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Hon. Editor,
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Argyle Annual Celebrations

This year's Argyle Annual Celebrations Day was the best and most successful Argyle Day for the Fellowship so far.

This success was, of course, due in large measure to a small band of dedicated workers.

Special mention must be given to our honorary secretary, Colleen Bernath, for organising the float for the procession. The float this year was simply wonderful, and it also was given an excellent position in the procession, first after the official party.

Members who rode on the float were all garbed in the dress and costumes of our forebears, and all looked the part. Our float was a really colourful feature of the procession. Colleen's husband, Eugene, was dressed as Captain Phillip, and was a particularly striking figure. Thanks to all those who took part in the procession, and a special thanks again to Colleen.

Thanks go also to all those who gave donations for the stall, either in goods or in cash, and thus helped to make the day such a financial success for the Fellowship. Takings were, in fact, a record this year.

Particular thanks must go, too, to Dick Markwell for loan of tent, tables, etc., and to Des Jurd for transporting this equipment into The Rocks.

While crowds were somewhat down this year, the Day as a whole was considered by many to be better than ever.

Coming Lecture Nights

(From Val Ross)

Wednesday night, 18th June, will be an informal family night. Would as many people as possible bring along the exhibits which were on show at The Rocks on 27th January, so that we can all study them at leisure?

Many of us met Dr Peter Reynolds from the School of Architecture, University of New South Wales, when he came along as a visitor to hear Dr Gandevia on 19th March. On 16th July Dr Reynolds will be bringing two projectors and many interesting slides when he comes to tell us about First Fleeter Dr William Balmain. His address is titled "Dr William Balmain and the Architecture of Balmain."

How nice again to have one of our own members take the rostrum! On 20th August Mr Ed. Buckham, B.A., M.Ed., and now Deputy Headmaster of St Ives High School, is to give us the benefit of the years of research he has done on his First Fleeter, "Dr Thomas Jamison."

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, on 21st May, Stephen Shortus, from the Australian History Department of Macquarie University, will speak on the Australian novel and social background between the two world wars.

Oakes Overseas

Vice-Patron of the Fellowship Dudley Oakes left on Saturday 12th April on a pilgrimage called "Anzac Cove 60 Years Later."

The "Sun-Herald" of 13th April ran a news-item on the pilgrimage which showed a photograph of Dudley in a 1914 war-time snapshot as well as a photograph of him as he is today. The news-item also contained comments by him on the original Gallipoli Landing.

While on the pilgrimage Dudley will be reading the epilogue at the dawn service at Anzac Cove.

(Reference to Dudley Oakes and "Anzac Cove 60 Years Later" was made in the March Newsletter).

Dudley's son Doug Oakes is also leaving very soon on an overseas trip. He will be away five weeks. Doug, of course, is one of those primarily responsible for publication of this Newsletter; without him the Newsletter might not appear. It is therefore very likely that there will be some delay in publication of the next issue.

"Medical Aspects of the Period 1788-1793"

(From Val Ross)

Many members and visitors who came to the March monthly lecture agreed that Dr Bryan Gandevia, who spoke on the "Medical Aspects of the Period 1788-1793," delivered one of the most stimulating lectures we have had so far.

The transplantation of a group of a thousand people into a virtually germ-free environment offered a unique opportunity for study to a medical researcher; and this is why Dr Gandevia has been so interested in the First Fleet.

Having studied with Dr John Copley the case-histories of several hundreds of our ancestors, Dr Gandevia was able to tell us that their survival rate during the first starved years was very high.

After the arrival of each of the first three Fleets there were epidemics. However, the First and Second Fleeters survived the major epidemic after the arrival of the Third Fleet although the Third Fleeters continued to die in increasing numbers over many months. Dr Gandevia said that they just rolled over, closed their eyes and died.

Medically there is no accounting for this phenomenon, but Dr Gandevia believes that the breakdown in the morale of the convicts under two incompetent leaders, Grose and Paterson, after Governor Phillip's departure, is the explanation.

Our First Fleeter forefathers were therefore fortunate to have had the benefit of Phillip's initial term of office, when they came to the belief that there was indeed a future for them in this new land.

Personal Jottings

Christine Higginbotham, daughter of F.F.F. member Arthur Higginbotham, of Ryde, has announced her engagement to Bob Goodchild, also of Ryde. Both families are long-time residents of Ryde. Arthur Higginbotham's First Fleeter ancestor was Joseph Hatton, one of the first settlers in the Ryde district. Just before her engagement Christine was selected in the State rowing team to compete in the Australian Championships in Perth in May, the second time she has been selected in a State women's rowing team for the Australian Championships.

Dr Thomas Arndell

The interesting address given at the lecture night by Mr Ron Arndell on his First Fleet ancestor Dr Thomas Arndell was heard by one of the largest attendances at any of the lecture nights held by the Fellowship. This was at the February meeting.

Introduced by President Mr Edgar Kable, Mr Arndell traced the history of the family back to the family of a Norwegian chieftain which settled in Flanders and Brittany, one of whom came over to Britain with William the Conqueror. This family became the Dukes of Arundel, from which the name Arndell derives. (This family, the Dukes of Arundel and of Norfolk, is the premier Roman Catholic family of England, as pointed out by Mr Arndell).

Coming down to the surgeon, Mr Arndell said that in 1781 Dr Arndell had married a Jewess and had been excommunicated and the recording of his birth expunged from the Roman Catholic records (civil records were not kept at this time).

After his wife had died at the birth of their second child, Dr Arndell applied to come with the First Fleet as surgeon's mate, his name being given as Arndell. He embarked on the Friendship. His friend the soldier and diarist Ralph Clark, who was also on the Friendship, called him Surgeon Arundel; as did Governors Phillip and Hunter. Mr Arndell gave instances of Dr Arndell's compassion, and traced his history in the colony, as far as it is known.

His grant on the Hawkesbury was dated 1804, but Mr Arndell said that evidence pointed to his having been in the Hawkesbury district from 1799. Mr Arndell showed, and commented on, a selection of slides and old photographs of the original Arndell home and of historic features of the district, as well as slides and photographs illustrating aspects of pioneering life. Dr Arndell died in May 1821.

After questions a presentation was made to the speaker by vice-patron Mr Dudley Oakes. A cup of tea was then put on by the ladies in Room 312, when there was animated discussion about the Arndells by the many representatives of the family present.

Australia Chapel at Bathampton

Mr W. L. Evans, a member of the original committee of the Fellowship, has forwarded two copies each of the January and February issues of the "New South Wales Review," produced by the New South Wales Government Offices in London.

The January issue contains a full-page article, "Dedication of Australia Chapel at Bathampton," together with an illustration of the Chapel. The February issue has a black-and-white photograph of some of the personalities at the dedication, including the Hon. Sir Davis Hughes, Agent-General for New South Wales, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, the former Archbishop of Sydney, the Rt. Rev. Dr Hugh Gough, and the then Australian High Commissioner, Mr John Armstrong.

Mr Evans, in his covering letter, said that he was in England during January and February, but unfortunately was in Venice on 26th January. He suggested that these "Reviews" be kept in the Fellowship's archives, and this will be done.

National Trust Moves

In case members are not aware of its move, the National Trust of Australia (NSW) recently moved from 123 Clarence Street to the former Fort Street Girls' High School buildings on Observatory Hill, Sydney. The school buildings ceased to be used as a school at the end of 1974. Telephone number of the Trust is 27 5374.

"Horsley," Dapto

(Information supplied by Bert Weston, who advised that this article did appear as a two-part item in the 1788-1820 Journal)

The colonial homestead "Horsley" at Dapto, in the Illawarra Region, was originally built by a member of the Weston family as a near replica of the first residence of that name in this country, which in turn was built in 1830 near Prospect by Captain G. E. N. Weston and named after his birthplace and boyhood home, "West Horsley Place," near Ripley, in Surrey, England.

"West Horsley Place," dating back to the reign of William the Conqueror, was included in the lands listed in the Domesday Book in the name of "Orselei." The first recorded owners were the Windsors, who were descended from Walter son of Other, Governor of the newly-built Windsor Castle.

In 1271 Hugh de Windsor granted the place to his daughter Christina and her husband Ralph de Berners. A century later the estate had passed on to James Berners, who was later knighted and became a prominent councillor to Richard II, only to pay for the King's favour by being executed on Tower Hill in 1388.

James Berners' properties, including "Horsley," were forfeited to the Crown, but were later restored to his widow, from whom they passed to her son Richard Berners and thence to his daughter Margery, who introduced a third family into "Horsley's" history when she married Sir John Bouchier, fourth son of the Count of Eu and great-grandson of Edward III.

Sir John Bouchier entered Parliament as Lord Berners and sat in the House of Lords with his three brothers, one of whom was Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Bouchier.

Dying in 1474 and having lost his only son in battle, he was succeeded by his grandson the second Lord Berners, soldier, courtier and lifelong friend of Prince Henry (later King Henry VIII). This Lord Berners lived in lavish style, partly on loans from the King, who, when Berners died in 1533, was forced to place the estate under Royal arrest.

(To Be Continued)

Assistance on Committees

The President, Mr Kable, has requested that we again ask that any member with the time to spare who can assist in any way at all should please serve on one or more of the various committees. Members willing to so serve should contact the President (telephone 635 0427) or any member of the Executive Committee. The Fellowship will be only too pleased to receive such assistance from members.

Information for "Personal Jottings"

A "Personal Jottings" section in a Newsletter such as ours is always of interest to its readers, but unfortunately your editor never hears of many events which could fill such a section. Or, if we do hear of them, it's either too late or we don't get enough information. So please do write to the editor about any births, marriages, engagements, etc., not only of members but also of relations of members. Don't let this appeal fall on deaf ears.
