

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

I am hoping for a very large attendance on the 14th August 1977 at 2.30 pm at Liverpool for the ceremony of unveiling plaques on four First Fleeters graves. The unveiling will be carried out by the Administrator of Liverpool Council. Do come along, the committee have worked very hard for this function and deserve your support. Afternoon tea will be served at the conclusion.

On Sunday 31st July 1977 we had a wonderful day when a full coach of 46 people travelled to Kangaroo Valley, at the invitation of the local Historical Society, to the opening of a rebuilt suspension bridge, known as the Walker Bridge. The ceremony was performed by the Premier and Mrs Wran. The Historical Village was most interesting and the scenery on the journey was magnificent. Coupled with perfect weather, a most enjoyable day was had by all.

Your Executive have written to the Prime Minister and to the Premier of New South Wales seeking their co-operation in saving the home of Governor Arthur Phillip in Bath, UK. A State departmental representative has gone to England and will devote some time to looking at this home. My thanks go to Mrs Heather Everingham for her efforts in having this gentleman phone me.

We are indebted to Dr George Bergman for his Lecture on "The earliest Jews in the Colony" which he delivered on 3rd August 1977. I am sure we all enjoyed the Doctor's talk and are much wiser on the part played by our Jewish Friends in the early days.

On that same Lecture Night it was my privilege to receive, on behalf of the Fellowship, a most generous donation of 100 books from Mrs Joyce Cowell. Mrs Cowell has devoted a great deal of time in research into the Tunks Family. It is a wonderful gesture on her part, and I personally and on behalf of all Members thank her most sincerely. These books -- Memorial to a Marine -- are most interesting and are obtainable from myself or at our Office at a cost of \$3 plus 50c postage and handling.

Please note the reference to the Special Meeting on the 24th August concerning Australia Day 1978.

Hoping to see many Members on Sunday 14th August at Liverpool.

Beryl Lewis.

SPECIAL MEETING

Time: Wednesday 24th August at 7.30 pm.

Place: F.F.F. Office, Room 312, Assembly Building, City.

Purpose: To discuss all aspects of Australia Day 1978.

All Members and Associates welcome. If you have grouches about previous Australia Days, bring them along, with solutions!

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is pleased to welcome the following new Members:-

Mrs Beatrice E. Bradley, Armidale. (Eleanor Fraser).

Mrs Jillian J. McWilliam, Mildura, Victoria. (William Broughton).

Luke M. McWilliam, Benjamin R. McWilliam, Jonathan G. McWilliam and Matthew B. McWilliam, all of Mildura, Victoria. (William Broughton).

Miss Leigh K. Williams, Balmain. (David Kilpack).

James W. Gamack, Wynnum West, Queensland. (Frederick Meredith)

Note: The telephone numbers to ring for inquiries regarding membership are -- Mrs Mary Bailey (43 4075) or Mrs Naida Jackson (982 8014). (Unfortunately Mrs Jackson's phone number was given incorrectly in the July Newsletter).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday 28th September 1977 at 7.30 pm.

Place: Board Room, 4th Floor, Assembly Building, City. (usual Lecture meeting-place).

Nominations: Must be with the Secretary, G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001, no later than Wednesday 31st August 1977 (Rule 15).

Notice of Motion: Must be with the Secretary no later than 15th August 1977 (Rule 35).

Graves Committee

The Graves Committee wishes to thank the following Members who have made donations towards the cost of plaques to be placed on their First Fleeter ancestor's tombstone:-

Mrs M. Bailey
Mrs R. Blair
Mrs M. Markwell
Mr M. Clayton
Mr J. J. Pratt
Mrs C. Auld
Mrs A. K. Waller
Mrs L. Goodwill

Mrs N. McKey
Mr E. S. Blair
Mrs R. Givney
Mrs R. J. Bakewell
Mr A. Maunder
Mrs H. Barnard
Mrs M. Larden
Mrs J. M. Ritchie

This list is up until 31st July. Other lists will be published in coming Newsletters.

Member Invested as Knight of Honour

Members will be interested to know that, on 24th June, Mr Arthur Ingham-Myers, a member of the Fellowship, was invested as a Knight of Honour of the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta of the Order of St John of Jerusalem, Knights Hospitallers. The Investiture took place at an ecumenical service in St John's Anglican Cathedral, Brisbane. The Order is (Continued on P. 3)

Investiture of Member as Knight of Honour (continued)

a Crusader Order, and was formed in the middle of the 11th century to care for the sick and homeless.

The Fellowship offers its congratulations.

Another First Fleet descendant who is a Knight of this Order is well-known Gold Coast Mayor and M.L.A., Sir Bruce Small.

A Strange Coincidence

(Previous instalments of Hilda Waller's interesting article "A Strange Coincidence" appeared in the April, May and June Newsletters. After reading a letter preserved in the Mitchell Library written by her First Fleet ancestor and great-great-great-grandfather Nathaniel Lucas, Hilda Waller realised from his description that his estate on Norfolk Island was the very land she had gazed upon, and had been so impressed with, from the apartment she had rented on her visit to the Island some 180 years later. In the instalment in the June Newsletter Mrs Waller described how, in Sydney in 1903, her mother (who had a Lucas mother) had married James Greenland Dawe, who had been born on Norfolk Island. James Greenland Dawe's father had been sent from England with two other men to help the Pitcairners settle on Norfolk Island after they had been evacuated from Pitcairn Island. This is the concluding section of "A Strange Coincidence").

My grandfather Dawe, who had been a master miller in England, had also been granted 56 acres on the Island in 1859 (we have a photostat copy of the grant). He, whilst on the Island, had also written a letter, this one to Governor Denison in Sydney. This letter is also in the Mitchell Library, and in it he mentions the same mills that Nathaniel Lucas wrote about having built.

Grandfather Dawe writes, among other things, all of which are interesting as they give some light on to the Pitcairners of the time, "Since then I have examined the windmill and find that I could put it in repair for present purposes for £8, Your Honour supplying me with bassat sail cloth for sails and 69 feet of rope . . . I would just say, sir, that the water mill would be the cheaper in the long time, as the wind mill is very old and rather rotten."

These are the same mills that Nathaniel had built 62 years earlier! Today the ruins are still there, fascinating to my family for their associations. I may say here that, though we have always known of my father's connections with the mills and Norfolk Island, it is only within the last five years that we even knew we were First Fleeters. My mother always said we were fifth-generation Australians on her side of the family; and though I'm sure she would have known that the first Nathaniel Lucas was a convict she would never have admitted it -- to her generation it was a disgrace. However, I'm sure she would never have known of Nathaniel's connection with Norfolk Island.

We laughingly say that with Grandfather's 56 acres and Nathaniel's 75 acres we could have owned a fair slice of the Island. However, such was not to be, and not one square foot do we possess, Lucas

(Continued on page 4)

A Strange Coincidence (Continued)

having to leave there and return to Sydney and James Dawe selling his grant to James Christian for £30. This, incidentally, is the first recorded land sale on the Island. Alas and alack!

Hilda Waller.

The Name "John" in the Family

In the item in the July Newsletter on the birth of Derryn John Kable Tunks, born 18th June 1977 to Mary and Phillip Tunks, reference was made to the fact that the name John had been in the family continually since 1780. (Information supplied by little Derryn's grandmother, Mrs Mary Caldwell). For space reasons only, the following additional facts were omitted from the original news-item:-

The name John has been in the family continually since 1780, when John Henry Wild was born. John Henry Wild subsequently came to Australia as an Army Adjutant with the 48th Regiment in 1817, and his son John Benton Wild married Emmaline Gaudry, daughter of Diana Kable (and granddaughter of Henry).

Mrs Caldwell states that it was not known how many generations before 1780 the name John was used, but that they were working on it!

From the Editor

Here are some extracts from the letters written by the Editor of the Newsletter. It is hoped to publish further extracts in subsequent Newsletters:-

We had an uneventful flight over, stopping at Singapore long enough to get out and have a look at their duty-free shops (even though it was 12.45 am), then on to Kuala Lumpur, only 45 minutes' flight from Singapore. We weren't allowed off the plane there, and the next stop was Bahrain, where we arrived at 4.30 am local time and left again at 5.30 am. Would you believe, a baked dinner was served at 6.30 am, which no one ate, and another movie shown. The last leg seemed to be the longest, but I suppose that was because we were tired and anxious to get there. We arrived at Heathrow at 10.30 am.

Laura (the friend with whom we are staying in London) has been fantastic and most hospitable, and we are really enjoying being with her as she is so thoughtful. On Tuesday morning and afternoon we did a conducted tour of London, which is not a good way to see things as everything is too quick. The next day Laura took us on a Cook's tour by car and we had a look at Harrods, Australia House, Festival Hall and Hyde Park. We had afternoon tea in a store, but because the Queen was to pass, the whole store was emptied and locked up, apparently as was every other store en route, as they are so afraid of bombs, snipers, etc.

Festival Hall is built on the Thames but is not a patch on our Opera House (even Laura admits this). Nevertheless what we saw of it was most interesting. On Thursday we motored to Maidenhead, then by boat to Windsor, going through two of the Thames locks, had lunch at the Castle Hotel before going on to see Windsor Castle. On the way home we passed Runnymede and on to Hampton Court and its lovely gardens.

Coming Events

24th August: Special meeting to discuss Australia Day 1978.

7th September: Next Lecture, Ald. Ron Rathbone on "Historic Buildings of the St George District."

28th September: Annual General Meeting.

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