

Please address all correspondence to the Fellowship of First Fleeters,
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Vol. 11 No. 3
April 1980

(In the absence on holidays of the President, during which she attended the Second Congress of Genealogy and Family History, held at Adelaide University, this month's Report has been written by Vice President Mr Roy Kable)

Vice President's Report

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Federation of Family History was held in Adelaide during the Easter Holiday period, and our President, Mrs Beryl Lewis, and recently appointed Vice President Roderick Best attended as the Fellowship's representatives.

Preceding the above meeting, the Official Opening of Playfair Square in the Rocks Area took place, with official invitations being accepted on behalf of the Fellowship by myself and Roderick Best, together with 11 Lady Members dressed in period costume.

As was mentioned in the previous issue of the Newsletter, the Fellowship contributed the costs involved to provide the plaques giving the history of the members of the First Fleet depicted in the magnificent sandstone sculpture which forms the centrepiece of the Square.

The American Sculptor Bud Dumas captured the feeling of the Area, and the Minister for Planning and Environment, Mr Bedford, in declaring the Playfair Square open, praised the Rocks Development Committee for their attention to detail of the restored area, and also the Fellowship of First Fleeters for their involvement in the project.

Members who have not seen the area are advised to visit the site and see the sculpture and read the information on the plaques, which are suitably endorsed with our Fellowship name.

I attended the farewell Service to Archdeacon Goodwin of St Philips, Sydney, on behalf of the Fellowship, on Sunday April 13. The Primate of Australia, Archbishop Sir Marcus Loane, preached the sermon and recounted the service of Archdeacon Goodwin.

Our President will resume her usual report in the next issue of the Newsletter, after her return from Adelaide.

Roy Kable.

Val's Book Is Out!

Attention Everingham family and other interested people!

Over a hundred notices regarding the book have been returned to the Library of Australian History with the envelopes marked "Not known at this address". Would you be kind enough to let all other members of the family know that the first book in the Everingham trilogy, entitled "Matthew Everingham, A First Fleeter and His Times", is now on sale?

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Val's Book Is Out! (Continued)

The dustjacket states that "the book is much more than a biography of Matthew Everingham, it is a valuable reference work on the First Fleet and the conditions in England responsible for the establishment of a convict settlement in N.S.W.; the early period of settlement at Sydney and in the Hawkesbury district".

The work is published by the Library of Australian History, 17 Mitchell Street, North Sydney 2060, to whom all mail orders should be addressed. The retail price is \$13-50. For one book 95c should be added in the Sydney area, \$1-30 N.S.W. Country and \$2-20 interstate (for postage). For other rates, write to the publishers.

The book is also available from Australia's Heritage Bookshop (phone 27 7401), 81½ George Street (opposite Cadman's Cottage), Sydney (The Rocks). Limited supplies are available from the Fellowship (contact the President, Mrs Lewis, on 709 8974) -- copies are available at a concession rate through the Fellowship. The book is also available at other bookshops specialising in Australian History.

The second book in the trilogy, "A Hawkesbury Story", should be out in November, while the family tree, "Cornstalks", should appear in the middle of the year.

Hope you all enjoy reading them as much as I enjoyed writing them.

Val Ross.

Arthur Bowes Smyth Journal

Those Members of the Fellowship who have already ordered a copy of the above Journal should contact the President, Mrs Lewis (tel. 709 8974) on the matter. Unfortunately no new orders can be taken.

As mentioned in the February Newsletter, Arthur Bowes Smyth was the surgeon aboard Lady Penrhyn, and it has been edited by Paul G. Fidlou, B.A. (Hons.), Dip. Ed. (N.S.W.), Ph.D. (Lond.), and R. J. Ryan, B.A.

Fellowship Badges, Key Rings, Etc.

Some Members may not realise that the Fellowship now has an attractive range of such things as badges, spoons and key rings.

In line with current trends, the price of the Fellowship badge was increased recently, and is now \$3-50. However, the price of the spoon has remained at \$2, the price it has been from the beginning. There is now also an Associates Badge, priced at \$3. Here is the full range, and their prices:

Fellowship Badge					
(lady's and gent's)	.....	\$3-50	Tea caddy	.....	\$2-25
Associates Badge	.....	\$3-00	Spoon	.....	\$2-00
Key Rings	.....	\$2-50	Cake Fork	.....	\$2-00

These are all available at the Fellowship's Office, Room 312, Assembly Building, cnr York and Margaret Streets, between 10 am and 2 pm Tuesdays and Fridays, or from Mrs Thelma Guy (phone 869 7917; outside business hours, please).

March Lecture -- on St Thomas's, North Sydney

The March Lecture Evening was a very interesting one. Mrs Daphne Dobbyn, Church Archivist for St Thomas's, North Sydney, delighted us all with her historical and entertaining talk on the famous church and the ministers who served there.

In 1843 the foundation stone of the first Church of St Thomas's was laid. The church was finished in 1845, but there was such a lack of

clergy in the colony that Bishop Broughton was unable to make an appointment until the following year, when Rev. W. B. Clarke took up the post.

On August 5, 1846, the church was consecrated by Bishop Broughton, and the first marriage took place on November 29, 1846, when John Taylor married Eliza Kennedy. Both signed with a cross, showing neither could write.

The original church was built of stone and seated 200. Mr Clarke had a very large parish to minister to. It extended to Manly in the east, the Lane Cove River in the west, past Hornsby in the north and to the Harbour in the south.

Mr Clarke retired in 1870 and the Rev. W. Cave-Brown-Cave was appointed Rector. The question of enlarging the church was discussed at a meeting attended by the Bishop of Sydney, the Right Rev. Frederick Barker. Mr Edmund Blackett was chosen to be the architect. A new portion of the church was built, and the old church remained till the new portion was paid for, and was then replaced by the new building.

When the time came for removing the old church, it was taken down stone by stone. A contractor purchased for £200 the old materials, and with the stone he built terrace dwellings in Miller Street which became known as St Thomas's Terrace.

The new St Thomas's opened to a full and vigorous parish life. Mrs Dobbyn kindly brought very old church registers to the Lecture, which was fascinating. One of the ministers, William Clarke, commented in great detail on the behaviour of mourners at the graveside, and stated his disapproval of a widow's intoxicated condition in one instance. He also gave detailed accounts on the type of illnesses from which his parishioners died.

Mr W. C. Cave-Brown-Cave, who followed Mr Clarke, was considered not a strong disciplinarian. A letter was written to the Choirmaster, Charles Younger, from a William Cooper. The letter concerned wayward choirboys who had filled the Verger's hat with water and inked a surplice. He wrote: "The guilty parties ought to be punished. Mr Clarke's departure has already proved a serious loss to us in this as well as in other matters".

Mrs Dobbyn's account of the ministers, touched with warmth and humour, made it a memorable lecture. She is a warm and charming person, and everyone loved her.

We hope to see the Flower Festival at St Thomas's Church in October, and will give more details closer to the time.

Sally Kalina.

Membership Report

Mrs Edna B. Edwards, Merewether Heights. (Dr Thomas Arndell.- Ann Forbes)

Mrs Christine A. Endersby, Anthony J. Endersby, Jnr, Miss Catherine A. Endersby, Jnr, David S. Endersby, East Maitland.
(William Tunks, Ann Forbes. Dr Thomas Arndell)

Dr Thomas J. Lowe, Moss Vale. (Ann Sandlin -- new First Fleeter)

Mrs E. M. McCarthy, of Caringbah; Mr Russell C. McCarthy, of Bathurst;
Mr John McCarthy, of Rylstone. (Philip Gidley King)

Matthew A. Smith, Jnr, East Killara. (Edward Pugh & Hannah Smith)

Mr Robert K. White, Allambie Heights. (William Broughton)

Mr Kenneth W. H. Meredith, Asquith. (Frederick Meredith)

Mrs Olive M. Mulholland, Downer, A.C.T. (William Nash & Maria Haynes)

Miss Janine A. McCarthy, Jnr, Bathurst. (Philip Gidley King)

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Membership Report (Continued)

Mrs Shirley M. Strachan, Maryborough, Victoria. (William Tunks. Hugh Hughes)

Mr R. J. S. Stafford, Woollahra. (Matthew Everingham)

Mr John G. Tunks, Condobolin. (William Tunks)

We apologise for the delay in publishing the foregoing list of new members' names, and bid them all welcome to the Fellowship.

There are a further two new members to be added, whom we also have great pleasure in welcoming into the Fellowship:

Mrs Alison J. Neal, Wahroonga. (Robert Forrester)

Mrs Eileen E. Holliday, Tabulam. (Matthew Everingham)

The Membership Committee looks forward to meeting any new members at our monthly Lectures.

Naida Jackson. Mary Bailey.

Schooldays with the First Fleeters

It was close to 9 am one morning in 1789, and Isabella Rosson was busily engaged in converting her one poorly furnished room from a bed-sitter to a schoolroom. Her personal possessions were put aside. She placed a few poor books on the table, arranged some wooden stools for her pupils and took her only teaching aid from a drawer. This was a horn book -- a sheet of paper about 8 inches long by 5 inches wide, pasted on a thin piece of wood, and covered with thin transparent horn. On this sheet was printed the alphabet, figures from 1 to 9 in Roman and Arabic numerals, a few simple words and the Lord's Prayer.

Preparing thus for her day's work, the first Australian school-mistress could contemplate with satisfaction her situation in the colony. Here she was, at the age of 35 years, the proprietor of a "Dame's School", the first in Australia. Only two years before, on January 10, 1787, she had stood in the dock at the Old Bailey and been sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing household furnishings to the value of 12 shillings. She had endured the long sea voyage as a convict in the Lady Penrhyn, a transport in the First Fleet. Now she was free and able to earn a living by passing on her meagre knowledge.

The official attitude to education was that it was important, but that it was essentially a task for the Church to undertake. The colony's first Chaplain, who came out on the Golden Grove, was Rev. Richard Johnson, a well-educated man who had been a teacher in England before entering the ministry. In the first years he taught some of the children himself, and later he was made responsible for the supervision of all schools. In 1793, when Johnson's church was erected, a schoolroom was incorporated. The first teacher was William Richardson, a First Fleeter who had been transported on the Alexander. He had married Isabella Rosson of the first Dame's School. The school did well and soon had three teachers and 150 pupils, the children of N.S.W. Corps members, settlers and convicts.

Soon schools were being established in other districts. Some were Government orphanage schools, some were private academies, and many were church schools.

All of them attended to the educational needs of the young Australians of the early Nineteenth Century.

They were building on the foundations laid by the First Fleet educators.

1988 Bi-Centenary

Members are invited to suggest suitable activities that the Fellowship can carry out as part of the Bi-Centenary Celebrations in 1988.

Early Encounters Between Europeans and Aborigines in New South Wales

(Continuing Ena Harper's papers on the subject, reprinted by kind permission of Ashfield Historical Society and Ena Harper. At the end of the previous instalment a canoe belonging to "a fine young man" named Ballooderry had been wantonly destroyed at Parramatta by some convicts. Ballooderry was one of a number of natives who sold or exchanged fish with the people of Parramatta. Finding his canoe destroyed, Ballooderry vowed to take revenge on all white people)

The result was that one of the six convicts was hanged and Ballooderry was told of this. Nevertheless, when he met an unarmed man who had strayed from Parramatta as far as the Flats, he wounded him in two places with a spear. Governor Phillip then strictly forbade Ballooderry to appear again at any of the settlements. Then the other natives, his friends, were alarmed, and Parramatta was seldom visited by any of them, and all commerce with them ceased.

Here Collins' sympathies are with the natives:

"How much greater a claim to the appellation of savages were the wretches who were the cause of this than the native who was the sufferer?"

The Sydney Scene. We have been trying to build up a picture of what really happened between Europeans and Aborigines in the early days of the Sydney settlement.

At this stage a further remark should be made regarding Boorong, the Aboriginal girl who went to live with Rev. and Mrs Richard Johnson. A modern commentary suggested that she was made to act as a maid. This may have been true, but further reading of the Journals has shown nothing to support this view. Captain Watkin Tench says she was received with great kindness by Mrs Johnson, and other references mention the fact that she was taken on expeditions to act as an interpreter between the white men and her people. Later she became known as Abaroo.

It is very obvious there was a mixed reaction among the Aborigines to the settlers. As we have seen, there were some Aborigines who actually lived in the homes of the newcomers, some who traded with them and others who would have nothing to do with them except when they stole food or clothing or burnt down crops or dwellings.

In the first place it is interesting to read how Aborigines behaved in the company of Europeans, that is, when they were living in a fixed dwelling. In the Journals of Captain Tench we read of Imeerawaynee, a young Aborigine.

"This good-tempered lively lad was become a great favourite with us, and almost constantly lived at the Governor's house. He had clothes made up for him; and to amuse his mind he was taught to wait at table. One day a lady, Mrs M'Arthur, wife of an officer of the garrison, dined there, as did Nanbaree. This latter, anxious that his countryman should appear to advantage in his new office, gave him many instructions, strictly charging him, among other things, to take away the lady's plate, whenever she should cross her knife and fork, and to give her a clean one. This Imeeranwanyee executed, not only to Mrs M'Arthur but to several of the other guests. At last Nanbaree crossed his knife and fork with great gravity, casting a glance at the other, who looked for a moment with cool indifference at what he had done, and then turned his head another way. Stung at this supercilious treatment, he called in rage, to know why he was not attended to, as well as the rest of the company. But Imeeranwanyee only laughed; nor could all the anger and reproaches of the other prevail upon him to do that for one of his countrymen, which he cheerfully continued to perform to every other person".

This is only one small aspect of the overall scene. In June 1793 Captain David Collins gives a vivid picture of the mixed life that the natives were living.

(Continued overleaf)

"The natives had lately become troublesome, particularly in lurking between the different settlements and forcibly taking provisions and clothing from the convicts who were passing from one to another. One or two of the convicts having been wounded by them, some small parties were sent out to drive them away, and to throw a few shot among them, but with positive orders to be careful not to take a life". (This would have been in the western suburbs area).

"Several of these people, however, continued to reside in the town, and to mix with the residents in the most unreserved manner. It was no uncommon circumstance to see them coming into town with bundles of firewood which they had been lured to procure, or bringing water from the tanks; for which services they thought themselves well rewarded with any worn-out jacket or trousers, or blankets, or a piece of bread. Of this latter article they were all exceedingly fond, and their constant prayer was for bread, importuning with as much earnestness and perseverance as if begging for bread had been their profession from their infancy, and their attachment to us must be considered as an indication of their not receiving any ill-treatment from us".

About 25 years later another writer, named Peter Cunningham, gives an unforgettable account of the scene as he saw it then in a book called Two Years in New South Wales:

"The natives throughout the county of Cumberland have become so much dependent upon the whites that without what they beg, earn or steal they could not well exist. Many of these men work upon the settlers' farms at odd jobs throughout the year, and also at harvest....

"The Sydney tribes live chiefly by fishing, being supplied with hooks and lines by individuals in the town, to whom they bring all the fish they catch, receiving payment in old clothes, bread and rum...."

Peter Cunningham continues with a description of the scene in the streets of Sydney.

"The women everywhere, that I have seen, wrap themselves in some species of cloak made of opossum skins, or else in a blanket, but the men walk carelessly about quite naked, without betraying the least shame; even many at this day parading the streets of Sydney in natural costume; or with a pair of breeches probably dangling around their necks, which the modest meaning donor intended to be applied elsewhere.

"It is amusing to see the consequential swagger of some of these dingy dandies, as they pace lordly up our streets, with a waddie twirling in their black paws. No Bond Street exquisite could ape the great man better, for none are better mimicks of their superiors; our colonial climatized females mincing it past these undraped beaux, or talking with them carelessly face to face, as if unconscious of their nudity; while the modest new-comers will giggle, blush, cover their eyes with their fingers, and hurry confusedly by".

Corroborees at Brickfield Hill. One fact is memorable. The meeting place of the Aborigines in and around Sydney was near Brickfield Hill. Clay suitable for bricks and tiles had been found on the outskirts of the town during the first year of settlement at this spot. South of modern Bathurst Street, George Street used to continue up a hill where the clay was found on the eastern side. Below a steep incline between Bathurst and Goulburn Streets the ground sloped to a small stream in the vicinity of present-day Campbell Street.

(To Be Continued)

Coming Event

May 21: Lecture Evening, Mrs Betty Goodger, Field Librarian for the Mitchell Library - "David Scott Mitchell, the Man and His Library".