

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

PRICE: 50¢ p.a.

Registered for posting as a periodical Category "B"

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

Vol. 8 No. 3
April 1977

From the President

There has been great excitement in our Office since I last reported to you. We are now the proud owners of our own electric copying machine! This is quite a milestone for the Fellowship, making us almost self-sufficient. I extend sincere thanks to all the devoted members who have personally helped with the printing of the Newsletter in the past.

I have been asked by His Excellency the Governor (through his Private Secretary) to pass on his thanks to all Members for the "magnificent Memorial" presented to him on Australia Day this year. His Excellency hopes this will be an annual event.

Negotiations are still going on regarding Liverpool Cemetery and the plaques we intend to place there. It shouldn't be long now, and thanks are extended to those who have forwarded donations towards their Family Grave.

I have been able to arrange an inspection of the State Library, including the Mitchell Library, on Saturday afternoon 28th May at 2 pm sharp. Numbers are very strictly limited, so those wishing to go should contact me at their earliest convenience.

Don't forget Argyle Day on 30th April. Goods for sale and helpers for the stall will be most welcome.

I do hope you all had a very happy Easter, and I take this opportunity to thank those who contacted me after last month's report on my hospitalisation. I'm very much better and back "on deck" again now.

Beryl Lewis.

Some Personal Jottings

Well-known Fellowship member Thea Rowe was due to leave later this month for an overseas trip. This will include another visit to Cornwall, England. It will be recalled that Thea gave a very interesting talk on the people and customs of Cornwall, at the Lecture Night on 2nd March.

Miss Ula Clarke (Bloodworth), of "Mount Brace," Rylstone, and Miss Alice Clarke (Bloodworth), of Rose Bay, left for England on 23rd March. They plan an extensive tour on the Continent.

Peter Bryant Sanson (Bloodworth), of Caringbah, was married on 11th December last to Elizabeth Gayle Cunningham, of Sylvania Waters. The happy couple were wed at the Chapel of Trinity Grammar School, Stumer Hill.

Canada -- Big and Beautiful

(Concluding Margaret Markwell's account of her visit last year to Canada. Previous instalments appeared in the November 1976 and February and March 1977 Newsletters)

St Anne's is a glorious cathedral. We also visited the huge Cyclorama of the City of Jerusalem painted in Munich from 1878-1882. It is 45ft high and 360ft in circumference, and presents an amazing illusion. It was set up in St Anne's in 1895.

We left Quebec on the 6 am bus on Monday 26th July, arriving in Montreal at 8.30 am. Joy (Joy Wallman) stayed here and went to the Olympic Games for the day and I went on to Ottawa. Montreal looks to be a beautiful city from the little I saw -- lots of churches, big bridges and fine expressways.

Spent Tuesday in Ottawa. On Wednesday caught a bus to Toronto, 240 miles, a most interesting trip. On arrival at the bus depot we quickly got on to a bus tour of the city. Toronto reminded me a little of Sydney: narrow streets in places, beautiful buildings.

On Thursday we went out to Niagara Falls (80 miles). It poured with rain most of the way, so we couldn't see the orchards and vineyards which are all along this route. Did see plenty of industrial complexes nearer Toronto (which is a big city of 2½ million people). Niagara Falls are quite different to my imaginary picture of them -- just so wide and such a volume of water. The overall effect is somewhat marred by so much commercialism. However, it was a wonderful tour and we saw all places of interest.

Next morning I left early and caught a plane back to Calgary, leaving Joy to spend six days in various parts of Ontario. I was really excited to be back in Calgary and caught a bus to Red Deer -- and was with my family for six days.

That time just flew, and before I could realise it we were all at Calgary Airport once more, where I met Joy . . . then the goodbyes, and the big lump in my throat and fighting back the tears: Canada is so far away!

It was a lovely clear day, and Joy and I both had window seats, and the view going over the Rockies was fantastic.

Saturday 7th August we boarded our C.F. Air plane at 8.45 am, and after an uneventful flight arrived back at Kingsford Smith Airport at 8.45 pm on the Sunday night. The lights of Sydney are a welcome sight to a traveller. Home once more after seeing so much. I am now saving up to go again -- some time!

In conclusion, some observations: We found the Canadian houses and hotels very airless and overheated -- and most hotels in very noisy places. I enjoyed the food everywhere we went. Greyhound buses are a wonderful way to travel, comfortable and quick. Prices everywhere much the same as here, except that they have 7% purchase tax in all Provinces except Alberta.

I much preferred the West (British Columbia and Alberta) to the East. The scenery is more spectacular and it has quite a different atmosphere.

Margaret Markwell.

Editor's Note: Margaret's son Peter recently returned the visit by bringing out his family. This was Peter's first visit to Australia for 11 years, and his wife and children's first visit. They returned to Canada last month.

F.F.F. NEWSLETTER

--- 3 ---

A Strange Coincidence

From the apartment we had rented for our holiday on beautiful Norfolk Island we had entrancing views. Looking through wide windows to the left we could see below the awful, but still fascinating, reminders -- the ruins of the prisons of the Second Penal Settlement -- and, beyond, the blue waters of the Pacific and the islands of Phillip and Nepean. Directly there below at Sydney Cove, now known as Kingston, was where my First Fleet ancestor came ashore with some of his unfortunate companions in 1788 under the command of Lieut. Philip Gidley King.

Through more windows and directly in front could be seen beautiful lush green hills, cows lazily grazing and, in the valley below jutting on to Country Road, the ruins of the watermill and dam.

These, the watermill, windmill and dam, through strange quirks of fate, are connected with both my mother's and father's ancestors.

One of my First Fleet ancestors was Nathaniel Lucas (my mother's mother's name was Maria Lucas). Nathaniel Lucas, from whom I am directly descended, was sentenced to seven years and came to Sydney with Governor Phillip in the ship "Scarborough."

So, it is written, after a few short weeks in Sydney, he was selected because of his good behaviour, with 10 other male and six female convicts, to go with Lieut. Philip Gidley King to settle on Norfolk Island, to save such island from the French and to test the value of the Norfolk Island pines as masts for the ships of the Royal Navy.

Nathaniel Lucas must have been quite an important person to that handful of people who came ashore on that beautiful but deserted island. He it was who was to see to the construction of their shelters. He was a builder and carpenter, and was later to work with Francis Greenway in Sydney.

It's hard to imagine the thoughts of a young man of some 20-odd years when he gazed on the scene before him. Separated from his family and loved ones (they were indeed loved ones judging by his mention of and reference to them in the letter which he wrote home), and sent to such far-distant lands for a trifling offence, particularly when for reporting such offences, real or otherwise, an informer was rewarded by payment of money - a great inducement indeed!

Nathaniel served his sentence on Norfolk, returning to Sydney as a ticket-of-leave man when the First Settlement on the island was closed. Whilst on Norfolk he wrote a letter to his father in England. This letter, dated 20th October 1796, is in the Mitchell Library. It is a beautiful letter, written in a wonderful style of handwriting in the slightly stilted mode of the age, but with great fluency and powers of expression. (Editor's note: This letter was printed in full in the December 1976 F.F.F. Newsletter).

The handwriting of King, beside it, seems childish by comparison. In the letter I could find only one grammatical error and one spelling error, both of which could have been the way they were spoken and written in 1796. Though the entire letter is very interesting indeed, for the purpose of this article I will quote only relevant parts.

Hilda Waller.

(To be continued)

Argyle Annual Celebrations

As mentioned in the President's Report, the Argyle Annual Celebrations will be held on the last Saturday of this month, 30th April, and it is hoped that there will be a big roll-up of members.

The Fellowship, by courtesy of Colleen Bernath, who has organised it, will again have a float in the procession. It is hoped that as many members as possible will come in period dress and ride on the float. Those intending to take part in the procession should meet at the Fellowship's stall by 10.30 am, or 11 am at the latest.

Helpers to man the stall, if only for a few hours, will be most welcome. The stall will be in the usual place, about opposite the Garrison Church and near the Village Green. Proceeds from the stall help both our own finances and charities in The Rocks area as well.

We ask members to donate anything saleable - white elephant goods, jams, china, books, etc. Preferably not cakes, as too many other stalls have them.

Argyle Day is a fun day, so please do come along!

Notice to Members

Members who wish to notify change of address, or have any sort of query, should please write to the Fellowship at our box number - G.F.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001. In the case of questions which might not easily be answered, this will enable them to be dealt with by the Executive.

With respect to Lecture Nights, a reminder that members are very welcome to bring along interested visitors.

April Lecture

The lecture on 6th April was given by Mr Paul Coghlan, Lecturer in Education at Sydney University, on "First Fleeters in the Kissing Point Area."

Mr Coghlan gave an interesting account of the part that emancipists from the First Fleet played in the opening-up of the Kissing Point district (now Ryde) from early in 1782.

Nine of the first 13 land grants given in this area went to First Fleet emancipists, many of whom played an important part in the development of religion, trade and education of the early colony.

Mr Coghlan pointed out that descendants of some of these emancipists were still living in the Ryde area. Over the years many descendants have played important roles in Australian life in many fields.

A vote of thanks to Mr Coghlan was moved by our Treasurer, Mr Ray Meredith.

Sydney's New Paddlewheeler

An interesting new tourist attraction within the Sydney metropolitan area is the paddlewheeler Turrumburra, which plies the Lane Cove River above the weir at the Lane Cove River Park. Beginning operations just after Christmas, Turrumburra is the only paddlewheeler operating within 800 kilometres of Sydney. Regular cruises are scheduled, of about one hour each.

Coming Events

Saturday 30th April: Argyle Annual Celebrations at The Rocks.

Wednesday evening 4th May: Lecture by Mr Vaughan Evans on old guns of Sydney. Entitled "A Huff, a Puff, a Flash in the Pan."
