By J. H. COLOGON

James Meehan

- One of the first white men to see the Yarra
- He chose the site of St. Mary's Cathedral
- He attended the first public mass in Sydney
- The surveyor of large tracts of Australia

On the morning of King George III's birthday, February 16, 1765, the transport, "Friendship," reached Port Jackson from England with a shipload of convicts.

Although she carried no import papers it is known that included in her complement were Rev. Father James Grimshaw, James Meehan and other Irish Catholics.

Of the early life of James Meehan there are details available but from the inscription on his tombstone, which states that he was in his 52nd year when he arrived in New South Wales, nothing is known.

For the few years before and after his arrival in New South Wales he was transported in the "Friendship" from Scotland to be settled in the colony.

Commissioner Hilgge's report to Governor Phillip, dated 1779, states that he was transported in the same ship he was in 1778.

Early in April, 1800, when the transport, "Phaeton," arrived, he was assigned to Surveyor-General Meehan's party and was stationed at Sydney Cove, where he surveyed a large tract of land, as the settlement was growing rapidly.

Meehan's party occupied his personal appearance is fairly well described by his son, John Meehan, who already quoted says: "He was tall, strong, intelligent, and skilful, but lacks selfishness and a desire to be treated with particular kindness or card of any advantage.

Altho' for one has enjoyed larger opportunities of taking a position in public life, I am sure he would have been found of his corruption.

James Meehan was commissioned a Surveyor-General in 1815 and accompanied Surveyor-General Macquarie on his explorations to the coast of New South Wales. He was also one of the surveyors.

As a result of his services in the colony, he was rewarded with a grant of land.

In 1815, James Meehan was appointed to the position of Commissioner of Crown Lands.

On October 18, 1815, James Meehan was appointed a Commissioner of Crown Lands as a result of his services in the colony. He was appointed to the position of Commissioner of Crown Lands, and later made surveyor in the colony of New South Wales.

In 1817, Meehan was granted 100 acres at Port Jackson on the southern side of Parramatta, which was later sold.

On May 27, 1814, Macquarie, on Meehan's report, took immediate action regarding the local occupation of allotments and their sale, and made special arrangements for their surveying and sale.

Under date October 7, 1814, Government Macquarie wrote to Mr. John Macquarie, the present Deputy surveyor, directing him to attend the office of Collector of Crown Lands at any time at a salary of 7/ per day to be paid out of the Colonial Fund.

Mr. Meehan has the duties of the Deputy Surveyor-General in charge of the department of the Collector of Crown Lands, and is also responsible for the collection of rents, and can be found at any time at the Colonial Fund.

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