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Hon. Editor,
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From the President

Argyle Day was a great success again this year. Mrs Markwell and her helpers had the stall well stocked, and the "takings" were a record! Our float, arranged by Mrs Bernath, was great fun. Thanks go to all, but particularly to Dick Markwell and Des Jurd, who were our sole male helpers, due no doubt to its being Election Day. So start accumulating your "White Elephants" for next year, they'll be very gladly received.

As reported in the last Newsletter, a Bus Picnic has been arranged for Saturday 3rd July to Kendall's Cottage and then on to Wangi to Bobell's Cottage. There will be pick-up points at Chatswood and Hornsby. Tickets (\$4-50) are selling well, so if you wish to join in this day, please obtain yours, as naturally the number is limited.

The Social Committee have made arrangements for next year's Australia Day Dinner. The venue will be the Wentworth Hotel. More details at a later date.

I was delighted to receive, on behalf of the Fellowship, a gift of an historic plate bearing the portraits of all the Governors of this State in the first 150 years. This came from Mr and Mrs R. W. Small, of Artarmon, and I thank them most sincerely. It was a wonderful gesture on their part. The plate will be mounted and hung in our Office.

During the month I also had an interview with Archdeacon Goodwin at St Philip's, Church Hill, and came to an amicable agreement for the Fellowship to take a more active part in the Memorial Service next year. He was very keen for this to happen. More details nearer the time.

Due to a prior engagement I unfortunately missed the Lecture this month, but am told I missed a treat. Details of the Lecture appear later in this Newsletter. I hope to see as many as possible attend our next Lecture.

Beryl Lewis.

Australian Settlers Commemoration Project

The following report appeared in the Portsmouth "News" (14/5/1976) of the unveiling of the plinth to commemorate the Sailing of the First Fleet to Botany Bay in 1787:-

"Links between Portsmouth and Australia were cemented at a ceremony to mark the 189th anniversary of the sailing from the city of the first settlers to Lotany Bay.

"To one man in particular, Mr Austin Spraggs, outgoing Chairman of the City Council's Finance Committee, it was the culmination of six years' effort to get the authorities to commemorate the milestone in British history.

"It was on May 13, 1787, that the first fleet under the command of

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Australian Settlers Commemoration Project (Continued)

Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N., left Portsmouth. Passengers included voluntary settlers, Servicemen and a large proportion of convicts, who all passed through Sallyport in High Street on their way to the ships.

"For many years Mr Spraggs has been convinced that a suitable memorial to the event would enhance relations between Britain and Australia, and through his endeavours a block of granite quarried in New South Wales was presented to Portsmouth by the citizens of Sydney.

"The granite has been used as a plinth for a memorial which will be the subject of competition open to the youth of Britain and Australia.

"The unveiling ceremony was performed at Sallyport by the Agent-General for New South Wales (Sir Davis Hughes), and other leading Australians at the event included the Acting High Commissioner for Australia (Mr Michael Cook), Agents-General for other Australian States and actor-comedian Rolf Harris.

"At a lunch in the Guildhall the Director of the Australia Society (Rear-Admiral J. E. Scotland) promised: 'We have pledged our support until this project is thoroughly finished. It will forge one more link between two great nations made up of one people.'

Mr Spraggs, who retired from the City Council last week, told the guests: 'From this city the first fleet sailed to found the wonderful state of Australia. I can think of no other occasion which would have brought so many distinguished Australians to a festive board in this city. Nothing but good can come out of continuing exchanges of people at all levels. As the world becomes smaller, we must reiterate our long links with Australia.'

"Announcing a competition among young people for a suitable design to complete the memorial, Mr Spraggs added: 'It is so important that young people here and in Australia do not loosen the bonds that have bound us in years gone by.' "

The "News" report concluded with a brief statement by the City Architect (Mr W. D. Worden) and a listing by Mr Worden of some of the people associated with the completion of the first phase of the project. A photograph of Sir Davis Hughes unveiling the memorial was also published.

Mrs Stringer and Mr Bowman, children of Mr Bowman, of Queensland, and all members of the Fellowship, attended the ceremony. (Mrs Stringer and Mr Bowman, Jr, live in England.)

In a covering letter enclosing the "News" report, Mr R. B. Tweed, City Secretary and Solicitor, said that the Lord Mayor's Australian Settlers Commemoration Committee was still in the process of organising various fund-raising events to meet the cost of Phase one of the project, but they would soon be planning for Phase two. Mr Tweed promised to keep the Fellowship informed. Incidentally, not mentioned in the newspaper report, Mr Tweed said that "everything went off extremely well and we were even blessed with beautiful sunshine!"

Lecture Night

On Wednesday 19th May the fourth lecture in the 1976 series took place. A most interesting and entertaining address was presented by Professor Cliff Turney, Department of Education, Sydney University.

The address, "Pioneer Teachers and Their Schools," covered the period 1788-1806 when the children of First Fleeters were of school age, and showed the rapid development of education in the colony, beginning with approximately 20 children and one teacher, Isabella Rosson, around 1790 and progressing to the establishment of nine schools with approximately 400 children in attendance by the end of 1806.

All present agreed that the address was most interesting and that Professor Turney would be most welcome to return and to continue the history of education in the colony.

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Lecture Night (Continued)

The next lecture will be given by Mrs B. Graham on 16th June. The topic will be "North Sydney."

It was most gratifying to see such a good roll-up, and especially quite a few new faces.

Tric Cairns.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:--

Mrs Margery Jones, Kirribilli. (William Broughton)
Mrs Marjorie Kelly, North Strathfield. (Joseph Hatton)
Sister Pauline Carroll, Elizabeth Bay. (James Ruse)
Mrs Joan Charlton, Caringbah. (Joseph Hatton)
Mrs Margaret Yates, Kenmore, Queensland. (Philip Gidley King)
Mrs Jocelyn Medhurst, Kenmore, Queensland. (Philip Gidley King)
Mrs Jennifer Miller, Waramanga, A.C.T. (Philip Gidley King)
Commander James Yates, Sydney. (Philip Gidley King)
Mrs Margaret Feller, Camberwell, Victoria. (Philip Gidley King)
Mr Ronald Barnes, Wentworthville. (William Tunks)
Mrs Joan Rowe, Eastwood. (Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Fulley)
Mrs Beryl Giles, Turrumurra. (Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Fulley)

The Membership Committee hopes to acquire in time a family tree for each First Fleet family, wherever possible. These need only be for the first two generations born in Australia. We already have the following:--

Andrew Fishburn	Mary Turner (Wilkes)
John Small & Mary Parker	Henry Kable & Susannah
Matthew Everingham	Holmes
George Johnston & Esther Julian	William Broughton
Charles Fest & Ann Mullan	Anthony Rope
James Bloodworth & Sarah Bellamy	

We have incomplete trees of James Squire, Edward Goodwin, James Ruse, Ellen Wainwright, Thomas Lucas and William Tunks.

Mary Bailey, Naida Jackson.

Recording of Buildings

The Royal Australian Historical Society has forwarded a circular letter to the Fellowship asking it, and other organisations circularised, to take an interest in the buildings of historical importance within its areas of interest.

Council of the Society believes it would be useful historically for regional societies to compile a simple record of buildings in their respective areas. This does not mean only buildings of an early day; "there might be good examples of 20th-century structures which will eventually take their place as historic buildings."

The Fellowship has replied to the Historical Society endorsing the plan to tabulate all historical buildings, but pointing out that all buildings in and around the Assembly Building, where the Fellowship's office is situated, would undoubtedly be known to the Society. It is suggested that members wishing to draw the Society's attention to any building(s) in their suburbs should contact the R.A.H.S. direct (address, History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000; telephone 27 1160).

"Horsley" (Continued)

Concluding the story of the colonial homestead of "Horsley" at Dapto, in the Illawarra Region, and its connections with a property of the same name in Surrey, England, dating back to the reign of William the Conqueror. Earlier instalments appeared in the issues of April, June and July 1975 and March and May 1976. At the end of the previous instalment, George Edward Weston, had visited Sydney and met and married Blanche, youngest daughter of Lt-Colonel Johnston, deposer of Governor Bligh:--

When married in 1828 they were aged 28 and 22, and the bridegroom took his bride back to India for two years.

On returning to Sydney he brought back a team of Indian servants and a shipment of teak timber and brass fittings.

With a grant of 2000 acres from Governor King near Prospect and an assignment of convicts he set about building their new home using bricks burnt on the property and the materials brought from India, the design being based on an Indian bungalow style. He named the property "Horsley" for obvious reasons.

He established a vineyard, orchard, deer park, and, setting up the first pack of foxhounds in the colony, he lived as a country gentleman until his death in 1856. His widow continued on for the next 48 years in full management of the property and died in 1904 aged 98 after over 70 years' residence at "Horsley." Some of the servants' families employed there extended over a period of three generations; no one ever left her service.

The house, now owned and occupied by Mr H. Hoffitt, is still substantially as built, and provides evidence of the care that went into its construction. A family of eight sons and daughters was reared at "Horsley," and the eldest son, Edward Henry, born 1833, married his cousin Emily Johnston, also a grandchild of Lt-Col. Johnston, and was given and settled on the 1500-acre property at Albion Park granted to the Johnstons by Governor Macquarie and named "Macquarie Gift."

Setting up an establishment there in somewhat feudal fashion with some of the property cut up into separate farms occupied by tenants, he went in for agriculture, dairying and bloodstock rearing, for which he set up a racetrack on the meadows where meetings were frequently held. As Major Weston, he formed the Illawarra troop of NSW Lancers which later merged with other similar units in the State to become the Australian Light Horse. Retiring to Sydney in 1900, the property was rented as eight farms by various tenant families until eventually disposed of in the 1950's.

Of Edward Henry Weston's family of two sons and two daughters, three did not marry. One son, Alick Horsley Weston, married Adelaide Norris, of Albion Park; of their family of eight, four sons and a daughter survive. Naturally after 900 years and 30 generations the branches and ramifications of a family would be innumerable, but history and records in this case show an unbroken male lineage from 1066 to the present descendants, comprising Bert (Wollstonecraft), Alan (Killara), Norman (Wesman) and Rupert (Dapto), the four sons, and Thelma (Kiana), the daughter.

Bert Weston.

Editor's note: But when was "Horsley," Dapto, built, and was it by Edward Henry Weston? As far as I can see, the author does not give this information.

Personal Jotting

Mrs Karen Lovett (Joseph Hatton) is at present convalescing at the home of her mother, Mrs Joan Ross, after being badly injured in a car accident at Auburn on Saturday 22nd May.

Coming Events -- 16th June, Lecture on North Sydney by Mrs B. Graham.
3rd July, Bus Picnic to Debell's Cottage, Wangi.

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