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Volume 14, No. 3
May/June, 1983

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the June Committee meeting the tendered resignations of Mr. Roy Kable from the position of Vice-President and Mrs. Beryl Lewis from the position of President of the Fellowship were accepted with regret.

The casual vacancies so created were then filled, by the Committee electing Mr. Roderick Best as President and Messrs. Doug Oakes and Peter Christian as Vice-Presidents. Mr. Best had previously been Vice-President and Messrs. Oakes and Christian Committeemen.

These positions were therefore filled by the Executive until the next Annual General Meeting when all Executive positions are open.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the Scots Church Hall, ground floor, Assembly Building, Jamison Street, Sydney at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 21st September, 1983.

All nominations to fill the positions of Executive Officers and the Executive Committee are to be received by the Secretary by 21st August. The nominations are to be in writing signed by the Proposer and Seconder and consented to by the Nominee. All notices of any special matter which a member desires to submit to the Meeting must be in writing and received by the Secretary no later than 1st August.

The Executive Committee is also pleased to announce the acquisition of a set of the microfiche index to the pre-1900 records of the Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages together with a microfiche reader. These purchases were substantially assisted by financial donations received — for which thanks are extended. Also received in the library is a copy of the work completed to date on the family of Philip Devine. This most useful work was made available by Mrs. Betty Duns to whom our thanks are also extended.

Gatherings of families, like that of the Devine family in January of this year, are an essential part of the Fellowship. Within the Fellowship "family" it has now been calculated that up to the May Executive meeting current membership of the Fellowship consisted of 939 adult members, 232 junior members, 5 honorary life members, 25 life members, 182 associate (spouse) members and 11 associate (friend) members, making a total of 1,399 members.

Roderick Best

REMINDER

LECTURE NIGHTS - third Wednesday in each month at 7.30 pm sharp. Please note the earlier meeting time — this is to enable a short resume of business conducted at the previous Executive Meeting to be given. The Lecture then begins at 7.45 pm.

Congratulations to **Judy and Tracy Brown** of Rylstone on the birth of their son, Matthew James, and also **David Clarke** of Rylstone on his marriage to Tracey Eccles. Both Tracy Brown and David Clarke are direct descendents of F. F. James Bloodworth — Sarah Bellamy and James Lee.

James Bloodworth Jnr. married Maria Lee in 1812, and was one of the earliest pioneers to take up land at Dabee. When the township was established on the banks of the Cudgong River in 1842, Gov. Gipps named it Rylstone.

PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS

JUNE 15th

We have a speaker from the National Trust, Mrs. Estell, to tell us about that body and its work.

JULY 20th

Mr. James Symes, B.A., a member of The Hills Historical Society and an authority on the Castle Hill Rebellion of 1804, will speak to us on that event.

AUGUST 17th

It is hoped that we shall welcome a speaker from the Uniting Church to talk on Methodist Archives.

SEPTEMBER 21st

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 19th

Associate Prof. Kenneth Cable, from the University of Sydney will speak on the subject of "Religion in the Early Colony".

NOVEMBER 16th

Members' historical potpourri evening.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT — MARCH & APRIL, 1983

We extend a warm welcome to the following 44 new members and 8 spouse associates (in brackets). First Fleet ancestors' names are shown in **heavy type**.

Thomas Acres:

Thomas Arndell:

Thomas Arndell/Elizabeth Dalton:

Thomas Arndell + Ann Forbes/W. Dring:

James Bradley:

O. Cavanough/M. Darnell + Ann Forbes

Thomas Davey:

William Douglas:

Matthew Everingham

Robert Forrester + Ann Forbes:

John Gowen:

Peter Hibbs:

Nathaniel Lucas/Olivia Gascoigne:

Edward Miles:

Charles Peat/Ann Mullens:

A. Rope/E. Pulley + John Summers:

John Ryan:

William Saltmarsh + Mary Phillips:

James Squire:

James Squire + Mary Spencer:

William Tunks:

William Tunks + Hugh Hughes:

James Underwood:

Joseph Wright:

JOHN RYAN, convict, 'Friendship', is a new addition to the list of First Fleet ancestors.

We apologise for the following errors in the December 1982-February 1983 Report:-

Mrs. Audrey P. McGarvey, Mr. David M. McGarvey, Mr. Ian W. McGarvey and Mrs. Beth Taylor were listed as descendants of James Wright instead of JOSEPH WRIGHT. Linda S. Strong (Jnr) should have been LYNDIA S. Strong (Jnr).

OBITUARY:

Sympathy is extended to the widow (Mrs. Valmai Crane) and family of the late Mr. Mervyn Charles Crane (member no. 1340).

AWARDS

Congratulations are the order of the day for two of our members — Mrs. VAL ROSS as the winner of the Alexander Henderson Award for her three books "The Everingham Trilogy" and Mrs. THAIS MASON as runner-up of the same award for her history of the Garth-Bellett family "From Chains to Freedom". Both members have donated copies of their books to our Library for which we are extremely grateful, and we wish them similar success for future literary awards.

TOUR OF VICTORIA BARRACKS

Twenty-two FFF members and friends met at the main gates of Victoria Barracks on Sunday 15 May. The weather was not kind but it didn't spoil our enjoyment of the conducted tour. Our Army guide was inexperienced but enthusiastic, and we all learned a great deal about this establishment which is indeed an important part of our heritage.

We were told that Lt.-Col. George Barney, of the Royal Engineers, was the designer and initial supervisor of the building of the Barracks, which today are valued for their architectural style as well as their historical significance. They are an excellent example of late Georgian architecture.

The tour began with an inspection of the Guard-house. This is almost in the same state as when it was built, and has been continuously manned by Army personnel since the first troops marched into the Barracks in 1848. The steel columns, girders and railing were imported, but heavy adze-hewn local timber and convict-made nails were used in the construction.

The main block of the Barracks is 740ft in length, and believed to be the longest stone building in the southern hemisphere, as well as being considered the most architecturally outstanding military barracks in the British Commonwealth.

The whole area is well laid out and landscaped, but we noticed the rockeries were in some state of neglect. We walked past well-built stone walls, in one of which is embedded the first piece of coal mined by the Army in 1949, when Prime Minister Chifley sent troops into the coal mines during the miners' strike.

The original Officers' Quarters, the first building to be completed and occupied by troops of the 11th North Devonshire Regt., now houses Army officers and their families.

An inspection of Busby's Bore was one of the most interesting parts of the tour. This was Sydney's second water supply (the Tank Stream was the first). The bore, begun in 1827, was built (dug by hand) from the swamps in Centennial Park to Hyde Park, running under the south-west corner of the Barracks.

We finished with a visit to the Military Museum, shown around by the Curator. He is very well informed and articulate and obviously takes great pride in the collection and the way in which it is presented. Readers will be interested to hear that three FFF members were gaoled at this stage — the cells in the former Military Prison (now the Museum) have been cleverly converted to display cases for some of the items in the Museum, and the Curator thought some of us would be amused to find out how it felt to be locked in these thick-walled, narrow cells, with only a chink of light coming from near the ceiling. These three "prisoners" laughed — but were glad when the "gaoler" let them out!

We all enjoyed the tour around the Barracks — it was well organised and informative. As citizens of Sydney we can take great pride in Victoria Barracks.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NEWSLETTER

Please let's have more news and articles which would be of interest to members.

Remember . . . it's your Newsletter! — so please send in as much as you can to the Editor (Anne Davison), at the FFF office, Box N283, Grosvenor Street, 2000.

BICENTENARY TAPESTRY

The Committee has been advised that final ideas for the design of the tapestry will be available shortly. This exciting project is intended as the Fellowship's gift to the State Library to mark the 200th Anniversary of the First Fleet's arrival on these shores.

The cost of this project is considerable and we will still need more donations, please! Consider the pride and pleasure our Fellowship will take in presenting this wonderful, permanent gift to mark the anniversary of our ancestors' arrival.

Please . . . join the other generous donors and send your donations into the office as soon as possible.

More news about this next issue!

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ATTENTION EVERINGHAM DESCENDANTS.

Greetings from Val Ross to you and other Fellowship members.

Cornstalks, A Genealogy, Book 3 of the Everingham trilogy, having sold a thousand copies, is now out of print and being revised. This offers the chance for errors and omissions to be amended.

It also presents the opportunity to enlarge the scope of the book by including some biographical material, and details of parentage of spouses. As the book will again be indexed, this is particularly valuable to people tracing associated families, not to mention a help to the Membership Committee of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

When you supply information, a layout similar to **Cornstalks** is preferred but please write anyhow TO ME, as below, and let us fill the gaps. Please remember places as well as full dates of birth, marriage, death, burial and some record of religion, family movement and occupation if desired. Please also supply changed addresses and new ones to make sure that no one is left out this time. Kindly post to: V. J. ROSS, P.O. Box 20, Avoca Beach, N.S.W. 2260.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM THE F.F.F. OFFICE

T. SHIRTS (navy and other colours with gold emblem) — most sizes (packaged and post \$1 extra)	\$6.50 each
Tea Towels — linen 4 designs - old NSW, modern Sydney, Australian Settlers, Australian birds, Australian wildflowers	\$2.50 each
NOTELETS with matching envelopes, packet of 10 - Postage 50¢ extra	\$2.00 each
SOUVENIR TEASPOONS Sugar Spoons, Fluted Spoons, and Cake Forks, Tea Caddy Spoons, Key Rings	\$2.50 each
PAPER KNIVES	\$2.85 each
CAR STICKERS	\$0.50 each

(Package and Post 30¢ to \$1.00 depending on weight.)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Journals (4 editions) 50¢ each plus postage — set of 4 in N.S.W. 80¢, interstate 90¢.

First Fleet Book \$4.50 — (50¢ pack and post).

Compiling your Family History — \$3.00 (50¢ pack and post).

First Fleet Lists — \$2.00 (50¢ pack and post).

They Came by Road — By Viv Kable (special interest to Kable family) — \$5.00 (50¢ pack and post).

Arthur Phillip — by Thea Stanley Hughes \$4.50 (50¢ pack and post)

NAME BARS

Name bars are available from Mrs. Thelma Guy, Lot 14, Wallgrove Road, Horsley Park 2164, at the following rates:

Member's NAME AND	ONE First Fleeter's Name	\$3.50
	TWO " " "	\$4.00
	THREE " " "	\$4.50
	FOUR " " "	\$5.00
Spouse's Name Bar (single name only)		\$3.00

PLEASE ADD 50¢ for additional names & 50¢ for postage.
State choice of blue or black background.

VALE

On 18 April last, **Mary Thompson**, Foundation Member, Hon. Life Member, the Fellowship's first Research Officer, and a valued member of the Membership Committee and Executive, died in hospital.

Mary had been a good friend of mine for over 30 years, ever since our daughters were at school and in the Brownies together.

Even though she was deeply involved in the R.A.H.S. (especially when her husband Harold was alive), the Genealogical Society and the Women's Pioneer Society, Mary found time to become a Brownie leader, first a Tawny Owl then a Brown Owl.

Mary brought great enthusiasm and a sense of fun to the district, and at our Guider's meetings could be counted on to come forward with bright and original ideas. She had been a Guide herself and became a wonderful leader whom the girls loved. She had the knack of arranging original ceremonies — I remember a Brownies' Revel held at Balmoral Beach where King Neptune (one of the fathers) appeared from the water much to the delight of the Brownies.

Mary and I attended the inaugural meeting of the Fellowship together on 27th March, 1968. On the 10th October of that year the Lady Penrhyn Committee was formed to deal with membership. Mary was the mainstay of this committee (which later became known as the Membership Committee) for many years, and put her knowledge and intense interest in historical research to use training other members of the Committee in research methods. Meetings were held at Mary's home in Balmoral, where the committee had access to her extensive records. Mary continued to take an interest in the Membership Committee and offer helpful suggestions until her health failed some years ago.

The Fellowship owes a great debt of gratitude to Mary for the research she did on our First Fleet ancestors. She kept all the information on cards which were methodically indexed. One only had to ring her to get instant and authentic information. An enormous amount of careful research had gone into those cards, and through them and other written material her works will live on after her death.

As well as for her research, we will remember Mary for the ideas she put forward. It was her idea to establish an office in the city and to have regular guest speakers. In many ways Mary contributed a great deal to the Fellowship, and she was made a Life Member at the AGM in 1975.

The members of the Fellowship extend their sympathy to Mary's son Robert and daughter Anne Goldner and their families.

Joy Wallman.

REPORT FROM THE CONVENOR - LECTURE EVENINGS

IN SEARCH OF DAVID BATTY 3rd FLEET

This was the title of an extremely interesting talk given by one of our members, Thea Rowe, at the April Lecture evening.

Batty is a Yorkshire name in origin, being a pet form of Bartholomew in the 12th century. The whereabouts of David Batty's birth and his birth date are unknown, but he arrived on the "Albermarle" as a convict in 1791. He had previously been tried and acquitted on a charge of stealing a gold watch, value 15/-, from one, Charles James Fox, the famous Whig politician and a gambler of note. Records of Batty's trial and conviction for a felony demanding transportation are missing, and therefore his descendants are at a loss to explain his arrival as a convict on a seven year sentence. His occupations were known severally as a Salt Boiler, a gamekeeper and a sportsman. David Collins gives an account that one, David Batty, was found in possession of stolen watches, hidden in the overseer's hut which he occupied, and for this misdemeanor, was given corporal punishment and sentenced to Norfolk Island for 14 years; strange to say that there is no record of David having been on that island. Indeed he turns up as a private in the army and took part in the putting down of the Castle Hill Rebellion in 1804. He received a grant of land at Salt Pan Creek, 60 acres in all, and quite near the present site of Riverwood railway station. This grant, given in the time of Gov. Bligh, was later endorsed by Lachlan Macquarie when he assumed office as Governor. David Batty had been a man of obvious education, literate and eloquent, indeed this eloquence seemed to have aided and abetted him in his skirmishes with the law, though sometimes it went awry. In 1804 he was punished for defaming a young convict woman and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment, ordered a public attrition and fined Five Pounds which was to be donated to the Orphans.

He lived in Sydney with a lady, by name, Mary Turner and together they had four children who in turn produced eleven grandchildren. He died in 1818, aged 56.

One of David & Mary's sons, Thomas, married into the "Minorca Pipers", not to be confused with the "Point Piper" Pipers, Francis Piper had been a convict ex "Minorca" a Currency lad had married a Currency lass. Thomas was a Tanner by trade and lived in a cottage on the corner of Market & Kent Sts. This cottage at a later date was sold for the sum of £110!

Gordon Batty, who was present at the meeting, and introduced by Thea, told of his search for David Batty and indeed, had found a second charge on a count of embezzlement. The Family Tree of David Batty and Mary Turner was shown to the members who joined in an enthusiastic vote of thanks to Thea for a most enjoyable and entertaining evening.

At the May Lecture evening we had much pleasure in welcoming Mr. John Mortimer as Guest Speaker.

Mr. Mortimer is Director of Centennial Park and is a sixth generation Australian, being a kinsman of Richard Mortimer, a nurseryman from Parramatta who arrived in the colony in 1791.

Mr. Mortimer was appointed Director of Centennial Park in January 1982, having previously worked in Canberra where his duties included management of parklands around Lake Burley Griffin, The Parliamentary Triangle, Government House and The Lodge.

Centennial Park has an area of 220Ha or 660 acres and is 5Km south east of the city. Originally known as the Lachlan Swamps, it was considered an area of extremely poor fertility. Due to water shortage problems in Sydney Town, Governor Brisbane turned his attention to the Lachlan Swamps and engaged John Busby to build a tunnel from the swamps to Hyde Park, this later becoming known as Busby's Bore. As a matter of historical interest a shaft of the original bore system is still in evidence within the confines of Victoria Barracks at Paddington. Busby took 10 years to complete his work which was used from 1837 to 1859 and commenced from the Robertson Road entrance of the park to Hyde Park itself.

Lord Carrington, Governor of N.S.W. 1885 to 1891, was the catalyst for the move to create a parkland from the swamps. On January 28th 1887, Sir Henry Parks moved for the establishment of Centennial Park, and the cost of resuming the area was raised by the sale of building blocks around the perimeter of the park itself, blocks which are indeed worth a mint on today's values.

At noon on the 26th January 1888, the dedication of Centennial Park was carried out by Lord Carrington amid much pomp, ceremony and some confusion. "A place of beauty and a joy forever" said the Governor, waxing eloquent in his speech. The conversion to parkland proceeded over a number of years, although many of the prominent citizens of Sydney took part in the tree planting which followed the ceremonies on that day. The Sydney Morning Herald reported the inauguration ceremony in flowery Victorian "journalese" ... terra incognita ... now a great national property ... the spectacle of notable citizens joining in an undignified bun rush to plant a tree ... a giant crush around the Vice-Regal party left very little breathing space for the Governor and his guests. One can easily imagine the scene on this hot summer's day.

The period from the First World War through the Depression and into the late 1950s saw a period of stagnation as far as the upgrading of the park was concerned. It was always a popular venue for many sporting bodies and a favourite spot for picnic parties. In the 1960s significant development took place with an upgrading of walks, bicycle tracks, and horse riding trails. Centennial Park caters for upwards to two million visitors per year. During week-days the area is most popular with joggers, walkers, horseriders, indeed fitness fanatics of all kinds including devotees of Tai Chi (a form of Chinese slow motion exercises).

The Oxford St. gates are a feature of the park and Federation of the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed from within its precincts together with the swearing in of Australia's first Governor General, the Earl of Hopetoun on January 1st, 1901.

The Grand Drive is 4Km in length, having been designed originally as a carriageway for horse and carriage in the manner of the grand parks of Europe. Among the outstanding trees are the Canary Island palms and the Port Jackson Figs which tower over beautiful gardens and well manicured lawns. We were told that there were 124 different species of birds which inhabited the park as well as nocturnal animals such as the rabbit, possum and bats.

Mr. Mortimer felt that there would be some form of celebration in Centennial Park during the Bicentenary in 1988 and added that the Director was open to suggestions!

Most Sydney people, at some time in their lives, have used the park in one way or another and its growth and development over the years have given them a haven of 600 acres. Its character, though, was indeed stamped upon it when the first plantings were carried out.

The Fellowship is indeed grateful that Mr. John Mortimer was able to treat us with such an interesting lecture and to show the interesting slides as a prelude to his talk. After questions, suitable sentiments of gratitude were expressed to Mr. Mortimer.

It is hoped to have as our August speaker a member of the Uniting Church to tell us about the Archives of the Methodist Church.

In November it is proposed that we have a members' Historical Pot Pourri Night. Five members to speak on an aspect of their family history for 10 minutes. If there is time it is also hoped that we have a general genealogical question time.

Please remember the June meeting, when Mrs. Estell from the National Trust will be our guest speaker. In July, Mr. James Symes will speak on "The Castle Hill Rebellion". In October we shall welcome Associate Professor K. J. Cable, a noted historian, whose topic will be "Religion in the Early Colony".

PETER G. CHRISTIAN
CONVENOR

THE GRAVES OF OUR FIRST FLEETERS

On 1st May we unveiled plaques on the graves of two more First Fleeters, **Catherine Moore** (formerly Johnson) and **Matthew Everingham**. The short graveside talks delivered shall, as has been done in the past, be printed in the Newsletter as they become available.

The next area being surveyed in the Oaks-Camden-Campbelltown region ("Macarthur Country"). Do you know of any graves of First Fleeters in this area? If so, please write to The Graves Committee or leave a telephone message at the Office.

If possible these plaques shall be unveiled in November 1983 — so keep your weekends in November free of other appointments!

GREAT NEWS FROM THE OFFICE — our Microfiche Reader has arrived and been installed. It is a Cannon 360 LH with a 42. lens and is going to be a great asset. It has cost us \$294; a donation has been received for the purchase of the complete set of 437 microfiche copies of the Indexes to pre-1900 records of births, deaths and marriages from the Registrar-General's Dept. These Indexes have been ordered and we should have them shortly.

An appointment system will be devised for those members wishing to use the Microfiche Reader for research, and a charge of \$1 per hour will be asked from non-members. Details about appointments etc., will be given in the next issue of the newsletter.

LUCKY TRAVELLERS

Mr. Roy Kable is in Hawaii, Mr. Rod Best is in New Zealand for the History Conference, and secretary Mrs. Anne Campbell is off to Fiji for a holiday.

Our Archivist, Mrs. Joyce Cowell, is touring the USA.

SEARCH FOR OLDEST MEMBER:

The Fellowship of First Fleeters are interested to find our **OLD MEMBER** — could members please submit names and ages of any known members over 90 years of age.

Please submit to: The Editor, F.F.F., Box N283, Grosvenor Street, Sydney, 2000.

COMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Mr. Lionel Smith of the Bush Music Club, Tele. No. 55-1235, is arranging a Pioneer's Day at Plunkett Street School, Woolloomoolloo on Saturday, the 29th October, 1983, with all Societies being asked to participate. The Sydney School of Arts and the National Trust are supporting Mr. Smith. Presumably members will be attired in period costume, and there will be stalls, etc.