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Joan Ross,
Hon. Editor,
F.F.F. Newsletter,
G.P.O. Box 4441,
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From the President

Our coach trip to Old Sydney Town was a great success. Here one really feels part of the old colony. The re-enactments of great trials, floggings, etc, brought our history to life. The Observatory is uncanny, and well worth a visit. It is sad to see the buildings at a standstill owing to economic conditions, and I am sure we all hope they will be busy again in the near future.

On Monday the 11th October it was my privilege to place a wreath of honour on the memorial to Governor Arthur Phillip in the Botanical Gardens on the anniversary of his birthday. Owing to its being a working day, we were a small party, but it was very pleasing to be accompanied by one of our Vice Patrons, Ald John Harris, and other members, some of whom had travelled quite a distance to be there.

During the afternoon of the 11th I visited the National Trust exhibition at Lindesay, Darling Point, appropriately named "First Fleet to Federation." What a wonderful collection of Australiana! Those who missed it are certainly the poorer. Beautiful carved furniture, silverware, pottery, jewellery and a wonderful collection of carved and mounted emu eggs. Some of the earliest pieces were truly beautiful.

The film night on Wednesday 20th October was very well attended, and all present were thankful to Mr and Mrs Cairns and to Mr Roy Kable for their efforts on our behalf. It was interesting to see again our activities last Australia Day.

Arrangements for the next Australia Day Celebrations are now in the planning stage. We hope to take part in the flag-raising ceremony on the actual day (Wednesday 26th January 1977). Our Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 29th January at the Wentworth Hotel, an exhibition at The Rocks on Sunday 30th and the presentation of the Loyal Address at Government House on Monday 31st January at 9 am. I am hoping as many members as possible will attend the daytime functions in costume applicable to the period 1788-1810. These are available from the Elizabethan Theatre Trust as last year.

On Saturday 23rd October an exhibition was mounted at the Peakhurst South School, and I sincerely thank the men who erected it on the Friday night and the team of helpers on the Saturday. Exhibitions such as this help significantly to bring our First Fleet history before the general public.

Beryl Lewis.

Subscriptions for 1976/77 were due on 1st July, 1976. Anyone not financial by the end of the year will not receive further Newsletters. Members who may have overlooked renewing their subscription, could they please do so?

Archives

This is a short plea for information for the Fellowship's Archives -- our permanent records about Australia's earliest years.

Information should be sent to:

Membership Committee, c/- Box 4441, G.P.O. Sydney 2001.

Or telephone Mrs M. Bailey (43 4075) or Mrs N. Jackson (982 8014).

The following listed items are the requirements we are seeking for our Records:--

1. Zeroc or hand-written copies of Baptisms, Births, Marriages and Deaths of First Fleeters, their children and grandchildren. If hand-written, all information is important, as is the Registrar-General's Reference No. giving Volume No. or Book No., etc.
2. Family Tree if compiled.
3. Copies of newspaper reports of births, deaths and marriages.
4. Land Grants and Leases: Zeroc copies of First Fleeter's first land grants or leases which can be obtained from the Lands Titles Office, adjoining and connecting with the Registrar-General's Office. Zeroc copies also which are of interest. If it is known today the exact position of the grant, then these particulars are welcome.
5. Any information of interest concerning occupations or interests of the First Fleeter and his/her descendants.
6. Newspapers, etc. Information in the "Sydney Gazette" from 1803 shows interesting sidelines on not only the family concerned but the conditions prevalent in the colony. Some copies of the "Sydney Gazette" (in book form) can be obtained from Municipal Libraries. The early newspapers in the Windsor/Richmond area are full of wonderful material, and the "Sydney Morning Herald" holds much information re the births, deaths and marriages which may not be obtained from other sources, during the 1840's. Compulsory Registration of this information did not come into force until 10 years later. If a copy of an article in a newspaper or journal is available, please give the name of the source and the date of publication.
7. If a portrait or an old photograph of a First Fleeter or his/her children is available, a photo-copy would be interesting. In this category come old homes, etc. The gravestone of a First Fleeter would be most welcome if it is not already lodged with us.
8. Civil Positions. The record of people holding these positions and the role they played is of interest to all people generally. It is from records of this nature that we can learn more about the social history of Australia at that time.
9. Legends. These come into two categories:--
 - (1) Those which were passed on to their children in order to mask the fact that their ancestor or ancestors had been transported and had not come of their own free will. These are of no real value, and unless they are firmly discarded the real facts may remain unknown.Most young people today prefer to know their ancestor as a person -- perhaps one who came as a Government servant but who, after his emancipation, by his initiative and hard work achieved a respected role in the community. It is difficult to view our female ancestors in just the same way. One hundred and eighty-eight years ago a woman's role was Wife, Mother and Housekeeper, and so if there are any known facts about the great difficulties they faced, it would be of great interest.

(Continued on P. 3)

Archives (Continued)

Legends (Continued)

- (2) Legends can be important, though, in another respect, because there can be a grain of truth in what is said. This could then lead the searcher to information which might otherwise never be discovered.

10. Lastly there are the Family Relics: Family Bibles, a teapot, or an old sea-chest which may be held by you or your family. There is importance in the existence of these treasures, and we would be glad to have any information concerning them, together with the name and address of the owner for our Records.

Membership Committee

The Fellowship is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mrs Judith M. Ritchie, of North Balwyn, Vic. (Eleanor Fraser)
Miss Jennifer Ritchie. (as above)
Mrs Mary K. A. Tunks, of Regents Park. (Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes)
Mrs Josephine J. Acres, of Fairy Meadow. (Eleanor Fraser)
Mr Hannes G. Cook, of East Killara. (Edward Pugh - Hannah Smith)
Miss Jennifer J. Cook. (as above)
Mr David J. Cook. (as above)

Mary Bailey. Naida Jackson.

"Pioneers of Portland Head," by R. M. Arndell

Many Fleeters will remember Mr Ron Arndell's lecture on "Dr Thomas Arndell, the First Fleet Surgeon" early in 1975, and will be interested to know that his book has now been published.

This well-researched work consists of 16 chapters on the lives and genealogy of the Coronandel immigrants and others connected with Ebenezer Church, namely: Surgeon Thomas Arndell, Paul Bushell, Owen Cavanough, James Davison, Captain John Grono, George Hall, John Howe, William Jacklin, Andrew Johnston, John Johnstone, Lewis Jones, James Mein, William Stubbs, John Suddis and John Turnbull.

However, from this central concern, the book reaches out to cover many aspects of Hawkesbury history, settlement on the Hunter and Southern Queensland. The narrative is enlivened by Mr Arndell's intimate knowledge of the families and of the river itself, where he has lived and farmed all his life.

There are 79 photographs, many of which are unique and privately owned. They include studies of the pioneers themselves, of buildings such as The Settler's Arms at St Albans, of activities such as pit-sawing, and several aerial views of the Hawkesbury River.

"Pioneers of Portland Head" is obtainable from the author, Mr R. M. Arndell, "Macquarie Retreat," Pitt Town, N.S.W. 2756, at a cost of \$20 (includes postage).

Val Ross.

Canada -- Big and Beautiful

From childhood on I had always had a longing to visit Canada, so when my son married a Canadian and made his home in Alberta I started to make my dream come true. In 1973 I spent three months there -- most of the time in Calgary -- and as soon as I arrived back home I began to plan the next trip.

On 26th June this year Joy Wallman and I flew out of Sydney and finally reached Vancouver at 2 am on Sunday morning the 27th, a long delay owing to a pilots' strike in Canada. The usual time is about 18 hours from Sydney to Vancouver.

Vancouver! It must be one of the world's most beautiful cities -- glorious parks and gardens, and the wonderful snow-capped mountains making a backdrop to the whole city. Needless to say, we made the most of our time there, and went sightseeing and shopping till we were exhausted. Vancouver's population is 1,116,000 -- just a nice size for a city to be.

On 30th June we caught a bus to take us over to Vancouver Island. It takes 50 minutes for the actual ferry trip from the mainland; quite fascinating going among the dozens of little islands all covered in fir trees. We boarded our bus again and drove off the ferry and on to Victoria, which is the capital of British Columbia and has a population of 203,000. A perfect little city, glorious Parliament Buildings, wonderful museums and fascinating shops ... and, of course, the world-famous Butchart Gardens, about 17 miles out of the city. I have never seen such roses and delphiniums and tuberous begonias just everywhere. The Gardens are built in an old limestone quarry.

The 1st July was Canada Day. On the 2nd we went by coach to Kelsey Bay, where we boarded the "Queen of Prince Rupert" and went via the Inside Passage on a 20-hour trip to Prince Rupert (330 miles). The weather was rather dismal but not impossible, and we enjoyed our voyage very much -- snow-clad mountains on either side, really rugged country.

Reached Prince Rupert about 10.30 am on 3rd July. A most picturesque place, known as the World's Halibut Port -- and the fish there were delicious and beautifully cooked. Very good historical museum and lots of big totem poles, as well as being a good place to buy certain handicrafts.

From Prince Rupert we went by bus to Banff, spending a night at Snithers, a night at Prince George, three nights at Jasper, then down to Banff, where my son met us and took us to Red Deer via Calgary.

This was the most wonderful trip -- mountains all the way (the scenery in British Columbia and Alberta is quite breathtaking), lakes in every shade of blue, glaciers, rushing rivers, beautiful waterfalls, and superb highways from which to see it all. Didn't see a great lot of wildlife: a coyote, plenty of squirrels and chipmunks, a whistling narnot on Mt Whistler, a moose at Lake Maligne, finally a black bear ambling through a park near Lake Louise.

I do love Jasper: we had a lot of sightseeing tours around there, so much to see and do. From Jasper to Banff it is just one glorious scene after another -- went over the Athabaska Glacier, a great experience; called at Lake Peyto, turquoise blue; Lake Louise, which is the most famous of all; finally Banff, a dream place.

Margaret Markwell.
(To be continued)

Annual Dinner

The President has advised that she would like all those proposing to attend the Annual Dinner at the Wentworth Hotel on 29th January next to send money (\$22 per double) and stamped addressed envelope to her address, 88 Avoca Street, Yagoona, 2199. (Telephone 709 8974). The tickets are now available, but there is a limit on attendance.
