

F.F.F.

NEWSLETTER

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Hello Everyone:

We have been very quiet this last month - not a lot doing socially but then, it has been rather cold and there's nothing nicer than to curl up in a comfortable chair with a good book, or just listen to one's favourite record. With life the hustle bustle it has become even that is becoming a rare pleasure.

Congratulations to the Small Family Descendents who are very active indeed. They have now published their own Newsletter and in this they record the initial objectives of their Group. These I recommend to other family groups intending to organise themselves into a Family Association. They are -

To record as fully as possible the descendents of (First Fleeter Ancestors) with all Baptism, Birth, Marriage and Death dates fully documented.

To obtain factual information of an interesting nature about the Small descendents.

To record, in a central file, the location of original documents, photographs, family relics, certificates etc..

To consider ways and means of publishing all authentic information.

To provide a set of authentic information for the Mitchell Library.

To consider the restoration of the grave of (First Fleeter).

The group is progressing well with the last item named, i.e. the restoration or re-allocation of the headstone of John Small and I believe their aims and objectives set an ideal pattern for all those families who wish to launch such a movement. Enthusiasm is undoubtedly abounding in Australia to-day for further research into our First Fleeters and I do urge all members to consider the importance of groups such as those started by descendents of John Small and also Henry Kable. If these families are able to do it, then there must be many more with the same potential.

I did mention in our last Newsletter the Small Family reunion and picnic on Sat/Sunday 7th and 8th October. Information on these functions may be obtained from Mrs. Bess Hooke, telephone 44.6675 or Mr. John Pollock, telephone 86.4710.

All members with ancestors buried in St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta will be pleased to learn that Mr. Barry Edwards, of the Elton Ward Studios has taken up the cudgels to fight for the retention of the magnificent sandstock wall which surrounds the cemetery (or at least the O'Connell Street side which is in jeopardy). Apparently there is a move afoot for this part of the wall to be demolished - for what purpose - nefarious or otherwise - would only be pure conjecture. For those of you who have never seen the cemetery this would be sacrilege - fit is the character of the cemetery itself!!! Everyone who can put pen to paper must write to Parramatta Council and decry even the possibility of such a move. Certainly progress must be made but there is a limit to progress where it destroys Australia's history. #

Another very important piece of history which is in danger of destruction because of progress is Fort Street Girls' High School on Observatory Hill in Sydney. As it is the school has lost its tennis courts and much of its ground to widen the Harbour

Bridge approaches. I was privileged to attend the Open Day on Saturday, 5th August. It was uncanny to walk through the three class rooms still being used to-day as class rooms which were built in 1815 as part of the Military Hospital. These stand close by the next oldest part of the building (1841) which is also still being used. In fact, this part is basically unaltered from when it was used as part of the Hospital. I spoke to many present-day students and "Old Girls" and they all spoke with some wonder about the fact that though they might pooh pooh the idea of being in a part of history for their schooling, it is not many weeks before they can "feel" the history of the school and this and all it stands for becomes of increasing importance to them. Are we to ~~not~~ stand by and let the Government sell this priceless part of our heritage for mere money. Again I urge you all to write to your local member; your Town Planning Authority; to anyone at all who has any power ~~to~~ to destroy our birthright, and make your protests now. When these magnificent memorials to our early days are removed it is then too late to bemoan their loss.

Lost, Stolen or Strayed

The following people whose correspondence is being returned. Would anyone knowing their whereabouts please ask them to contact-----US. Mr. John M. Baker, Eastwood; Mr. Jack R. Brown, Greenacre; Mrs. W.A. Colman, Epping; Mr. F.T. Filmer, Candelo; Mrs. J.A. Hanson, West Wollongong; Mrs. J. Hargreaves, Narromine; Mrs. Leta J. Moss, Mrs. D.V. Rice, St. Ives; Mr. John S. Richards, Bondi; Mr. J.A. Small, Nambucca Heads; Miss C.M. Thomas, Earlwood; Miss J.M. Clark, C/o Mrs. E. Roberts, Inverell.

We have had notification from Royal Australian Historical Society that their 1972 conference will be held over the weekend of Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd October. The Fellowship will send its representatives as usual.

The Department of Mines has advised that, "In September, 1974, the N.S.W. Department will have completed its first 100 years of operation. They have formed a committee to attend to details of celebrations to recognise this event. They ask our help particularly, in assembling material for the publication of a volume of "then and now" type photographs comparing areas of mining activities of the pre-1900's with present day and also they hope to establish an "outdoor Museum" of historical mining equipment in a country setting on a piece of land that the Department owns near Sydney" I recommend the Department's request to all members. Please address your letters to - The Under Secretary, Department of Mines, Sydney, 2000.

We have had a similar request from the N.S.W. Department of Education. They require old photographs of schools and school activities more readily accessible to people interested in the history of education in N.S.W.. They say that already they have a photographic collection of old schools which it is currently taking steps to have copied on to microfilm and made freely available for research in the Mitchell Library. Should any member have any old photographs of schools, school activities, school furniture, pupils, teachers, and so on in the period up to 1940 the Department would appreciate the opportunity of copying them and returning the originals to you. If photographs could be identified and dated so much the better. Please address all your items or enquiries to -

Mr. J. Fletcher, Historical Research Officer, Division of Planning, Department of Education, G.P.O.; Box 33, Sydney, NSW/2001.

At an inaugural meeting in May, 1972 a Society known as "The Friends of Vaucluse House" was formed. Their aim is to assist in the preservation and improvement of this magnificent old colonial mansion. Individual membership is available at \$5.00 per annum; family membership at \$10.00 per annum. Membership fees and/or donations may be forwarded to The Secretary, The Friends of Vaucluse House, Vaucluse House, Wentworth Avenue, Vaucluse, NSW/2030.

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History Corner

Do you know who was the first child born in Australia?

There are many claims. In the first place all children were born FREE. Some to free parents, and some to convicts. Others to convict women and free fathers.

The St. Philips Register shows that the Rev. Richard Johnson baptised fourteen children who were born on the voyage to Botany Bay. The majority of these were born on the Prince of Wales to the wives of marines.

On January 21st, 1788, Joshua Bentley the son of Joshua Bentley, a sailor, and Mary Moulton, a convict, was baptised.

On February 3rd, 1788 James Thomas, son of Ann and Samuel Thomas, a marine, was baptised at Sydney Cove.

On February 10th, 1788, Elizabeth Bacon, John Mathew Prior, and Joseph Downey were baptised.

It will be noted that the above dates are for the baptisms, not the births of these children. Does anyone (or will anyone) know for sure who was the first child born in Australia?

Members will shortly be receiving their accounts for membership fees for the year 1/7/1972 to 30/6/1973. Please pay them promptly as these are our main (almost only) source of income for the maintenance of the Journal and Newsletter. It is particularly important for those members intending to attend the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 24th September to be financial if they wish to vote or stand for office.

I should like to remind members that nominations for the election of Officers and Members of the Executive Committee should be in writing signed by the Proposer and Seconder and consented to by the Nominee and lodged with the Hon. Secretary one month (i.e. 24/8/72) at least, before the Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship (vide Rule 15).

Under Rule 35 any member desiring to submit any special matter for the consideration of the Annual General Meeting, shall give notice thereof in writing to the Secretary, not later than the 15th day of August preceding the holding of such Meeting.

This year the Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 24th September, 1972 at 10.30 a.m. at the Northbridge R.S.L. Memorial Hall, Sailor's Bay Road, Northbridge (map references - U.B.D. A/B8 and 57, Gregory's L7 map 59) Bus 202 leaves Martin Place and deposits almost at the entrance just beyond the Golf Club House.

We shall look forward to seeing as many as possible at the Annual General Meeting and, don't forget, there are facilities there for tea and coffee making, so bring your lunch with you and enjoy a picnic either during the meeting (lunch break) or after.

If members have a fairly free weekend that weekend they may wish to attend on the Saturday, 23rd September a guided tour of The Rocks area being conducted by the P & C of The Fort Street Girls' School. Meet at the school at 1.30 p.m.. Devonshire Tea will be served following the tour. Charge is 50 cents adults, 30 cents children.

That's all for now (by the way haven't we had any births, deaths or marriages ???). See you at the A.G.M.