for the impartial conduct of Capt _____

Belbin family

James Belbin	born Feb 11th 1771
Mary Ann Merridith	Feb 10 1793
Elizabeth Belbin	Feb 26 1795
Sarah Belbin	Jan 29 1797
Harriott & Catherine	Sept 12 1798
Susannah Belbin	June 27 1805
James Belbin	August 30 1803
Mary Brooks Belbin	July 31 1807

Left at Norfolk Island with her mother.

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Ann Meredith Belbin died in childbed May 31 1805, aged 35 year.

Harriott Belbin Twin died June 19 1805 aged 6 yrs 9 mths 7 days.
Both buried at Norfolk Island.

LOOSE PAPERS IN POCKET BOOK

1. Victualling Order dated 29 April 1814.
 "Victual James Belbin wife & son a new Settler for 18 months
 from this day and then discharge them without further orders.
 (signed) T. Davey
 Lt Govr."
 A True Copy
 of the Victualling Order
 Received. "
2. 12 Sept 1840. Letter from J. Belbin to (addressee not stated)
 re fees &c received by him as Inspector at the Slaughter
 House under the Slaughtering Acts of 1817 and 1830.
3. Testimonials (copies only) dated 1843 in connection with Belbin's
 application for a Pension. From the following- all highly
 laudatory:-
 Sir J.L. Pedder, who says he had lived opposite B
 in Macquarie St for 14 years.
 M. Forster
 W. Fletcher
 Wm Kermode
 C. Swanston
 John Kerr
 G.T. Boyes.