

**LIEUT. FLINDERS DIRECTED TO
SURVEY THE HUNTER RIVER
IN 1799.**

Governor Hunter, desirous of obtaining information respecting the Hunter River (which was only partially surveyed by Lieutenant Shortland) and particularly two large openings marked by Captain Cook as Glass House Bay (now Moreton Bay) and Hervey's Bay, directed Lieutenant Matthew Flinders, of H.M.S. Reliance, to proceed in the colonial sloop Norfolk to examine the north coast with all the accuracy eleven weeks provisions would suffer him. The Norfolk was a decked boat of 25 tons burden, and was built by Captain Townson, at Norfolk Island, in June, 1798, to carry to Governor Hunter at Sydney his

despatches concerning the islanders who were suffering from the effects of a famine. This remarkable little craft had only returned six months from a survey of the south coast on the occasion attending Lieutenant Flinders and Dr. Bass' completion of the discovery of Bass' Strait, and the circumnavigation of Tasmania, when on 8th July, 1799, she was manned with volunteers from H.M.S. Reliance and H.M.S. Buffalo for the survey of the north coast. It being necessary that pacific relations should exist between the navigators and the natives they would meet in their explorations, a distinguished north coast black named King Bungaree (or properly speaking Boongarie, the headland Boongarie Norah being called after him) was added to the survey party as a native interpreter. According to Flinders and Col. Collins, Secretary of the Colony, Bungaree was well acquainted with the country between Port Jackson and Port Stephens, and being a native sovereign, was king of the Newcastle district. The writer has many adventures which describe Bungaree as a noted king of the northern blacks, and a man superior to most of his race. After many signal services on sea and land for the Government the sable chieftain settled at George's Head, Port Jackson, in 1815, with his wife, Queen Gooseberry. He died on 24th November' 1830, and was buried on Garden Island, next the tomb of Judge Advocate Bent, who died November 10, 1815, and Brigade Major John Ovens of the 57th Regiment, who died December 7th, 1825. Several years ago the writer copied the epitaphs off the graves of King Bungaree and the distinguished veterans named, but since then the graves have been desecrated by the establishment of a naval depot on the island. Hereafter will appear accounts of the important part King Bungaree played in the early settlement of Newcastle, the neighbourhood of which he was familiar with long before the advent of Governor Phillip with the first fleet in 1788, if not before the time when Cook sighted the Newcastle coast on 10th May, 1770.