

Please address all correspondence to the Fellowship of First Fleeters,
G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001.

Vol. 11 No. 9
October 1980

From the President

The highlight of this month was undoubtedly the unveiling of the Bonds of Friendship sculpture on the First Fleet Memorial by His Excellency Sir Zelman Cowen, Governor-General of Australia, on 17th September. The Memorial is situated at a spot as near as possible to that on which the First Fleeters landed. The sculpture is very handsome and takes the form of two giant links of a chain, symbolizing the "bonds of friendship" between Britain and Australia -- the old world and the new. I feel very honoured to have attended the unveiling in both countries.

The sculpture at Portsmouth is dull bronze, representing the "old", whilst in Sydney it is bright gold, representing the "new". A representative of the Lord Mayor of Portsmouth had travelled to Australia especially for this ceremony, and it was a great pleasure to meet both him and his wife again, here in this country. It was a most impressive occasion, with a large Naval Guard of Honour. Following the speeches (which will be printed in the Newsletter) a Naval Chaplain led the assembly in prayer. I attended a small formal luncheon in honour of Sir Zelman and Lady Cowen and hosted by the then Lord Mayor, Ald. Nelson Meers, at Sydney Town Hall after this wonderful ceremony. All First Fleeters should feel a great sense of satisfaction that this Fellowship has been instrumental in having this first memorial to the people on the First Fleet erected at last, almost 193 years after they arrived in Australia. The wording on the plaque follows this report.

A number of Executive Committee Members entertained Cr Austin Spraggs and Mrs Spraggs of Portsmouth at dinner on Friday 19th September at the Waterfront Restaurant in the historic Rocks area.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 24th September, and I'm very pleased to report an excellent attendance -- in fact, the room was packed, with some Members seated on the tables. The result of the election of office-bearers appears later in this Newsletter. I take this opportunity of thanking all retiring Committeemen and welcome the new. I sincerely hope we will have a most successful year, which, of course, can only happen with the co-operation of all. Everyone enjoyed the talk and slides of our Norfolk Island visit, so well presented by Mr Geof Squires of Bowral, at the conclusion of this meeting. We are indeed indebted to Mr Squires.

A very pleasant gathering occurred on Saturday 11th October to commemorate the birthday of Governor Arthur Phillip. We assembled at the Phillip memorial in the Royal Botanical Gardens, where, on your behalf, I placed a wreath of honour. Then we had luncheon in the new kiosk in the Gardens, and it was a great pleasure to have Mrs Palmer, President of the Women's Pioneers Society, with us. Following lunch we were addressed by Mr Max Goeswinkle, who has made quite a study of Arthur Phillip. I feel it is most important to continue with this ceremony in future years; too little of this type of thing is done here in Australia.

President's Report (Continued)

Arrangements for the Australia Day Dinner are now complete, and as always I ask you to make your bookings early, as numbers are strictly limited, and it does make the job of your committee so much easier.

Several Members have asked that a trip to Tasmania (similar to that to Norfolk Island) be arranged for next March. If you are interested please contact me. If there are sufficient numbers I will endeavour to arrange it.

Beryl Lewis.

FIRST FLEET MEMORIAL

THIS MEMORIAL COMMEMORATES THE VOYAGE AND ARRIVAL IN SYDNEY OF THE FIRST FLEET WHICH BROUGHT TO AUSTRALIA ITS FIRST EUROPEAN SETTLERS UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP R.N. THE FLEET SAILED FROM PORTSMOUTH ON THE 13TH MAY 1787 AND ANCHORED IN SYDNEY COVE AT A SPOT JUST NORTH OF THIS MEMORIAL ON THE 26TH JANUARY 1788.

THE FLEET COMPRISED ELEVEN SHIPS HMS SIRIUS FLAGSHIP, HMS SUPPLY AN ARMED TENDER, SIX TRANSPORTS, ALEXANDER, LADY PENRHYN, CHARLOTTE, SCARBOROUGH, FRIENDSHIP AND THE PRINCE OF WALES TOGETHER WITH THREE STORE SHIPS, FISHBURN, GOLDEN GROVE AND BORROWDALE. AT DEPARTURE THEY CARRIED A TOTAL COMPLEMENT OF ABOUT 1487 WHO EMBARKED AT PLYMOUTH, PORTSMOUTH AND THE THAMES.

THE PLINTH OF THE MEMORIAL WAS DONATED BY THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS ALL OF WHOM ARE DIRECT DESCENDANTS OF THOSE WHO ARRIVED WITH THE FIRST FLEET. THE GRANITE BLOCK ABOVE THE PLINTH WAS QUARRIED AT DARTMOOR ENGLAND AND DONATED TO THE CITY OF SYDNEY BY THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH AS A RETURN GIFT FOR A SIMILAR BLOCK OF GRANITE FROM NEW SOUTH WALES GIVEN TO THEM BY THIS CITY. IT WAS SET IN PLACE BY THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY ON THE 2ND JULY 1980.

THE SCULPTURE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WAS PRESENTED BY THE BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES. IT IS A COMPANION PIECE TO ONE ERECTED BY THE LORD MAYOR'S AUSTRALIAN SETTLERS COMMEMORATIVE COMMITTEE OF PORTSMOUTH AND WHICH IS LOCATED NEAR THE SALLY PORT AT PORTSMOUTH HARBOUR THROUGH WHICH CAPTAIN PHILLIP AND MANY OF HIS FELLOW VOYAGERS PASSED ON THEIR WAY TO EMBARK.

THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP SYMBOLIZES THE CLOSENESS OF THE TIES THAT WERE FORGED BETWEEN PORTSMOUTH AND SYDNEY AS A RESULT OF THE VOYAGE OF THE FIRST FLEET AND REPRESENTS LINKS IN A CHAIN JOINING BOTH CITIES. IT WAS DESIGNED BY JOHN ROBINSON. THE DONOR THE BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES WAS THE FIRST BANK AND THE FIRST CORPORATION ESTABLISHED IN AUSTRALIA.

THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WAS UNVEILED ON THE 17TH SEPTEMBER 1980 BY

HIS EXCELLENCY SIR ZELMAN COWEN A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K ST.J., Q.C.
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA

MRS B. LEWIS
PRESIDENT
FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST
FLEETERS

ALD. NELSON MEERS
LORD MAYOR
L P CARTER O B E
TOWN CLERK

SIR NOEL FOLEY C B E
PRESIDENT
BANK OF NEW SOUTH
WALES

Speeches at Portsmouth

(Here is the text of two speeches delivered by Mr Austin Spraggs, Chairman of the Portsmouth Lord Mayor's Australian Settlers Commemoration Committee, at the unveiling of the Australian Settlers Memorial by Her Majesty the Queen at Portsmouth on Friday 11th July 1980. The President of the Fellowship, Mrs Beryl Lewis, was one of several Australian VIP's officially invited to attend the unveiling. Here is the speech delivered by Mr Spraggs at the Official Luncheon at the Guildhall, Portsmouth, on that date).

Speeches at Portsmouth (Continued)

My Lord Mayor, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is a truly memorable day for me -- and proves conclusively that the project I started as long ago as 1969 was well worth while.

To see so many distinguished people -- and in particular Australians coming to Portsmouth -- clearly shows the importance that people attach to what we have planned.

That we should have the crowning benefit of Her Majesty the Queen -- in company with Prince Philip unveiling the Memorial this afternoon -- leaves no doubt in anybody's mind the importance of our efforts.

You may well ask how it all began.

When I first joined the Council in 1969 I noticed a small plaque in a corridor of the Guildhall indicating that the First Fleet under Captain Phillip left here on the 13th May 1787.

On enquiry I was told that this had been erected following a letter from the President of the Fellowship of the First Fleeters, a very exclusive association of people who can prove direct descent from those who voyaged with Captain Phillip in 1787.

The letter's content was to congratulate the Lord Mayor on obtaining the high office of First Citizen and telling him that there certainly was a special connection between Sydney and Portsmouth, as their forebears had last set foot on English soil in Portsmouth.

I am delighted to be able to tell you we have with us today the President of the First Fleeters, who has travelled especially from Sydney to be with us on this special occasion.

Having been brought up at a time when we all were taught to believe that old friends were the best friends -- and that Australia was of particular importance in the British Commonwealth -- I planned to do something to properly commemorate the sailing of these first people, who became the nucleus of the Australian nation.

As the concept of producing a fitting memorial has progressed over the years, one has been able to captivate the imagination of other people -- and although always a small band it has been possible to plan, organise and finance the construction of the work.

Undoubtedly the position of the sculpture on the landward side of the Sally Port Gate is unique and especially cogent, for without any doubt at all many people passed through this Gate on the way to join the waiting ships moored in the sheltered waters in the lee of the Mother Bank.

John Robinson -- an Australian -- was chosen to create the Memorial, because it was felt that his design was simple but had enormous import.

The sculpture is in the form of two links of a chain, and when one remembers that when a city has a special connection with another city we speak of "linking", it follows that when links are conjoined you form a chain.

We were absolutely delighted to learn that the Lord Mayor and Council of Sydney (who had previously donated a block of Australian granite to surmount our base or plinth) now wish to construct a twin memorial in the very place where the "settlers" first raised the flag in Sydney Cove. This gave us the opportunity to offer a block of Devon granite to surmount their base -- and this was dispatched and is now in position.

John Robinson has produced an identical sculpture to our own -- and when this is unveiled in the future, this memorial will be unique, as I know of no other voyage where identical memorials in every way are placed either end of a long journey.

The significance, of course, is that when the settlers left this country

Speeches at Portsmouth (Continued)

they firmly affixed a cable in their native land, and as they journeyed around the world they payed it out, and on reaching Sydney Cove they heaved the chain out of the water and firmly affixed it in their new homeland.

This inspired concept will for all time shine as an indelible commitment and fact for all to see, that Australia and Britain, and Portsmouth in particular, stemmed from the same root and branch. This must surely be evident when one remembers that we both have the same common heritage -- common aspirations and ideals, sense of fair play and freedom under the law; indeed, the essence of true democracy.

Looking to the future, it would be quite wrong to suggest that the task is done -- rather, this is the end of the beginning -- and I warn you that what is to follow is the true purpose behind what has now been accomplished. I believe that Portsmouth, which was the gateway to this new land, should once more open wide its doors to welcome our friends from Australia, and I sincerely hope we can create an organisation that will be known as P.A.L. -- Portsmouth Australia Link.

I believe it is to the benefit of this country and of Australia that we use every opportunity and every possible effort to encourage the free interchange of peoples from one country to another.

It is gratifying to organise exchanges of University graduates and school leavers, but I feel that in a technological age when skills are still the very lifeblood of progress and the creation of true national wealth, much more should be done to encourage junior management (shop foremen, scientists, engineers, medical, commercial, indeed all facets of our life) to exchange with contemporaries in Australia for a period of a year or two, with their families.

In this way we can go forward knowing that our special relationship with Australia means something that is not the prerogative of others -- and we will draw strength from this added unity.

My Lord Mayor, I believe (indeed, very many ordinary people throughout this country believe) that anything any of us can do to strengthen and enliven the ties between our two great countries is for the good of Britain -- is for the good of Australia -- and for the good of free men and women throughout the world.

(Below is the speech by Mr Spraggs at the actual unveiling)

This memorial records that on May 13th, 1787, people left this country to start a settlement in a new land, and created one of the cornerstones of our civilisation, Australia.

These people were our kinsfolk, and this memorial signifies our common heritage, our common aspirations and ideals, and reiterates our bonds of friendship.

The sculpture, created by John Robinson, an Australian, depicts two links of a chain which symbolises the attachment one with another.

When two cities are twinned we speak of a friendship link -- but a link is also a segment of a chain.

When the first settlers left their native land, as some surely did through this Sully Port Gate, spiritually they firmly affixed a chain and payed it out as they sailed around the world. On landing in Sydney Cove on January 26th, 1788, they heaved the cable ashore and firmly secured it in their new land.

A twin memorial is now being constructed in Sydney Cove commemorating the landing and the commencement of the settlement.

Your Majesty, I believe, as do very many people throughout this country, that anything any of us can do to strengthen and enliven the ties between our two great countries is for the good of Britain -- is for the good

Speeches at Portsmouth (Continued)

of Australia -- and for the good of free men and women throughout the world.

It is now my very great honour to ask Your Majesty to unveil this monument.

The Fellowship's Office-bearers

The following positions were filled at the 1980 Annual General Meeting --

Vice-Patrons: Mr Arthur Ingham Myers, Mr J. H. Luscombe.

President: Mrs Beryl Lewis.

Vice-Presidents: Mr Roy Kable, Mr Roderick Best.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Anne Campbell.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Ray Meredith.

Committee: Miss Alice Clarke, Miss Ula Clarke, Mrs Tholma Guy, Mrs Naida Jackson, Mrs Barbara Townsend, Mrs Enid Reynolds, Mr Len Chalmers, Mr Devine, Mr Ken Meredith, Mrs Joan Cox, Mr Geoffrey Squires.

AUSTRALIA DAY DINNER

Date: Saturday 24th January 1981

Place: Ballroom, Wentworth Hotel, Sydney

Price: \$16 each

Tickets: Miss Alice Clarke, P.O. Box 328,
Lane Cove, NSW 2066

Note: Money must accompany ticket orders

Membership Report

The following new Members are welcomed into the Fellowship:

Master Christopher John Wheatley, Seven Hills. (Joseph Hatton)

Mrs Margaret Myree Bridges, Orange. (Andrew Fishburn)

Mrs Jennifer Florence Southam, Manilla. (Andrew Fishburn)

Mr Dennis Paul Knight, Chester Hill. (Matthew Everingham)

Mrs Gwen Whiteley, Riverwood. (Frederick Meredith)

Mr Ronald Robert Lawler and Master Murray Robert Lawler (jnr),
Bardwell Park. (Thomas Arndell; also Ann Forbes)

Miss Susan Gaye Meredith (jnr), Asquith. (Frederick Meredith)

Mr Frank Alfred Devine, Warwick, Q'ld. (Philip Devine)

Dr Donald Edgerton Jobbins, Brisbane, Q. (Matthew Everingham)

Mr Owen Clarence Herbert, Kogarah. (John Herbert - Deborah Ellam)

Miss Julianne Large (jnr), Belmont North. (Samuel Pigott)

Mrs Kathleen Smith, Liverpool. (John Cross)

Please note that, in order to avoid confusion, it is intended from

Membership Report (Continued)

now on to distinguish F.F. ancestors, where necessary, as follows (two examples occurred in the foregoing list):

John Herbert - Deborah Ellam indicates either a married or de facto relationship between the two ancestors.

Thomas Arndell; also Ann Forbes indicates two separate lines of descent from these two ancestors.

Membership Committee.

Notes from the Library

The Library of the Fellowship, situated in the Fellowship room (Room 312, Assembly Building, Cnr Margaret and York Streets, Sydney), is continuing to grow at a steady pace. Any Member can use the Library, though none of the books can be borrowed. The following list contains only some of the works held in the Library:

First Fleet Journals: Bradley, W., A Voyage to New South Wales.
Collins, D., An Account of the English Colony in NSW.
Hunter, J., An Historical Journal 1787-1792.
The Journal of Arthur Bowes Smyth, Surgeon.
The Voyage of Governor Phillip to Botany Bay.

Histories and Documents of the Foundation Years: Cobley, J., Sydney Cove 1788. Cobley, J., Sydney Cove 1789-1790. Cobley, J., Sydney Cove 1791-1792.

Historical Records of NSW Vols 1-7.

O'Brien, E., The Foundation of Australia.

General Histories: Barnard, M., The History of Australia.

Clarke, C. M. H., A History of Australia Vol. 1.

Crawford, R. M., Australia.

Shaw, A. G. L., The Story of Australia.

Ward, R., The Australian Legend.

Biographical and Family Histories: Chalmers, L., Two Centuries and Three Generations of Australians.

Gerlach, R. V., The Pioneer Families of Faulkner, Lucas, Orpen, Sproule, Gerlach.

Levi, J. S. (ed) Dictionary of Biography of the Jews of Australia 1788-1830.

Macintosh, N. K., Richard Johnson.

Ross, V., Matthew Everingham.

Genealogical Reference Works and Transcriptions: Dalkin, R. Nixon, Colonial Burying Cemetery of Norfolk Island.

Gravestone Inscriptions Vol. 1. (Sydney Burial Ground)

Goodin, V. W. E., Monumental Inscriptions (St John's Cem., Parramatta)

Johnson, K. A., and Sainty, M. R. (eds), Laid Grants 1788-1809.

Ray, P., and Thom, G., Monumental Inscriptions ACT and Jervis Bay.

Sydney Gazette Vols 2 and 3 (covering years 1804-1806).

Thom, G. (ed), Register of Cemetery Transcriptions.

Shipping: Thompson, G., The Convict Ships 1787-1868.

Colwell, M., Ships and Seafarers in Australian Waters.

Cumpston, J. S., Shipping Arrivals and Departures Sydney 1788-1825.

Journals (of which no complete sets are held):

Descent, Journal of the Australian Society of Genealogists.

Generation, Journal of the Genealogical Society of Queensland.

Journal and Proceedings of the Australian Jewish Historical Society.

Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Lists of First Fleeters

Lists of the original First Fleeters are available from the Fellowship at \$2 per list. If posted out, add 50c for packing and postage.

Coming Event

Nov. 19: Lecture by Mr James Broadbent, consultant from the National Trust, "Early Colonial Gardens".
