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### From the President

This year we reach a milestone in the Fellowship's history — we celebrate our 10th birthday. With this in mind we have arranged a "get together" on Friday 28th April at 6.30 pm at the Weinkeller, Pitt Street, Sydney. Do come along and help us celebrate this auspicious occasion. Further details and bookings may be had by ringing me on 709 8974.

On Sunday 26th February it was my privilege to represent the F.F.F. at the unveiling of a memorial to Robert Campbell at The Rocks. The sculpture is truly beautiful and I recommend anyone who can to go along and see it — facing the Harbour on Campbell's Storehouse.

The most recent plaque unveiling ceremony was held at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta, last Sunday 12th March at 2.30 pm. We were honoured to have the Mayor of Parramatta perform the unveiling for us. Afternoon tea was served in the Red Cross Tearooms following the ceremony. I shall refer to this ceremony again in my next Report.

It is with profound regret that I report the sudden death of Dick Markwell, husband of Executive Committee member Margaret Markwell. Dick will be remembered with affection by the many members with whom he worked, particularly on Argyle Day and at the Australia Day Dinner. To his widow, Margaret, I extend the sincere sympathy of all members. He will be missed.

Beryl Lewis.

### Argyle Annual Celebrations

Just a further reminder that this year's Argyle Annual Celebrations Day will be Saturday 15th April. The Fellowship's stall will again be located 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.

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

Members donating goods before the actual day are asked, if it is convenient for them, to leave the goods, not at the Fellowship's city office, but at Mrs Markwell's residence, 81 Baringa Road, Northbridge.

Times for two of the important activities on the day, for those interested: The procession begins at 12.30 pm at Circular Quay West (it proceeds along Pitt Street to Hunter Street, thence into George Street and terminating at Argyle Place). The 1978 Governor of the Rocks will be officially installed by the Lord Mayor, with all due pomp and ceremony, at 1.30 pm.

### Membership Committee

We are happy to welcome into the Fellowship the following new Members:

Mrs Ina Ind, of Cronulla (David Kilpack).  
Mrs Bettina Williams and Mr Scott Williams, of Cronulla (David Kilpack).  
Miss Jennifer McLennan and Miss Fiona McLennan, of Coledale  
(Eleanor Frazer).  
Peter Olney, of Malvern, Victoria (Charles Peat - Ann Mullen).  
Ronald Shaw, of Bondi (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne).  
Alfred Richards, of Haberfield (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne).  
Robert Kroenhert, of Casula (junior) (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia  
Gascoigne).  
Harold Meers, of Northbridge (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne).  
Mrs Patricia Hücker, of Kogarah (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne).  
Graham Anderson, of Whale Beach (Frederick Meredith).  
Mrs Leonora Norgard, of St Ives. (Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes).  
Mrs Lillian Smith, of Wellington (Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes)

Naida Jackson. Mary Bailey.

Note: We wish to apologise for the fact that, somehow or other, the names of the first five new Members listed above were not published in recent Newsletters, as they should have been.

### Plaques on Graves

Last Sunday 12th March another series of plaques were unveiled in St John's Cemetery at Parramatta. Full details will be reported in the next Newsletter.

Although response to the appeal has been encouraging, still more funds are required to defray the cost of this work.

The next project covers Windsor, Wilberforce and Ebenezer Cemeteries, and although an appeal has previously been made for information concerning burials in these cemeteries, the response has been very disappointing.

Should any person have any information about burials in the cemeteries mentioned, please forward same to the Fellowship as a matter of urgency.

Donors to the plaque fund will be acknowledged in due course.

Eric Blair.

### Obituary

As mentioned in the President's Report, the death occurred on 1st March of Dick Markwell, at the age of 63.

Although an Associate Member of the Fellowship, Dick was always ready and willing to assist in any capacity required of him, whether down at Argyle Day, the procession on that day or on the doer at the Annual Dinner.

As far as his war service was concerned, Dick enlisted in 1940 and sailed in the Queen Mary in 1941 for Singapore. He was taken prisoner at the fall of Singapore and remained a prisoner-of-war for well over three years. He was a member of the RSL, vice-president of the Northbridge sub-branch.

Dick had a happy and pleasant disposition, and was liked by all who came in contact with him. He will be sadly missed. The Fellowship extends condolences to his wife Margaret and relatives.

## Frederick Meredith

(This is the address given by Mr Arthur Maunder on Frederick Meredith at the unveiling of the plaque on Frederick Meredith's tombstone, at Liverpool Memorial Cemetery on 14th August 1977. The other two addresses given on the same day appeared in the following Newsletters — Mrs Mary Bailey on William Broughton in October 1977 and Mrs Muriel Larden on Eleanor Frazer in November 1977):

Madam President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I feel it is an honour to be called upon to give a brief outline on the life of Frederick Meredith. I am one of his many great-great-grandsons, being a descendant of his youngest daughter, Eleanor, who was born on 17th November 1813.

We do not make any claims that Frederick Meredith made any significant contributions to the history of New South Wales, as he was rather a minor figure so far as this colony was concerned.

The information we have on him has been obtained from early papers of the colony and from family legend. He was not a man of great education, and consequently left no written records or diaries for descendants to study. He would have been one of the many ordinary men of the colony, and as such we feel he contributed in some small way to the establishment of New South Wales.

Frederick Meredith was born in England in 1763 and came free to Botany Bay as a sailor on the transport "Scarborough" with the First Fleet. He gets a very early mention in Australian Records, for a month after the arrival of the Fleet he became the fourth person to appear before a magistrate. The charge was that he had exchanged a bottle of rum to a convict for an opossum. The charge was proved and he received 50 lashes.

It was about this time that Frederick severed his association with the "Scarborough" and became a member of the crew of the "Sirius". The "Sirius" sailed for Norfolk Island in March 1790 and was wrecked there 13 days later. On 28th March 1791 the survivors from the "Sirius" under Captain Hunter sailed from Sydney to England on the Dutch ship "Waaksamheid" and after a very long trip arrived in April 1792.

After a little over only two months in England Frederick again sailed for Australia, this time on the ship "Bellona" in July 1792 and arrived in Sydney in January 1793. Besides convicts the "Bellona" carried the first five free settlers to Australia. Frederick was one of the five.

To me this was one of the most intriguing episodes of Frederick's life. Who in their right mind would want to leave England's fair shores to become a settler in a penal colony where he had already received 50 lashes and where everyone was dependent on England for food! I feel sure that he could not have foreseen the great pastoral and agricultural wealth, which would be coming from beyond the Blue Mountains, for they were not crossed until 1813.

Also on board the "Bellona" was the convict woman Sarah Mason, who had been sentenced to 14 years for receiving stolen property. She and Frederick were married at St Phillip's on 26th February 1811 and had six children.

On arrival these five free settlers were each given grants of land situated between what is now Strathfield and Homebush railway stations; they called the area Liberty Plains, and Frederick's grant was 60 acres. His name appears on the list of the Loyal Sydney Association of 1802, a civilian force set up to suppress any Irish uprisings in the colony, and in 1810 he was one of the fifty of the first Constabulary Force set up by Governor Macquario.

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## Frederick Meredith (Continued)

A further grant of 120 acres at Punchbowl was given to Frederick in 1809, and in 1814 he received another 60 acres on the Parramatta River. Again in March 1831 Frederick and his eldest son were granted 60 acres each in the Bankstown area fronting Liverpool Road. Meredith Street, Bankstown, and Meredith Street, Homebush, give a modern approximation of these grants.

In 1822 Frederick was appointed the first Chief Constable of Liverpool, and we believe he was also the first Postmaster of Liverpool. The remainder of his life seems to have been spent in the Bankstown-Liverpool area carrying on farming pursuits and the duties of Chief Constable and poundkeeper. His wife, Sarah, died in July 1832 and is buried in the cemetery nearby.

From his long association with law-enforcement bodies in the colony I think we can assume that he was an honest, law-abiding citizen. I feel that his association with Bankstown and Liverpool was a very close one, for it was here at St Luke's that so many of his grandchildren were christened; it was here that he celebrated his second marriage, in February 1833 to the widow Ann Day; and it was here that he was buried in June 1836.

His obituary reads: On Thursday June 23 at his farm at Bankstown Mr Frederick Meredith age 72, greatly respected. Mr Meredith arrived as a sailor on the First Fleet and had long been a resident of Liverpool Rd.

I have often thought how interesting it would be if we could just sit Frederick up and say "Sorry to trouble you but would you answer a couple of questions for us, please?" and he would probably say, "Well, just one", and the question I would ask him would be "Why did you return on the Bellona to Botany Bay?"

Having done this I feel sure he would have one question to ask of us; and that question would be, "How is my great-great-great-grandson Kerry Packer getting along with that cricket team of his?"

Madam President, it has been a pleasure to take a small part in this ceremony today.

## "Honour Thy Father and ....."

(The first instalment of B. Garth's interesting account of his great-great-grandparents Edward and Susan Garth, both of whom arrived on the First Fleet, appeared in the October 1977 Newsletter)

At one stage this "Madeira of the Pacific", as Lt King called Norfolk Island (where Mr and Mrs Garth had been sent in 1788), supported 1000 people and sent provisions to Sydney, which was not self-supporting. Norfolk Island is notorious today for the brutality, suffering and horror which marked the Penal Settlement during the second occupation, and we are inclined to forget the 20 years of sane and peaceful management under King. The islanders were not happy to be again uprooted in 1808 and sent to assist Collins in the settlement of Hobart Town.

We might well anticipate, correctly, that most of the islanders resettled at New Norfolk. Not many know that eight families took up land at Sandy Bay - not good farmland and only accessible by boat. Amy Rowntree in her book "The History of Sandy Bay" states: "The Garths worked hard to clear their land and to establish their house, but it was heavy toil and the progress was slow. Theirs was one of the few families that remained on their property till recent years, and one wonders if these enforced immigrants ever grew to love the land of their exile".

(To Be Continued)

## Coming Events

12th April: Lecture Night, Haleyon and Vaughan Evans, "Steerage Passage to the Antipodes in the 1850's".

15th April: Argyle Annual Celebrations Day, The Rocks.

28th April: "Get together" for the Fellowship's 10th birthday.