



Object number:
00009033

Title: First fleet storeship
BORROWDALE



Object number:
00016915

Title: Chest purported to
be the property of First



BORROWDALE

Date: c 1786

Primary Maker: Francis Holman (1729 - c1790)

Medium: Oil on canvas

Name: Painting

History: Between 1788 and 1868 over 168,000 men, women and children were transported from Britain to Australia as convicts on board more than 1,000 modified merchant ships which had been converted into convict transports. The first fleet of convict transports bound for the east coast of Australia set sail from Spithead on 13 May 1787 and was comprised of two warships HMS SIRIUS and HMS SUPPLY, three store ships BORROWDALE, FISHBURN and GOLDEN GROVE and six convict transports, ALEXANDER, FRIENDSHIP, LADY PENRHYN, SCARBOROUGH, PRINCE OF WALES and CHARLOTTE. The British Government did not build specialised convict transports but instead chartered suitable ships from private ship owners. The BORROWDALE was a 270-ton three masted square-rigged merchant ship built at Sunderland, England in 1785. It initially operated as a trading vessel for the British East India Company, however in 1787 the British Admiralty acquired the BORROWDALE and used it as a store ship for the First



be the property of First Fleet convict Henry Kable (Cabell)

Date: c 1787

Medium: Timber

Name: Sea chest

History: Between 1788 and 1868 over 168,000 men, women and children were transported from Britain to Australia as convicts on board more than 1,000 modified merchant ships which had been converted into convict transports. The first fleet of convict transports bound for the east coast of Australia set sail from Spithead on 13 May 1787 and was comprised of two warships HMS SIRIUS and HMS SUPPLY, three store ships BORROWDALE, FISHBURN and GOLDEN GROVE and six convict transports, ALEXANDER, FRIENDSHIP, LADY PENRHYN, SCARBOROUGH, PRINCE OF WALES and CHARLOTTE. The British Government did not build specialised convict ships but instead chartered suitable vessels that were privately owned. FRIENDSHIP was a 278- ton wooden vessel with a blunt bow, round hull and two masts. It was the smallest convict transport in the Fleet but managed to safely carry all 76 male and 21 female convicts on the 14,000 mile voyage to Australia. Henry Kable was convicted at Thetford, Norfolk on 14 March 1782

as a storeship for the First Fleet. BORROWDALE was one of three ships owned by Leighton and taken up by the Admiralty for storeships. It was moored on the River Thames before being sent to Australia.

NORRICK ON 14 MARCH 1788 for burglary to the value of 450 shillings. Initially given the death sentence Kable's punishment was reduced to transportation to Australia, with a 7-year sentence. At the time of his transportation in May 1787, Kable was about 20 years old and listed as a labourer. On arriving in Australia he married Susannah Holmes, a fellow First Fleet convict he had met at Norwich Castle gaol prior to sailing. They were one of five couples married in the first European wedding ceremony in Australia. Kable is a well publicised convict personality in Australian history, involved in the first civil law suit.