Elizabeth and David

1811: The Hawkesbury Region, NSW

Her decision was made and there was no turning back now. Elizabeth remembered what it had been like to be part of a family of such high standing, visiting the houses of all the best families of the area. It was on one of these visits that her life had changed forever, for it was at the Governor’s residence that she had met David.

It had been a chance meeting as she was leaving and she had been overly bold in speaking to David, something she would never had done had her mother been present. For she was a privileged daughter of an upstanding citizen and he was a convict serving his sentence: a conversation should never have happened. Still, she had made her decision and now she must live with it. She remembered when she told her parents about David: at first here was silent shock, then anger form her father. He told her how disappointed he was in her, how she could have done so much better for a husband then a convict, especially one still serving his sentence.

Angrily, he went on to tell of the shame she had brought on the family and told her there was no coming back from this decision: if she married David she was no longer a part of this family. At this, her mother had cried and begged her to reconsider. But she was in love and couldn’t turn her back on that. Her decision was made and she was no longer a part of this family.

Reflective statement:

This story is about my 4x great grandparents. It is a fact that they were married in 1811 in Windsor, New South Wales and lived in the wider Hawkesbury area. Elizabeth was the daughter of John Grono who was a well-known and prominent ship builder in the early colony. At the time of their marriage, David was in the middle of his 14 year sentence and so was assigned to his wife. Prior to their marriage, David was assigned to the residence of the Governor. I have read widely on John Grono and very little is written about Elizabeth and her husband, beyond the fact that they were married and her was a convict. Most tellingly to me is the fact that while John Grono and his wife along with many of his offspring and their spouses are buried in a grand family plot at Ebenezer Church whilst Elizabeth and David are buried in unmarked graves at a small church in Pitt Town. As this is a work of fiction, I have embellished how they might have met and the feud that I assume would have happened as a result of marrying a convict. I have also embellished what the reason may have been for the marriage, which is something records do not tell us.