

# FIRST FLEETERS



Official Journal of the  
National First Fleeters  
Published Quarterly — Vol. 1, No. 3  
July, 1969  
50c.



# FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

1788 A.D.



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Descendants is never to die!"*

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Official Journal of the  
FELLOWSHIP  
OF FIRST FLEETERS  
21 Phillip Street, Sydney 2000  
Phone: 27 6759, 27 3424  
Published Quarterly  
Editor: John K. Lavett

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	Single Copy		1 Year's
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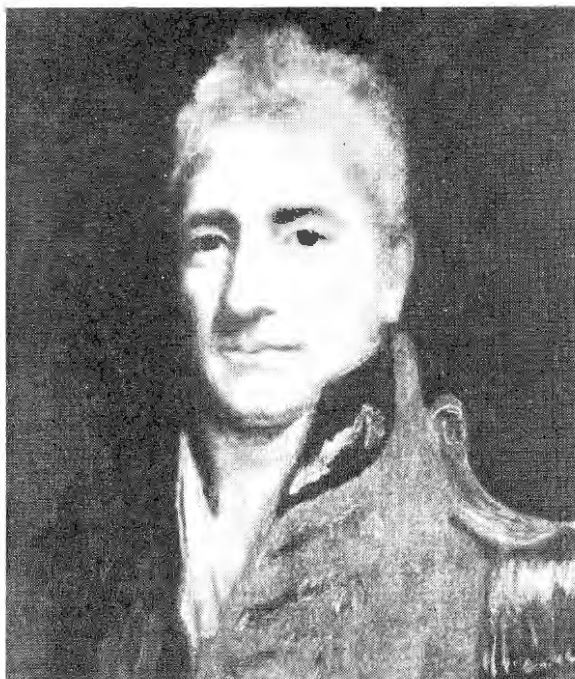
FIRST-FLEETERS, JULY, 1969

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The front-cover design and headings to articles in this Journal were specially drawn for the Fellowship of First Fleeters by Mr. ARTHUR S. MENDEL, of 53 Henry Street, Five Dock.

The illustration on the front page symbolises an 1800 scene. It views the Settlement from near Dawes Point looking South along what is now George Street North.



## Major - General LACHLAN MACQUARIE

An Indian Army veteran, a pillar of the established Church and an orthodox Tory in politics, Lachlan Macquarie became Governor of New South Wales on the 1st January, 1810.

Macquarie was one of the greatest figures in our history. During his twelve years of rule, he endowed Australia with many "firsts" — including organised finance and commerce, inland exploration and settlement, highways and paved streets, fine architecture and official patronage of the arts and literature.

Australia's civilisation, as we know it today, began in the Macquarie period.

Lachlan Macquarie was a humanitarian, who, whatever his faults and eccentricities, fought a long and steadfast battle to defend the underdog — emancipist, convict and Aborigine — against oppression.

His achievements in New South Wales, during an administration lasting longer than any other Governor in our history, defy serious disparagement. His own prediction that "my name will not readily be forgotten after I have left it" has been fulfilled.

Macquarie was born on the 31st January, 1762, on the island of Ulva in the Inner Hebrides, Scotland.

He died on the 1st July, 1824, in a thirty-four-shilling-a-week lodging in St. James', London, poor, exhausted and sick at heart from the worries and trials which beset him in the final years of his life. The only official tributes at his funeral were represented by empty carriages made available by Wellington and Bathurst. The Duke of Argyll, the Earl of Breadalbane and a number of his old Indian friends were present, however, "to see him off".

Elizabeth (his wife) took his mortal remains back to Mull, where a few local tenants and friends walked behind his coffin to the graveside. Later he was interred with his family in a granite tomb, with an inscription which reads: "Father of Australia".

Macquarie's monuments and memorials are far greater and numerous than his tomb, being spread widely throughout Australia. He and his work live on and will not be forgotten in the land which he helped to name and develop.

## EDITORIAL

### Responsible Government

Most of us have a tendency to take for granted the results of the labours and struggles of our forebears. Generation after generation has had to struggle for freedom, but we become careless of the rich heritage which is ours only because men and women worked and died to secure it. We forget so easily that the blood and sweat of martyrs and pioneers are the seeds of our freedom.

Men fought for what we now call *responsible government*, because they believed that good government can never be an adequate substitute for self-government. Government imposed by another can never give, as self-government gives, the conditions in which men can grow to their full stature as human beings. This is the really effective argument against totalitarian tyranny, whatever good results may seem to follow from efficient government. A paternal dictatorship, however efficient, is of less value than a democratic self-government.

We in Australia have enjoyed, over a number of years, a wonderful measure of self-government. Yet there are signs that we are not very aware of our privileged position, and of our consequent responsibility.

In 1907, Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States of America, said this to his people: "We of this mighty Western republic have to grapple with the dangers that spring from popular self-government tried on a scale incomparably vaster than ever before in the history of mankind . . . It behoves us to remember that men can never escape being governed. Either they must govern themselves or they must submit to being governed by others. If from lawlessness or fickleness, from folly or self-indulgence, they refuse to govern themselves, then most assuredly in the end they will have to be governed from the outside. They can prevent the need of government from without only by showing that they possess the power of government from within . . . The people must show a sober understanding and a sane steadfast purpose if they are to preserve their orderly liberty."

We would do well to remind ourselves constantly of the above and of the further truth expressed by the famous lawyer of the 18th century, John Philpott Curran:—  
*"It is the common experience of the indolent to see their rights become the prey of the active. God gave liberty to man on one condition — that of eternal vigilance; which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime, and the punishment of his guilt."*



PREMIER OF VICTORIA  
PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT  
MELBOURNE, 3002

It is most encouraging to know that in our community there is a band of people who have joined to perpetuate the memory of our first pioneers.

The motto of this Fellowship of First Fleeters is a very apt one - To live on in the hearts of Descendants is never to die."

Australians - young and old - must take pride in the development of this fine country of ours for which the foundations were laid by those who arrived in the First Fleet.

The work and efforts of those who first settled here endowed us with a noble heritage, and I am sure we all appreciate the hard work and trying conditions they endured to make the settlement a success.

If only it were possible for those pioneers to see the great strides that Australia has taken since their arrival I am certain they would be justly proud.

It is no idle boast to say that Australia as a country of opportunity is second to none in the world and enjoys a high reputation in international affairs.

We in Victoria take pride in the fact that the first sighting of Australia by Captain Cook was at Cape Everard on the Victorian Coast - 18 years before the arrival of the First Fleet.

The bi-centenary celebrations next year, although honoring Captain Cook's discovery of this country, must also be a reminder of the debt we owe to the pioneers of whom your Fellowship are descendants.

My sincere good wishes to the Fellowship in its work and aims.

HENRY BOLTE



The Hon. Sir Henry Bolte, K.C.M.G., M.L.A.  
Premier of Victoria.

# AUSTRALIA'S CURRENCY from 1788 to 1817

*Though we, in this country, have comparatively few coins of Australian origin, those we do possess (and the other forms of currency used since the first settlement) are part of our short but energetic history.*

Currency, for the purposes of this story, is taken to include all hand-to-hand circulating media of exchange, such as coins, bank notes, and Treasury notes, and also the promissory notes and tokens of early Australia. All currency is not necessarily legal tender.

Legal tender is the lawful form of payment which a creditor is forced to accept in discharge of a debt. In Australia today, Commonwealth Treasury notes are legal tender to an unlimited amount, cupro-nickel and silver coin up to five dollars, and bronze up to twenty cents. A creditor may, of course, accept payment in other forms if he wishes.

In early Australia, with practically no forms of legal tender available, currency was more often not legal tender than otherwise.

When arrangements were made for the establishment of a penal settlement in the Colony of New South Wales, no provision was made for an internal currency. Convicts received no wages, and the needs of the civil and military personnel were to be supplied from the Commissariat or communal store. The Colony was intended to be self-supporting, its own produce being used to replenish the store. This, however, did not come about for many years, as not only were farming conditions in Australia far different from those of England, but the previous occupations of most of its inhabitants, the convicts, were not generally the most suitable for agricultural and pastoral success.

Yet with the gradual increase in the numbers of free settlers and emancipists, and much individual enterprise, the land began to yield some reward. And with it increased the commerce of the Colony. The need for some form of currency could not now be denied.

A quantity of Spanish dollars, at the time an almost international currency with a silver content of the value of about five shillings, was sent from England in 1792. Some other coin was undoubtedly brought out in both the administrative and penal pockets of the first fleet and subsequent transports. If all this had re-

mained in Australia, it would have helped to some extent to alleviate the scarcity of coin. But the opportunities for trade, for buying goods which the Colony could not produce, presented by the visits of merchant ships, resulted in coin, the only item of value in the Colony for ready exchange, leaving almost as fast as it arrived.

By 1800, the following methods of payment were used in the Colony:

*The Store Receipt, issued by the Commissariat in exchange for its purchases within the Colony.*

*Bills on the British Treasury, used for payment for goods purchased by the Government from overseas.*

*Barter — the exchange of commodities for labour or other produce.*

*English shillings and copper pennies. (The latter weighing one ounce each, were known as "cartwheels" and were given a local value of twopence. They were the first regal copper pennies.).*

*Spanish dollars in small quantities.*

*Private promissory notes.*

*A few British and Irish bank notes.*

*A number of foreign coins from many parts of the world, including Portuguese Johannas, Indian rupees, Ceylon pagodas, Dutch guilders, gold mohurs and ducats.*

With such limited supplies of coin available for internal use, and barter having such obvious limitations as a form of trade (produce available as barter not always being acceptable to a second party), private promissory notes, or I.O.U.'s, came into general circulation. Indeed, before long they largely took the place of coin.

Promissory notes, however, had many disadvantages, at least to the honest citizen. They were issued by all and sundry, from the Governors of the Colony to the meanest convict. They were forged, issued in fictitious names, and issued without collateral (i.e., the issuer having no possessions which might be sold or offered in return when the notes were to be redeemed), so their acceptance was certainly not without risk. Thus storekeepers might accept promissory notes at a discount, or under

their face value, in the hope that they might so offset possible loss.

There were unscrupulous men in the settlement who took advantage of this practice of discount. Governor Macquarie, in a dispatch to England, cited a case where a man issued promissory notes to a considerable amount for the purchase of goods and then had a rumour put about that his financial position was unsound. Even in the big cities of today rumours travel with amazing speed; in a small town such as the Sydney of Macquarie's day they would soon be known by all, with a resultant rush to get rid of these notes at whatever price could be obtained. In the circumstances there would not be many buyers and the issuer's agents would buy back the notes at as much as 75% below their face value, thus securing for him a handsome profit on his original purchases.

Various attempts had been made by Governors King, Hunter, and Bligh to bring promissory notes under control, but without success. Their indiscriminate issue and their acceptance continued, in spite of government regulations, for there was no other currency to replace them. All early attempts to keep coin in the Colony met with similar failure and it was impossible to get anything like adequate supplies of coin from England, herself in the throes of a severe shortage of coin. This was due to various factors including extensive use of gold to finance the Napoleonic wars, the exhaustion of the silver mines in England, a general rise in the price of silver, and a temporary public distrust of paper money. Coupled with these was the fact that most of the coin that was in circulation in England was badly worn or mutilated (dishonest people making a practice of "clipping" or shaving the rims of coins, to collect precious metal). The value of the coins was thus often less than their face value and the coinage could not have been recalled and new coins of correct weight issued in its place except at great expense. It is not surprising therefore that with the coin situation in the Mother Country so chaotic, the new Colony of New South Wales, on the other side of the world, had little chance of obtaining even a moderate supply.

It was not until 1816-17 that a great recoinage eased the shortage of coin in England and, eventually, in Australia.

Apart from promissory notes, the only other readily available form of exchange was barter. A labourer could be paid for his toil with tea, flour, sugar, rum (the local term for all

spirits), or any other item in demand. Bakeries might sell bread for cash or for so much flour. The Commissariat would accept certain items of which it was at the time in need, such as cattle or grain, in return for its supplies. Governors were not averse to paying in kind and Governor Macquarie purchased houses, built roads, and made other governmental purchases paying for them in quantities of spirits. The old Sydney Hospital, still standing today, was built in return for a monopoly in the import of spirits for three and a half years. As most things, including spirits, sold at inflated prices in the Colony, this should have proved a very profitable deal for the builders.

The first successful attempt to prevent the export of coin was with the "holey dollar". It was Governor Macquarie's firm intention that the 40,000 Spanish dollars which the British Government sent to the Colony in 1812 would not, like previous imports of coin, find its way into trading ships and thus be lost to the Colony as a circulating medium of exchange. He therefore had the centre of each dollar punched out, leaving a ring and a dump.

The ring dollar, later called the "holey dollar", was overstruck with the inscription "New South Wales 1813" on one side and "five shillings" on the other. The faces of the dumps were cleaned to leave a smooth surface, and were struck with the inscription "New South Wales 1813" with a crown in the centre on the obverse and "Fifteen Pence" on the reverse. This practice of mutilating coinage was not original for ring dollars had been used previously in other colonies.

The "holey dollar" and "dump" together now had a value of 6s. 3d. against the dollar's original value of approximately 4s. 9d., which was profitable to the Government, and they were easily identifiable in the event of any attempt being made to export them from the Colony. The increased value alone would not have prevented their export, as shipmasters would simply have increased the prices of their goods to offset the greater value given to the coins, as had been done when previous Governors had inflated the local value of coinage. Their retention in the Colony was due rather to the very severe penalties with which Macquarie threatened anyone found engaged in their export.

Macquarie also gave considerable attention to the matter of promissory notes. When he arrived in the Colony he was anxious to see the establishment of a bank, which, he felt, would, in issuing bank notes, resolve this prob-



lem. His plan was not acceptable in London and he was forced to abandon the idea temporarily. In 1816, however, at his instigation and with his support, a public meeting was called and subscribers came forward to finance Australia's first bank, the Bank of New South Wales. On 8th April, 1817, the Bank opened for business and, although it passed through some anxious moments in its early years it

has grown to become Australia's largest trading bank, with branches throughout Australia and New Zealand and in Fiji, Papua and New Guinea, and London. The Bank issued notes for 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., £1 and £5, the latter two denominations being the most important.

—Reproduced by kind permission of the BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES, from booklet issued by the Bank titled: "THE STORY OF CURRENCY IN AUSTRALIA".



Spanish dollar.



English shilling of George III.



George III "cartwheel" penny.



"Holey dollar".



Dump.



Portuguese "Half-Johanna".



Gold mohur.



Indian rupee.



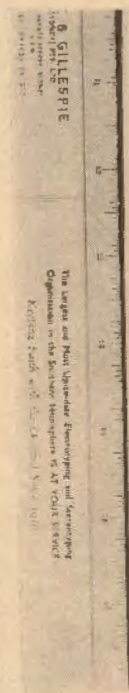
"Star" pagoda.



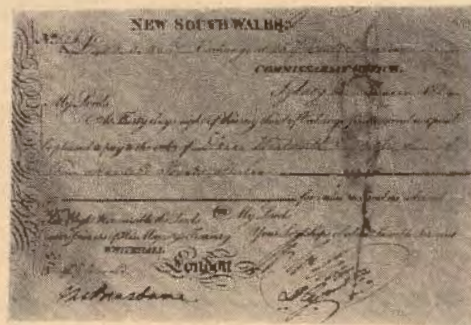
Ducat.



Dutch guilder.



Ruler indicates original size of coins, etc.



Commissariat bill on the British Treasury.

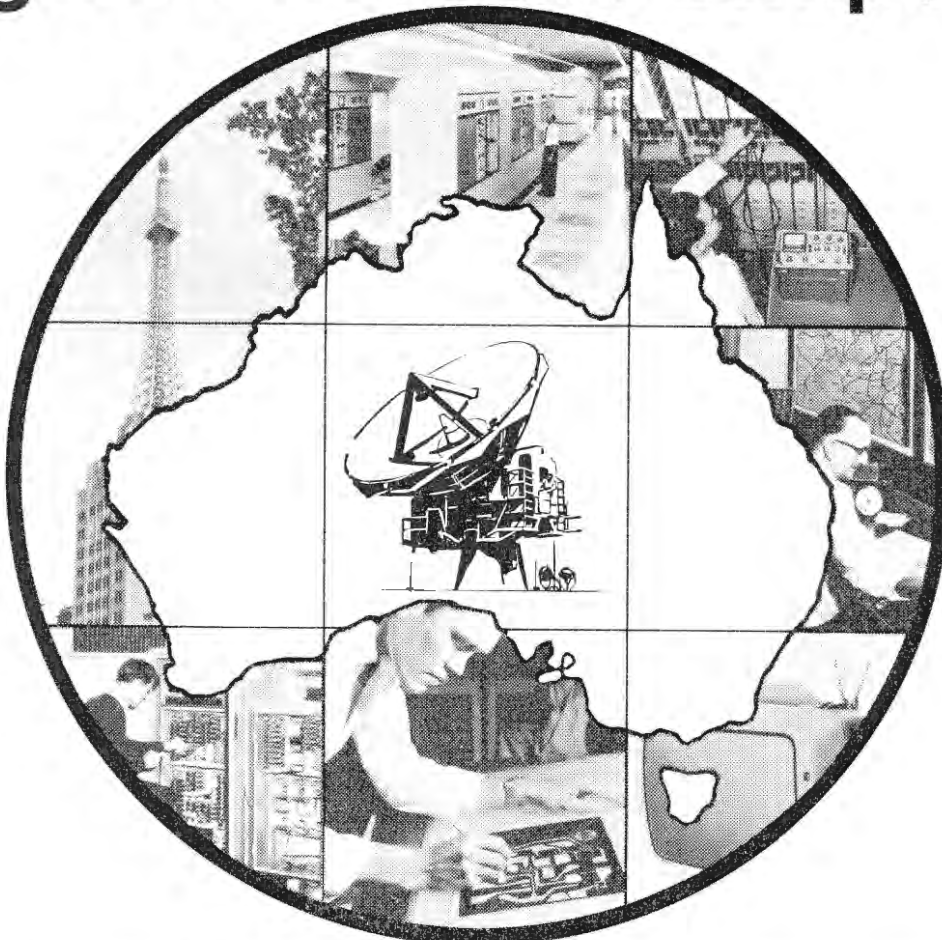


Promissory note.



Store receipt.

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## EDUCATION: THE FIRST TWENTY YEARS

### PART I

Prepared by Desmond Mulcahy, B.A.,  
Research Officer of the Division of Research & Planning,  
New South Wales Department of Education.

During the first twenty years of settlement in New South Wales, it was not the policy of the British Government to accept responsibility for education, either for the children who lived within its own national boundaries or for the sons and daughters of those whom it officially sent abroad. Yet, arising out of its experience in North America, it was prepared to concede that a school was an integral part of any pioneering community and consequently instructed Governor Phillip to set aside two hundred acres of land in each new town for the maintenance of the school master<sup>1</sup>. This order was made in 1789; it was repeated to Governor Hunter in 1794<sup>2</sup>.

From its inception, the colonial government was involved in education. The first official chaplain, the Rev. Richard Johnson, was made responsible for the supervision of schools and performed this task alone until the arrival in the colony of the Reverend Samuel Marsden in 1794. Several schools were established quickly. Possibly in 1788, but certainly by 1789, Isabella Rosson founded a dame school in Sydney. Mary Johnson began a similar school in Parramatta in 1791. Both of these women were convicts. In 1791, Thomas MacQueen was appointed schoolmaster at Norfolk Island.

Yet no school system could function adequately if its masters were uncertain of their means of livelihood. Equally, no community

of free citizens would wish to have their children instructed by convicts if this possibly could be avoided. Grose sought to reconcile these two factors by employing free men and placing them on the payroll of the New South Wales Corps. He also approached the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in London for assistance and it undertook, as from March, 1793, to contribute to the educational needs of the colony a maximum sum of £40 per year, being a payment of £10 per year to each recommended teacher. The Society also offered to supply teaching and religious materials.

Two teachers, each assisted by his wife, were appointed in 1793. William Richardson was placed in charge of the first specially constructed schoolhouse in Sydney. He had married Isabella Rosson, the first schoolmistress, in September, 1789. He joined the New South Wales Corps and, as a teacher, was described by Johnson as diligent<sup>3</sup>. William Webster, the second appointment, had come from England as a corporal in the Corps. He opened a school for officers' children near the barracks. Both men were granted blocks of land in March, 1795, Richardson receiving seventy-five acres and Webster, thirty acres. Both teachers received allocations of £10 each from the

(1) Historical Records of New South Wales, Vol. 1, Pt. II, p. 259.

(2) Ibid., Vol. II, p. 234.

(3) Ibid., Vol. III, p. 184.



Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for their first year of service, as did Richardson for his second. However, the Reverend Johnson saw fit to withhold Webster's grant for that year on the grounds that that master drank too heavily, was too severe on his pupils, left most of the teaching to his wife, who had since died, and had had most of his pupils removed from his school. Johnson instead recommended that Webster's allocation be paid to the master of the school which had just been opened at Parramatta.

The Reverend Johnson had erected a church during 1793 and William Richardson was put in charge of a school established there<sup>1</sup>. By early 1798, Richardson, together with Issac Nelson and Thomas Taber, were teaching about one hundred and fifty pupils, the children of members of the Corps, settlers, convicts and others. Parents were expected to make a reasonable payment to the masters but the children of those who were unable to do so were educated without charge<sup>2</sup>.

On 1st October, 1798, this church was destroyed by fire, possibly a deliberate act. Governor Hunter made the Court House available for the accommodation of the school but this proved unsatisfactory. The frequent interruptions which resulted from the use of this building for legal purposes caused the group to be further removed to a church which had once been a storehouse. It was very cold and damp and, despite the diligence of the masters, children began to leave until, by April, 1800, there were only one hundred and eleven left. By this stage the Reverend Johnson had little interest left in educational administration in the Colony. He had never recovered from the loss of his church and was in indifferent health; he was about to return to England<sup>2</sup>.

Underlining Hunter's period as Governor of New South Wales was his exposure and sensitivity to an ever-present deterioration in standards of community morality. From a genesis in illegitimacy, it ranged from neglected children, to the contact of young children with dissolute and corrupt adults, to the moral ruin of girls in adolescence. Church attendance on the Sabbath was made compulsory for all convicts. Hunter had hoped, as early as 1796, to construct a major school in Sydney, but this project advanced no further than its listing as one of his most wanted buildings, preceded, nevertheless, by other, more urgent works. He

did, however, establish an orphan fund, of which the Reverend Johnson was appointed treasurer.

Hunter welcomed the opportunity to assist the four members of the London Missionary Society who arrived in the Colony in 1798. They established a preaching circuit linking Kissing Point, Parramatta and Toongabbie and soon wished to establish schools<sup>1</sup>.

At Kissing Point, the Society constructed a building, thirty feet by fourteen feet, with a sideroom for the master, nine feet by seven feet, at a cost of £40.12.2. Hunter supplied a schoolmaster, Matthew Hughes, with stores and rations, a man whom the Society regarded as a genuine convert and one whom they came to respect. This schoolroom was opened on 16th July, 1800. Toongabbie was a penal settlement for convicts serving sentences of hard labour. Here a school was established in a room without walls, windows, shutters or floor. It was probably taught by a state maintained convict<sup>1</sup>.

On Norfolk Island, Lieutenant-Governor King was faced with similar problems, although on a much reduced scale. He already had one teacher, Thomas MacQueen, who had been appointed in 1791. Even before the arrival of Hunter in New South Wales, King, of his own volition, had undertaken a project which was to bring both education and welfare to those children who needed it. King was responsible for the construction of an edifice which was to be used solely for school purposes. He assigned twenty men to the erection of a stone building, fifty-six feet by eighteen. The cost of rations and clothing for these men came to £204 and this, together with the cost of the materials used, was met by the British Government. A second teacher, Susannah Hunt, was appointed to the island. King also established an orphan institution, a need brought about by the departure from the island of fathers of illegitimate children. To pay for this institution, King established a system of customs revenue collection to which he added quit rents, fines and personal donations. When the Reverend Marsden, in his capacity as assistant chaplain, visited the island in 1796, he wrote to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel complimenting Governor King on the social stability of life there and informing that body that on it he had found seventy-five children receiving an education in two separate schools<sup>2</sup>.

(1) Goodin V. W. E. *Public Education in New South Wales before 1848: Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. XXXVI, 1950, p. 65.  
(2) *Ibid.*, p. 66.

(1) *Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. IV, p. 174-76.  
(2) *Historical Records of New South Wales*, Vol. III, p. 1.



It was King who was appointed successor to Governor Hunter. In the interim period between his arrival in Sydney and the departure of the former Governor, King assumed many of the functions of office. He commenced by correcting the laxity of the Reverend Johnson in allocating to individual teachers the funds made available by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Although payment to a maximum of £40 per annum had been passed back to March, 1793, Johnson had only distributed £70 between the inception of the scheme and 1800. King made a total joint payment of £80 to Mr. MacQueen and Miss Hunt and sent the account to the Society in London, where it was honoured.

King then turned his attention to the problem of orphaned and needy children in Sydney. He estimated that institutional education was necessary for three hundred and ninety-eight of the nine hundred and fifty-eight children in the Colony. Perhaps this figure may have been slightly exaggerated; however, there can be little doubt as to King's powers of observation. In December, 1801, he wrote:

*"Soon after I arrived here the sight of so many girls between the age of eight and twelve, verging on the brink of ruin and prostitution which several had fallen into, induced me to set about rescuing the elder girls from the snares laid for them, and which the horrible example and treatment of many of their parents hurried them into."*

In seeking a solution, King offered, on 23rd May, 1800, to purchase conditionally for £1,539 the house and grounds of Lieutenant Kent, who was about to return to England. Kent accepted King's terms and plans were made to modify this house to make it suitable for the reception of females requiring institutional care. Subject to approval, the capital cost of this acquisition was to be paid by His Majesty's Government in London. Food would be provided from the stores of the Colonial Government but all other expenses in running the institution would be paid from a fund created from a new means of revenue which was about to be inaugurated by King. The affairs of the Female Orphan Institution would be administered by a Special Committee made up of the chaplain, three other officers, Mrs. King and Mrs. Paterson. Mr. Marsden would be its treasurer.

This Committee had its first meeting on 9th September, 1800. It soon received all the monetary and material assets of Governor

Hunter's Orphan Fund which was then dissolved. It announced that its sources of revenue were to be donations, a regulated duty on the entrance and clearance of vessels landing articles for sale, charges for the supply of water to ships, the commission resulting from the issue, among the residents of the colony, of blank forms for promissory notes of payment, and the appropriation of quit rents, fines and penalties.

On 11th October, 1800, Mr. Marsden reported to the Committee that the sum of £170 had been spent on twelve casks of salt meat, seven and a half casks of manufactured tobacco and one hundred and nine gallons of rum. These supplies had been used for payment to artificers<sup>(1)</sup>. The treasurer notified the Committee that he had received from the clerk assessor the fees for the entry of the John Jay, an American ship. Mr. Marsden made known that Governor King had directed that all such future fees and the fees for grants on leases of land due to the Governor personally were to be paid into the Orphan Fund<sup>(2)</sup>.

(1) Historical Records of New South Wales, Vol. IV, p. 658.  
(2) Ibid., Vol. IV, p. 232.

(3) Ibid., Vol. IV, p. 233.

*(To be continued in the October issue of "FIRST-FLEETERS")*

## GREAT WAS THE DAY!

Applauding the arrival of the First Fleet at its predetermined destination, Watkin Tench (the first man to mould Australian experience into a work of conscious art) has left us with this "eloquent" description of the completion of the "Charlotte's" trip to Botany Bay — on the 20th January, 1788:—

*"Joy sparkled in every countenance and congratulations issued from every mouth. Ithaca itself was scarcely more longed for by Ulysses, than Botany Bay by the adventurers who had travelled as many thousand miles to take possession of it.*

*'Heavily in clouds came on the day' which ushered in our arrival. To us it was a 'great, an important day', though I hope the foundation, not the fall, of an empire will be dated from it . . .*

*Thus, after a passage of exactly thirty-six weeks from Portsmouth, we happily effected an arduous undertaking, with such a train of unexampled blessings, as hardly ever attended a fleet in a like predicament . . .*

*Continued on page 11*

# A Diary

(Continuing from previous issues of "First-Fleeters", a chronological account of interesting happenings in the early days of our Nation.)

**1789**

**2nd January:** Captain Hunter, in H.M.S. "Sirius", arrived at the Cape of Good Hope, to obtain supplies of food for the settlement at Sydney Cove.

After taking on board four months' supply of flour for the settlement and a year's provisions for her own company, the "Sirius" again set sail and arrived back in Sydney Town on the 8th May — to great rejoicing in the Colony. The "Sirius" also bought some seed and barley, but the result, after seven months' work for a ship, was indeed very small.

**18th February:** The transport "Alexander", under the command of Lieutenant Shortland, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope to be advised by Captain Hunter, in the "Sirius", of the "latest" news from the Colony.

The "Alexander", left Table Bay on the 16th March and arrived off the Isle of Wight on the 28th May, a writer of the time commenting that: "It may not happen again that ships shall quit Port Jackson so ill prepared with antidotes against the malignant poison of the scurvy; nor, if they should, is it by any means certain that their visitation will be equally severe."

**February:** The merest chance — and a jealous woman — revealed a plot to seize the armed tender "Supply" on her arrival at Norfolk Island. It ended with "the dreadful song of the lash, chiming with the boom of the sea and the scream of sea birds".

**4th April:** H.M.S. "Bounty" left Tahiti, with her cargo of bread-fruit plants, for the West Indies. On the morning of the 28th April, the crew mutinied and set Bligh and eighteen others adrift in a 23 feet open boat, with a scanty supply of provisions. Bligh's journey of 3,600 miles through uncharted, reef-studded seas from the vicinity of Tofua (in the Friendly Group) to Timor — has become one of the most famous epics of the sea.

**April and May:** A contagious disease, having every appearance of small pox and first de-



tected in the Colony in late 1788, became rife and hundreds of aborigines died, the complaint being introduced by members of the First Fleet or La Perouse's ships — no one really knows who was responsible.

**6th June:** The Hawkesbury River (native name Venrubbim) was discovered by Governor Phillip with Captain Hunter and a party. It was named Hawkesbury in honour of the then head of the Council of Trade and Plantations.

**30th June:** Following on the Hawkesbury River trip, Phillip and party examined the Windsor and Richmond bottoms. The Kurrajong Mountain and the Nepean Grose River were also seen. They returned to the Settlement, overland, on the 13th July.

**7th August:** A document, signed by Governor Phillip and the Judge Advocate (David Collins) was issued, setting out regulations for a night watch, of twelve persons, appointed for the more effectual preservation of public and private property and for the prevention (or detection) of the "commission of nightly depredations" in the Settlement.

The first watch consisted of Herbert Keeling, Charles Peat, John Harris, John Coen Walsh, John Neal, John Massey Cox, William Bradbury, James Clark, Josh Marshall, Thomas Oldfield, George Robinson and John Archer.

**August:** The food situation was one bordering upon famine. The shortage was accentuated by the loss of the storeship: "Guardian", under Lieutenant Riou, which left England in August, for Port Jackson.

Twelve days after leaving Table Bay, whilst the crew were collecting ice from a berg, with which to replenish the ship's water supply, she struck a submerged ledge of the berg. Two days later, five boats were launched, of which one was smashed alongside the ship and all its occupants drowned, another disappeared with all hands, one was picked up by a French vessel and her company of fifteen taken to Table Bay; the fate of the other two boats is unknown.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Riou and Midshipman Pitt, some seamen and 21 convicts worked the water-logged ship back, after nine weeks of almost incredible labour, to Table Bay, where her career ended when a gale drove her ashore and she became completely wrecked.

**September:** The Colony's first ship, the "Rose-hill Packet (the keel of which was laid down on the 30th December, 1788) was launched.

**25th November:** Bennelong, an aborigine, was captured and taken to the Settlement, on the orders of Governor Phillip — who hoped to learn from him more of the natives' customs and language. He was aged about 25 at the time of his capture and was described as being of "good stature, stoutly made", with a "bold, intrepid countenance". Contemporary accounts reveal Bennelong as courageous, intelligent, vain, quick-tempered, "tender with children" and something of a comedian. More will be said about him in later issues of this Journal.

**December:** The first harvest gathered in Australia took place at Rose Hill (Parramatta).

## 1790

**6th March:** Conceiving from reports he had received of the fertility of Norfolk Island that its natural resources would carry a larger population than it at that time possessed, Governor Phillip decided to relieve the drain on his diminishing stores at Port Jackson by despatching a number of people to the Island.

To this end, H.M. ships "Sirius" and "Supply" sailed from Sydney Cove on the 6th March, with 65 officers and men, five women and children and 116 male and 67 female convicts — 253 souls in all. They were landed on Norfolk Island on the 14th March, when bad weather prevented further operations until the 19th March. Moving the "Sirius" closer in on that day, a shift of wind threw her on the reef, where she became a total wreck.

The loss of the "Sirius" was a serious blow to the struggling colony.

**17th April:** Under the command of Lieutenant Ball, the armed tender "Supply" left for

Batavia to obtain provisions.

**May:** The first salt was made in New South Wales, from sea water, at Point Maskeleyne (Dawe's Battery).

**3rd June:** The group of ships, which came to be known as the Second Fleet, commenced to arrive in Port Jackson. They were (with the number of convicts landed):—

3rd June: Lady Juliana, stores.

20th June: Justinian, stores.

26th June: Surprise, 220 convicts.

28th June: Neptune, 344 convicts (67 of them females).

Scarborough (this was her second voyage to Port Jackson) 186 convicts.

The mortality, especially in the case of the "Neptune" (where one in three convicts died) was appalling. Of the 1,006 who sailed from England, plus 20 saved from the "Guardian" and picked up at Cape Town — a total of 1,026, no less than 267 perished, this being a mortality of 26 per cent!

An attempt to hold an investigation into the inhuman ill treatment of convicts on the "Neptune" was frustrated by her master, Donald Trail (who had served under Nelson) absconding.

"But," wrote Collins, "had not such numbers died, both on the passage and since the landing of those who survived the voyage, we should not at this moment had anything to receive from the public stores; thus strangely did we derive a benefit from the miseries of our fellow creatures."

Phillip's reports on the unscrupulous behaviour of the private contractors helped to produce improvements, but not until after the Third Fleet had arrived bearing convicts whose physical condition appalled him once more.

**June:** The first shop was opened in Sydney Town by the Captain of the "Justinian".

**July:** The first brick shop was opened. A large whale entered Port Jackson and caused a diversion among the convict ships in the harbour. The crews of the transports got out their clumsy boats, but, being novices at whale-slaying, they did little damage to the whale, which, a day or so later, stranded itself at Manly — after upsetting a small craft!

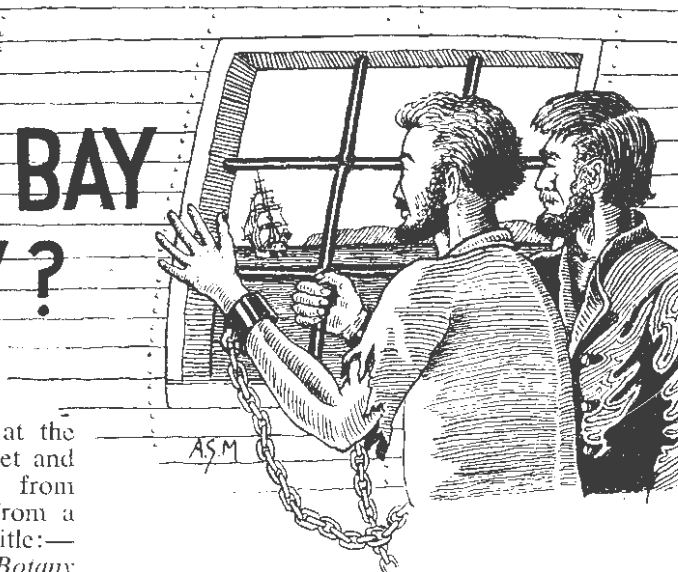
Governor Phillip laid down the lines of a regular town, the principal street extending one mile in a westerly direction from the landing place called Sydney Cove.

**24th August:** An attempt by several convicts to escape by the transport "Neptune", which sailed from Port Jackson on the 24th August, for China, was thwarted by an unexpected





# TO BOTANY BAY ..... WHY?



The following reasons, put forward at the time, for the setting up of the First Fleet and subsequent transportation of convicts from England to New South Wales comes from a book (published in 1789) bearing the title:—*"The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay with an Account of the Establishment of the Colonies of Port Jackson and Norfolk Island, compiled from Authentic Papers, which have been obtained from the several Departments, to which are added the Journals of Lieuts. Shortland, Watts, Ball and Capt. Marshall, with an Account of their New Discoveries, embellished with fifty five Copper Plates, the Maps and Charts taken from Actual Surveys and the Plans and Views drawn on the Spot by Capt. Hunter, Lieuts. Shortland, Watts, Dawes, Bradley, Capt. Marshall, etc."*

To New South Wales England has the claim which a tacit consent has generally made decisive among the European States, that of prior discovery. The whole of that Eastern coast, except the very Southern point, having been untouched by any navigator, till it was explored by Captain Cook.

This consideration, added to the more favourable accounts given of this side of the continent than of the other, was sufficient to decide the choice of the British government, in appointing a place for the banishment of a certain class of criminals.

The cause of the determination to send out in this manner the convicts under sentence of transportation, was, as is well known, the necessary cessation of their removal to America; and the inconveniences experienced in the other modes of destitution adopted after that period.

Virginia, greatly in want, at its first settlement, of labourers to clear away the impenetrable forests which impeded all cultivation, was willing, from very early times, to receive

as servants, those English criminals whom our Courts of Law deemed not sufficiently guilty for capital punishment.\* The planters hired their services during a limited term; and they were latterly sent out under the care of contractors, who were obliged to prove, by certificates, that they had disposed of them, according to the intention of the law.

The benefits of this regulation were various. The colonies received by it, at any easy rate, an assistance very necessary; and the mother country was relieved from the burthen of subjects, who at home were not only useless but pernicious: besides which, the mercantile returns, on this account alone, are reported to have arisen, in latter times, to a very considerable amount (it is said, forty thousand pounds per annum, about 2,000 convicts being sold for twenty pounds each). The individuals themselves, doubtless, in some instances, proved incorrigible; but it happened also, not very infrequently, that, during the period of their legal servitude, they became reconciled to a life of honest industry, were altogether reformed in their manners, and rising gradually by laudable efforts, to situations of advantage, independence and estimation, contributed honourably to the population and prosperity of their new country.

\* "Banishment was first ordered as a punishment for rogues and vagrants, by statute 39 Eliz. Ch. 4. But no place was there specified. The practice of transporting criminals to America is said to have commenced in the reign of James I; the year 1619 being the memorable epoch of its origin, but that destination is first expressly mentioned in 18 Car. II Ch. 2. The transport traffic was first regulated by statute 4 George I. Ch. 11 and the causes expressed in the preamble to be, the failure of those who undertook to transport themselves, and the great want of servants in His Majesty's plantations. Subsequent Acts enforced further regulations."

By the contest in America and the subsequent separation of the thirteen Colonies, this traffic was of course destroyed. Other expedients, well known to the public, have since been tried; some of which proved highly objectionable (particularly, the transporting of criminals to the coast of Africa, where what was meant as an alleviation of punishment too frequently ended in death), and all have been found to want some of the principal advantages experienced from the usual mode of transportation. The deliberations upon this subject, which more than once employed the attention of Parliament, produced at length the plan of which this volume displays the first result. On December 6, 1786, the proper orders were issued by his Majesty in Council, and an Act establishing a Court of Judicature in the place of settlement, and making such other regulations as the occasion required, received the sanction of the whole legislature early in the year 1787.

To expatiate upon the principals of penal law is foreign to the purpose of this work, but thus much is evident to the plainest apprehension, that the objects most to be desired in it are the restriction of the number of capital inflictions, as far as is consistent with the security of society; and the employment of every method that can be devised for rendering the guilty persons serviceable to the public, and just to themselves; for correcting their moral depravity, inducing habits of industry and arming them in future against the temptations by which they have been once ensnared.

For effectuating these beneficial purposes, well regulated penitentiary houses seem, in speculation, to afford the fairest opportunity; and a plan of this kind, formed by the united efforts of Judge Blackstone, Mr. Eden and Mr. Howard, was adopted by Parliament in the year 1779. Difficulties, however, occurred which prevented the execution of this design: a circumstance which will be something the less regretted when it shall be considered, that it is perhaps the fate of this theory, in common with many others of a very pleasing nature, to be more attractive in contemplation than efficacious in real practice. A perfect design carried on by imperfect agents, is liable to lose the chief part of its excellence; and the best digested plan of confinement must in execution be committed, chiefly, to men not much enlightened, very little armed against corruption, and constantly exposed to the danger of it. The vigilance which in the infancy of such institutions effectually watches over the conduct of these public servants, will always in a little

time be relaxed; and it will readily be conceived that a large penitentiary house, very corruptly governed, would be, of all associations, one of the most pernicious to those confined, and most dangerous to the peace of society.

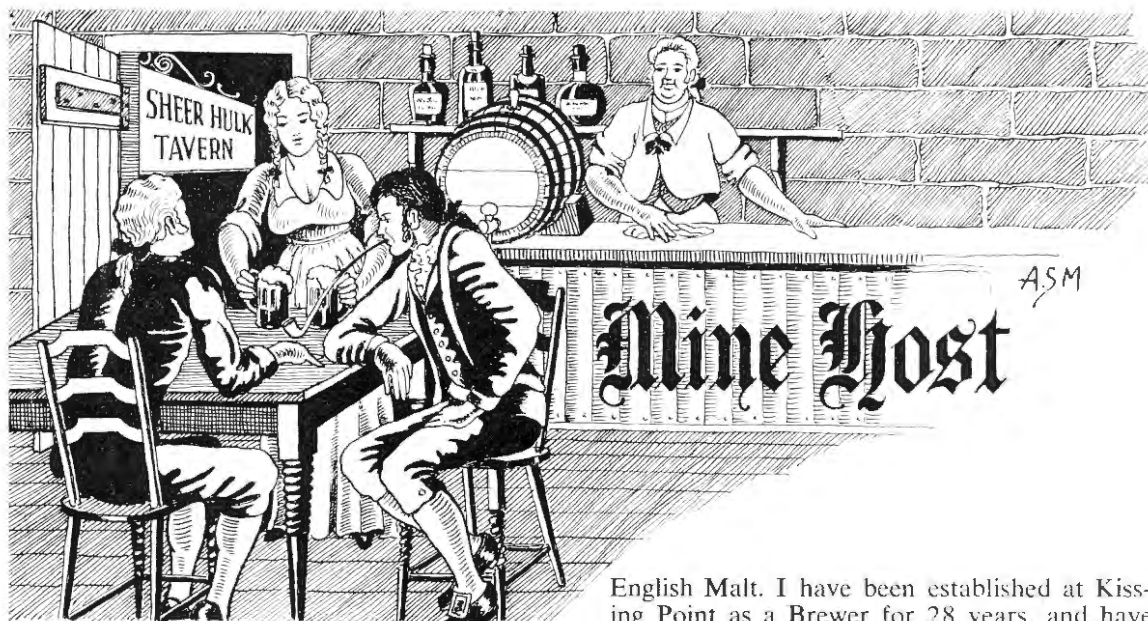
In some countries, malefactors not capitally convicted, are sentenced to the galleys or the mines; punishments often more cruel than death, and here, on many accounts, impracticable. In other places they are employed in public works, under the care of overseers. This method has been partially tried in England on the Thames, but has been found by no means to produce the benefits expected from it. There is, therefore, little temptation to pursue it to a further extent. The employment of criminals in works carried on under the public eye, is perhaps too repugnant to the feelings of Englishmen ever to be tolerated. Reason, indeed, acquiesces in the melancholy necessity of punishing, but chains and badges of servitude are unpleasing objects, and compassion will always revolt at the sight of actual infliction. Convicts so employed would either by an ill placed charity be rewarded, or the people, undergoing a change of character far from desirable, would in time grow callous to those impressions which naturally impel them to give relief.

It remains therefore, that we adhere as much as possible to the practice approved by long experience, of employing the services of such criminals in remote and rising settlements. For this purpose the establishment on the eastern coast of New Holland has been projected and carried on with every precaution to render it as beneficial as possible.

That some difficulties will arise in the commencement of such an undertaking must be expected; but it is required by no moral obligation that convicts should be conveyed to a place of perfect convenience and security; and though the voluntary emigrants and honourable servants of the state, must in some measure, be involved for a time in the same disadvantages, yet to have resisted difficulties is often finally an advantage rather than an evil; and there are probably few persons so circumstanced who will repine at moderate hardships, when they reflect that by undergoing them they are rendering an essential and an honourable service to their country.

*("First-Fleeters" Editorial Note: And so it was, a little more than 181 years ago, we began as a penal colony, under paternalistic*

*Continued on page 32*



"About seven miles up (the Parramatta River), on the right is Squire's Tavern, with its boat wharf, and adjoining cleared enclosures and ample orchards. Its enterprising proprietor, now no more, was the first colonial brewer and long the only one who prepared a colonial solatium for our drouthy population. Squire's beer therefore was as well known and as celebrated in this as Meuse and Co.'s in your hemisphere. An epitaph on one of its votaries in Parramatta churchyard (which the jocose propounder of the beverage took a pleasure in quoting) records its virtues in these two expressive lines:—

*'Ye who wish to lie here  
Drink Squires' beer'.*

Thus wrote Peter Cunningham, in 1827, in his book: "Two years in New South Wales" — but was James Squire really the FIRST colonial brewer in this country?

Who could be better capable of putting the record straight in this direction than James Squire himself. In evidence submitted to Commissioner Bigge, during the latter's enquiry into Colonial affairs, Squire had this to say — on the 29th December, 1820:—

"I have been in the Colony from its earliest establishment and for 30 years I have been a brewer. At first I lived in Sydney and brewed beer in small quantities. I sold it then for 4d. per quart and made it from some hops that I got from the *Daedalus*.

I also brewed for General Grose and Col. Paterson for their own consumption from

English Malt. I have been established at Kissing Point as a Brewer for 28 years, and have brewed beer from Indian corn and Colonial Barley."

Analysing this evidence, we find that:—

- Being (at the date of giving his evidence — 29/12/1820) a brewer for 30 years, he must have started brewing in 1790, when he received a pardon — a two years' remission of his seven-year sentence passed upon him in 1785.

- He lived in Sydney for two years thereafter, then continued his brewing operations at Kissing Point in 1792 — three years before a grant of land was made available to him in that district.

- His early beer was made from hops obtained from the "*Daedalus*". This vessel was a store ship, despatched from England in 1791, arriving in Sydney Cove on the 20th April, 1793. This means that whatever may have been the bittering ingredient used previously, Squires' beer was made from hops in 1793, which fact clearly gives Squire the record in this specific respect as well as in the general brewing field.

- In support of the contention that Squire was engaged in brewing in the early 1790s, we are informed, from the Bigge Enquiry evidence, that he brewed for "General" Grose and "Col" Paterson. Major Grose, who was Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony from the 11th December, 1792, to the 12th December, 1794, left Sydney (in the "*Daedalus*"), for England, on the 13th December, 1794. Captain Paterson, also Lieutenant-Governor in his

time, left Sydney on the 29th September, 1796.

So, it can be taken that although he was not conducting a brewery or a hotel at the time, Squire was certainly making beer in Sydney between 1790 and 1792.

● Although some writers say that Squire did not arrive at Kissing Point (Parramatta River) until July, 1795, this must give way to Squire's own word that he became established at Kissing Point, as a brewer, in 1792, that is 28 years prior to 1820 — when he presented his evidence to Bigge. In stating "28 years", Squire must surely have worked out this period exactly and not given a general statement, in round terms, as one would do by stating say 25 or 30 years.

It can, accordingly, be taken that James Squire was the first man to enter upon the commercial business of brewing in Australia, in a legitimate and open manner, his hop plants, at a later date, being the first to be cultivated in the Southern Hemisphere.

Squire came from a hop country — Kingston in Surrey, and it can therefore be assumed that he knew a fair bit about hops, their cultivation and the making of beer.

Before the arrival of the "Daedalus", with its supply of hops, in 1793, and after this supply had run out, Squire had, perforce, to resort to other expedients in the making of his beverage, to produce the bitter flavour.

Three theories have been advanced as to what was the bittering agent employed when hops were not available. It may have been horehound from the Government Stores, large quantities of this herb having been brought to the Colony for medicinal purposes. To this could have been added the honey of the small Australian bee.

It is equally probable that the beverage was bittered from the Native or Wild Hops — the fruit of the hop-bush *Dodonaea* (various species), to which reference is made by J. H. Maiden in his book: "Useful Native Plants", published in 1889. Maiden, in dealing with this bush, says:—

"Native hops, on account of the capsules bearing some resemblance to hops, both in appearance and taste. In the early days of settlement the fruits of these trees were extensively used, yeast and beer of excellent quality being prepared from them. They are still used to a small extent."

Or, finally, the bittering element could have been introduced from the leaves and stalks of the Love-apple (*Lycopersicum*).

Anyway, let us face the fact that the first

beer manufactured by Squire in 1790 must have been of a somewhat doubtful character, even if the beverage, itself, tasted all right.

### **Hop Growing**

Recording, in its issue of the 21st March, 1812, that Squire had been experimenting with hop plants as far back as 1802, the "Sydney Gazette" states:—

"Mr. Squire's hop-plantation at Kissing Point, comprising five acres has the present year produced 1500 weight of fine hops, which have been gathered this month (March, 1812). As a proof of the fecundity of the plant in this Colony, when tolerably managed, we are assured that from 750 hills, planted the 10th October last, 150 lbs. weight has been gathered. The exertions of Mr. Squires in rearing the hops have been progressively successful for the last five years, the preceding five being wasted in experimenting, which failed from a want of sufficient information in the treatment of this tender plant. After a series of disappointments that much weakened the hope of eventual success, the animating season arrived to cheer him with the prospect of turning his labours to account.

"This was in 1806 when he produced a single vine, from the cuttings of which he has since extended his plantation. In 1807 he produced a few pounds of perfect hops; in 1808 he produced 50 lbs. and the following year 250 lbs.; in 1810 he gathered 500 lbs.; in 1811, 750 lbs.; and in 1812 his crop has increased to double the last year's produce."

From the foregoing, it will be seen that Squire commenced hop growing in 1802. After his eventual success in this direction, the plants were cultivated generally at Kissing Point and in the nearby district of the Field of Mars.

The products of Squire's efforts were not only employed for home-brewing and commercial purposes, but also for the manufacture of yeast — for use in breadmaking. The enterprise of Squire must, accordingly, have been of widespread benefit. In thus being able to provide the means for substituting bread for the old-fashioned bush damper, Squire must have been looked upon as a public benefactor in his day.

Squire soon had quite large fields of hops growing at Kissing Point, the fields extending back from the foreshores of the Parramatta River, from a point a little to the eastward of the site of the later Ryde Baths. The brewery originally adjoined what later became the home of the Watson family.

Following James Squire's death in 1822 the

*Continued on page 24*



## KISSING POINT—Parramatta River, N.S.W.



Taken from "Views in Australia", by J. Lycett, Artist to Major-General Macquarie, late Governor of N.S.W. Published 1st July, 1824.

Photo-copy by courtesy of Mitchell Library.

Referring to the above drawing of Kissing Point, Lycett says:—

*"Taken from a point of land called the One-tree Point, which belongs to Captain Kent.*

*The principal objects represented, besides the Scenery of Nature, are the House and other Buildings on the Premises of the late Mr. James Squires, who resided there many years, having acquired a very considerable property as a Brewer. He was the Whitbread of New South Wales; his beverage having a general good name throughout the Colony, and he himself being as universally respected and beloved for his amiable and useful qualities as a member of society, and more especially as the friend and protector of the lower class of settlers. Had he been less liberal, he might have died more wealthy; but his assistance always accompanied his advice to the poor and unfortunate, and his name will long be pronounced with veneration by the grateful*

*objects of his liberality.*

*The Point, called Kissing Point, is that which is seen next below the house on the same side of the water. At the back of the house are several large paddocks, of very good land, which have been several years in a state of cultivation, having produced excellent crops of Wheat, Indian Corn, Hops, Potatoes, etc., etc. On the left of the house appears an extensive Hop-ground; and numerous Orange and Lemon trees, of very Large growth, with which these gardens at the back of the house abound, are seen rising luxuriantly above the buildings.*

*The house, which is seen on the right, is situated in the district of Concord; it is the property of a Mr. Bray, who has a large portion of land at the back of it, in a state of high cultivation. The Orange trees, which are seen in front of the house, are of a very large size, and produce an extraordinary quantity of fruit of the finest flavour."*



## BENNELONG POINT

By Alfred C. Wood.

This eastern point of Sydney Cove  
Where dark-skinned hunters used to rove —  
Bold men whose names were like a song,  
Arabadoo and Bennelong.

'Twas there when tides were swelling big  
That Captain Ball careened his brig,  
The tidy little ship "Supply",  
And left her leaning high and dry.

The sailors skimped their noon-day dreams  
To scrape the keel and caulk the seams,  
And as the ship lay thus in dock  
They spread the sails from rock to rock.

They could not guess, as there they strove,  
That long years hence beside the Cove  
Another set of sails would spread  
Like alabaster overhead.

A mighty rig of gleaming sails,  
Spread in defiance of the gales,  
Salutes the gallant men who brought  
Their First Fleet into Sydney's Port.

The writer of this poem is a descendant of two pioneers: John Elliott — who arrived in the "Hugh Crawford" in 1825, and Donald Cameron — who came to Australia, in the "Brilliant", in 1838. This is the second poem published by "FIRST-FLEETERS" from Mr. Wood's able pen.

## THE THIRD FLEET

There were ten vessels (nine of them transports) in the Third Fleet. Their arrival in Sydney Cove straggled over three months.

Date Arrived 1791	Ship	Convicts listed to embark (see note below)
July 9	Mary Ann	150 females
Aug. 1	Matilda	230
Aug. 20	Atlantic	220
Aug. 21	Salamander	160
Aug. 28	William & Ann	188
Sept. 26	Queen	200 incl. 25 females
Sept. 26	Active	175
Oct. 13	Albermarle	275
Oct. 14	Britannia	152
Oct. 16	Admiral Barrington	300
		<hr/> 2,050 <hr/>

Separate lists for convicts **actually** landed at Sydney Cove are not available. There were

adjustments to the above list after embarkation and prior to sailing. The Return later supplied by Governor Phillip gave these figures:—

	Males	Females
Embarked	1,889	172
Died on voyage	194	4
Landed	<hr/> 1,695 <hr/>	<hr/> 168 <hr/>

Reporting on their general condition, Governor Phillip said:

"... although the convicts landed from these ships were not so sickly as those brought out last year, the greatest part of them are so emaciated, so worn away from long confinement, or want of food, or from both these causes, that it will be long ere they recover their strength, and which many of them will never recover."

On November 5th, 1791, 626 convicts were under medical treatment, of whom 576 had arrived in the Third Fleet!

(For details of the **SECOND FLEET**, see page 13, under date 3rd June, 1790).



## SYDNEY TOWN — in 1796!

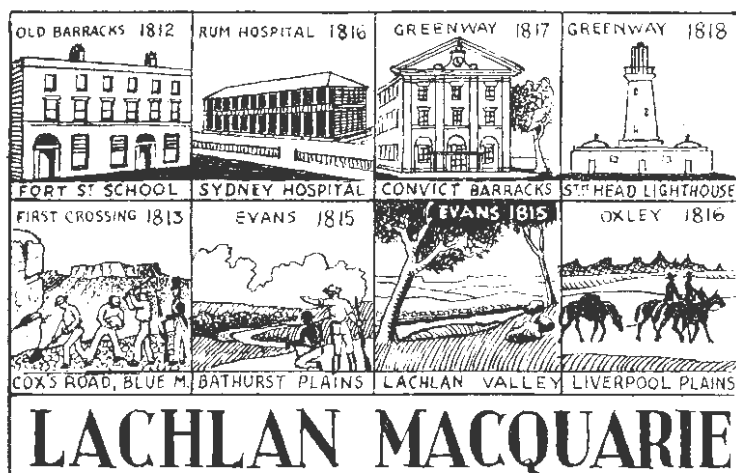


The North view of Sydney Cove, taken from the end of Pitt's Row (later to be known as Pitt Street).



The Brickfield-hill or High Road to Parramatta — 11th August, 1796.

Both illustrations (taken from D. Collins' "An Account of the English Colony in New South Wales") by courtesy of the Mitchell Library.



By Arthur S. Mendel, whose many excellent title-headings and cover drawings appear in this and previous issues of "FIRST-FLEETERS".

"Macquarie — the Builder", the biographers called him; a descriptive title, but one that may tend to play down the versatile greatness of this remarkable man.

Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, fresh from a distinguished career in the British army in India, had no desire to govern New South Wales. On being appointed to that office, he felt he was to be as much an exile, as were his sorry charges.

Macquarie arrived in 1810, just two years before Napoleon's ill-fated armies were caught in the premature snows of the Russian winter. His thoughts, as a soldier, must have been with his home country, soon to be involved in a major war.

The colony was in a bad way when he arrived. The dirty living quarters of both convicts and militia, the littered, unformed streets and the morale and morals of the inhabitants offended his military sense of order. The New South Wales Corps, too, had become an arrogant irresponsible unit, following the debacle of Bligh's expeditious departure, and there was an antagonism to all governing authority by the favoured citizens of the community.

Macquarie surveyed the disorder, and, with military efficiency, set about cleaning up the shanty town of Sydney.

He subdivided the town into six police districts, and began planning the street patterns whose locations and names stand to this day — George Street, Macquarie Street, Elizabeth Street, Bent Street, King Street, Castlereagh Street, Pitt Street, Hunter Street, Bridge Street, and York Street.

He paved and kerbed Sydney's first "made" street — George Street. He looked to the sick and illegitimate children of this despairing time, and, after completing St. Philip's Church, built St. Philip's school orphanage for the care and education of these unfortunates. As early as 1812 he built new roads to the settlements on the Hawkesbury and to South Head.

In the five years between 1812 and 1817, four thousand six hundred additional convicts were domiciled in New South Wales. The days of the food ships were passing. The County of Cumberland was producing potatoes, greens and fruits together with some mutton and beef. With the emigrants and natural increase in population, Macquarie could see that the country between Sydney and the Blue Mountains could not adequately support the expanding populace. He needed cereal lands and more beef pastures. In 1813 he commissioned Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson to make their third attempt to cross the divide. This time the explorers followed the ridge between the two valleys and reached the summit near Medlow Bath.

A jubilant Macquarie lost no time. He despatched Assistant Surveyor-General Evans to follow up the first crossing. The redoubtable Evans reached Mount York and became the first white man to look down on the Hartley Valley in 1814.

Pushing westward, Evans discovered the first westward-flowing stream — The Fish, and following it down he found the parent river, which he named the Macquarie. Over the range



went Macquarie with his Elizabeth and, together with Surveyor-General Oxley, planned and established the site of Bathurst. Macquarie himself explored some 21 miles south-westward from this point, and sent Evans on a further exploratory probe.

Evans discovered the Belubula near Canowindra, naming the prominent Mt. Lachlan (now called Mt. Macquarie) near Carcoar, en route. In 1815 he discovered the rich Lachlan Valley near Eugowra and came within a few miles of the Murrumbidgee. Lack of time and food forced Evans to return and make his report.

Meanwhile, the indefatigable Macquarie had commissioned Lt. William Cox, a farmer, to build a vehicle road from the Nepean to Bathurst. With thirty *volunteer* convicts and eight guards, Cox completed the task in six months. The convicts received a full pardon and Cox a land grant in the newly-discovered territories. It was now only 1815. In the same year the first beef herds crossed the Blue Mountains to the western pastures.

The tireless Macquarie sent Surveyor-General Oxley northward from Bathurst to trace the flow of the Macquarie. Oxley was accompanied by the experienced Evans. Oxley reached the Macquarie marshes, north of Warren, in flood time, and reported the belief of an inland sea. Macquarie was not satisfied, and soon Oxley was on the march again. This time the Macquarie was still in flood. He surmised that the river may eventually reach the sea on the east coast. This belief was supported by the discovery of the Castlereagh River by Evans, scouting eastward. Eastward went Oxley, passing the grotesque Warrumbungle ranges and through the fertile Liverpool Plains and over the ridge and down the other side. He found his river, but it was the Hastings. He followed it to the sea and named the estuary Port Macquarie. Northward sailed Macquarie from Sydney Town and set out the township of Port Macquarie, later to become a penal settlement.

What wide horizons were conquered in Macquarie's time. Even down in Van Diemen's Land, Macquarie took his ship to re-establish the deteriorating settlement of Hobart Town.

Meanwhile, at home, Macquarie was beginning to shape the contours of Sydney Town. First a school was built, then the notorious Rum Hospital — the old Sydney Mint and the present State Parliament House were parts of the original Sydney Hospital.

The association of Macquarie and convict-architect Greenway was a prolific though con-

troversial one. In rapid succession Greenway built the new Convict Barracks, near Hyde Park, the churches at Windsor and Campbelltown, St. James' Church, the Law Courts in Queens Square and the first lighthouse at South Head.

What a year 1817 was for Macquarie and the Colony!

It had been said that the Governor was efficient, but too lenient and extravagant, with little head for economics. Yet he foresaw the growing need for integration and local control of finance. For two years he fought the Colonial Office for the establishment of a Colonial Bank. The Home Office constantly refused him. Macquarie, exasperated, went ahead with the project, anyway. And, in 1817, the first bank was born — the Bank of New South Wales, today one of the bulwarks of the nation's economy.

This was the opportunity that Macquarie's enemies were waiting for. Commissioner Bigge, sent out to probe into Macquarie's activities after curtailing many of Macquarie's "extravagant" ventures, became a close associate of Macarthur and the other landed "rebels", and compiled a long list of small misdemeanours.

Macquarie's big crimes were in the emancipation field, where the landed gentry wished the status quo to remain (Macquarie had even suggested to the Colonial Office that six emancipist families could live well on one gentleman's grant).

The establishment of a local bank without authority was the weapon used.

Though plagued with opposition at home and abroad, Macquarie had steadfastly refused to relinquish his dream of nationhood. Now, disillusioned and ill, he handed in his resignation, but when he sought passage home in 1818 the authorities refused him and kept him in the Colony until 1821. When at last he sailed, the harbour was filled with all manner of craft, the shores crowded with well-wishers, amongst them small boys of an alien faith with medals around their necks, clearly signifying the adoration they had for this tolerant man.

He reached his Scotland, a spectre of the former giant amongst his contemporaries, in 1822. He was not granted his promised pension and spent the remaining months of his life with his devoted Elizabeth in near poverty. In this he had much in common with another great Australian son, Matthew Flinders.

The name of Lachlan Macquarie is indelibly imprinted on the map of Australia from Van Diemen's Land to the North Coast of New

Holland — Fort Macquarie, Macquarie Street, Elizabeth Street, Macquarie Place, Port Macquarie, Lake Macquarie, Macquarie Pass, Macquarie Lighthouse, Macquarie Inlet, Macquarie Island, Macquarie University — and so on. If these names seem flamboyant and suggest a vanity, it is well to remember that in the length and breadth of our land there is no statue, nor monument, nor simple plaque to record the image of the man who served as Governor of half our continent for the longest period.

Only on the lonely isle of Mull, west of Scotland, is there a record on a simple grave.

It reads:

*Here lies Lachlan Macquarie  
Father of Australia.*

It has been argued that Governor Phillip was the Father of Australia. Let's take a look.

In every pioneering effort there must be a first, and Phillip certainly laid the foundations of settlement. A just and humane man, and a leader who was charged with the immense task of overcoming the difficult problems of hunger in the most desperate years. He could, therefore, be termed the Father of Settlement.

But Macquarie's unprecedented successes in widening the boundaries of occupation, his practical and resolute approach to the betterment of conditions and the emancipation and integration of the convicts, together with the establishment of freedom of worship, at all times harassed by opposition from colonial and British interests (a state of being not encountered by Phillip), stamp him as an all time great in the story of our nation. And so he went home, broken in health, but with his head held high.

Today, nearly a century and a half later, we look down Macquarie Street and wonder what he would have thought. We gaze over the vast metropolis of Sydney, with giant buildings probing skywards, with great arterial highways reaching out over our continent, with a fine educational system, and hospitalisation second to none, with one of the busiest ports in the world and a huge efficient monetary system, placing us with the first five potential nations in the world, a system evolved from that simple "rebel" banking structure in 1817.

We travel north, south and west over the vast pastures of this provident land. We mark with pride the impact our name has made on alien lands. We are mindful of the monuments erected to our fighting men by other nations in three continents — at Villers Brettoneaux, at El Alamein and at Kokoda, the three de-

cisive battles of the two world wars. We stop and take a long look at ourselves. Some of our ancestors were *not* born free, but *we* are free — the freest nation on earth.

With humility, we look back along the passage of the years. We marvel at our great heritage, and we experience the nostalgia that prompted Sir Walter Scott's immortal "Love of Country".

With infinite pride, we recall the story of our green and lean years when the history of our young nation was being shaped by men like Macquarie.

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brewery was carried on by his son, James, until he, in turn, died in 1826. The brewery was then closed down for a time to be reopened, in 1828, by one of Squire's sons-in-law — Thomas Charles Farnell (one of whose children — James Squire Farnell — became Premier of New South Wales).

No definite information is available about the ultimate fate of Squire's Inn, but it was probably destroyed by fire in 1870.

Today, Lars Halvorsen & Sons, the well-known boat-building firm, has its head-office and construction yard on five acres of Squire's former property — including that portion which incorporated the old wharf and brewery.

Thus, it may be said of James Squire — the one-time convict who arrived in Sydney Cove with the First Fleet on the 26th January, 1788, that:

- He was the first man to cultivate the hop plant in the Colony.

- To erect the first brewery in the Settlement.

- He was the first "brewer" to use hops in the manufacture of beer in Australia.

- One of the first, if not the actual first man, to brew "beer" in the Colony.

In reporting his death, the "Sydney Gazette" in its issue of the 24th May, 1822, said:—

"On Thursday evening last, at Kissing Point, after an illness of about three months, Mr. James Squire, in his 68th year. As one of the primary inhabitants of the Colony, having come hither in the first fleet in 1788, none ever more exerted himself for the benefit of the inhabitants than the deceased . . . The 'OLD HANDS', by the frequent visitation of death, are becoming thinned in their ranks; this should lead to reflection, for the day will soon arrive when even those now living, shall cease to say, 'I came in the first fleet'."





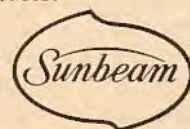
## PIONEERS...

In the beginning, it was a vast wilderness of mountains and deserts, swamps and salt bush, eucalyptus and canyons. There were no ready-made industries here, no road links, no established waterways.

Only a challenge. A will to strive, to build something great from something wild and unknown. And it's happened. From a simple beginning, Australia has grown to a great nation in 181 hard-working years.

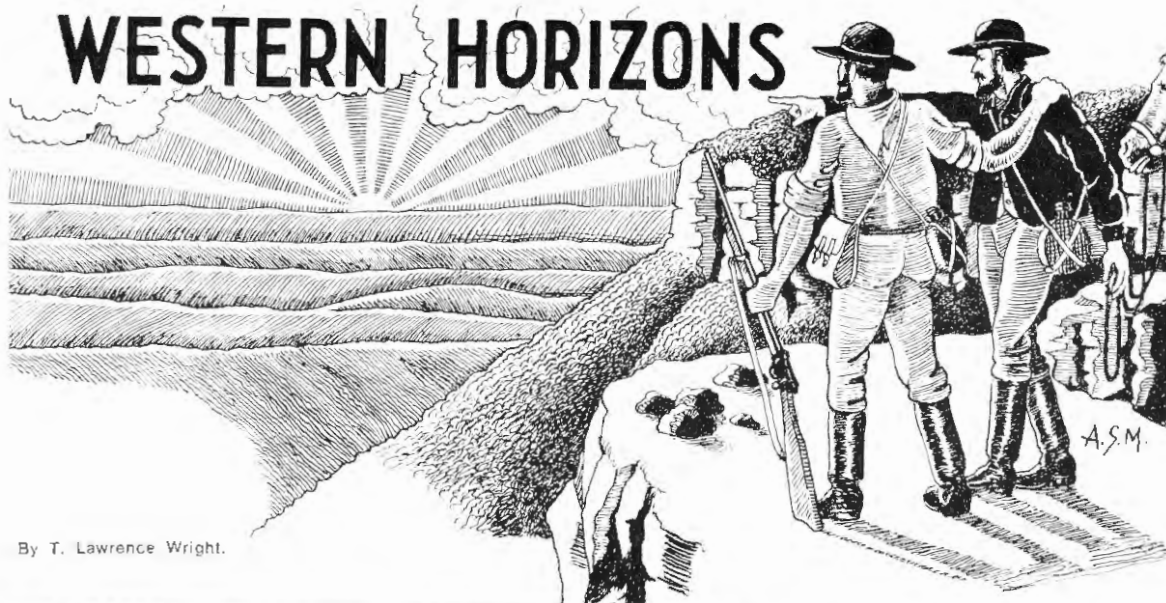
A nation to be bargained with throughout the world.

Sunbeam's growth in Australia has followed much the same pattern. Mirrors the same pride, the same endeavour. Under the banner of Cooper Sheep Shearing Pty., a tiny office opened in Pitt Street, Sydney, in 1902. In 1912 the first domestic iron, the Princess Electric Flat Iron (American-made), was sold for 12/6d. This was the company that was to become the Sunbeam Corporation, now Australia's largest manufacturers of the finest quality electrical appliances, with an annual output of 1,000,000 units covering 21 individual lines. An important contributor to the pioneering spirit of Australia.



S.M.F.F.I.

# WESTERN HORIZONS



By T. Lawrence Wright.

This is the third article of a man who set out to investigate the facts and principles of reality and of human nature and conduct as they affect Australians — old and new, black, white and brindle!

Very early in the history of our great land, for the first time a white man stood at an elevated place upon our Blue Mountains and the first pair of eyes of a civilised man looked upon yet a new world. New, because the vision reached out over an environment different to that between the mountains and the coast line. Even if, for a few miles East or West of this range, little difference existed, the vision ahead on the journey Westward to this point *WAS* different.

Over a heavily-timbered landscape, for mile after mile and where the terrain gradually rises to the mountain base, the forward human gaze would be limited. The further one moved West toward that line the more the forward sight would be limited. Then, as the steeper climb began, often vision would be restricted to a hundred yards or less.

Slow progress could only deepen the mystery that remained hidden Westward of the mountain range. The eagerness for discovery would charge the mind with energy to lighten the tiring limbs and to create the excitement inevitable in the circumstances. The mind-state would differ in different people, but whatever the thoughts that accompanied this man of whom I write, one thing is certain — it is

*A PART* of our history, even if much of it remains unrecorded.

One goal accomplished, from his vantage point he may have looked back East for a moment and said to himself; There lies a land of which I know a little — and then, in a moment of history, turn West and say: There is a new world, of I which I know *NOTHING*. A world of green, perhaps, against a golden skyline made so by the setting sun over an horizon far beyond the limits of the searching eye.

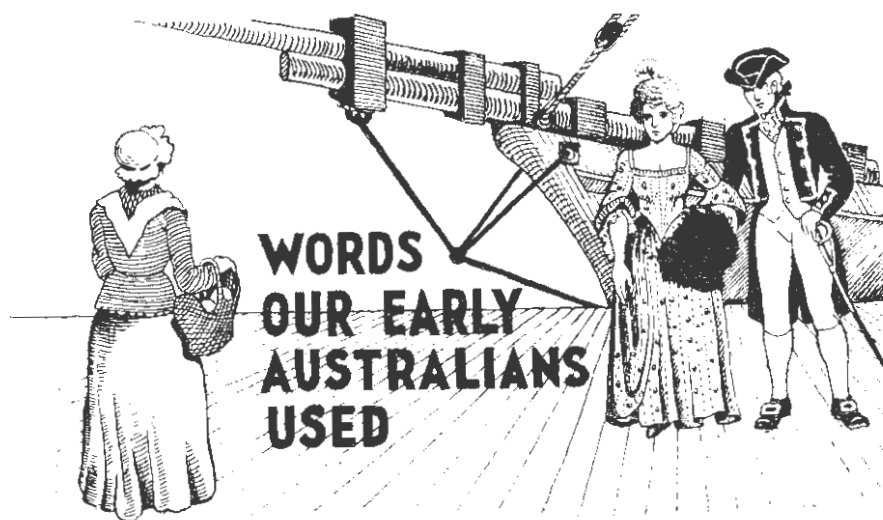
The sounds he would hear breaking the stillness, from bird and animal life, would be different to any sound anywhere on earth. The drone perhaps of an emu could to him be hardly associated with a bird. If a bell-bird sounded his note, how would he interpret that?

As night fell, other sounds would come to him and the weird call of the curlew in flight would make his loneliness deeper still. One has to hear this cry to appreciate the chill of loneliness it creates. In an atmosphere free of smog and so different to that known to city dwellers of today, the gems in the canopy above would be restful to tired eyes; even up there, the gems of space have provided us (in this South-land) with the Southern Cross as a national emblem.

If his first great Western vision came to him in the morning, his new world would be different again. The sounds in a waking landscape differ to those at the close of the day. To me, the bushland is graced with a fullness, a sweetness and life more beautiful in the

*Continued on page 28*





**DAMPER:** This was a large scone of flour and water, baked in hot ashes, and unleavened. It was "the bread of the bush" and was generally made fresh for each meal.

In 1833, C. Sturt, in his book, "Southern Australia", says: "I watched the distorted countenances of my humble companions while drinking their tea and eating their damper."

**DEVIL-ON-THE-COALS** was the bushman's name for a small and quickly-baked damper. The Rev. A. Polchampton, in his book, "Kangaroo Land" — published in 1862, had this to say on the subject:

"Instead of damper we occasionally made what is colonially known as 'devils on the coals' . . . They are convenient when there is not time to make damper, as only a minute or so is required to bake them. They are made about the size of a captain's biscuit, and as thin as possible, thrown on the embers and turned quickly with the hand."

**SUGAR-BAG:** This was a nest of honey and the honey itself.

In 1881, A. C. Grant, stated — in his book, "Bush Life in Queensland": "The regular sharp chop-chop of the tomahawks could be heard here and there, where some of them had discovered a sugar-bag (nest of honey) or a 'possum on a tree.'"

**YABBER** was a term used for the talk of the Aborigines. It was pronounced by the Aborigines yabba, without a final r. Ya is an aboriginal stem, meaning to speak.

M. K. Beveridge, in his book, "Lost Life" (1874) says: "I marked much yabber that I did not know."

**OLD MAN:** This referred to a full-grown male kangaroo. The Aborigines corrupted the name to make it sound like "wool-man".

In the book "Present State of Australia", written by R. Dawson and published in 1830, we find this comment: "If he (the greyhound) has less ferocity when he comes up with an 'old man', so much the better . . . The strongest and most courageous can seldom conquer a wool-man alone, and not one in fifty will face him fairly; the dog who has the temerity is certain to be disabled, if not killed."

**DILLY-BAG** comes from the original Queensland aboriginal word dilli — this being a bag made of grasses or fur twisted into cord.

Our early Australian bushmen used the word dilli, or dilly-bag for a little bag, usually made of calico or holland, in which they carried their odds-and-ends.

L. Leichhardt, in his "Overland Expedition", published in 1847, says: "In their 'dillis' (small baskets) were several roots or tubers . . . A basket which I examined was made of a species of grass."

**STATION-JACK:** This was a form of bush cookery.

In an article on Bush-cookery, from an unpublished manuscript by Mrs. Chisholm (1853) we find this reference: "The great art of bush-cookery consists in giving a variety out of salt beef and flour . . . let the Sunday share be soaked on the Saturday, and beat it well . . . take the . . . flour and work it into a paste; then put the beef into it, boil it, and you will have a very nice pudding, known in the bush as 'station-jack'."



**JIMMY** was the name given to an immigrant being occasionally jocularly changed into Jimmy Grant.

H. Kingsley, in his book, "Geoffrey Hamlyn", published in 1859, made this comment: "What are these men that we are going to see?" "Why one", said Lee, "is a young Jimmy—I beg your pardon, sir, an emigrant, the other two are old prisoners".

**NEW CHUM:** This term was also often used when referring to new arrivals, especially when they came from England.

It was generally employed with some contempt.

In 1839, T. L. Mitchell, in his book "Three Expeditions", states: "He was also what they termed a 'new chum', or one newly arrived."

**NEW CHUMHOOD** was a related term used when referring to the period and state of being a New Chum. W. Jardine Smith, in his

book "Nineteenth Century" (1883), says: "The 'bumptiousness' observable in the early days of 'new chumhood'."

**OLD CHUM** of course, referred to the opposite of a new chum.

C. P. Hodgson, in his book "Reminiscences of Australia", published in 1846, had this to say on the subject: "'New Chum' in opposition to 'old chum'. The former 'cognomen' peculiarizing the newly-arrived emigrant; the latter as a mark of respect attached to the more experienced colonist."

**HUT-KEEPER:** This term is referred to in D. Collins' book: "Account of New South Wales" (1802) in this way:

"Old men, unfit for anything but to be hut-keepers who were to remain at home to prevent robbery, while the other inhabitants of the hut were at labour."

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*Continued from page 26*

morning than at the day's end. The impact upon the human mind is pressed in by a different seal.

In thinking of this man, one must imagine the thoughts that moved him then. Did he see before him a potential garden to feed millions of people? Did he see a giant industrial land? Was all this to be a continuity of the life known to so many in other lands? Was it to emerge into something entirely different? Would the gentle preserving hand of intelligence plan correctly to maintain a beauty where the space was sufficient to retain such a state under any development? Would the motive of greed run wild to sacrifice so much? Could it be possible to train a *NEW* race upon this beauty, under wise laws and a fair division of the wealth, that all may feel a true sense of democratic right, where, some day, all may be proud to say: *I am an Australian?* Could the best in humanity, under a prideful order, dominate all the possible and yet unborn millions to inhabit this "garden of Eden?" From a standing-start, backed by the facts of history, with lessons across the world to guide us, could the mantle of *PEACE* be a token of life in this land which, at the moment of this man's thinking, had no enemy on the face of the earth?

Conscious of the truth that discovery alone could *NOT* hold it against others seeking new domains, and aware of the type of development essential to hold it against possible aggression, his mind must have been divided between the Agriculturist, the Industrialist and the Statesman.

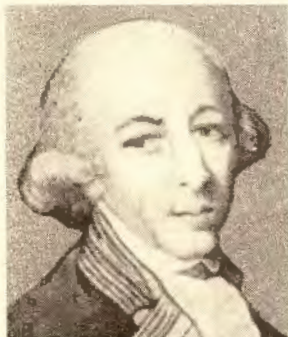
Would it be possible for this "giant of beauty" to breed men and women with minds big enough to guide its destiny correctly? Or would the many, prompted by personal gain rather than patriotism, care little for the future beyond their own span of life? He must have realised that the song in his heart then was his alone. The Song of Australia was yet to come from those yet unborn.

As he, perhaps, saw a native move far below him, he may have thought — how shall he fit into the national structure of the future? Will a plan evolve to give him a satisfactory place in this — his *NATIVE* land? Must a part of this vastness be *ALWAYS* his? Will it be possible for him to live side by side with his white brothers? *IF* we delay the plans for 150 years, will it then be too late?

Think deeply upon this man's thoughts, his possible *HOPES*, the shape of the future to emerge from a vision few men indeed have been privileged to analyse. His shadow reached for two thousand miles. He placed upon our land a human pointer to the *PIONEERS* to follow, men and women who helped to make our country great. He handed down to us the questions; it is for us to provide the *ANSWERS*. In those answers we have a duty to him and posterity. In a culture, tradition, in Art and Science, in a way of life, we can apply ourselves to this young growing Nation to provide the Answer to the glory of a dreamer upon the mountain-top. The song in his heart that day can be interpreted and composed to fit a Nation before it is too late. Yes! before it is *too late!*

## The graves of our early Australian Pioneers

The Second of a Series.



### GOVERNOR ARTHUR PHILLIP

The first Governor of New South Wales.

*"The grave itself is but a covered bridge  
Leading from light to light through a brief  
darkness."*

—LONGFELLOW

The remains of Captain Arthur Phillip, Governor of the Colony of New South Wales and, later, Admiral of the Blue, lie in the church of St. Nicholas at Bathampton — a few miles from Bath.

In the nearby magnificent Bath Abbey, Australia's Founder is listed simply as "Phillip of Australia". A tablet near the altar states: "To his indomitable courage and prophetic vision, forbearance, faith and wisdom was due the success of the first settlement in Australia, at Sydney, on the 26th of January, 1788."

Phillip lies inside the village church (pictured below) which is visited by Australians, but many are disappointed to find they do not

have the same freedom to walk through his old home as they can do through England's stately houses and monuments of less historical relevance to them. The place, situated at No. 19 Bennett Street, Bath, was once an elegant Georgian terrace house of eleven rooms with a basement for the servants.

A recurring illness crippled Phillip in his latter days. In his determination to be active to the last, he would climb the steps of his house with the aid of a rope and pulleys.

Sadly, the house where Phillip lived is not the cherished possession of the Australian Nation. Its elegant exterior is the same, though the golden Bath stone is soot-stained in places. Both the drawing rooms, where Phillip and his wife, Isabella — his second wife — entertained friends and talked of the past, have been converted into bachelor flats.

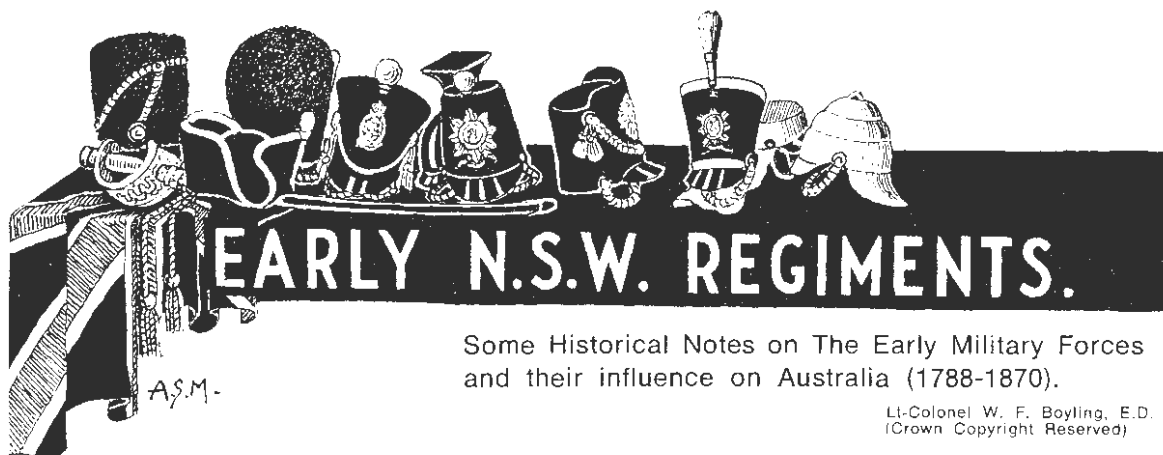
Not a single piece of furniture remains to remind the visitor of past Georgian splendors, or of Phillip himself. But there is a plaque on the building, indicating Australia's links with the old house. It was presented by the Queensland Women's Historical Association in 1964, "in memory of Admiral Arthur Phillip, 150 years after his death."

Arthur Phillip, Governor and Admiral, was born on the 11th October, 1738, in the parish of Allhallows, ward of Bread Street, London, the second child of Jacob Phillip — a language teacher who went to London from Frankfurt — and Elizabeth (nee Breach) — former wife of Captain Herbert, R.N. He died on the 31st August, 1814, three months after receiving his last promotion — to Admiral of the Blue.

*"So when a great man dies,  
For years beyond our ken,  
The light he leaves behind him lies  
Upon the paths of men."*

—LONGFELLOW





## PART ONE — 1788-1810

These notes have been compiled from material in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, and sincere thanks are extended to The Trustees and Staff for their help in the research.

To study the military activities of Australia's early settlement is to study a vital part of the country's early history. Initially, there was little scope for private development because of the Pitt Ministry's decision to make New South Wales a purely penal colony. Therefore, development outside the military and convict sphere was almost non-existent until prisoners worked out their sentences, free settlers arrived and military men took their discharges or were able to work part-time on non-military tasks.

Military influence was most marked from 1788-1870, and one can isolate three distinct phases, these are associated with the Royal Marines (1788-1792), New South Wales Corps (1790-1810) and the British Regiments (1810-1870).

Governor Phillip arrived on 18th January, 1788, with 212 Marines grouped into four companies. They were nearly all volunteers under the overall command of Major Robert Ross who, incidentally, had the joint functions of Major Commandant, Lieutenant-Governor and Judge of the Admiralty Court. (T/76) Twenty-eight women and fourteen children accompanied the marines to New South Wales.

In comparison, the convicts numbered 565 men and 192 women with 13 children, most were either mechanics or farmers, selected by order of the Government. (T/13)

Governor Phillip's commission from King George III instructed him to protect the colony and the stores but as there was neither engineer nor architect, it is reasonable to assume that the King's advisers did not expect the colony to be protected or fortified against foreign attack.

Subsequent defence spending during the next 50 years confirms the general belief by England that no foreign power would dare attack a British colony.

This belief in immunity was not shared by successive governors or the population and, as the years went by, reports or rumours of wars overseas reaching Sydney resulted in many enthusiastic, but often short-lived, bursts of activity.

Lieutenant William Dawes who was later appointed "officer of artillery and engineers" in April, 1788, was responsible for the first redoubt on the eastern side of Sydney Cove and other defences.

In the early weeks of the colony heavy rain fell, emphasising the need for barracks for the detachment. On 8th February, Phillip ordered barracks to be erected on the west bank of the Tank Stream (Lower George Street).

The barracks were commenced early in March, but building materials were poor and the timber was generally weak or rotten. One company, led by a Captain Campbell, completed their barracks and a storehouse by August, 1788. (2/48) Two of the other company commanders were not so diligent and the Governor had to issue an order urging the officers to hasten the erection of accommodation for their men. (5/2)

One of the officers, a Captain Shea, showed such a lack of enthusiasm that he was eventually paraded before the Governor and severely censured.

Eventually, in February, 1789, the last quarters were completed. Even at that time it was estimated that the barracks would only provide a low standard of accommodation for about three years.

Early conditions under which the marines lived in Sydney were difficult. When available,

the weekly ration consisted of 7 lb. of bread or flour, 7 lb. of beef (or 4 lb. of pork as a substitute), 3 lb. of peas, 6 ozs. of butter and 8 ozs. of rice. Wives received only two thirds of the ration, and children one third. Later, children were granted a half ration. Moreover, inadequate storehouses, rats, pilfering and deterioration during shipping created severe food shortages until, on 1st November, 1789, the ration was reduced by one-third. Food was not the only commodity in short supply; clothing and footwear were virtually unobtainable.

To make matters worse, the marines were required to perform tasks beyond their previous training and experience, including road building, farming, supervising building works, erecting barracks and overseeing convicts. With little entertainment, save for drinking and brawling, and the almost complete lack of female company, together with the other deplorable conditions, bickering and internal problems became prevalent. (2/2)

Inevitably, this internal strife resulted in Australia's first military court-martial, which took place at Port Jackson when Private Joseph Hunt went on trial for striking Private William Dempsey.

By 1792 the first barracks were beyond repair and the Wynyard Barracks were commenced in September of that year. With more permanence in mind, the new buildings were constructed of brick, with a tile roof. The five main blocks each measured 100 ft. by 24 ft.

The detachment and convicts had by now become quite expert in building construction and at least one of the quarters was completed in eleven days. Built on land approximately bounded by the present George, Barrack, Clarence and Margaret Streets, they were the first substantial quarters erected in Sydney and housed the garrison until completion of the Paddington Barracks half a century later.

Parramatta Barracks were built as a result of Governor Phillip's search for cleared or lightly timbered areas where crops could be grown. To the south and east of Sydney Cove the land was a series of sand dunes, quite useless for crop growing. In most other directions there was dense timber and thick scrub which would have taken considerable labour, and, more importantly, a long time to clear. Phillip decided to follow the course of the river to the West (Parramatta River). On 23rd April they found suitable land (Parramatta) but continued up river as far as the area now known at Rooty Hill.

Captain Campbell's company moved to Par-

ramatta in November, 1788, and erected make-shift huts as barracks. In his diary, Captain Watkin Tench records that the foundation stone of the new barracks was laid on 16th November, 1790.

When Captain Nepean took possession of the new barracks in June, 1791, he was accompanied by Lieutenant John Macarthur, Mrs. Macarthur, and their son, Edward. John Macarthur commenced cultivation of land which later became part of Elizabeth Farm. (5/4)

News of the war between England and Spain reached Phillip on 17th December, 1790. "Though far beyond the din of arms, we longed to contribute to her (England's) glory, and to share in her triumphs." (T/217) Thus from the earliest days Australia wanted to be involved in the defence of Britain, although it was not until March, 1885, with the Sudan Contingent, that we were really able to make a useful contribution.

### **THE NEW SOUTH WALES CORPS (1790-1810)**

Back in England, on 20th May, 1789, Sir George Yonge, Under Secretary to the War Office, outlined a plan for the raising of a corps of infantry to replace the marine detachment. (2/2) As a result, Major Francis Grose received orders on 8th June, 1789, to raise a New South Wales Corps, consisting of four companies. Each company was to have one captain, one lieutenant, one ensign, and 75 other ranks.

The New South Wales Corps sailed on the transports Neptune, Surprize, and Scarborough on 17th January, 1790. This fleet, generally known as the Second Fleet, arrived in Sydney on 26th and 28th June and the troops disembarked on the following day.

The Corps gradually replaced the Marines. However, it was not until the departure of Phillip on 10th December, 1792, when Major Grose, the Lieutenant-Governor, took over the administration, that the era of the Rum Corps began. Captain Hunter, R.N., arrived as Governor on 11th September, 1795, to replace the then Administrator, Lieutenant Colonel Paterson.

A great deal has been written about the Rum Corps, much of it is highly critical but some complimentary. On several occasions Governor King, who succeeded Hunter, emphasised his approval of the men of the Corps. They later proved an efficient military force in putting down the convict mutiny at Castle Hill on 4th March, 1804.



The Irish Rebellion in 1798 and the seditious risings which preceded it resulted in some 2,000 convicts being sent to Sydney. Since the rebellion sprang from bitter discontent, it was natural that the Irish prisoners would harbour a violent hatred of British rule and this became concentrated in Sydney as the most dangerous rebels were sent here.

Governor Hunter thought them turbulent and worthless characters but admitted that many had a genuine grievance over the duration of their prison term. However, he was also led to believe that the French had been secretly advised that an attack on Sydney would be supported by the Irish rebels.

Suspicion that some of these convicts were holding unlawful meetings and plotting the overthrow of the Governor led Hunter on 15th May, 1800, to order a thorough search for evidence. Harold, the Roman Catholic priest, was brought before the magistrate and questioned about seditious conversations but nothing was proved.

Again, in September, strong rumours of an Irish uprising persisted and a number of suspected persons were tried. Harold was imprisoned and "confessed" that hundreds of pikes had been made in preparation for a rebellion. He implicated several of his countrymen and tried to locate the pikes as proof. In desperation he attempted to persuade an Irishman to make a few pikes to support his claims but, having been transported for dealing in pikes, the man refused to involve himself a second time. Finally, Harold found someone to make a pike out of an old hinge of a barn door but to no avail — the evidence was not accepted. Apparently, Harold intended the Governor to believe that he alone, through his influence as their priest, was able to learn the facts and increase his importance in the colony. (T/302)

As a result of these alarms, the first Australian volunteers were formed. One hundred of the most respectable inhabitants were grouped into two associations each of fifty men and styled the Sydney and Parramatta Loyal Associated Corps. Each was commanded by a Captain with two Lieutenants and a proportionate number of non-commissioned officers. (T/303) They were volunteers in the true sense — being advised that they were not to expect pay for their services although arms and ammunition would be provided.

William Balmain, who came as Assistant Surgeon with the First Fleet and whose name is remembered in the suburb of Balmain, was appointed commander of the combined body.

Governor King disbanded the "Corps" in July, 1801, but on 22nd October, 1802, re-instated the volunteers as the Loyal Associations. They were armed, clothed and fed at Government expense. In 1804, they too were reported as having rendered good service in helping put down the convict rising at Castle Hill. Later, after the first British Regiment arrived, they were finally disbanded on 9th June, 1810, and there were no further efforts to raise local defence forces until the end of the "forties".

The New South Wales Corps was recalled to England on 20th September, 1808, and on 4th March, 1809, its name was changed to 102nd Regiment. On 12th May, 1810, it left Port Jackson and returned home via Cape Horn, thus becoming the only British Regiment to circumnavigate the globe. On 24th March, 1818, the Regiment was disbanded at Chatham.

The Activities of the British Regiments (1810-1870) will appear in the next issue.

(T/XXX) Sydney's First Four Years (being a reprint of "A Narrative of the Expedition to Botany Bay" and "A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson" by Captain Watkin Tench). Published in association with the Royal Australian Historical Society by Angus & Robertson Ltd. in 1961. (Page XXX)

(2/XX) "Short History of the Military Forces in N.S.W. from 1788 to 1953" Coleman and Knight. (Page XX)

(5/2) Journal of Royal Australian Historical Society (JRAHS) Vol. 1, Part 6, Page 109; "Defenders and Defences of Australia" Grace Hendy-Pooley.

(5/4) JRAHS Vol. 1, Part 3, Page 34, "The Humours and Pastimes of Early Sydney", J. P. McGuane.

## THE ABORIGINES

"The tribe of Camerra inhabit the north side of Port Jackson; the tribe of Cadi inhabit the south side, extending from the South Head to Long Cove, at which place the district of Wanne, and the tribe of Wangal, commences, extending as far as Par-ra-mata or Rose Hill; the tribe Wallumede inhabit the north shore, opposite Warrane or Sydney Cove, and are called Wallumatta. The space between Rose Hill and Prospect Hill is distinguished by eight different names, although the distance is only four miles."

—Extracted from Hunter's Journal.

*Continued from page 16*

*government by a Governor appointed by Britain. Within a short subsequent period of 68 years, the country became a colony of free people and had fitted itself for, and obtained, Responsible Government. The Royal Assent was given to a Constitution on the 16th July, 1855, the first Parliament of New South Wales elected under the Constitution meeting on the 22nd May, 1856.)*





*"People who take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."*

—MACAULAY.

# Fellowship of First Fleeters

## Aims, Objects and Membership

### OBJECTS:

- (a) To honour and be loyal to our Country — Australia.
- (b) To disseminate a deeper knowledge and create a greater awareness of the part played by those Pioneers who arrived in Sydney, N.S.W., with the First Fleet on the 26th January, 1788.
- (c) To ensure that the Country's National Day (Australia Day — 26th of January each year) is celebrated in a manner and on a scale befitting the important event.
- (d) To encourage an Australian patriotism and to strengthen the bonds of loyalty by all people living in Australia, irrespective of their birthplace or origin, creed or party.
- (e) To maintain Australian traditions and ways of life and to defend our National interests.
- (f) To welcome and extend hospitality to migrants and visitors from overseas.
- (g) To foster a love of Australia and of Australian Literature, History, Drama, Art and Music.
- (h) To do any or all of those things, conformable to law, which are in the opinion of the Fellowship considered beneficial to the Nation and its future development and well-being.
- (i) To encourage and assist the younger generation in Australia to play a worthy part in maintaining and fostering the above-mentioned objects.

### MEMBERSHIP:

The Fellowship consists of —

- Members — with proof of their ancestors having arrived in Sydney with the First Fleet on the 26th January, 1788, and who have attained the age of 18 years.
- Associate Members — possessing the proof mentioned above and who are under the age of 18 years. Associate Members automatically become ordinary Members when they attain the age of 18.
- Life Members — Life Membership may be conferred by the Fellowship (in General Meeting) on any Member who has, in the opinion of the Fellowship, rendered signal service to the Nation or the Fellowship.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS is non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit-making. The Badge of the Fellowship is a map of Australia (in blue) with F.F.F. imposed thereon in gold letters. Its motto is:

"To live on in the hearts and minds of descendants is never to die!"

# Fellowship of First Fleeters

