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Please address all correspondence to the Fellowship of First Fleeters,
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President's Report

There is no formal President's Report this month, as the President, like quite a few other Members currently or in recent weeks, is ill with the 'flu. However, the President wishes to bring to the attention of Members the following matters:

1. There is such an increase in mail these days that we wish the co-operation of Members, when sending mail to the Fellowship, to address all general matters to the Hon. Secretary. Newsletter matters to the Hon. Editor. Matters dealing with Membership to the Membership Committee.
2. The coach picnic on 28th May to Gledswood Winery was a delightful day, and everyone enjoyed the Winery itself and the subsequent coach trip which followed.
3. An interesting day was had by some of our Members in costume at Manly on Wednesday 14th June at a re-enactment of Governor Phillip's landing at Manly. The Mayor of Manly gave a civic reception for the crew taking part and for Members of the Fellowship present.

May Lecture Evening

Mr Len Werman's talk "Up and Down the City Road" about early George Street was an interesting journey back in time to those early days of Sydney.

He told many colourful tales of the characters of Sydney, and made those days alive, and you felt you were back in that time. One of his stories was about our first policeman (John Harris), who had been deported for stealing. He caught malaria in an African colony, and later was moved to Botany Bay. When his sentence was over he proposed to establish a night watch. The Governor agreed, and he was appointed leader, its members being convicts. It proved to be a success.

Everyone enjoyed the evening, and we would love to have Mr Werman back again, as he was an interesting and intelligent speaker.

Sally Kalina.

Special Notice

Change of Venue for Next Lecture Evening

The next Lecture Evening, on Wednesday 12th July, will be held in the Genealogical Society rooms, Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney. Same time, 8 pm. Speaker is Mr Keith Johnson (author of Cadman's Cottage), who will talk on "Tracing Your Family History".

Membership Committee

The following new Members have been welcomed into the Fellowship:

John David Brunton, Carlingford. (William Tunks)
Mrs Beverley Jean Pennell, Shalvey. (William Tunks)
Mrs Alison Joy Ziemba, Granville. (William Tunks)
Mrs Valda Marie Knapman, Gurley. (William Douglas, Mary Groves)
Mrs Bertha Emily Australia Kevin, Roseville Chase. (Anthony Rope & Elizabeth Pulley, and John Summers)
Mrs Mary Elvie Hope-Caten, Ms Julie Hope-Caten and Miss Toni Hope-Caten. (Anthony Rope & Elizabeth Pulley, and John Summers)
Mrs Elvie Irene Boyd, Ryde. (Anthony Rope & Elizabeth Pulley, and John Summers)
Mrs Bronwyn Yvonne Tye, Mount Keira. (Samuel Pickett)
Alexander Macleay Gamack, Quambone. (Frederick Meredith)
Mrs Rebecca Christine June Round, Howrah, Tasmania. (Nathaniel Lucas & Olivia Gascoigne)
Ian Victor Round. (As above)
Mrs Coralie Merle Green, West Beach, South Australia. (Phebe Flarty)

Among the above First Fleeters we have three new names — John Summers, Samuel Pickett and Phebe Flarty.

Naida Jackson. Mary Bailey.

Augustus Theodore Henry Alt (1731-1815)

(Address given at the graveside of Augustus Alt, on the occasion of the unveiling of a plaque there, on 12th March this year)

Alt, a soldier and surveyor, was born probably in London, the son of Justice Heinrich Alt, sometime Ambassador for Hesse-Kassel, and his English wife Jeanetta. Augustus began service in the British Army in 1755, when he was appointed Ensign in the 8th Regiment. This was the beginning of a very varied career.

He served first as Assistant Quartermaster-General to Hanoverian troops, and later as aide-de-camp to several Generals until the conclusion of peace. In 1763 he was building roads in Scotland and studied Russian exercises the following year. He served with the Manchester volunteers at the siege of Gibraltar, where he was made Assistant Engineer. In 1785 he was about to embark as Engineer with Col. Erskine for Madagascar when the expedition was cancelled.

In May 1787 he was appointed to the new colony of New South Wales as its Surveyor of Lands and as a member of its commission for trial of pirates and of its Vice-Admiralty Court; on arrival at Port Jackson he was made a Justice of the Peace. In April 1788 Phillip instructed his Surveyor-General, Augustus Alt, to draft a plan for a town on the principle that extent of empire demanded grandeur of design. In Alt's plan the main street was to be 200 feet in width. The very grandeur of the plan, as well as the need to use available labour on the production of food and shelter caused it to be shelved. So the town of Sydney grew in a slapdash way until Macquarie arrived and restored some of the original grandeur when he redesigned the streets.

In November 1788 Augustus Alt accompanied Governor Phillip in an excursion to establish settlement at the head of the Parramatta River. 1791 public works were in hand, building the new storehouse, and two brick houses, one for the Rev. Johnson and the other for Mr Alt. Both were erected on the east side of Sydney Cove.

In October 1791 Augustus Alt sat on the Board of Magistrates which
(Continued on Page 3)

examined the master of the convict ship Queen about abuses which had taken place on the voyage; but next month, because of ill health, he asked for relief as Surveyor-General. Phillip supported his request, and while waiting for a replacement employed Lieut. Dawes and David Burton to survey settlers' farms. However, Alt continued to hold office and drew up the surveyor's returns in 1794.

Lieut. Grose ordered Charles Grimes of Norfolk Island to Sydney to act as Deputy Surveyor, but Alt continued to act as Magistrate. In 1797 Alt made over half his pay to Grimes, who in 1801 was appointed Acting Surveyor-General when Alt was officially invalided from the service and given a pension of half-pay for life. In February 1794 he was granted 100 acres, Hermitage Farm, at Petersham, where in 1798 his house was burnt down, and in 1810 was granted a further 280 adjoining acres between the road to Parramatta and Ashfield. He does not appear to have cultivated his land very actively.

Alt had two children, Lucy (1790-1806?) and Henry George (born 1799). Their mother was Ann George, a convict in the Lady Penrhyn in the First Fleet, who died in 1814. Alt died at Parramatta on 9th January 1815 and was buried at St John's Churchyard (Ann George is also buried in St John's). His son soon left for China in the Northampton. The monument we see here was erected to Augustus Alt's memory by his nephew, Matthew Bowles Alt.

David Kilpack

(This address was prepared and given by Mrs Joy Wallman when a plaque was unveiled at the grave of David Kilpack, at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta, on 12th March)

David Kilpack was born in 1757. He was tried by the Middlesex Jury at the Old Bailey at the sessions which began on 26th February 1783, was found guilty of feloniously stealing on 18th January 1783 poultry to the value of 7/6 and sentenced to transportation for 7 years.

On 10th September 1783 he was tried by the Middlesex Jury at the Old Bailey at the sessions which began on 10th September 1783, found guilty of returning from transportation and being found at large on 1st August 1783 without any lawful cause, and sentenced to death. He was called to the Bar with the other "Swift" mutineers and sentenced. The sentence was rescinded on condition of transportation for life. He was transported here on the "Scarborough".

He married Eleanor McDonald on 15th June 1791. In 1794 he was an original grantee of land at the Field of Mars. The Kilpack farm was on land now bounded on the east by Pennant Hills and subdivided by Carlingford Road. There was one son and three daughters by the marriage. The son, David, died aged 15 months and is buried in the family vault.

David Kilpack died on 30th November 1797 aged 40. His widow and daughters continued to work the farm after his death. The three girls were said to be fine, attractive, capable girls. Martha married James Reynolds, a landowner. Eleanor married Andrew Murray, the Government Botanist. They are buried with their husbands in the family vault.

Elizabeth married James Milson, Senior, who was a pioneer of the North Shore. He and his sons also pioneered much grazing country in New South Wales and Queensland. (They are buried at St Thomas' Cemetery).

The inscription on his grave - "He was a loving husband, an affectionate father and a sincere friend" - a settler - probably best describes him.

Obituary

We regret to announce the passing of the following: Mrs Freda Pearl Hobbs, late of Carlingford, mother of our President, Mrs Beryl Lewis; Mr Dudley Everingham, of Eastwood, who supported the Fellowship over the years; and Mr Taber, father of Miss Betty Taber, member of the Fellowship (Nathaniel Lucas). The Fellowship extends its sincere condolences to relatives.

Request from South Australia

(From Mrs Coralie Green, 21 Rockingham Street, West Beach, S.A. 5024, written on a recent visit to Sydney):

Hullo! After 20 years' research (or should I say detective work) I find I am eligible to request membership of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. My convict, on the Prince of Wales, was Phoebe Flarty (Flaherty, Flarherty). I have left a draft copy of the family tree in Room 312 Assembly Building. As many of the branches are bare, I would be happy to receive any additional information, the key names being:

Phoebe Flarty - Richard Podmore

Ann (F.) Sarah (F.) Richard (F. or P.) Elizabeth P. George P
John Moore Joseph Spencer

Other names - Elizabeth & George Rouse, Henrietta & Charles Bethel-Lyons.

Early Encounters Between Europeans and Aborigines in N.S.W.

(By Ena Harper. Reprinted by kind permission of Ashfield Historical Society and Ena Harper. This is the third instalment published)

The Aborigines had survived without benefit of psychiatrists, electricians, agronomists, mechanics, dietitians or chiropodists. They lived on, one generation after another, without our vast store of specialised knowledge. It is a great pity that investigation of their own peculiar and wonderful wisdom was not carried out in the Sydney area before they became extinct or detribalised. In fact, in-depth research should be speeded up in tribes which are still living in their natural state.

It is hard for a modern city-dweller to realise the intimacy with which the Australian Aborigine knew his own particular area of country. Professor Elkin writes:

"The Aborigines, living off the land, and with nothing between himself and the natural features of his environment, knows them with a "photographic" familiarity that we, in our sophistication, can hardly realise. The Aborigine's familiarity with nature, however, is not only "photographic"; it is also spiritual; it is one of personal relationship"

Before investigating what happened when contact was made with Europeans at the time of Captain Cook's expedition, it would be wise to study in brief their social customs. In 1788 there were about 500 tribes in the whole of Australia. What is a tribe? Speaking generally,

- (1) It is a group of people related by actual or implied genealogy;
- (2) They occupy and own a definite area of territory;
- (3) Use a language or dialect peculiar to themselves;
- (4) Are known by a distinct name though it is sometimes difficult to discover what this was;
- (5) Have customs and laws which may differ in some ways from those of neighbouring tribes;
- (6) Have their own rites and beliefs.

We have noted that a tribe had its own particular territory for food-gathering, but it is most important to note that there were no wars for territorial aggrandisement (according to Prof. Elkin). Like individual persons, races seem to develop a specific personality, and it seems that they were of a peaceable nature.

(To Be Continued)

Coming Event

July 12 (8 pm): Lecture Evening, "Tracing Your Family History", at the Richmond Villa, 120 Kent Street, Sydney.
