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Mrs. Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
F.F.F. Newsletter,
GPO Box 4441,
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From the President

The Annual General Meeting held on the 24th September was well attended and, on behalf of the Executive, I wish to thank all those who attended and gave it such good support.

We are looking forward to making some successful progress in the coming year and hope, with the general support of the members, to achieve our objectives, the main one at present being to obtain for ourselves suitable premises in the city. Any progress in this regard will be reported in future Newsletters.

An Eventful Week

Sunday, October 14th saw the beginning of a memorable week in the history of New South Wales, commencing with the opening of the site of the restored Cadman's Cottage by the Hon. T.L. Lewis, M.L.A., Minister for Lands and Tourism, and ending with the opening of the Sydney Opera House by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

Cadman's Cottage is the oldest dwelling in the City of Sydney and the F.F.F. was honoured by an invitation to me to attend the function.

On Bondelong Point our new achievement in architecture and construction, The Opera House, and again we were honoured to be invited to attend. Our Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. Joy Wallman and myself attending the exciting event.

Family History and Family Trees

Because of numerous enquiries about these two subjects, we have decided to hold an evening which we hope will help to answer some of these questions.

At the monthly meeting of Tuesday, 13th November, we will have a panel of people who will be able to tell how to go about researching family history and how they put together a family tree.

At the conclusion of the short lecture by each member of the panel, you will be able to ask questions. We hope it will be a most instructive evening and provide a lot of useful information.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH, 8.00 P.M.

Fourth Floor, Assembly Hall Building, Jamieson Street, entrance

Please also remember that the second Tuesday in each month is the meeting of the Fellowship and even if no special programme has been announced, we will be very glad to see you and look forward to your support.

Membership Committee

(From Mary Thompson)

We are happy to report that applications for membership are still rolling in. This month we welcome 11 new members. We have a new First Fleeter, Ellen Wainright, a Lancashire lass who arrived in the Prince of Wales. Here is the list of new members:--

Matthew Everingham

Mr Robert Duck, Quirindi.
Mr Roger Blackford, Maroubra.
Mrs Orma Blackford, Maroubra.

Ellen Wainright

Mrs Freda Cumming, Watson's Bay.

John Small - Mary Parker

Mrs Nora Clark, Elanora Heights.
Mrs Dulcie Bullock, Harbord.
Mr Raymond Wearne, Darwin (R.A.A.F.).
Miss Nora Wearne, Blacktown.

Andrew Fishburn

Mr John Bone, Adamstown.
Miss Anne Bone, Adamstown.

Lieut. George Johnston - Esther Abraham

Capt. David Martin, Canberra (R.A.N.).

Henry Kable

An interesting talk on Henry Kable was given recently by Mrs June Whittaker, M.A., a Kable descendant, who is writing a book on Henry Kable.

Mrs Whittaker's talk was given on 11th September in Board Room No 1 at the Assembly Hall. A very good audience, some 40 persons many of them Kable descendants, were present. During her talk Mrs Whittaker mentioned that two members of the audience, Mrs Val Ross and Mrs J. Provis, were also writing books on early Australian history.

Mrs Whittaker traced Henry Kable's life from his arrest and imprisonment in Norwich Gaol at the age of 18 until his death at an advanced age after a successful business career in Australia. Mrs Whittaker pointed out that Henry Kable had launched the first civil law case in Australia. This was against Captain Sinclair, of the Alexander the ship which had brought Kable to Australia. He was awarded £15 damages, a sum which helped establish him in Australia. In the early part of her address Mrs Whittaker made some interesting comments on social conditions in England around the period of Kable's arrest.

The President, Mr Edgar Kable, introduced the speaker, and at the end of her talk supported Mr K. Cavanaugh in a vote of thanks.

First Grandchild

To take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Mary Thompson on the recent birth of her first grandchild.

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Lecture Night

The next lecture night will be held on Tuesday 13th November in No. 1 Board Room, Assembly Hall, Sydney, at 7.30 p.m. There will be a panel of speakers -- Beryl Lewis, Mary Thompson and Edgar Kable -- who will address the meeting on how to trace and undertake research on one's ancestors.

This evening has been arranged because of the many requests by members about the procedures involved, and the lack of knowledge of where to start their inquiries. This should be of great interest, not only to First Fleeters but to many other people, who are also welcome to attend.

"Living on Original Grant"

As members may have noted, the item which appeared under the above heading in the last Newsletter was commented on by two well-known Sydney columnists, Jim Macdougall in the "Daily Mirror" and Taffy Davies in the "Sun." The item referred to two of our members still living on portions of land originally granted to their ancestor Joseph Hatton in 1792.

We thank Jim Macdougall and Taffy Davies for their interest, which is appreciated.

Taffy Davies ran a "follow-up" paragraph a couple of days later which read: "Anyone still living on the original land granted to First Fleet forebears, we asked. We have been told. Dozens of them. No more claimants, please."

None of these First Fleeter claimants have advised the Editor of this Newsletter about their claim. Could they please come forward, as it would be of interest to members to know of them?

Or is the explanation that the people who contacted Taffy Davies are not actually descendants of First Fleeters. Certainly they may be living on original grants, but not grants made to First Fleeters -- grants, in fact, made long after First Fleeters had received theirs.

John and Mary Small -- Family gathering

A family reunion for descendants of John and Mary Small (who were married on 12th October 1788) will be held at historic St Anne's Church, Ryde, at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday 14th October.

All descendants will be welcomed by the Rector, Rev. David Livingstone. There will be a collection to assist with maintenance of St Anne's. Afternoon tea will be available at "Addington," 813 Victoria Road, Ryde, after the service at St Anne's. Cost of afternoon tea will assist with the costly restoration of "Addington."

The Addington Trust has made "Addington" available from 10 a.m. for discussion on Small family history. Those responsible for collecting this information are anxious to receive any information members have collected on their own line of descent or on any other line of descent from John and Mary Small. It will be of greatest assistance if the information is given in written form.

Interesting family history will be on display, and family history sheets available.

Hot water will be available at "Addington" in the morning, and snacks for lunch will be available if required. Car travellers could perhaps bring lightweight seating, as that at "Addington" is insufficient. Bus information available from Mrs Beth Hooke (phone 44-6675).

Annual Dinner

DON'T FORGET -- KEEP 26th JANUARY 1974 FREE FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER AT THE MENZIES HOTEL. A NIGHT TO REMEMBER!

Margaret Markwell

Our energetic and hard-working Social Committee member Mrs Margaret Markwell is obviously enjoying her stay in Canada with her son and his family. Her holiday is fast drawing to a close. She leaves Vancouver for home on 20th October.

Beating Inflation

According to an item in Column 8 of the "Sydney Morning Herald" of 21st September 1973; hens are doing their best to control inflation. Out of half-a-dozen eggs bought by Mrs Ruth Blair at a Rosman supermarket the other day, so the item said, five had double yolks.

Mrs Ruth Blair is, of course, a well-known member of the First Fleeters, and is the wife of the honorary auditor, Mr Eric Blair. She and Mrs Margaret Markwell are sisters.

"Personal Items"

Anyone wishing to have published a small item on members should send the relevant information to the Editor of the Newsletter at the address given on top of Page 1.

Next Fleet Meeting

The next Fleet meeting will be held on Tuesday 9th October on the 4th Floor of the Assembly Hall, Jamison Street, at 7.30 p.m. We are pleased to see that more and more members are attending, and we look forward to welcoming even more at this meeting.

William Tunks

Here is some information about William Tunks:--

William Tunks arrived as a marine on the Sirius with the First Fleet. A despatch from Governor Phillip to Lord Grenville dated 22nd November 1791 stated that William Tonks (sic) and others were desirous of being received as settlers on Norfolk Island and that they sailed from Sydney on 26th October 1791. William Tonks received a grant of 60 acres. He left Norfolk Island on the Kitty on 9th March 1793.

On 22nd July 1795 he was a private in the N.S.W. Corps and received a land grant of 25 acres on the Hawkesbury River. Tunks was on a list of people owning firearms in 1802. In July 1806 Tunks leased his 140 acres in the district of Evan to John Palmer at £5 per year for five years. This was registered on 9th December 1812. Palmer sold this 140 acres to Samuel Paster on 9th May 1815 for £300. On 25th June 1819 Samuel Paster transferred to John Single.

Although there is nothing definite to go on, it would appear that William Tunks stayed on his property working for John Palmer and that he returned to Sydney in 1812, taking up his old trade as gimblet maker. It is possible that his boys stayed on the Hawkesbury working on their father's old property.

(More information on William Tunks and his wife Sarah in the next Newsletter.)