

Mrs Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
F.F.F. Newsletter,
G.P.O. Box 4441,
SYDNEY. 2001.

Vol. 6 No. 2
March 1975

From the President

This year for the first time the Fellowship of First Fleeters was officially represented at the Annual Pilgrimage to St Philip's Church. Members of the Fellowship have been present in other years, but this was the first time we have been invited to be official guests. Mrs Beryl Lewis and myself officially represented the Fellowship.

Our lecture night in June is a "free" night -- that is, no speaker has been lined up -- and it has now been decided to make it a family night. On this night people can present their family tree and family history, and talk about their ancestors. If people wish to set up for the evening the displays of their family histories shown at the Fellowship's exhibition at the Australia Day celebrations at The Rocks, they are very welcome to do so. Many people have told me that they did not get much of a chance to get a good look at the displays when installed at The Rocks, because of the large numbers of folk inspecting them.

Speaking about The Rocks, don't forget the Argyle Annual Celebrations on Saturday 12th April. The Fellowship is again running a stall there, and any goods which can be sold there will be most welcome. Also, helpers are required for the stall. We also would like members to attend in period dress to take part in the Fellowship's contingent in the procession.

Finally, on the Fellowship's annual dinner or luncheon: This year's luncheon, at the Weinkeller in Pitt Street, was a great success -- all who were present agreed on this -- but unfortunately a large number of people did not attend, for various reasons, the most common reason being that the luncheon was to be held on a Sunday.

Next year Australia Day falls on the Monday. In view of the Fellowship's participation during the day in the Rocks festivities it will be virtually impossible to hold the annual dinner on that day. It would appear necessary to hold the dinner on either the Friday or Saturday night.

What are members' views? I would like all members to tell us which night they would prefer. The majority view will prevail. But please let us know before mid-April. Bookings will have to be made very soon. Write c/- the Fellowship's box number (above), or phone me at my home (telephone 635 0427).

Edgar Kable.

Lecture Nights

(From Val Ross)

As reported in the February Newsletter, our 19th March lecture was given by Dr Bryan Gandevia on "Medical Aspects of New South Wales 1788-1793."

Something quite different will be the lecture on 16th April. Mr Stanley Lipscombe, whose name is synonymous with antiques, is coming along to speak on "Early Australian Wares and Antiques." Bring along your heirlooms!

Attention all members! Originally, for the lecture on 21st May, Stephen Shortus, from the Australian History Department of Macquarie University, was to speak on the early Australian novel. However, when he suggested that he would prefer to deal with the Australian novel and social background between the two world wars, on which he has currently been working, we decided to jump a century and take a look at more recent Australian history. Stephen has a delightfully informal way of lecturing, and his talk is bound to be stimulating.

Sale of Land

As most members would be aware, some members of the Fellowship several years ago formed a co-operative to buy land on the Hawkesbury River. However, it was found impossible to get an access road built to the land, and the shareholders reluctantly decided to sell. Sale of the land is now going through, and the chairman will contact all shareholders as soon as possible.

Office Information

A cupboard or linen press for storage is urgently required for our office, Room 312 in the Assembly Building. Anyone who can help please contact Mrs Margaret Markwell (phone 95 5571), Mrs Beryl Lewis (phone 709 8974) or the President (phone 635 0427).

On lecture nights the office now opens at 3.30 pm till 7.30 pm to allow people to gather together before the lecture. On Tuesdays and Fridays and on other Wednesdays the office is open on the same hours as before, 10 am to 2 pm.

Australia Chapel, Bathampton

(From Beryl Lewis)

Letters have been received from our representatives at the opening of the Australia Chapel, in St Nicholas' Church at Bathampton, near Bath, England.

Our representatives were Mr Arthur Ingham Myers and Mrs Jean Mitchell. They both sent copies of the Order of Service, and it was certainly most impressive. To quote Mrs Mitchell, "The Australia Chapel is very impressive, and the architect has made a fitting memorial to Arthur Phillip. The marble floor of Wombeyan marble, the blackbean memorial, chairs and altar, the impressive windows bearing the coats of arms of Australia and the six States make a very pleasant addition to the church."

Mr and Mrs Mitchell took photographs, and we will be looking forward to seeing them. Mr Ingham Myers was photographed by the Press with the High Commissioner, before the memorial, and is trying to obtain a copy. He had the honour of reading the section of service on behalf of the Fellowship. From both these letters we can be justly proud of our contribution to the memorial. No doubt there will be more to report when these members return to Australia.

New Members

The following applicants have been passed for membership (February 1975):--

Miss Diane Bultitude, PO Box 40, Grafton 2460. (James Shiers)
Mrs Antoinette Lucas, 31 Alandale Ave., Figtree 2525. (Andrew Fishburn)
Mrs Judith Steel, 7 Terrigal Place, Engadine 2233. (William Tunks).
Mr George Cowell, 16 Algernon St., Oatley 2223. (William Tunks).
Mrs Joyce Cowell, 16 Algernon St., Oatley 2223. (William Tunks).
Mrs Betty Cameron, "Fassifern," via Wollomombi via Armidale (Philip
Gidley King)
Mrs Joanne Crossing, "Derryackie," Walcha. (Philip Gidley King).
Mr Lionel Norvill, PO Box 43, Murrurundi. (Andrew Fishburn)

Thomas Jamison and Sir John Jamison

(This information has been supplied by Mrs Ailsa Aiken, of St Ives, widow of Mr Carl Aiken, whose death was reported in the August 1974 Newsletter)

My late husband was a descendant of Thomas Jamison, who was surgeon's mate on the Sirius and later went to Norfolk Island with Governor King in the first settlement there. After this he returned home to England, and his son Sir John Jamison came out to Australia. Sir John was a very colourful character, and it was after him that Jamison Valley and Jamison Street were named. He also founded the A.J.C. and the Horticultural Society Show.

Sir John Jamison built a mansion at Regentville, just out of Penrith, where he entertained lavishly. He also became owner of much land in South-western New South Wales.

He is buried in the old churchyard at the back of St Stephen's C. of E., Penrith. We found his grave, and we also went to Regentville. Though the house was gone, the stone cellars are still there, also the big entrance-gates.

It was my late husband's intention to try to get some of Sir John Jamison's descendants to band together to help him restore the old gates as an action which should be done to preserve part of Australia's history. Also the grave is in great need of repair, as it is in the old neglected part of the churchyard and gets no attention at all.

I do hope this will enlighten some of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and that some good will come from it. As my husband has passed away I do not want his efforts to go for nothing, and I do hope someone who is interested will read this.

Anzac Cove 60 Years Later

The Fellowship's respected vice-patron Dudley Oakes is off on the 12th of April on a tour to Gallipoli, entitled "Anzac Cove 60 Years Later and organised by the R.S.L. of Australia and the R.S.A. of New Zealand. Dudley Oakes is, of course, an original Anzac.

The tour visits such places as Tehran (Iran), Tel Aviv and Jerusalem (Israel), Istanbul (Turkey), Beirut (Lebanon), Athens and Crete. The tour programme sounds absolutely wonderful, but the highlight of the whole tour will be the visit to Anzac Cove.

On Friday 25th April reveille will be at 0235 at Cannakale for departure by ferry to Gallipoli. A dawn service will be followed by a Gunfire Breakfast, then a service and wreath-laying ceremony at the Turkish Memorial, followed by a picnic lunch and services at other memorials. No doubt Dudley will give us a fascinating report of the whole tour.

Lecture on Paddington

At the lecture night on 19th November last year an interesting address was given by Mrs Patricia Thompson on "The Paddington Society and Some Early Citizens."

Paddington came into Australia's story within a few months of the arrival of the First Fleet, Mrs Thompson said. One of the first occasions was when two convicts were left overnight at Rushcutters Bay, then known as Blackburn Cove, to cut rushes. They were murdered by Aborigines from a tribe then living in the Paddington district. Blackburn Cove was thenceforward known as Rushcutting Bay, soon changed to Rushcutters Bay. After this the Aborigines virtually disappear from the Paddington story.

Thomas West, a wheelwright and cartwright, was the first settler at Paddington, settling there in 1802. Thomas West left Paddington in 1810 to settle at The Oaks, but his eldest son, Obadiah, aged six in 1810, was later to play an important part in Paddington's development.

However, the important development in Paddington's early history was the granting by Governor Macquarie in 1817 of 100 acres each at Paddington to Robert Cooper, Francis Forbes and First Fleeter James Underwood.

Francis Forbes soon dropped out of the story. Cooper and Underwood both became rich men, though they could not get on together, and had a big legal wrangle over land. Cooper, who had three wives and 28 children, in 1824 built Juniper Hall, which is still standing and is believed to be the oldest surviving mansion from Macquarie's days to be found in Sydney. Juniper Hall was used as a residence by Cooper, but later was leased for many years and renamed Ormond House. In fact, the original name was forgotten and was not rediscovered until 1949, when the house reverted to its original name. Juniper Hall is now flats, and not open for inspection.

Mrs Thompson traced the history of Paddington, and some of the more important residents during the 19th century. Many of the more prominent families moved away when the soldiers came to Victoria Barracks, probably not through dislike of the soldiery as that the land had become so valuable.

Most of the terrace houses for which Paddington is so well known date from the 1880-1900 period. From the early days all that is left is one building (Juniper Hall), scraps of two other houses, and Victoria Barracks. Paddington is now specially zoned for preservation, and no building can now be demolished without permission.

At the lecture, paintings of Robert Cooper and his third wife, Sarah, were on display, being kindly loaned for the occasion by Miss Rosalind Kirkwood, a direct descendant of Robert Cooper and owner of Juniper Hall, who was present at the lecture night.

Mr Doug Oakes was in the chair in the absence of the President, Mr Edgar Kable, and Vice-President Mrs Beryl Lewis. After questions and various comments by members, Mr Auld thanked Mrs Thompson for her very interesting address and made a presentation of a small memento for the occasion.

.....
(Unfortunately the above report had to be held over from the last two issues of the Newsletter because of the many other items which had to be included. The Editor feels the address was of sufficient interest for a summary to be published, even at this late stage. It is hoped to publish a summary of Mr Ron Arndell's address at the 19th February lecture-night on Dr Thomas Arndell.)
