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2119 A Connection to the Sea-Faring Cat, Trim!

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A CONNECTION TO THE SEA-FARING CAT, TRIM!

ANDREW GOLDIE, GUNNER, ROYAL NAVY

Having had a longtime interest in the story of Matthew Flinders (1774-1814) and his cat, and best friend, Trim, I could hardly believe it when I encountered an unexpected research finding: my four times great grandfather, Andrew Goldie, was a gunner on the discovery ship *HMS Reliance*, where Trim had been born in 1797. Flinders and Trim were to serve together on ships *HMS Reliance*, *HMS Investigator*, *HMS Porpoise* and *HMS Cumberland*. Unfortunately, Trim suffered an untimely death while on Isle of France (Mauritius), where Flinders was kept prisoner for seven years on his way home to England.¹ France, at this time, was at war with England. I was so thrilled to have a connection to this adventurous feline. Now I needed to find out more about my ancestor, Andrew Goldie.

Statue of *Trim* on outside window sill,
Mitchell Library, Sydney.



The son of James Goldie, a bricklayer, and Agnes Blackstock, Andrew Goldie was Baptised on 25 August 1765 at Dumfries, Scotland.²

In his teens, Goldie commenced a seven-year apprenticeship by joining the London Guild of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen in January 1784. From early times, the river Thames had been used as a main highway for moving people (Watermen) and goods and cargo (Lightermen).³

This apprenticeship led to Goldie becoming a warrant officer in the Royal Navy, joining when aged about 26 years.⁴ Goldie's birth year varies from 1766-1769 in the British Royal Navy Ship's muster records.

Goldie served on *HMS Reliance* from 1794 to 1801.⁵ During the ship's trip to Port Jackson, arriving in September 1795, Andrew would have spent many hours interacting with the colony's future notable residents. On board were Commander Henry Waterhouse; George Bass, the ship's doctor; Matthew Flinders, navigator and hydrographer; John Hunter, the newly-appointed Governor of the colony of New South Wales; and Woollarawarre Bennelong. An Aboriginal man, Bennelong was returning to Sydney after a three-year visit to London with Governor Arthur Phillip, who had been learning the customs and language of the Indigenous people. Also carried on board, and stored in the cutter of *Reliance*, was the six-foot boat named *Tom Thumb*, which Bass and Flinders would use to charter the coastal inlets and rivers around Port Jackson.⁶

My four times great grandparents, Margaret Fogarty and Andrew Goldie, produced a child, Mary, who was born on 25 August 1800,⁷ six months after Goldie left the colony.

Margaret had arrived on the convict ship *Britannia* III in July 1798. For at least two months, Margaret was living on *HMS Reliance* and Mary was conceived on or about 25 November 1799. The ship was on a two-month round voyage, carrying passengers to and from Norfolk Island.⁸

While based in Sydney, *HMS Reliance* made four trips to Norfolk Island in 1796-99, and to the Cape of Good Hope in 1796, returning in 1797 to secure supplies of live animals to improve the Government meat stocks in the colony. Goldie (Mr. Gouldie [sic]) purchased six calves for the mess, and a goat and kid.⁹ One might imagine the later were for Margaret. Trim the cat was born on this voyage in early 1797.

Goldie had been involved in affairs of the settlement, including serving in the Vice-Admiralty court with naval colleagues, Waterhouse and Flinders.¹⁰ Governor Hunter was very impressed with Goldie and hoped to keep him in the colony as chief gunner and ordnance storekeeper. Due to the ship being low in officers, he was unable to stay.¹¹ Waterhouse wrote a letter of recommendation for Goldie to return to the colony and take up Hunter's request,¹² but this did not eventuate.

Before Goldie left the colony in March 1800, it is possible that he introduced Margaret to Richard Cheers, a moderately successful butcher, publican and land owner thinking he would look after her. However, their relationship was a volatile one, with Margaret taking Cheers to court for selling her house, and for maintenance of their first child, although they went on to have two more children. Margaret died in 1810 aged 39 years; an inquest revealed her death was due to "excessive inebriety."¹³

Serving in the English Royal Navy firstly as able seaman on the ship *HMS Assistant*,¹⁴ Goldie rose through the ranks from quartermaster, gunner's mate, master's mate, acting gunner and gunner from 1794-1818 on *HMS Reliance*, *HMS Overijssel*, *HMS Defence* (on which he fought in the 1805 *Battle of Trafalgar*), and *HMS Princess Augusta*.¹⁵ Listed amongst professions such as mariners, shipwrights and boatswains, Goldie was made a mason with the Lodge of Moral Reformation on 23 November, 1800.¹⁶ He received his pension Certificate of Service for service in the Royal Navy of over 20 years on 9 October 1818.¹⁷ A parish official of St. Nicholas, Deptford from 1825-1830, Goldie was responsible for administering funds to the poor.¹⁸

The Battle of Trafalgar was fought near Cape Trafalgar, Spain between the 27 ships of the British fleet, and a total of 33 French and Spanish ships. A naval engagement of the Napoleonic Wars, it established Britain's naval dominance for more than 100 years.¹⁹

After returning to England, Goldie, resided in Chatham, Kent (Royal Navy Dockyard), and married Mary Fearnall in 1806 at St. Margaret, Lee Terrace, Kent.²⁰ They had two sons, Andrew and James.

Towards the end of his naval career, Goldie went into the coal merchant business, firstly with his in-laws, under the firm Joshua Fearnall and Co. This partnership was dissolved by mutual agreement in 1813.²¹ Another partnership was with Joshua Fearnall and John Brown. That venture ended in 1815.²² A final partnership with John Brown ended in bankruptcy.²³

Goldie died in 1839 at his home at Union Street, Deptford, Kent. In his Will his possessions were left to his wife.²⁴ He was buried on 5 June at St. Paul's Church of England, Deptford aged 73 years.²⁵

Whenever I leave the State Library of New South Wales, after an afternoon of family history research, I always look for Trim on his window sill, right where I expect him to be. Now I am also reminded of my unexpected ancestor, Andrew Goldie.

¹ Flinders, M, *A Biographical Tribute to the Memory of Trim*, Angus & Robertson, An imprint of Harper Collins Publishers, Australia, 1997.

² Family History Library, SLC Utah, Church of Scotland parish registers for Dumfries, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, 1605-1855, Film No. 1067959, 1067960.

³ *Find My Past*, Binding Records 1692-1949, Thames Watermen & Lightermen 1688-2010; *The Company of Watermen & Lightermen of the River Thames*, <https://watermenscompany.com/>

⁴ *Find My Past*, British Royal Navy, Ships' Musters, record transcriptions 1791.

⁵ TNA, Navy Pay Office, Entry Books of Certificates of Service, Admiralty: gunners, UK, *Naval Officer and Rating Service Records, 1802-1919*, Catalogue ref: ADM 29/3.

⁶ *HMS Reliance (1793)* Wikipedia - information from: Colledge, J. J. and Warlow, Ben (2006). *Ships of the Royal Navy: the complete record of all fighting ships of the Royal Navy*, Rev. ed., London: Chatham. ISBN 9781861762818. OCLC 67375475; George Bass

http://www.davidreilly.com/australian_explorers/bass/bass.htm; Matthew Flinders,

http://www.abc.net.au/navigators/captains/flinders_print.htm

⁷ SRNSW, Reel 5001, St. Philip's Church of England baptism register, Ref: V18001100 1A/1800.

⁸ Family History Library, SLC, Utah, Film No. 2206102, Muster-Table of His Majesty's Ship Reliance 1 Nov & 31 Dec 1799, PRO ADM 36/13399, Admiralty muster books (series 1), 1766-1807. (Margaret Fogarthy [sic] mustered on the ship at Port Jackson on 30 Oct 1799 and mustered off at Port Jackson on 26 Dec 1799).

⁹ Cumpston, J. S., *Shipping Arrivals and Departures, Sydney, 1788-1825*, Vol. 1, 2nd edition, pps. 30-33, 35, A Roebuck Book, Canberra 1977; *Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. 3, 1796-1799, Livestock re Reliance, pps. 237-238.

¹⁰ *Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. 3, 1796-1799, Mutiny on the Barwell, pps. 453-472.

¹¹ *Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. 4, 1800-1802, Hunter to Portland, p. 60.

¹² TNA, Series: CO 201/17, p. 308-9, Reel PRO 8 & 9, New South Wales. Original Correspondence. Waterhouse to Rose & Ong, Joint Secretaries of His Majesty's Treasury, Despatches Apr-Dec 1800 (AJCP ref: <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-1234>).

¹³ SRNSW, Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788-1856, NRS 898, Reel 6021, 4/1819, pp. 77-82, Inquest of Margaret Cheers.

¹⁴ *Find My Past*, British Royal Navy, Ships' Musters, record transcriptions 1791-93.

¹⁵ TNA, Trafalgar Ancestors, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/trafalgarancestors, Catalogue ref: ADM36/15942 & ADM 29/3.

¹⁶ *Ancestry.com*, United Grand Lodge of England Freemason membership registers 1751-1921, Folio No. 335.

¹⁷ TNA, Navy Pay Office, Entry Books of Certificates of Service, Admiralty: gunners, UK, *Naval Officer and Rating Service Records, 1802-1919*, Catalogue ref: ADM 29/3; *Find my Past*, British Royal Navy Ship's Musters 1791-1800.

¹⁸ Family History Library, SLC, Utah, Register of Electors, Kent, England, 1570-1907, microfilm No. 1656725, 1656726, 1656900, Churchwardens and Oversees of the Poor of Saint Nicholas, Deptford, Kent.

¹⁹ Britannica, Battle of Trafalgar, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Battle-of-Trafalgar-European-history>

²⁰ *Ancestry.com*, London Metropolitan Archives; London, England; *London Church of England Parish Registers*; Reference Number: DW/T/1000.

²¹ *Find My Past*, London Gazette 27 November 1813, p. 2391.

²² *Find My Past*, London Gazette 13 May 1815, p. 905.

²³ *Find My Past*, London Gazette 9 March 1816, p. 473, 8 August 1818, p. 1430, 8 March 1823, p. 385.

²⁴ TNA, Cat. Ref.: Prob 11/1912, Records of the Prerogative Court of Canterbury.

²⁵ Family History Library, SLC, Utah, Film No. 254588, Bishops transcripts for St. Paul's Church, Deptford, Kent, 1801-1843, burial of Andrew Goldie.