

Deposition of Abraham Hendrike, 16 November 1813

(Copy)

New South Wales

County of Cumberland

Abraham Hendrike Mariner now of the Brig Daphne lying at Sydney Cove Port Jackson maketh Oath and saith that in the Month of September in the year One thousand Eight hundred and twelve he shipped on board the Brig Daphne Michael Fodger Master sailed from Port Jackson in the Month of September aforesaid, touched at New Zealand from thence made the Palmerstone Islands where the said Michael Fodger had theretofore in the Year One thousand Eight hundred and Eleven left six Europeans four of whom were Englishmen and two Portugese [sic]. One of these Men swam off to the Brig Daphne and when she was about seven Miles off Shore He informed Captain Fodger that John Bearback the Principal of the Gang and one Michael Cuff were killed, another was Speared thro the back and the Man that Swam off ran into the Woods and there remained until the Daphne made the Island, having been on the Island thirteen Months. Captain Fodger would not remain in order to get off the remainder of the Gang, altho his Crew requested him to do so, and offered to wave [sic] their Wages and live upon half Allowance while he should remain off the Island – The Man who swam off informed Captain Fodger that it was the Portugese [sic] murdered Bearbeck [sic] and man, from thence the Brig Daphne proceeded to Ulitea one of the Society Islands and there procured a supply of Pork from thence made the Island of Bolabola and procured some

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more Pork and were informed that the Uleteans intended to attack Captain Foldger [sic] in the Brig Trial the Voyage before – here Captain Fodger Shipped two Europeans who were left on the Island by some other vessel from Bolabola touched at the Island of Eimeo where the man who Swam off at the Palmerstone Islands was left with Mr Henry the Missionary to give information relative to the Men murdered at the Islands, from Eimeo – Made the Island of Otieheita [sic] there shipped Six Natives as Divers from thence made the Island of Anna one of the Pearl Islands [f] and there shipped five Natives and a Lascar named Amile from thence made the Pearl Islands and procured a quantity of Pearls and Pearl Shells – being short of Provisions the Daphne proceeded to Otahiete to procure a supply the six natives before shipped there, not being paid for their Services by Captain Fodger ran ashore – the Europeans of the Crew complained of the bad provisions given them, – Captain Fodger ordered five of the Europeans to be turned on shore without provisions or Clothes directed his Mate to Shoot the first Man that would go below for his Cloths or things One Man Henry Williams was shot by Fodger thro both thighs and another was wounded with the but [sic] end of a Pistol the names of these people are William Ralph, George Roberts, John Carr, James Welsh, and William Gerrard – at length he allowed them to take their Cloths and told a Native Chief to send his Men after these Europeans to strip them and beat their brains out with Stones. This deponent saith that he saw this circumstance stated in the Journal of Mr. Davey an Officer of the Brig Queen Charlotte, William

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Shelly Master as reported by the Natives at this Island Otaheite, Captain Fodger shipped fifteen other Natives as divers, from thence sailed to the Island of Tabooway there shipped five Europeans formerly belonging to the Brig Trial— from thence made the Island of Roorootoo and shipped three Natives there— from thence made an Island called Reematerra— three Canoes very small came off to the Ship there were eighteen Natives the Canoes were so small that the Natives were obliged to swim alongside them they brought some fruits— Bananas, Yams and Plantains, the Captain invited them aboard they quitted the Canoes let them adrift came on board— these Islanders appeared as if they had never before seen white people they addressed the Europeans with the greatest reverence fell down clasped and kissed their feet, they got a small bit of Iron hoop and a pearl Shell each for their fruits, their Canoes were swamped alongside the Brig was standing out to sea, it blew fresh— the Land was about seven Miles distant the Captain ordered the [f] Mate to turn these Islanders out of the Ship which was done in a very cruel manner they were beat with a ropes end turned over the ships side and while clinging to the Ship their hands were beaten they then swam to their Canoes which were already Swamped and fourteen out of the Eighteen were drowned [sic] at a short distance from the Vessel. And this Deponent remonstrated with the Captain saying these men would be drowned unless they were assisted and upon a tack being made towards were [sic] the Canoes were it was too late, they having been drowned, from thence the Brig made the Island of Seebroovoi the Chief of the Island came

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on board and offered to sell Captain Fodger some Sandal Wood for English Cloths; the Captain offered him a few Tokeys these the Chief refused to take, the Captain made a Prisoner of the Chief and told him he should not go on shore until all the Sandal Wood the Chief had should be brought off, in the same Canoe with this Chief were two other Chiefs. He fired a musket at the Canoe to seize them also, but they escaped. Captain Fodger kept the Chief Prisoner until next day when his subjects brought off all the Sandal Wood, they had about a Ton and half he then liberated the Chief and gave him only two puppy dogs and a piece of bad Otaheite Cloth— from this Island proceeded to the Island of Aunna and there shipped four men and from thence came to the Island of Arava, on the Twenty eighth of August the Taheitan and other Coloured Men of the Crew mutineer'd they killed Captain Fodger, William Gill and Christian Kisasky— Vanderkiste the Chief Mate was severely wounded and escaped out thro the Cabin Window into the Boat four others were wounded three more escaped to the Shore, the next day the Mutineers put the Wounded Men on Shore, These with the Men who escaped were left on Shore eight in Number Mr. Vanderkiste John Mellon Edward Collyer John Queen, Robert Roways, Joseph Shell Terry Thompson and John Riley seven of the Crew were spared, Six of whom were Europeans and one Lascar the Mutineers compelled these men to navigate the Brig to Otahiete and left the said Eight men on the Island altho earnestly requested to bring them off, the Mutineers told the remaining Europeans if they persisted [f] in asking to bring these Men,

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themselves should be murdered the Island of Arava where the men were left is quite desert and barren, and they were left without any means of procuring Subsistance not even a fish hook – The Brig arrived at Matavia Bay Otaheite on the 31st August, Shortly after the Brig Endeavor of Sydney Cove Theodore Walker Master came along side, He was informed of the Mutiny and distress of the Daphne in the course of the night the Mutineers fired on the Endeavor the fire was returned and continued about two hours and a half, after it had ceased in the course of the night the Mutineers quitted the Ship, about day break Captain Walker made a Signal and being informed by the Europeans that the Mutineers were gone came on board with an armed party, upon searching Amile the Lascar who was very active in the Mutiny was found, Captain Walker carried him on board the Endeavor where he was immediately Hanged on the Yard Arm by Walkers order, and while hanging and yet alive a Pistol loaded with large Shot was fired into his side – Sailed from thence to Eimeo to repair and the Crew begged Captain Walker to go back to relieve the Eight Men left at Arava, but he could not, the Wind being contrary, from thence came to Port Jackson –

“Signed” Abraham Hendrike

Sworn before me at

Sydney New South Wales

The 16th day of Nov 1813

“Signed” Samuel Marsden

J.P.

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John Jones seaman of the Brig Daphne maketh Oath and saith That he this Deponent was employed as a Seaman on board the Brig Daphne all the time in the foregoing Affidavit of Abraham Hendrik stated, and, that the said Affidavit is true and Correct in substance and matter of fact

“Signed” John Jones

Sworn before me at Sydney

New South Wales the 16th

day of November 1813

“Signed”

Samuel Marsden JP

[f]

Thomas French Seaman of the Brig Daphne Maketh Oath and saith that the foregoing affidavit of Abraham Hendrike has been read over to him that this Deponent shipped on board the Daphne at the Island of Tabooway as therein mentioned and that the same as far as relates to the facts after this Deponent Shipped as aforesaid are true and correct save that this Deponent does not recollect whether Amile the Lascar was hanged on the Yard Arm of the Endeavor or Daphne Brig. But he was hanged on one or other –

“Signed”

his

Thomas + French

Mark

MS. 54/19

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Sworn before me at

Sydney New South Wales

the 16th Nov 1813

“Signed” Samuel Marsden

J.P.

John Randall Seaman of the Brig Daphne Maketh Oath and Saith that the foregoing Affidavit of Abraham Hendrike has been read over to this Deponent, and that this Deponent shipped on board the said Brig at the Island of Otaheite as therein stated and that the same as far as relates to the facts stated since this Deponent shipped as aforesaid are true and correct—

“Signed”

his

John + Randall

Mark

Sworn before me at Sydney

New South Wales, the

16th day of November

1813

“Signed”

Samuel Marsden

J.P.