

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

The annual dinner held this year at the Menzies Hotel to celebrate the Birthday of our Great Country was a tremendous success, and on behalf of the Committee I thank you for the support given to it. In all 290 people attended, a very good effort indeed.

Our Guests of Honour, the Hon. T. A. Willis, B.A., F.L.A., Deputy Premier and Minister for Education, who represented the Premier of New South Wales, and Ald. John Harris, F.C.A., representing the Lord Mayor of Sydney, both complimented the Fellowship on the standard of the function and the way in which it was conducted.

Incidentally, Ald. Harris is a descendant of Surgeon John Harris, prominent in the early days of the colony, while Mr Willis, in his speech saying that Australia had a great deal to be proud of, said that his ancestors had "missed out on the first 28 years of the colony."

I had the pleasure of reading out a telegram from the Hon. Al Grassby, Minister for Immigration, who congratulated the Fellowship and sent his best wishes for the occasion. Mr Grassby, who was overseas, sent an apology for non-attendance at the function.

Our thanks go to a hard-working committee for the success of the evening, with a special mention for the Ticket Secretary, Mrs Beth Hooko, the H.O., Mr Doug Cakes, and the social committee directed by Mrs Beryl Lewis and Mrs Margaret Markwell. A special mention also to Mrs Viola Luir, the pianist.

On the following day (Sunday 27th January) the Cavanaugh Family had a very good Church Service and family picnic at Ebenezer Church. This was a great success and a happy occasion.

On the Monday Mrs Joan Ross and myself, accompanied by members of our families, represented the Fellowship at the Australia Day Surf Carnival held at Harbord Beach.

The highlight of the Carnival was a Marathon Boat Race sponsored by the Fellowship from Fairy Bower to Harbord Beach to commemorate the sailing of the First Fleet from Botany Bay to Sydney Cove in 1788 to found the Colony. Some 23 boats competed, and the event was won by Pollymock with bronte a very close second and Port Kombla third in a very thrilling finish.

I presented the prizes on behalf of the Fellowship, and a crowd of several thousand people listened to the reason for the race and applauded.

(President's Report continued
overleaf)

From the President (continued)

Also on the Monday the Rocks Area was the scene of quite a lot of activities to celebrate the occasion. I have to hand a letter of appreciation from the Rocks Australia Day Committee thanking the Fellowship for our part in the organisation of the events and inviting us to participate in the planning for Australia Day. I am informed that 25,000 people acclaimed the day's activities.

You see by this report that Australia Day activities are beginning to increase and gain more support each year. Our biggest problem seems to be getting support from the Media, but we feel that, if enough people are involved, eventually we will make progress in that direction as well.

Australia Day is certainly more noted today than in previous years, and the Fellowship has played a big part in bringing this about.

We have an exciting and progressive year ahead of us, and I feel that with a little effort the Fellowship will really begin to accomplish some of the things that we set out to do.

Please note the dates of the Monthly Meetings for the coming year:
12th FEBRUARY. 19th MARCH. 23rd APRIL. 21st MAY. 11th JUNE.
9th JULY. 13th AUGUST. 10th SEPTEMBER. 8th OCTOBER. 19th
NOVEMBER.

The meetings are held in the Assembly Hall Building, Margaret Street, City, on the 4th floor in the No. 1 Board Room, commencing at 8 p.m. I booked these dates as I found that other organisations had already commenced booking this popular room out for the whole year, and in case we found ourselves without a meeting-place I took what I felt was appropriate action.

We will endeavour to have a speaker at each meeting to address us on topical subjects which the Committee hopes will be of great interest and benefit to all members.

Please support your Committee in these matters, and if you have any complaints, queries or suggestions we want to hear them and see what we should do to advance our Fellowship.

Edgar Kable.

Membership Committee

(Bron Mary Thompson)

We are glad to welcome the descendant of yet another First Flecter, Eleanor Frazer, and also another member of the Ruse family. The line of descent in the latter instance was through Susannah (daughter of James and Elizabeth Ruse), who married Patrick Haddigaddy, and their daughter Ellen married John Goodger. I mention these facts because for many years descendants of Ellen and John Goodger, although knowing they were Ruse descendants, were unable to find the documents to prove it. Proof has now been established, and will be passed on to any other people who descend through the line and who wish to join the Fellowship. New members:--

Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes

Mr Francis Kable, 12 Lathoura Place, Orange.

Mr Ross Kable, St. Andrews College, Carillon Ave., Newtown.

Mrs June Whittaker, 154 Farringah Road, Dee Why.

Membership Committee continued
overleaf

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Membership Committee (continued)

James Ruse

Mrs Janice Kaufmann, 75 Underwood Road, Homebush.

Eleanor Frazer

Mrs Luriel Larden, 78 Loss Street, West Ryde.

William Tunks

Mrs Margaret Daniell, 123 Macquarie Street, Sydney.

Mrs Joan Hall, 90 Cremorne Road, Cremorne Point.

Andrew Fishburn

Mrs Norma Corrick, 5 Arthur Street, Mascot.

Mr Norman Hughes, 139 Bridges Road, New Lambton South.

Mr Ronald Alt, 233 Main Road, Toukley.

Larry Turner

Mrs Joan Robb, Flat 1, 28 Hoskins Avenue, Kerblawarra.

Mrs Nancy Lees, Flat 3, 8 Kitchener Street, Hughes, N.C.T.

John Boyliss

Mrs Lorraine Houghton, c/- Dept. of Public Works, Boroko, Fort
Forsby, F.M.G.

Matthew James Everingham & Owen Cavanaugh & Margaret Dowling

Mrs June Mason, 72 Clarence Street, Merrylands.

Owen Cavanaugh & Margaret Dowling

Mr Ian Dobbin, 9 McLachlan Street, Maclean.

Supplies of Journals

Supplies of the following Journals are still available: Vol. 1, Nos. 1, 3, 4. Vol. 2, No. 1. Vol. 3, No. 1 (last Journal issued).

There are no copies of Vol. 1, No. 2 now available. Price to members: 25 cents each; to non-members, 50 cents each. Postage extra (12 cents for one copy, up to 50 cents for five copies).

For copies or further information, write direct to Mr Eric Blair, 14 Malacoota Road, Northbridge 2063.

Guest Speaker

Guest speaker at the Fleet Meeting on 19th March will be Dr T. G. Parsons, M.A. (Sydney University), Ph.D. (Monash University), who will speak on the New South Wales Rum Corps. This should be a particularly interesting address, as the New South Wales Corps wrote a colourful chapter in the early history of the colony. Dr Parsons is hopeful that some members may be able to help him with further information and perhaps documents on the subject. We would like to see a big roll-up to hear Dr Parsons.

If members are interested in reading up on the subject, books on the New South Wales Corps include "Rum Rebellion," by D. H. V. Evatt, "Storm of Time," by Eleanor Dark, and "John Macarthur," by E. H. Ellis.

Rocks Festival

Members, please keep in mind the interesting and very popular Argyle Celebrations, more regularly known as the Rocks Festival. Date of this year's Rocks Festival, Saturday 30th March. More in the next Newsletter.

Obituary

We regret to announce the passing, on 3rd January this year, of Fellowship member Walter J. Jacob. The late Mr Jacob had been very interested in all the doings of the Fellowship, but ill health in recent years had prevented him taking part. Our sympathy is extended to his widow, Mrs Ivy Jacob, of Barrina Village, Castle Hill.

Unbroken Blood Line

(From Mrs Beryl Lewis)

Can any other members match this record? The blood line of my family (John Small) is completely intact. In the fourth generation my father, who turned 82 on 23rd November last, is the eldest, and he has two sisters, both living. In the fifth generation -- there are seven, all living. In the sixth generation -- there are 10, all living. Therefore there is an unbroken blood line of 82 years, and on top of that there is one member of the third generation still alive.

Personal Jottings

Birth of Margaret Larkwell's first granddaughter to son Peter and wife Sylvia in Canada Thelma Guy out of hospital, and we wish her a speedy recovery Christine Higginbotham, daughter of F.F.F. member Arthur Higginbotham, of Ryde, selected to represent New South Wales in the women's rowing fours in championships at Auckland, New Zealand, this month.

The Two Battles of Vinegar Hill

(Information supplied by Mr Bert E. Weston, researched and put together by Mr J. D. Hoil, a retired school inspector, of Ambleside Drive, Castle Hill)

When King succeeded Hunter as Governor of New South Wales in 1800 the population of the colony was just over 5,000, a number which grew to over 7,000 by 1802. This marked rise in population was attributable partly to a sharp increase in the transportation of convicts. For various reasons the proportion of Irish among the convicts was also growing.

The first transport from Ireland, the "Queen," formed part of the Third Fleet, which arrived in 1791. From 1793 to 1802 41 per cent of the convicts who reached the colony were from Ireland. Many of these were political prisoners. The designation "Irish rebel ships" given to several of the transports on which they were carried indicated the nature of the reason for their transportation.

In Ireland, during the 1790's, Irishmen had intensified their campaign for freedom from English rule. In 1798 their rebellion was crushed at the Battle of Vinegar Hill, near the town of Enniscorthy in the south-east of Ireland. After this defeat the number of political prisoners from Ireland arriving in the colony showed a marked increase. Many of these prisoners were transported without any trial, as a result of courts-martial or even by summary conviction by magistrates.

Apart from feelings of intense nationalism with which the Irish were imbued, a further frustration and cause of resentment was the failure, in many cases, of the Government to send their papers out with them. Thus the officials in the colony did not know the reasons for their convictions, the period of their sentences to transportation, or the dates on which the sentences expired.

Given these factors it is little wonder that these prisoners caused great concern to the authorities in the colony. From 1800 particularly conspiracies suggesting an uprising of the Irish prisoners were closely investigated. Those considered to be implicated were harshly punished. By 1804 Governor King was satisfied that the situation was under control, and recorded this opinion in official correspondence.

(To be continued in following Newsletters)