

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

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From the President

I do hope all Members had a wonderful Festive Season and are looking forward to the year ahead.

January is always a busy month for your Committee. On Tuesday afternoon 20th January, accompanied by our Hon. Secretary, Mrs Anne Campbell, I visited Government House to meet our new Governor, Sir James Rowland, and Lady Rowland, and to present an Address of Welcome. Then on Wednesday evening 21st my husband and I were guests of the Women's Pioneer Society at their Australia Day Reception. Friday 23rd saw me at the Wentworth Hotel attending the State Reception to celebrate Australia Day.

We started our own celebrations with our Dinner on Saturday 24th at the Wentworth Hotel, when over 200 people enjoyed a delicious meal. The three tiers of Government were represented. Dr H. Edwards M.P. represented the Prime Minister of Australia; Hon. H. Jensen M.P. represented the Premier of New South Wales; and the Deputy Lord Mayor, Ald. T. Bradford, represented the Lord Mayor of Sydney. Everyone enjoyed our Guest Speaker, Dr David Armstrong, General Manager of the Bicentennial Authority. It was particularly pleasing to have with us groups from the Women's Pioneer Society, the Pioneer Club and the 1788-1820 Association. We thank all our speakers, and everyone voted the evening a huge success.

The Exhibition held at the Rocks on Sunday 25th was an outstanding success, with a stream of people viewing it all day. Special thanks are extended to Mrs Naida Jackson and all her helpers, also to those who helped set it up on Saturday morning. This type of day shows the great interest the public has, as witness the number of enquiries received.

Before going to the Exhibition I represented the Fellowship at the Australia Day Service at the Garrison Church.

On the morning of Australia Day we were very honoured to be received personally by our new Governor. Mr Geof Squires (William Saltmarsh - Mary Phillips) presented our Address of Loyalty to be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen. It was good to see so many Members and their families present.

I'm sorry to report that our popular Treasurer, Mr Ray Meredith, has been in hospital, but is now home and on the road to recovery. We did miss Ray over the Australia Day Weekend. I'm sure all will join me in hoping to see him back very soon. Whilst visiting him on Saturday Ray asked that I extend his thanks to all for cards, enquiries and good wishes.

Mrs Sally Kalina has arranged a programme of interesting speakers for our Lecture nights for the coming year, so do come along and enjoy fellowship with your fellow Members -- 3rd Wednesday in the month, 4th Floor, Assembly Building, Jamison Street entrance, Sydney, at 7.45 pm.

Beryl Lewis.

Telegram from Prime Minister

The following telegram from the Prime Minister arrived after the Fellowship's mail box was cleared, and so was not read out at the Annual Dinner --

Canberra A.C.T. "Tamic and I regret we are unable to be with you tomorrow evening to celebrate Australia Day. Our best wishes to all First Fleeters".
Malcolm Fraser.

"The Day We Celebrate"

The Toast "The Day We Celebrate", proposed by the President at the Fellowship's Anniversary Dinner, at the Wentworth Hotel, 24th January, 1981:--

Mr Toastmaster, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,
As we take one more hopeful step into the "Eighties let us reflect on just what we aim to celebrate on this auspicious day -- 26th January. The first thing that comes to mind is the fact that we who can claim kinship with a First Fleeter celebrate the arrival of our ancestors in this country and the beginning of British settlement. From Britain's point of view the First Fleet was a wonderful experiment in colonising. But we must look further afield at the results achieved.

This glorious country today is a result of the foundations laid 193 years ago -- foundations laid by each man, woman and child who had sailed 15,000 miles over unknown waters to an unknown country and arrived on that one day in history Saturday 26th January 1788. Their leader, the very humane but brilliant Captain Arthur Phillip, deserves far more accolades than he ever receives. It was my privilege in July last year to visit the Australia Chapel at Bathampton in England -- a chapel in which the Fellowship of First Fleeters played a very large part financially -- and which pays tribute to this same Arthur Phillip; and I wondered, Why? Why isn't there something of this nature in Australia? Somewhere that tourists as well as Australians could go and pay silent tribute to this man.

It is hallowed ground in England -- why not here? Perhaps this may be food for thought for Dr Armstrong, General Manager of the Bicentennial Authority and our guest speaker tonight.

It has also been suggested that Phillip's home at 19 Bennett Street, Bath, be restored and used as an Australian Museum. Together with Mr John Vivian, an eminent restoration architect, I inspected this home and rather like his idea of a meeting-place for Australians, particularly Anglo-Australian groups operating in Britain.

No doubt all types of hare-brained schemes will be advanced for 1988. We have a prime example reported in the press this morning. A former Australian Ambassador to the United States and an Australian historian are suggesting, among other things, a new Flag and Anthem and a National Covenant of Unity. To my way of thinking, time and money would be better spent educating the community to a greater awareness of those which we now have. Our flag has served us well both in peace and war, and I would hope it would never be changed.

Last night whilst attending the State Reception for Australia Day, in this same room, I was interested in a point made by the Premier. Much has been said about the Official Opening of the new Federal Parliament House on Australia Day 1988. Mr Wran claimed it was unthinkable that the main thrust of the Bicentenary year should be anywhere but here in Sydney, where this nation was born. The alternative he offered for Canberra was 7th February, when Phillip's commission was read and a form of responsible government established. This is food for thought for all of us.

But I have digressed. The city in which we celebrate tonight is truly one of the great cities of the world, but how long will it remain so? We have all been handed a great heritage, and it is our responsibility to treasure and nurture it. We will never have historic buildings while we knock them down, to make way for so-called progress in the form of multi-storey

hotels. Some have been saved, but each one that is lost is a tragedy and rather overshadows the few that are restored. I recently read a statement attributed to Errol Lea-Scarlett, the author of the book, known to all genealogists, "Roots and Branches", and I quote in part, "They complained loudly, but picks and shovels and bulldozers are louder than any vocal complaints", to which I add -- they also make more dollar signs and have more impact on the ballot box! What a materialistic country we have become!

Were, through some quirk of fate, my First Fleet ancestors able to see Sydney today I would have very mixed feelings, feelings both of pride and shame. It becomes rather tiresome to hear what a wonderful country we have. Of course we have, but we all know, anything is only as good as its foundations. It has become fashionable to talk of our rights; but what of our duty -- our duty to our country and its founders. Any of us should be proud to be admitted to a little share in the tradition which they helped to make and foster. They didn't need to wait for daybreak to believe in the light, and though the society in which we live today does not fully justify them yet, the day will come. Pray God let it be soon.

This week, here in Sydney, we saw the end of an era with the departure from office of our Patron, the then Governor, Sir Roden Cutler, and the arrival of a new era and Governor, Sir James Rowland. Sir Roden was extremely interested in our early history and always asked many questions as to our activities. The association of the Fellowship of First Fleeters with the Governor goes right back to the very first Australia Day and our first Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip. As your President, I beseech you all to hold fast to your heritage, be true to your country and in celebrating this Australia Day endeavour to spread a knowledge of our early history to the coming generations, always remembering that in our search for knowledge we never reach journey's end.

Now will you please join me in drinking to the day we celebrate -- Australia Day.

Membership Report

We welcome the following new Members into the Fellowship:--

- Mrs Sandra June Hawkins, French's Forest. (Owen Cavanough - Margaret Darnell: + Matthew Everingham)
- Mrs Barbara Louise Moorcroft, Weipa, Nth Q'land. (Frederick Meredith)
- Miss Angela Louise Boyd, Mr Russell John Boyd, Mr Ian Edwin Boyd, Kingsgrove. (William Nash - Maria Haynes)
- Mrs Joyce Pirchan, Sylvania. (William Nash - Maria Haynes)
- Mrs Margaret E. Livingstone, Connells Point. (Frederick Meredith)
- Miss Penelope M. Stafford, Connells Point. (Frederick Meredith)
- Mrs Dorothy Alice Matthews, Nambour, Q'land. (William Roberts)
- Mr Stephen John Greenhalgh and Mr Bradley David Greenhalgh, Acland, Q. (Anthony Rope - Elizabeth Pulley: + George Johnston - Esther Abrahams)
- Miss Alison Mary Ford, Paddington. (Joseph Wright)
- Mr Keith Sydney Webb, Bellevue Hill. (Mary Phillips - Thomas Spencer)
- Mr Thomas Hadley Webb, Mannus via Tunbarumba. (Mary Phillips - Thomas Spencer)
- Mrs Helen Mavis Stewart, Whangamata, New Zealand. (Hugh Hughes + William Tunks)
- Mrs Joan Maitland, Greenwich. (John Cross)
- Miss Fay Frances Douglas, Wollstonecraft. (John Cross)
- Mr Francis Nathaniel Lucas, Collaroy Beach. (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne)
- Mr Alfred Charles Lucas, Maffra, Vic. (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne)
- Mrs Molly Lorraine Stone, Ryde. (John Small - Mary Parker)
- Mr Wallace A. Jenkins, Telegraph Point. (Thomas Chipp - Jane Langley)
- Mrs June Heather Broomhead, Campsie. (Frederick Meredith)
- Miss Nancy Lucas, Crows Nest. (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne).

Membership Committee.

Address of Welcome

Herewith is the text of the Address of Welcome presented to the Governor of New South Wales, as referred to in the President's Report:--

His Excellency Air Marshal Sir James Anthony Rowland, Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, upon whom have been conferred the decorations of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Force Cross, Governor of the State of New South Wales and its dependencies in the Commonwealth of Australia -

May it please Your Excellency, the members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, being descendants of those who journeyed on the eleven ships comprising the First Fleet, which arrived in Sydney Cove on the 26th of January 1788 and whose involvement with the Office of Governor extends back to the Leader of the First Fleet and the first Governor of the Colony, Captain Arthur Phillip, beg leave respectfully to offer their sincere congratulations to Your Excellency upon your appointment to this Office and do hereby pray that you be blessed with sound health, joy and honour, and that pursuant to your guidance the peace, order and good government of this State and its dependencies shall continue.

I, Beryl Lewis, President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, subscribe this Address on behalf of each and every member of the Fellowship this 20th day of January 1981.

Your loyal and obedient servant,
Beryl Lewis, President.

New Governor to Be Patron

His Excellency Air Marshal Sir James Rowland, K.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., Governor of New South Wales, has kindly consented to be Patron of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Bicentennial Book Project

Since the last Newsletter a Steering Committee has met to discuss the various initiatives required to commence work on the Bicentennial Book Project. A basic organisational structure was determined and a limited number of people approached. However, the Steering Committee had no sooner reported to the Executive and gained its approval than certain newspaper articles began to appear. These articles advised that a staff member of Macquarie University had made some "discoveries" and was to publish biographical articles on certain of the First Fleeters some time in 1981.

Until further and more detailed information about this publication is known it is felt that our project should be held in abeyance.

However, as this seriously cuts into the amount of time available, the Steering Committee still requests that all Members send in biographical information on the First Fleeters so that, if the project does proceed, we will have started on the groundwork.

If the project does not proceed, the supply of the information will not have been wasted, for it will be a welcome addition to the Fellowship Archives.

All information should be sent to:

Bicentennial Book Project,
c/- Fellowship of First Fleeters,
G.P.O. Box 4441,
Sydney 2001.

Roderick Best.

Notes from the Library

The Papers of the First Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry have now been issued. As this Congress was held during Easter 1977 these papers could justly be called "long awaited". Their publication also redirects attention to the papers published for the Second Congress held in 1980 and held by the Library.

Besides, of course, the contribution of our own President, there is included a series of articles by Mr Neil Chick on the form and organisation of family trees. As many will realise, the collecting of information is only half the battle, for once garnered from all sources it must be presented in an easily accessible form.

While family-tree charts are generally used for simple descents, for large families or for the incorporation of a lot of information they soon flow off the dining room table and right across the lounge-room. As these charts are unwieldy and almost impossible to reproduce, Mr Chick recommends that can readily be typed onto standard-size paper. Known as the "Hexadecimal Method", it is fortunately more easily understood than it is pronounced. It is expounded at length in his articles.

In addition there are articles on the primary sources of each of the States, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and France, and two fascinating articles by Dr W. B. Stephens on family life during the Industrial Revolution and the links between genealogy, family and local history.

As with all books in the Library the "Papers: 1980 Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry" (ed. Alison Dolling) may be read in, but not removed from, the Fellowship Rooms.

Nightingale Wing, Sydney Hospital

The Graduate Nurses Association has written to the Fellowship seeking support in its campaign to preserve the Nightingale Wing at Sydney Hospital, now threatened with demolition by the State Government. The Executive Committee has resolved not to officially support the campaign, but does suggest that Members who feel strongly about the proposed demolition should write direct to the Premier.

First Granddaughter

Congratulations to Mrs Mary Hughes, of Donsville (Anthony Rope, Elizabeth Pulley - John Summers) on the birth of her first granddaughter, Kirrilee Jane, born on 8th January this year. Parents, Gary and Marilyn Hughes.

"Van Diemen's Land"

One of the tapes of early Australian music played at the Fellowship's Australia Day Exhibition at the Rocks was called "Van Diemen's Land" and told of the early history of Tasmania. The tape was compiled for us by Mr Graeme Round, husband of member Mrs Rebecca Round (Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne), of Howrah, Tasmania. Thank you, Mr Round, for helping to give atmosphere to the day.

Obituary

We regret to announce the recent death of Miss Bernice Lawson, of Manly, a descendant of William Tunks and a member of the Fellowship. The Fellowship extends condolences to Miss Lawson's family.

Publications and Souvenirs Available

- Journals (5 editions), 50c each, plus 40c postage. Full set of 5, postage 80c in N.S.W., 90c interstate.
- Compiling Your Family History, \$3 plus 50c postage.
- First Fleet Lists, \$2 each plus 50c postage.
- Teaspoons, Sugar Spoons, Cake Forks, \$2 each.
- Tea Caddy Spoons, Key Rings, \$2-50 each.
- Car Stickers, 75c.

Coming Event: Feb. 18, 7.45 pm, 4th Floor Assembly Building (entrance Jamison Street) -- Lecture, Mr Vince Crow, B.A., History Master of St Marys Cathedral School, "The Development of Haberfield".
