

A147 Thomas Moore - Sailor, boat-builder, farmer, Magistrate for NSW, philanthropist, founder of Moore College

Title/rank: Sailor, free-settler farmer from 1796, magistrate for NSW, a captain in the Loyal Sydney Volunteer Association in 1808.

Born – date/year: 1762

Place of origin: England. Arrived in Sydney in October 1791. Then went off sailing and returned in 1796.



Marital status & children: Married Rachael Turner, an ex-convict in 1797. Thomas accepted Andrew, Rachael's illegitimate son by Surgeon George White (who returned to England but who left Rachael and Andrew well provided for). It appears that Andrew returned to England when young, where he was brought up by his father. He was the first 'colonial boy' to fight in the Battle of Waterloo (1815) and rose to the rank of Captain in the Royal Engineers. After he retired from the Army, he eventually returned to NSW and was reunited with Rachael, who had had no children by Thomas.

It is worth adding that Andrew actually died (1837) a year before Rachael (1838) and was buried as Captain A.D. White in LPMP (Grave A147). It was beside this grave that his mother and Thomas were subsequently buried.

Place where lived: Thomas first lived on a grant which he had been given beside the Tank Stream, on what became the southern side of Bridge Street in Sydney. This was a three-acre (1.2 ha) orchard and the centre of his business activities. He later moved to his farm *Moorebank*, adjacent to Liverpool.

Role/job: In 1796, he was made master boat builder in the dockyard at Port Jackson and in 1798 he was a member of the Vice-Admiralty Court set up to try those accused of mutiny in the *Barwell*. In 1803, he was commissioned to survey and procure timber from the George's River for ship building and naval purposes. He built his own cutter *Integrity*, and began to trade with Brisbane Water, he also engaged in general building.

In 1809, Moore gave up his post as master boat builder and withdrew from Sydney. He had received a large grant in the George's River district known as Moorebank, near Liverpool, and chose a site for his home there. On 7 May 1810, he was gazetted a magistrate for the George's River area. He joined Governor Macquarie on his tour of the district when the town site of Liverpool was proclaimed on 7 November. His last years were spent at

Moorebank. He steadily added to his original grant by purchase and became one of the colony's largest landholders. He regularly supplied meat to the government stores in Sydney and his sources of income were wide and varied. He shared in the foundation of the Bank of New South Wales in 1817 and helped to open a savings bank at Liverpool in July 1819. He visited England in 1818 and in 1834 and went to Adelaide in 1839 to arrange for the sale and transhipment of 2000 sheep. (Source: ADB – see below)

Moore was reappointed as magistrate for Liverpool each year until 1820 when his jurisdiction was extended throughout the County of Cumberland. In 1821, he became a magistrate for New South Wales. He contributed towards the building of a two-storey church school and a court-house opened in 1813, a Roman Catholic chapel in 1821 and a Presbyterian church in 1826. He helped to found an auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1817 and served on the Liverpool committee of the Wesleyan Auxiliary Missionary Society in 1824. It was natural that he should be called 'the King of Liverpool'. Although generous in his religious sympathies, Moore was primarily a devoted member of the Church of England, to which he left all his extensive property in his will.

Contribution to Liverpool:	His house and grounds at Liverpool were left for the foundation of a college for the education of young men of 'the Protestant persuasion'. The income from 700 acres (283 ha) at Minto and Liverpool were to provide an endowment for the college. On 1 March 1856, Moore Theological College was opened at Liverpool with Rev. W. M. Cowper (1810-1902) as acting principal and three students in residence. The college was transferred to a site in Newtown adjacent to the University of Sydney in 1891. A portrait of Moore hangs in the Chapter House in Sydney.
Died/age:	December 1840 at the age of 78.
Religion	Church of England
Source of info.	M. L. Loane in <i>Australian Dictionary of Biography</i> , Volume 2, (MUP), 1967 Also, information from the Liverpool Regional Museum, and <i>A Portrait in his Actions: Thomas Moore of Liverpool (1762-1840)</i> by Peter G. Bolt. Bolt Publishing Services, Camperdown . 2010