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**Postal Address:- Box N283 Grosvenor Street, Sydney 2000**  
**Phone No. (02) 29-8007**

**OFFICE ADDRESS:**

Room 312, 3rd Floor  
Assembly Building  
Cnr. Margaret, York & Jamison Streets  
Please Note: Enter by Jamison Street at night

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesday, 10 am — 4 pm  
Wednesday, 10 am — 2 pm  
Thursday, 10 am — 2 pm  
Friday, 10 am — 2 pm

**Volume 14, No. 5**  
**October/November, 1983**

## THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Fellowship was commenced on 21st September. As a consequence of the amount of business to be dealt with, it was necessary to adjourn the meeting until Wednesday, 26th October at 7.30p.m. The adjourned meeting will be held in the Fellowship rooms and shall deal with each of the motions of which notice has been duly given. Such motions as are carried will then act as recommendations from the members to the incoming Executive. Details of all elections, amendments and motions as carried shall be reported in the first newsletter after the adjourned meeting.

When talking of holding the meeting in the Fellowship rooms this, of course, means the new Fellowship rooms for we have moved! While still on the same floor in the Assembly Building we now occupy Room 324 which overlooks Lang Park. (The telephone and post box numbers remain unchanged). Being a considerably larger room it is hoped that this additional "living space" will assist in our Fellowship.

Considerable efforts have been made by your Executive in respect of the site of the First Government House. The President, Mr Best, has spoken at two public rallies — one in Macquarie Place and another before Parliament House in Macquarie Street, Sydney. Both rallies were attended by a number of members. The rallies were organised by the Friends of the First Government House Site — the hardworking chairperson of which is the Fellowship member, Mrs Nell Sansom. In addition to the rallies the Friends have also organised an educational audio-visual evening and have continued their representations and watchdog brief.

The significance of the site cannot be underestimated. It is known to be the site of the First Government House — the hub of the early Colony. Not only was it the centre of Colonial Administration it also housed other firsts such as the first press and the First Legislative Assembly. In the very early years it contained the first glass windows, the first stairway, the first second storey and so much more. The people associated with it were men such as Phillip, Bennelong, Hunter, King, Bligh, Macquarie to name just a few. It is a site of immeasurable importance and yet it was to be, and could still be, destroyed by the construction upon it of a multi-storey office block. This was originally to occur without even a proper archaeological evaluation. The dig is now proceeding and its initial results are coming to light although much more still needs to be done.

If we the members of the Fellowship represent the bloodline of the settlement which grew into the Australian Nation, then this site represents the tangible evidence of such a line. As it was recently said by Mrs Helen Proudfoot "the Government House Footings represent the positive endeavours of the pioneers and symbolise the whole complex texture of European culture brought here by members of the First Fleet". (SMH 26/9/1983 p8)

The stance of the Executive is that no work should be commenced on the site without a thorough consideration of its worth (including a full archaeological dig) being undertaken and it being established that the manner of utilizing the site is in keeping with the value and preservation of the site and the footings upon it.

Are you writing to your local members and to the press to lodge your disgust and dismay at this vandalism in the name of short term economic expediency? After the great Depression of the 1890's and 1930's it is only now, within 5 years of the Bicentenary, that it is deemed necessary to utilize this plot amongst the skyscrapers for yet another office building.

When walking along the wind tunnels which it appears our Sydney City Fathers intended to bless us we shall do well to remember the beloved streets of Sydney of the late Philip Leslie Geeves. One of the final public engagements of Mr Geeves was reported in the last Newsletter when he delivered the after-dinner speech at the evening function of the Liaison Committee (formed by each of the Sydney Historical/Genealogical Societies). Philip Geeves was well known as a local historian and as a man who gave pleasure and delight to all his listeners on 2BL and readers of the Sydney Morning Herald. While no longer with us, his warmth and humanity remain as his endowment and our blessing.

The Fellowship also extends sincere condolences to the family of the late Mr J. H. Luscombe who for ten years from 1971 to 1981 was one of the Fellowship's Vice-patrons.

Finally the attention of all members is drawn to the following events:

- (1). Details are contained elsewhere in the Newsletter of the unveiling of plaques on First Fleeter graves in Campbelltown.
- (2). A reminder is also given as to the stall to be held by the Fellowship at the Plunkett Street Fair on 29th October (details of which having previously been given).
- (3). An invitation is to hand for the members of the Fellowship to attend the Ceremony of The Womens Pioneer Society of Australasia in honour of Australia's founder and First Governor Captain Arthur Phillip. The Ceremony will be held at the monument of Captain Phillip, Royal Botanic Gardens, Macquarie Street, Sydney on 12th October commencing at 11.30a.m. The Ceremony will be attended by the Anglican Archbishop of Sydney, the Premier of N.S.W., Rear-Admiral K. Vonthethoff, the Consul-General for the Federal Republic of Germany and the Presidents and Directors of various historical societies of Sydney.

The Executive invites all members to endeavour to join with it at these functions.

**Roderick Best**

The following is a copy of a letter sent to the Sydney Sun newspaper and published on April 23rd 1913. It was written by a Mr G.R. Nicholls, who had evidently been an earlier correspondent of that publication. It's interesting to note that the convict past of the settlers was very much pushed into the background, and indeed only brought out if they had committed a felony in the colony. Some of the dates are open to question, but nevertheless the interest lies in the fact that there was some effort in the early years of this century to follow the fortunes (or misfortunes) of our First Fleet ancestors. Perhaps we may compare this with our records?

Mr G.R. Nicholls writes:-

In your issue of June 4th, 1912, you published from me a list of the deaths of all I could find of the pioneers of Australia who arrived in the First Fleet. I then invited the assistance of other students of our history to help, and Mr Robert Harris the following week contributed a few more. Since then I have been able to nearly double my former list of names, some of which have been kindly sent by friends, and I forward it to you for publication.

A perusal of my list, which is in strict chronological order, will at once suggest that James Small, the last thereon, was the final survivor of the famous fleet, but I am sure this is not so, as I believe I know of two who have died since he did. The first is the old man Michael Norton, who is mentioned in Bennett's "History of Australian Discovery and Colonisation" as being alive in 1863. He lived somewhere in the Hawkesbury. Then in Heaton's "Dictionary of Dates" (page 192) is a statement that "John Whitehurst", who arrived in the FIRST FLEET, died in 1875, aged 99 years". I have, however, never been able to verify the death of either of these men and would be glad if any of your numerous readers can throw any light on the subject. There are a few dates incomplete, and I should be glad if any students could fill the gaps. The list is as follows....

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1788, February 16  | — <b>George Nelson</b> , cook of the transport Prince of Wales, drowned while trying to swim ashore.   |
| 1788, February 28  | — <b>James Barrett</b> , was executed for theft, and was the first criminal executed in the colony.  |
| 1788, July 10      | — <b>George Graves</b> , the boatswain of HMS Sirius, died and was buried in the first burial ground, situated at Dawes Point. He was 48 years of age, and his gravestone, believed to be the first erected in the colony, is preserved in the Public Library. |
| 1788, August       | — <b>Mr James Cunningham</b> , a midshipman of the Sirius, was accidentally drowned in a boat accident at Norfolk Is.  |
| 1788, October 26   | — <b>James Rogers</b> , a marine, lost in the bush, and never seen again.  |
| 1788, November 10  | — <b>Thomas Bulmore</b> , a marine, died from wounds received in a disturbance with some of his comrades.  |
| 1789, January —    | — <b>James Magee</b> , died at Parramatta, and his was the first burial entered in the church register at St Johns Church.   |
| 1789, February 2   | — <b>Captain John Shea</b> , in charge of one of the companies of marine, died in Sydney.  |
| 1789, November 6   | — <b>Francis Hill</b> , Midshipman of the Sirius, lost on the North Shore, while going to his ship, then in Careening Cove.  |
| 1790 July 24       | — <b>James Ferguson</b> , Midshipman of the Sirius, James Bates, marine, and another marine were drowned near Bradley's Head through a whale upsetting the boat from which they were fishing.  |
| 1790, August —     | — <b>Andrew Miller</b> , commissary, died on the passage home between Batavia and Mauritius.   |
| 1790, September    | — <b>Newton Fowell</b> , second lieutenant of the Sirius, died on board the Supply at Batavia from fever.  |
| 1791, January 28   | — <b>Henty Edward Dodd</b> , principal superintendent of agriculture, died at Parramatta.  |
| 1791, April 13     | — <b>Lieut. George William Maxwell</b> , Ex HMS Sirius, died on the trip home, near Batavia.   |
| 1791, June 30      | — <b>William Phillips</b> , a seaman of the Sirius, died on the same trip home.  |
| 1791, October 22   | — <b>Terence Burne</b> , a seaman of the Sirius, died on the same trip home.   |
| 1791 November 14   | — <b>Robert Henderson</b> , a seaman of the Sirius, died on the same trip home.  |
| 1791, December 11  | — <b>Edward Moore</b> , a seaman of the Sirius, died on the same trip home.  |
| 1791, December 22  | — <b>William Bryant</b> , the convict, who, with others, stole a boat and made their way to Batavia, where Bryant died in hospital.  |
| 1792-              | — <b>John Jones</b> , a marine, was also buried in the Dawes Point graveyard but the date on the stone has been partly defaced.  |
| 1794, June 9       | — <b>Major Robert Ross</b> , who came out in command of the marines and Lieutenant-Governor, died at Ipswich, England while recruiting.  |
| 1794, November 2   | — <b>Thomas Freeman</b> , came out as a captain's clerk in the Sirius, and afterwards held the position of Deputy Commissary, died in Sydney.  |
| 1795, September 3  | — <b>John Irvine</b> , who came out as junior surgeon, died in Sydney.   |
| 1796, March        | — <b>Henry Brewer</b> , the first provost-marshal of the colony died in Sydney.  |
| 1803, November 17- | — <b>William Balmain</b> , who arrived as the third assistant surgeon, died at King St Bloomsbury, England.  |
| 1804, March 21     | — <b>James Bloodsworth</b> , for many years superintendent of Buildings in the employ of the Government died in Sydney.  |
| 1804, December 19  | — <b>Thomas Smyth</b> , came out as one of the marines, and rose to the rank of sergeant, and was appointed provost marshal on April 8, 1796, died in Sydney.  |
| 1805, December 22  | — <b>Jeanette Dundas</b> , died in old Government House, Sydney, top of Bridge St. She was housekeeper to Governor King.   |
| 1808, September 3  | — <b>Phillip Gidley King</b> came out as lieutenant of the Sirius, and was third Governor of the colony, died at Tooting, England, aged 49 years.  |
| 1809, October 13   | — <b>Robert Sidaway</b> , died at his house in Sydney, aged 52 years. He was the first man to build a theatre in Sydney.   |
| 1810, March 24     | — <b>David Collins</b> , first Judge-Advocate of the colony, died at Hobart while holding the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Van Dieman's Land, aged 54 years.   |
| 1811, January      | — <b>Thomas Jamieson</b> , came out as surgeon's mate on the Sirius, died in London while waiting to give evidence at Colonel Johnston's trial.  |
| 1814, August 31    | — <b>Arthur Phillip</b> , the first Governor of the colony died at Bath, England, aged 75 years.   |
| 1815, January 9    | — <b>Augustus Theodore Henry Alt</b> , the first Surveyor-General of the colony, died and was buried at Parramatta.  |
| 1817, December 27  | — <b>Matthew James Everingham</b> , drowned in the Hawkesbury, at Wilberforce, aged 48 years.  |
| 1819               | — <b>Nathaniel Lucas</b> , who was in charge of the carpenters died at Liverpool while building St Luke's Church, and was buried in the graveyard there.   |

1821, March 13	— <b>John Hunter</b> , then an Admiral, died in London aged 83 years. He came out in command of the <i>Sirius</i> , and was second Governor of the Colony.
1821, May 2	— <b>Thomas Arndell</b> assistant surgeon, died at Cattai, on the <i>Hawkesbury</i> , and buried in St. Matthew's Windsor, aged 68 years.
1821, July 20	— <b>William Broughton</b> , died at his residence, Lachlan Park, Appin, and was buried in St. Luke's graveyard, Liverpool, aged 53 years. He was in the Commissariat Department for 33 years.
1822, May 16	— <b>James Squire</b> , died at Kissing Point, and was buried in the Devonshire St cemetery. He was the first to grow hops and brew beer in the colony.
1823, January 5	— <b>Colonel George Johnston</b> , who came out with the marines, and rose to the command of the New South Wales Corps. Died at his house in Annandale near Sydney, aged 58 years.
1823, May 2	— <b>Thomas Davey</b> , came out as a lieutenant of marines, and afterwards was appointed the second Lieutenant-Governor of Van Dieman's Land, died in England.
1824, February 3	— <b>Thomas Spencer</b> , came out as a marine, and afterwards became a settler in the <i>Hawkesbury</i> , died on his farm near Richmond, aged 61 years.
1826,-	— <b>William Field</b> , who was one of the first settlers on the <i>Hawkesbury</i> , died on his farm.
1826, November 6	— <b>Susannah Kable</b> , formerly Holmes, wife of Henry Kable, died at Windsor aged 62 years.
1827, March 13	— <b>Richard Johnson</b> , Australia's first preacher, died in London, aged 74 years.
1831, January 24	— <b>Mary</b> , the widow of <b>Richard Johnson</b> , died in London aged 78 years.
1833, September 27	— <b>John Palmer</b> , Commissary, came out as purser on the <i>Sirius</i> , died at Parramatta, aged 74 years.
1837, August 1	— <b>Henry Wright</b> , one of the marines, died in Sydney, aged 80 years.
1837, September 5	— <b>James Ruse</b> , the first settler in New South Wales to hold land, died at Campletown, aged 77 years.
1839-	— <b>William Bond</b> , who was the first baker, and was the inventor of the damper, died in Pitt St aged 110 years.
1846, March 16	— <b>Henry Kable</b> , at one time the principal gaoler, died at Windsor, on the <i>Hawkesbury</i> , aged 84 years.
1847, September 1	— <b>John Limeburner</b> , died at Ashfield, aged 104 years.
1851.	<b>James Small</b> , one of the first batch of settlers at Kissing Point, died there, aged 86 years.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT - AUGUST, 1983

We extend a warm welcome to the following 24 members and 16 associate (spouse) members (in brackets):  
First Fleet ancestors' names are shown in **heavy type**.

<b>Thomas Arndell:</b>	— Mr Richard Norton ARNDELL
<b>Andrew Fishburn:</b>	— Mrs Marjorie McPHERSON
<b>Robert Forrester:</b>	— Mr Frederick Charles BOWMAN (sp. Mrs Jean BOWMAN)
<b>Edward &amp; Susannah Garth:</b>	— Miss Audrey May GARTH; Mrs Marion SCOTT; Mr Robin James HECKENDORF
<b>Hugh Hughes &amp; William Tunks:</b>	— Miss Amy Petrie CHALMERS (Jnr)
<b>Henry Kable—Susannah Holmes:</b>	— Mr Wesley John PITT (sp. Mrs Miriam Merle PITT); Dylan Benjamin PETERS (Jnr); Mrs Margaret Elizabeth WHITLA-DAVISON
<b>Philip Gidley King:</b>	— Mrs Olga Elizabeth MAHOMED (sp. Mr Gool MAHOMED)
<b>Frederick Meredith:</b>	— Mrs Gladys May MEIKLE
<b>John Palmer:</b>	— Mrs Edith Dorothy MARSTON (sp. Mr James Edward MARSTON)
	MRS Yvonne Amy ROPER (sp. Mr Maxwell Walter ROPER)
<b>Joseph Trimby (Elliott):</b>	— Miss Amy Matilda MYERS
<b>Ellen Wainwright:</b>	— Mrs Kerrie Leonie HUDSON (Sp. Mr John William HUDSON)
	Mr Michael John HUDSON; Miss Jennifer May HUDSON (Jnr)
	Peter John HUDSON (Jnr); Mrs Anne Leonie CAMPBELL
	(sp. Mr Robert Bruce CAMPBELL); Anthony Robert CAMPBELL
	Miss Alison Anne CAMPBELL (Jnr)
<b>Joseph Wright:</b>	— Mr David Charles WRIGHT; Mr Peter Robert WRIGHT.

Also, the following spouses of earlier members:

- Mr Bryan THOMAS, husband of Mrs Zillah Kable THOMAS (No. 38)
- Mr William AGNEW, husband of Mrs Phyllis AGNEW (No. 483)
- Mrs Margaret A KABLE, wife of Mr Geoffrey Russel KABLE (No. 494)
- Mr Ian MOORE, husband of Mrs Sandra MOORE (No. 1562)
- Mrs Jean Isabel MORGAN, wife of Mr D'Arcy Ian Fitz MORGAN (No. 1908)
- Mrs Rita ELLEM, wife of Mr Mr Lewis LLEM (No. 2110)
- Mrs Gwenneth Joan ELLIOTT, wife of Mr Hilton Walter ELLIOTT (No. 2205)
- Mrs Diane Dorothy WEBSTER, wife of Mr Ronald Barry WEBSTER (No. 2208)
- Mr Alexander RIDDLER, husband of Mrs Laurel June RIDDLER (No. 2393)

Additional First Fleeters: Mrs Susan L BROADFOOT has two additional First Fleeters (WILLIAM DRING & ANN FORBES) to her three other F.F. ancestors (THOMAS ARNDELL, JAMES SHEERS & MARY SMITH).

## FOR MEMBERS WHO MAY WISH TO NOMINATE THEIR SPOUSES AND/OR CHILDREN AS MEMBERS

Recently, when paying their annual subscriptions, a number of members have included 1983/84 subscriptions for spouses and/or children who have not been formally admitted to membership of the Fellowship. This causes problems in the F.F.F. office.

Would members please note that if you wish to enrol your children you must submit application for membership forms (in duplicate) and a photocopy of a full birth certificate for each child (with date of birth shown on the form for those under 18 years of age). To enrol a spouse you should write to the Membership Committee giving full names of spouse (include maiden name for wives).

There is no entrance fee for spouses and children under 18 years; annual subscriptions in these categories of membership are \$3.00 and \$2.00 respectively.

## JOSEPH WRIGHT DESCENDANTS REUNION

The descendants of Joseph Wright, First Fleeter aboard the 'Scarborough' are to gather for a family reunion at Pitt Town on Sunday, 23rd October, 1983.

Pitt Town Research and Preservation Society are holding a 'Back to Pitt Town Day' on that day and have invited the descendants of Joseph Wright to participate in the activities.

The day will commence with an open-air Church service at 10am. This will be followed by the Official opening at 11am. The latter will include a re-enactment of the naming of Pitt Town by Governor Macquarie and a Colonial Costume Parade.

Lunch will be between noon and 2pm. There will be a large variety of stalls open during that period.

At 2pm the activities will move on to Brinsley Park where a large area will be reserved for the reunion. Please come along and make our first Joseph Wright family reunion a success. For further details phone (02) 85-7251.

## TUNKS DESCENDANTS ASSOCIATION

The annual gathering of this association will be held on Sunday 20 November next, at the Bath House, Parramatta Park (entrance Macquarie St.)

The Family Tree will be on display and a number of volumes of the Tunks Family Profile will be available.

A beautiful etching print is available of Norfolk House, Church Street, Parramatta, the home of John and Phoebe Tunks, at a cost of \$3.00 each (post \$3.50).

Enquiries to Peter Christian, 162 Beecroft Road, Cheltenham 2119. (868 3063 after 7 pm.)

## GOSPER FAMILY REUNION

**Contacts:** Mrs E. Eberly, Tel. (02) 528 5713.

Mrs E. Fraser, Tel. (049) 545863.

The reunion will be held on the weekend 15-16 October 1983. at Hawkesbury Racecourse, Clarendon. Please contact the above for further information.

## GRAVES COMMITTEE

Sunday, 13th November, 1983 is the day chosen for plaques to be dedicated on First Fleeters' graves at Campbelltown.

Two First Fleeter graves with tombstones have been found at Campbelltown, namely Henrietta Fletcher in the graveyard adjoining St. Peter's Church of England, Cordeaux Street, Campbelltown, and James Ruse in the graveyard of St. John's Catholic Church, Broughton Street, Campbelltown.

Henrietta Fletcher's plaque will be dedicated around 11.30 am after a pioneer service at St Peter's at 10.00 am. Those in attendance will then be invited to join us in a picnic luncheon at a nearby park.

In the afternoon at a time to be determined a plaque on James Ruse's tombstone will be dedicated. Further details will be given in the next edition of this Newsletter.

We have been informed by the Campbelltown Historical Society that William Bradbury and Thomas Osborne buried at St. Peter's were not First Fleeters.

Please help us make this day a success by being in attendance at either or both dedication services. Members and Friends are all welcome.

Our thanks are extended to M/s Vernon, Secretary at St. Peter's, M/s Verlie Fowler and Mr. Jim Munro of the Campbelltown Historical Society and our own team of researchers at the F.F.F. office on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the time spent in obtaining and supplying information for this project.

Douglas Oakes, Convenor

## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1983/84

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions for 1983/84 were due and payable on 1st July, 1983.

According to Rule 8 of the F.F.F. Constitution, members whose subscriptions are not paid before the end of September will be placed on the retired list and will not receive future Newsletters.

Please pay promptly.

Len Chalmers, Treasurer.

## THIRD GENERATION DESCENDANT

In response to the request in the last Newsletter for any third generation descendants to make themselves known to the Membership Committee, an interesting letter was received from Mr. James H. Gowen, of 13 Heshbon Street, Gateshead NSW 2290, whose membership number is 2040.

Mr. Gowen writes:

"My great-grandfather, Corporal John Gowen, came aboard the HMS 'Sirius' as a corporal in the Marines. He married Audrey Applyard in 1805, had four daughters and one son, whose name was also John Gowen, born 1810, died 1885.

"John Gowen Jnr. was 34 when he married Mary Ann Smith in 1844; she was 20 years old, born 1824. They had 10 children, of which my father, Henry Jeremiah Gowen, was the youngest, being born 1867, died 1953.

"Henry Jeremiah Gowen married Mary Ann McRae and also had 10 children. I, James Henry Gowen, was born 1909, and, of course, am still with you!

"Cpl. John Gowen, First Fleet  
John Gowen, Junior  
Henry Jeremiah Gowen  
James Henry Gowen

1788  
born 1810  
born 1867  
born 1909"

We thank Mr. Gowen for this very interesting letter, and look forward to hearing from other third generation descendants.

**AND FIRST GOVERNOR, CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP  
at the Monument of Captain Phillip,  
Royal Botanic Gardens, Macquarie Street, Sydney,  
12th October, 1983.**

11.30am	<b>ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND — GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. WELCOME</b> by Mrs Maurine Goldston-Morris, President of the Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia,
11.33	Symbolic planting of the Union Jack by Commander June Baker, WR
11.34	Prayer of Thanksgiving by the Most Reverend D.W. Robinson, Archbishop of Sydney,
11.38	Reading by the President of the Poem: "Now My Beloved Country" by Mrs. Dorothy Crawford Cubis.
11.43	President presents <b>Floral Tribute</b> from Women's Pioneer Society followed by: Rear-Admiral K. Vonthethoff R.A.N., Dr Gottfried Pagenstert, Consul General for the Federal Republic of Germany. Dr Hazel King, President of the Royal Australian Historical Society, President of the Mens' Pioneer Club, Miss Agnes Acres, President of the 1788 - 1820 Society, Mr Roderick Best, President of the First Fleeters, Mr Nick Vine-Hall, Director of the Australian Genealogical Society. Brigadier J. Howard, Director of the Australian Military Museum.
11.53	Symbolic Planting of the Australian Flag representing Federation by Commander June Baker,
11.54	Royal Navy Band.
11.59	President introduces Mr Carl Harbaum, M.B.E., Chairman of the Centenary Committee,
12 noon	Arrival of the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. Neville K. Wran Q.C., M.P.,
<b>WELCOME</b>	Mr Carl Harbaum, Chairman Centenary Committee,
<b>PRAYER</b>	The Most Reverend D.W.B. Robinson, Archbishop of Sydney,
<b>Capt. Phillip's</b>	Speech by Professor Dr J. Voigt — University of Stuttgart.
<b>German Background</b>	Germany
<b>Capt. Phillip's</b>	Speech by Rear Admiral K. Vonthethoff, R.A.N. Flag
<b>Australian</b>	Officer Naval Support Command,
<b>Achievements</b>	Speech by Mrs Maurine Goldston-Morris, President Women's Pioneer Society of Australasia, <b>THE PREMIER SPEAKS,</b> The Premier of New South Wales,
Planting of Memorial Tree	The Premier of New South Wales,
Unveiling of	
Memorial Plaque	
<b>AUSTRALIAN AND</b>	
<b>GERMAN NATIONAL</b>	
<b>ANTHEMS</b>	<b>ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY BAND</b>

## LEGAL SKELETONS IN THE CUPBOARD!

What is the difference between a convict and a prisoner? What has the Habeas Corpus (Lat. 'have the body') Act of 1679 to do with the transportation of convicts to North America and Australia? If Justice Sir William Blackstone stated, "No subject, except soldiers and sailors, shall be sent against their will to places beyond the seas" then how was it that Australia was first settled by prisoners from English gaols? Haven't you wondered, from time to time, how the practice of assigning convicts in Australia to labour for selected colonists, smacked of slavery? When we use the word 'indenture' we usually associate it with apprentices, but every convict who came to Australia was indentured! The legal status of convicts was quietly discussed during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and makes an absorbing study for those with a legal turn of mind. The Fellowship is indebted to Mr B. Rice of Bayswater Vic. for his interesting article GHOSTS FROM THE PAST on this subject. Unfortunately, it is much too long to print in this Newsletter.

However, if you would like answers to the above questions you should consult A.G.L. Shaw's excellent work **CONVICTS & THE COLONIES**, which is available at most local libraries, and the Historical Records of Australia and the Historical Records of N.S.W. available at State Libraries.

## REPORT FROM LECTURE NIGHT CONVENOR

At the August Lecture Evening an interesting talk was given by the Rev. E.G. Clancy, Librarian of the Uniting Church Records Assn.

The archives of the Uniting Church were established in 1977 when that church came into being, this being the result of the amalgamation of the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches. However, Presbyterian records are held by the continuing Presbyterian Church and are housed in the Ferguson Library in the Assembly Building, Margaret Street, Sydney.

As there was no Methodist Church in Australia prior to 1800, records do not go back beyond the first decade of the nineteenth century. Congregational records came into being at a much later date, as each of the churches became recognised.

The oldest church in Australia, at Ebenezer on the Hawkesbury River, was built in 1809, but there was no permanent minister there until 1820.

The Uniting Church Archives and Research Centre is located on the 4th floor, 123 Clarence Street, Sydney. Registers of marriages and baptisms, various records of local church and activities of committees, individual church histories and minutes of various conferences and synods, are all housed in the centre. There are 3500 registers of marriages and baptisms for the Methodist Church alone, and lesser numbers for the others.

There is a library of 4000-4500 volumes pertaining to the three churches in addition to the journals of the Methodist Church from 1930 to 1977.

The public is welcome to inspect and research the archives and a fee of \$5.00 per day is charged. The centre is open three days per week for research — Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 9am until 4 pm.

The fellowship is indeed grateful to Mr. Clancy for a most informative talk.

**P.G. Christian  
Convenor**

## FREDERICK MEREDITH DESCENDANTS

The following letter has been received from Mr. Ken Meredith of 16a Dudley Street, Asquith NSW 2078.

"I have spent many hours at the archives and the NSW Library with the result that I have copies of a fair number of documents from those places, all in respect of Frederick Meredith.

"I have copied all the entries in the NSW Gazette and the Australian, and I would like to share those entries with members who may be from the country or interstate and who haven't the opportunity to transcribe the entries themselves.

"I have now read the entries onto a normal C90 cassette tape, slowly, so that anybody interested can copy the entries for their own records.

"The tape should make it easier to post than using pages and pages of typing.

"I'd like it known through the Newsletter that the tape is available; all it needs is an address with a couple of postage stamps and I'll then post it off to anyone who is interested."

Interested members — please contact Mr. Ken Meredith direct.

## OCTOBER LECTURE EVENING

Associate Professor K. Cable will speak on "Religion in the Early Colony".

Professor Cable is an historian of note, a former President of the RAHS and a councillor of the Society of Australian Genealogists. He is an extremely entertaining speaker and we look forward to his visit on 19th October.

**November:** Members' Historical Pot-pourri Night, Wednesday 16 November.

## REMINDER

**LECTURE NIGHTS** - third Wednesday in each month at 7.30pm 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 7.45pm.

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

<b>WINDCHEATERS</b> — navy, white and gold (please give second choice) .....	\$15.00
<b>T. SHIRTS</b> navy, white (please give second choice) .....	\$6.50 each
(Windcheaters & T-shirts: packaged & posted \$2 extra)	
<b>Tea Towels</b> — linen 4 designs - Waltzing Matilda, Historical NSW, Early Sydney	
(4 colours), Old & New Sydney. ....	\$2.50 each
<b>TIES</b> .....	\$10.00 each
<b>NOTELETS</b> with matching envelopes, packet of 10 - Postage 50¢ extra .....	\$2.00 each
<b>SOUVENIR TEASPOONS</b> Sugar Spoons, Fluted Spoons, and Cake Forks,	
Tea Caddy Spoons, Key Rings .....	\$2.50 each
<b>PAPER KNIVES</b> .....	\$2.85 each
<b>CAR STICKERS</b> .....	\$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¢.

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

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

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

## NAME BARS

Name bars are available from the F.F.F. Office.

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.

## OBITUARY

The sad news of the death of Philip Geeves, on 16th August, 1983, was received too late for publication in the last Newsletter.

Mr Geeves was well-known to all as an historian, and will be much missed by the Fellowship. Sympathy is extended to his family.