

**A FIRST FLEET FAMILY. A HITHERTO  
UNPUBLISHED NARRATIVE OF CERTAIN  
REMARKABLE ADVENTURES COMPILED  
FROM THE PAPERS OF SERGEANT  
WILLIAM DEW OF THE MARINES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649039159

A First Fleet Family. A Hitherto Unpublished Narrative of Certain Remarkable Adventures  
Compiled from the Papers of Sergeant William Dew of the Marines by Louis Becke & Walter  
Jeffery

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**LOUIS BECKE & WALTER JEFFERY**

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**A FIRST FLEET FAMILY**

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# A FIRST FLEET FAMILY

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REMARKABLE ADVENTURES  
COMPILED FROM THE PAPERS  
OF SERGEANT WILLIAM DEW  
OF THE MARINERS

BY  
LOUIS BECKE

WALTER JEFFERY

London

T. FISHER UNWIN

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## PREFACE

THE Editors of this narrative, some months since, received from Mr W. J. Dew the journals of his grandfather, Sergeant Dew, with the request that if they were likely to be of interest to the public, the Editors would put them into the form of a book and have them published.

The papers were submitted to the Editors, whose names appear with this work, on the ground that one of them is a personal friend of the present Dew family, and both of them are well acquainted with the localities and the events referred to by the Sergeant.

Sergeant Dew, before his death, left instructions that should his descendants at any time determine to make public his remarkable narrative, everything that could possibly cause pain



to any person living might be withheld from the printer.

As a matter of fact, the Editors found nothing in the papers the publication of which could cause anyone a moment's feeling of annoyance ; but any attempt made now to disguise the principal characters in the story would be futile, for the New South Wales Government has published, in a work called *The Historical Records of New South Wales*, nearly every fact here related.

In fact, a short account of the Bryants' escape—so far as the official knowledge of it goes—is to be found in most of the so-called histories of the Colony.

This being the case, the Editors determined to give the narrative as it stood, with only one reservation, and that is in the case of the name of Fairfax, which name is a fictitious one ; for the family whose ancestor was the officer who is known in the book under this name, might possibly object to being thus brought before the public. Some slight alterations have also been made in the English portion of the narrative in order to disguise the exact locality of the early scenes in Mr Dew's life.

It is only fair to the Editors to reproduce here a part of Mr Dew's letter, written by him, after reading the MS. of the work :—

'You have performed your task in a manner very gratifying to me. I quite agree with your change of ——'s name to Fairfax, and with your change of locality. I see you have corrected some of my grandfather's English and spelling. He was a little weak in the last particular, and some of his English would, of course, be too much out of date in these days of foreign words.—I am, yours gratefully,

W. J. DEW.'

The Editors express their indebtedness to the Historical Records above mentioned, and to Mr Barton's volumes in particular, for much information which enabled them to verify facts and dates in this narrative. The conspicuous ability of Mr Barton's work has enabled them to gain a knowledge of Phillip and his principal officers that, taken with Sergeant Dew's papers, has portrayed to their minds a vivid picture of the men. The necessity for curtailment, and the lack of ability on the part of the Editors, are the excuses offered to the reader, if he, when he has read this book, has not a fair idea of what manner of men they were. *The Historical Records of New South Wales* are largely indebted to

Philip Gidley King, Esq., M.L.C., of New South Wales, for much of what is published in them relating to King. The present Mr King is a grandson of Lieutenant King, and he very generously presented his country with many of his grandfather's papers. These documents have been of great use in preparing Mr Dew's narrative. Much that is purely history in Sergeant Dew's Journal has been of necessity omitted from this narrative; but if sufficient interest is taken by the public in what is here printed, plenty of material is contained in the Dew papers to make another book of the Sergeant's early adventures, in which the matters related would bring to light many things never before published.

Sir Henry Parkes, while this was being prepared for the press, was severely attacked by certain 'patriotic' members of the New South Wales Assembly for having ordered from England a statue of Phillip, to be erected in Sydney.

It may appear strange to English readers that while there is more than one statue of Cook in Sydney, it is scarcely known to the majority of the Australian people that Phillip was the man