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Hon. Editor,
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From the President

This month I have some very exciting news for all Members. Our Guests of Honour at the Australia Day Dinner will be our Patron, the Governor of New South Wales, Sir Roden Cutler, and Lady Cutler. Also the Deputy Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. L. J. Ferguson, and Mrs Ferguson, and a representative of the Prime Minister, Mr Neil, and Mrs Neil.

We have been very honoured by Sir Roden, as he will also personally receive us, with our loyal address, on the holiday Monday morning. So come along, Members, rally around and get your costumes ready.

A programme of events covering the celebrations for Australia Day appears later in this Newsletter. (See next item, below).

A special meeting for all Members and Associates will be held in our office on Wednesday 12th January 1977 to finalise arrangements. Your Committee has done the spadework, so do come along and join in.

Our lecture for November (the last for the year) was given by Mr Thorpe from the Water Board. His main topic was the Tank Stream and Busby's Bore. To say it was enthralling is an understatement.

As the year draws to a close, we can look back with satisfaction on 1976. But let us not be complacent; we have only reached the toddling stage, and much remains to be done before we can claim to have reached maturity. History is, of course, our first interest, and anything at all we can learn of the First Fleet, no matter how minute, is an achievement.

I look forward to seeing many Members during the Celebrations, and wish you all a very happy, family Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Beryl Lewis.

Australia Day Celebrations 1977

Special Meeting -- to finalise arrangements. Place: Fellowship Office. Time: 7.30 pm. Date: Wednesday 12th January 1977.

Flag Raising Ceremony -- Wednesday 26th January. (Time to be announced by Sydney City Council). Members are asked to wear costume of 1788-1810 period. We particularly appeal to our male members to come along.

Australia Day Dinner -- Saturday 29th January, at the Wentworth Hotel. Tickets \$11 each from Beryl Lewis, 88 Avoca Street, Yagoona, 2199. Stamped addressed envelope to accompany remittance. Tickets not paid for by 8th January 1977 will be sold as they are strictly limited. Everyone must be seated by 7.30 pm and, according to Vice-Regal protocol, no smoking is allowed until after the Loyal Toast.

(Australia Day Celebrations continued
over leaf)

Australia Day Celebrations 1997 (Continued)

The Rocks Exhibition -- Sunday 30th January. The same venue as last year (The Sailors Home), and any families with "trees" or items of interest are requested to display them. Also volunteers to man the exhibition, on a roster basis, are needed.

Address of Loyalty -- Government House. Members and Associates are asked to come along in costume. Assemble outside Government House gates **At 9.A.M.** His Excellency the Governor will receive the Address personally, so do make a special effort to make this a resounding success. Morning tea will be served following the Presentation.

Costumes may be hired from the Elizabethan Theatre Trust on the same terms as last year. As these may be kept for one week, the same costume can be used on the Wednesday for the Flag Raising and on the Monday at Government House.

Beryl Lewis.

New Members

The following new members are welcomed into the Fellowship:

Mr Phillip Vicaas Tunks, Bankstown. (William Tunks)
Mrs Lorna Jean Muncaster, Gladesville. (Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes)

Jeremiah Warlters Celebrations

The gathering of the Warlters Descendants at Port Macquarie last June to mark the 145th anniversary of the marriage of Jeremiah Warlters and Jane Rebecca Stewart (granddaughter of Frederick Meredith, of the First Fleet) proved most successful.

They came from near and far, and fine weather prevailed, which made their stay all the more enjoyable.

Four branches of the family were represented -- the Farrells, Warlterses, Blairs and McInherneys.

The programme of events opened with a visit to the Hastings District Historical Society's Museum at 9.30 am on Saturday 12th June to see a display of family photographs, followed by an inspection of family headstones in the local cemetery. Then followed a visit to "Settlement Farm," the home of the McInherney family for almost 100 years. James McInherney married the Warlters daughter Hannah. James McInherney in 1837 became the first Mayor of Port Macquarie.

After lunch the descendants out to visit "Esorte" at Rollands Plains, on the Hastings River, one of Jeremiah's grazing properties, now owned by a great-great-granddaughter, Mrs Ann Strelitz. Here were seen some of the famous breed of Hereford cattle which were introduced to the North Coast by Warlters in the 1820's.

Visitors were taken across the property to the riverbank to inspect the site of the first residence, a two-storeyed 35-room brick building, and of a sugarmill, which were washed away during a flood. Visitors were also shown the site whereon the bricks were made.

On Sunday morning the 13th June everyone assembled, where photographs in colour of the whole group, and of the separate families, were taken.

Then on to St Thomas' Church of England, where a memorial service was held at 12.30 pm. When the congregation were all seated, the Warlters group arrived at the Church in a vintage car dressed in period costume, and entered the Warlters pew. Mr Eric Blair, great-grandson, represented Jeremiah, Mrs Flo Bailey (nee McInherney) Jane Rebecca, wearing the wedding gown worn by her grandmother,

Jeremiah Warlters Celebrations (Continued)

Hannah Warlters. Mr John Farrell and Mrs Lorna Goodwill (nee Blair) acted the part of the witnesses to the marriage, Stephen Partridge and Ann Petitt.

After the service, conducted by Archdeacon Warr, all journeyed to Wauchope, where a four-course dinner was served by the ladies of the R.S.L. Club.

The chairman, Mr Douglas Warlters, then took over and, between courses, there were firstly an address by Mr Phil Luccock, M.P., and then a few words by representatives from each family. Mrs Nina McKey, who had compiled a 65-page history of the family, had the honour of cutting the cake.

All told, 315 persons were present and spent a most enjoyable time making contact with old friends and having the pleasure of meeting many relatives for the first time. A representative of the Farrell family had much pleasure in announcing the birth of a ninth-generation child in their side of the family.

At 6 pm reluctantly saying farewell, all hoped there would be further group meetings in the future.

Nina McKey
(Port Macquarie)

(The Editor regrets that, for several reasons, there has been a long delay in publishing this interesting item).

Letter by Nathaniel Lucas

(A copy of a letter from First Fleeter Nathaniel Lucas written to his father has been sent to the Newsletter for publication, by Hilda Waller. The envelope was addressed to Mr John Lucas, New Kingston, Surrey. The original of the letter is in the Mitchell Library. Hilda Waller draws attention to the fact that the Sydney on Norfolk Island later became Kingston, and that Norfolk Island was then part of New South Wales. She also says there is one spelling error, "burried," and a grammatical error, "me and my family." Where --- occurs the writing is not clear, although the handwriting in the original is beautiful, Hilda Waller says):-

Sydney, Norfolk Island, New South Wales
20th October, 1796

Dear Father,

After so long an absence, an account of my state of health and situation, will no doubt be pleasing to you, and I have the pleasing satisfaction to acquaint you that me and my family are all well, and thank God and my own industry ----- My family at the present time consists of my wife and four children, 2 boys and 2 girls. I had the unspeakable misfortune to lose 2, twin girls by an accident which, could it be represented in a proper manner, would awaken the most tender feelings and melt the hardest heart into sympathy; it was by the fall of a Pine Tree which stood near my house, which burried my lovely infants in the ruins and also my worthy partner who barely escaped with her life, for she was dragged out ----- in which her life was despaired of.

O father, I am not able to express the poignant grief I felt on this, my loss.

Without dwelling long upon this subject together with a variety of misfortunes liable to those who transgress the laws of their country, I can now with truth report that I have surmounted them

Nathaniel Lucas Letter (Continued)

all, and, with the blessing of God, I hope in the course of two years to return to my native country with a competency for life. I am Master Carpenter of this Island for which I have a salary of £50 per annum. I have two freeholds consisting of 75 acres of land.

I should be wanting very much in gratitude, if I did not acquaint you that my present good fortune is to be imputed in a great measure to, and respect of, Lieutenant Gidley King, who has ever promoted my interest since my residence on this Island.

Perhaps it will not be uninteresting to give you some account of this Island which I believe to be the most fertile in the world - it produces two crops in the year, one of wheat and another of Indian Corn. The crop of wheat is rather precarious on account of the variations of the climate.

Potatoes and vegetables of all kinds are produced here in great abundance, and will grow in any month of the year provided there is a little rain when planted.

The wheat harvest generally commences about December, which is for the most part fairly hot, often accompanied with thunder and storms.

The Indian Corn is generally planted in June and January. This Island produces several kinds of fruit, watermelons, berries, tomatoes or guavas, a native which grows on vines, grapes, figs, apples, lemons and other kinds of fruit coming to great perfection. Fish of an excellent quality is very plentiful on this coast. There are great quantities of poultry and a quantity of sheep and goats.

The Crown, under the direction of Lt. King, ordered me to construct a watermill and a windmill on my Estate, for the Government.

I have permission from his Honour, Lt. King, for you or any of my family to wait upon him who will inform you of anything you may request. Do not fail in embracing the first opportunity in writing. Do remember me to all our friends and affectionate farewells, and may God Almighty bless you.

O father,
From your affectionate son,
Nathⁿ Lucas.

P.S. Remember me to my brothers and sisters and all enquiring friends, and to any of my relations who may wait upon Gov. King, who will augment particulars of my situation.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter, first for 1977, will be published as soon as possible after the Australia Day Celebrations.

Unfortunately, another segment of Margaret Markwell's interesting account of her recent trip to Canada has had to be omitted from this issue, also "A Strange Coincidence," both of which it is hoped to include in the next issue.

Coming Events in Brief

- 12th January -- Special Meeting to finalise Australia Day arrangements.
- 26th January -- Flag Raising Ceremony.
- 29th January -- Australia Day Dinner.
- 30th January -- The Rocks Exhibition.
- 31st January -- Address of Loyalty, Government House.
