

My interest in music may have been stated earlier. In that context I am a member of a number of groups, among these the TubeNet. A poster, by then unknown to me, offered a composition of his for free, and as I offer free music on the web myself, I started looking at the message-board page. The shown sample had a graphical anomaly, which I thought was caused by myself handling the computer wrongly. Why would some Pitcairn related stuff pop up on a tuba site?

But I was not in error and the following correspondence took place. My correspondent, as you will see, allows the quote:

The music and this introduction have been uploaded at

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FRIENDSofPITCAIRN/files/Captain%20Bligh%27s%20Canon/>

for your free usage according to the terms mentioned below here)

> Very funny coincidence:

>

> I am member of a group about Pitcairn Island, where Bligh often is
> mentioned.

>

> If you will allow it, I will upload the .pdf at that group. If you have
> any text references,

> please add them, and I will upload them too.

>

> Klaus Smedegaard Bjerre in DK

Hi Klaus - coincidences abound!

Captain Bligh of Bounty fame became, some years later, Governor Bligh of the Colony of New South Wales (as it was before Australia's federation). In 1808 there was a military coup; Bligh was arrested by members of the NSW Corps led by a Major George Johnston, and for the next year or so the colony was ruled by the military. This incident became known as the Rum Rebellion.

Its 200th anniversary occurred on 26th January 2008 (coincidentally Australia Day) and there were the inevitable reenactments and festivities. The incident has generally been treated here in a fairly light-hearted manner and we all seem to enjoy the urban myth - that Bligh was arrested whilst cowering under his bed.*

I'd penned this ditty and needed a name; somehow the whole Capt Bligh thing seemed just right. A canon at the perfect fifth (with its A-natural/A-flat clash) seemed to match a fusty, pompous Bligh followed a few paces aft by a sycophantic aide-de-camp. There's a bad pun: canon/cannon. There's alliteration: the c's of canon and captain (so it had to be Capt and not Governor). What more could you want?? Of course, an incident of this magnitude deserves at least an oratorio ... but in the meantime, here are my 16 bars!

I've attached three versions - tuba/tuba, eupho(t.c.)/tuba, eupho(b.c.)/tuba - and you're welcome (indeed, invited) to make and distribute copies, and to upload them onto the Pitcairn Island site you mentioned. (Do you have its URL? Is it possible for an outsider to view

the group?) You're also welcome to post this email should you think it would be of interest.

regards - David Basden

ps - another coincidence: George Johnston, from Annan in Scotland, settled a couple of miles from Sydney on a property he named Annandale. It was later subdivided to become the suburb of the same name, where I reside, a stone's throw from Johnston Street.

yet another - Bligh had associations with HMS Porpoise; its purser at some point was one William Basden. I have a fair bit of genealogical homework to do on this connection, but Basden is an uncommon name in Australia. I wonder if any Pitcairn group members have information.

* but we're in awe of Bligh's navigation skills - getting to the Dutch East Indies in an open boat must have been like getting back from the moon in a DC3!