



FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS NEWSLETTER

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THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

After the rain with which Sydney has been deluged it was pleasing to have sunny, fine weather for the unveiling of two further plaques on the graves of First Fleeters Peter Hibbs and William Douglas, adjacent to the Hawkesbury and MacDonalld Rivers respectively. An excellent day was had by all and it was very pleasing to see so many descendants of Peter Hibbs in attendance.

On Monday, 20th May the President of the Fellowship attended and spoke at the First Annual General Meeting of the Victorian Divisional Council of the Fellowship, Melbourne. A pleasant evening was had and details of the office-bearers elected at the meeting will appear in the next newsletter.

It was with regret that the Executive decided at its April meeting to accept the tendered resignation of Mr Keith Lehane from the Committee. The Committee is mindful of the tremendous exertions of Mr Lehane on behalf of the Fellowship and wishes him every success in his new endeavours.

As members are aware the Fellowship some time past abandoned its mooted project for the Bi-Centenary of a tapestry — mainly on the grounds that the cost was prohibitive. Before so acting the Fellowship had attempted to find a sponsor or joint participant in the scheme but failed to do so. Recently we have been approached by a party interested in proceeding with the tapestry project. It was however a stipulation of this organisation that it desired to be a benefactor of the State Library of NSW in its own name and not in conjunction with the Fellowship. It was therefore agreed that the Fellowship would sell the tapestry design which it had earlier commissioned at a price being the amount paid by the Fellowship for such design.

The proceeds were then deposited with the balance of funds held by the Fellowship for the Bi-Centenary. It is anticipated that the Fellowship will shortly be able to announce details of a number of different projects concerning the Bi-Centenary.

Due to increasing costs it has been deemed necessary to increase subscriptions. Realising the considerable number of family groups within the Fellowship, the Committee has tried to limit family costs by not increasing fees for spouse and junior members. This is of course the first increase in fees for some years. The new fees for the financial year commencing 1st July, 1985 shall be:

Joining	\$15.00
Adult member	\$12.00
Adult member (pensioner) ..	\$ 6.00
Adult Spouse member ..	unchanged
Junior member	unchanged

Roderick Best

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

Patron:	His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Air Marshal Sir James Rowland, K.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C.
President:	Roderick Best
Vice-Presidents:	Douglas Oakes, Peter Christian
Secretary:	Anne Campbell
Treasurer:	To be appointed
Executive Committee:	Alice Clarke, Joyce Cowell, Anne Davison, Naida Jackson, Ian Johnston, Doune MacNaught, Hugh Morgan, Geoffrey Squires, Zillah Kable Thomas.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Archivist:	Joyce Cowell
Assistant Archivist:	Hazel Liebau, Jean Cowell
Asst. Treasurer:	Joyce Rixon
Newsletter Editor:	Anne Davison
Lecture Convenor:	Peter Christian
Minute Secretary:	Geoff Squires
Office Co-ordinator:	Douglas Oakes
Membership Committee:	Naida Jackson (Convenor), Len Chalmers, Mary Hope-Caten, Betty King, Marjory McPherson
Graves Committee:	Douglas Oakes (Convenor), Peter Christian, Anne Davison, Geoff Squires (Tasmanian graves)
Social Committee:	Alice Clarke (Convenor), Zillah Kable Thomas, Anne Campbell
Steering Committee:	Hugh Morgan (Convenor), Zillah Kable Thomas, Ian Johnston.
Souvenirs and Badges:	Alice Clarke
Honorary Solicitors:	Conway Maccallum & Co.

FAMILY NOTICES

The John & Mary Small Descendants' Association is holding its 15th Annual Family Reunion on 13th October, 1985 at "Willandra", Ryde at 11 am with a Thanksgiving Service as usual at St Anne's Church at 2.30 pm, with a gathering afterwards in the Memorial Hall. The Library of Australian History will be launching Mollie Gillens' book "In Search of John Small, First Fleeter" at the Reunion.

All family members and friends are invited to attend. Enquiries: Mrs B. J. M. Hooke (02) 44 6675.



The Meredith Family Group will be holding a Picnic at Parramatta Park on Sunday, 2nd June, 1985 from 11 am until 3 pm.

The actual venue of the picnic will be in the area between the weir and the coffee house/toilet block on the eastern side of the Park.

Anyone who is descended from Frederick Meredith (Steward, "Scarborough") is invited to attend.

For further information please contact Bill Riedy on (047) 51 3986 or Ray Meredith on (02) 70 1137.



The second Reunion of the descendants of Thomas and Jane Rose was held on 31st March at Australiana Pioneer Village, Wilberforce, where "Rose Cottage" is the central attraction. More than 1000 people attended and the function was a great success.



On Sunday, 12th August, 1984 about 450 descendants of Williams Roberts and Kezia Brown held their Family Muster at Windsor, NSW. For information about this family association telephone Mrs Shirley Harper on (02) 344 8437.

A member of the Fellowship and an Arndell descendant, Mrs. Marge Raven, has done extensive research and collation of the Arndell Family. As records after 1900 are not available for public perusal she has requested that a descendant of Thomas Arndell who would like their lineage included in the final projected family tree please forward accurate details of names, dates of birth, marriage or death, as the case may be, of ancestors, descendants and spouses and the source of the information (if possible) to her, at:

7 Griffirin Avenue
BEXLEY 2207 Australia

The Bloodworth Association bids all members attend the Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday 29 June at 2 pm at 43 Garling St., Lane Cove 2066. Latest bulletin and future plans require your attendance. Contacts: D. McCrory, 634 3623, A. Clarke 428 4530.

REPORT FROM CONVENOR OF LECTURE EVENINGS

Speakers so far for this year have been Miss Thea Rowe MBE, Mr Len Reid and Mr Doug Oakes.

In February, Thea entertained members with her lecture on "Early Theatre in Australia". This history of theatre was traced from the first programme on Australian soil — "The Recruiting Officer", performed on the 4th June, 1789, the occasion being the birthday of King George III, through to the colony's first theatrical entrepreneur, Barnett Levey. We were treated to so many interesting anecdotes — the site of the first Theatre Royal, where Dymocks Building stands in George St — the playhouse constructed on the corner of Jamison and George Sts — the "Country" Theatre built at Emu Plains under the patronage of Sir James Jamison.

It was indeed an interesting journey, not only into early theatre, but we were shown a glimpse into the early history of the colony. The hope was expressed later in the evening that Thea would ensure that her papers would be kept so that future generations could be made aware of this cultural facet of our heritage.

March saw a welcome return of our member, Len Reid, to show slides and recount more history of the Holtermann Collection. The segment dealing with Bathurst was fascinating and we are much indebted to Len for an enjoyable and interesting evening.

In April, Vice-President Doug Oakes, Convenor of the Graves Committee, recounted the history of the Fellowship's endeavours in the tracing of the last resting places of First Fleeters and the attaching of plaques to the headstones, identifying the fact of arrival in the First Fleet. This is a mammoth task and entails much work. The project, commenced during the presidency of Mrs Beryl Lewis, has continued and will continue whilst there is the likelihood of finding and identifying without the shadow of doubt, the grave of a First Fleeter. It is hoped that a plaque will be affixed to Gov. Phillip's grave in the United Kingdom later this year.

P. G. Christian

HIBBS/DOUGLAS PHOTOS

Prints are available of the Fellowship plaque unveiling of the graves of Peter Hibbs and William Douglas. A particularly beautiful photo is available of the Laughtondale Cemetery during the ceremony at the grave of Peter Hibbs. A mini-poster print is on view at the Fellowship rooms. For details ring Peter Christian 868 3063 (after 7 pm).

GRAVES REPORT

Up to 60 people joined us at St Albans on Sunday, 5 May, 1985 for our 38th and 39th Grave Dedication Services.

In the morning we visited the grave of Peter Hibbs at Laughtondale, to dedicate a plaque placed on this First Fleeter's tombstone.

Roderick Best, the Fellowship's President, introduced himself and started proceedings. He was followed by Mrs June Canavan, who gave a speech on the life of Peter Hibbs. Mrs Canavan is an Associate Member whose husband and children are descendants of Peter Hibbs. Mrs Joan McGrath, another descendant, who had come all the way from Kawara Waters, Qld with her family to join us on this day, raised the Queen Anne flag which had been placed over the tombstone.

We then drove to St Albans for lunch, and were joined by members of the newly-formed Hawkesbury River Historical Society. In the afternoon we visited the grave of William Douglas, another First Fleeter, to dedicate a plaque placed on his tombstone. After the President had started proceedings, Mrs Val Douglass read a speech on the life of William Douglas. Mrs Douglass is

an Associate Member whose family are descendants of William.

Vice-President Douglas Oakes, the Fellowship's Grave Convenor, raised the Queen Anne flag placed over the tombstone.

We then journeyed home, grateful that the wet weather that had persisted every day for the previous 12 days, gave us respite, although the condition of the road from Wiseman's Ferry to St Albans left much to be desired.

AFTERNOON MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 3rd JULY AT 2 pm

IN THE FELLOWSHIP'S OFFICE

Many members, for various reasons, cannot attend the evening lecture nights. To give these members an opportunity to participate in the Fellowship's activities, we are introducing a new venture. An afternoon meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of every second month, just after you receive your Newsletter. Come along and hear a report from the Executive, take part in a workshop using the microfiche, books and records, or hear a speaker, and then have a chat over a cup of tea.

Come to the first one and give us your support and ideas on this new venture.

Dr Thomsett, formerly of Christmas Island, now living at 6 Robb Street, OAKEY, Qld, 4401 would like members living in the Darling Downs area and Toowoomba area to contact him.

Nice thank you to the Thursday ladies for all the good work they do. They deal with a multitude of different tasks each week. No job is too big or too small.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 1985 Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship is to be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 18th September, 1985. Members desiring to stand for election or submit special matters for consideration should note the following:

1. Each candidate for election shall give written notice to the secretary of his or her intention to stand for election. Such notice is to be signed by the candidate and by the two members nominating and seconding such candidature. The notice is to be accompanied by a statement of no more than 75 words containing such details as are considered relevant for promulgation to members. The notice of nomination and statement are to be received by 1st August, 1985 (Rule 32).
2. Any member desiring to submit any special matter for the consideration of the Annual General meeting shall also give written notice thereof to the Secretary no later than 1st August, 1985 (Rule 35).
3. Any motion for amending the Constitution of the Fellowship must be received by the Secretary no later than 1st August, 1985. It must clearly and specifically state the words to be deleted and/or the proposed words to be added (Rules 35, 42).

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

- June 19 A Fellowship member will speak on "Paddington — Early Days"
- July 17 Members' Evening
- August 21 to be advised
- September 18 Annual General Meeting — venue to be advised.
- October 16 Speaker from Railway Historical Society.
- November 20 Rev. Seton Arndell
- Lecture evenings are held in the Fellowship Rooms, Third Floor, Assembly Building, Jamison entrance. New members and visitors always welcome.

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1985-1986

At its April meeting the Executive Committee voted unanimously that:

1. the "Joining Fee" be increased from \$10.00 to \$15.00
2. the "Annual Subscription" for adult full members be increased from \$10.00 to \$12.50
3. the "Annual Subscription" for adult members holding a pensioner card be increased from \$5.00 to \$6.00
4. the "Annual Subscription" for Junior Members (under 18 years) be retained at \$2.00.
5. the "Annual Subscription" for Spouse Associates be retained at \$3.00.
6. the "Annual Subscription" for Associate Relatives be retained at \$10.00 for adults and \$2.00 for juniors.

These rates will apply from 1st July, 1985 for the financial year ending 30th June, 1986; they appear on the coloured "Subscription Form" enclosed with this Newsletter. Please fill in the form according to the instructions thereon and return it with your remittance (or bring it with you if paying at the F.F.F. office).

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE AND PAYABLE ON 1st JULY, 1985.

Unless 1985/86 subscriptions are paid by the end of August 1985 members will not be eligible to vote (by post or at the Annual General Meeting in September), nor will they continue to receive the Newsletter.

About 150 of the members who were financial in 1983/84 have not yet paid their 1984/85 subscriptions (for themselves, spouses and children). To remain financial they must pay the 1984/85 subscriptions before or with their 1985/86 subscriptions.

Members who might wish to have their spouses or children become new members are required to apply formally by filling in "Application for membership" forms (in duplicate) plus a photocopy of a full birth certificate for children, or sending a written request plus a photocopy of the marriage certificate for a spouse. Please do NOT just include their names on the "subscription form" when renewing your own subscription for 1985/86.

"MEMORIAL TO A MARINE" — Tunks Family Story

The Tunks Descendants Association advises that Mrs Joyce Cowell has kindly allowed them to publish a second impression of her very popular book "Memorial to a Marine" for the benefit of the Tunks Descendants Association. Copies of the reprint are available at \$5.00 (plus \$1.00 for postage) from the office of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and from the following committee members of the Association: Joyce Cowell 57-3059; Len Chalmers 419-8136; Peter Christian 868-3063; Cynthia Curry 871-8666; Naida Jackson 982-8014; Elizabeth King 55-1908; Hazel Liebau 428-3979.

GRAVE OF JAMES BRADLEY

Member Ken Stephens, of Epping, is a descendant of First Fleeter James Bradley. Ken has written telling us about his efforts to relocate James Bradley's grave to its original position in the graveyard of St Anne's Anglican Church, Ryde, and to have a plaque attached to the headstone.

Although the Heritage Council has no objection to the proposal put forward by Mr Stephens, the Rector of St Anne's and the Parish Council have refused to agree to the plan, on the grounds that they have not yet finalised their plans for beautification of the churchyard.

The Fellowship has been asked by Mr Stephens to lend support to his efforts to restore this First Fleeter's grave.



JAMES UNDERWOOD

A James Underwood arrived in this Country aboard the "Charlotte" in the First Fleet in 1788. He had been convicted at the Assizes at New Sarum, Wiltshire on 11th March, 1786 of the theft of sheep to the value of 43 shillings, being the property of William Halcombe. He was sentenced to transportation for 14 years. There is no indication of either his age or his occupation.

Another James Underwood arrived in this Colony aboard the "Admiral Barrington" in the Third Fleet in 1791. He had been convicted at Kingston Surrey on 29th March, 1790 for a term of seven years (refer Fidlon and Ryan: note A.D.B. says Maidstone Kent). Neither his name nor his occupation are known.

On 20th January, 1793 a James Underwood married Mary Kendall at St Johns, Parramatta. The witnesses were Richard Arnold and Luke Jones. James Underwood signed his name with a cross. Mary Kendall arrived on the "Royal Admiral".

It is not clear which James Underwood married Mary Kendall. Four days later at St Phillips in Sydney, Edward Powell married Elizabeth Fish.

What is clear is that a James Underwood (who we shall call "James Continuing") entered into partnership with First Fleeter Henry Kable in about 1800. That James Underwood became a leading identity of the commercial world of the Colony. In 1803, 1805 and 1807 he fathered children of Phyllis Pound, and possibly in 1811 a daughter by Letitia Reynolds. In 1807 his mother Mary and brothers Joseph and William arrived aboard the "Sydney Cove" as free settlers. Six months after the birth of his daughter by Letitia Reynolds (assuming that is his child) on 2nd June, 1812 he married Mary Anne Powell then aged 16 years. He was 37 years old. It had been her parents who had married in Sydney on 24th January, 1793. He had six children by Mary Anne Powell before she died on 9th February, 1825. Nine months later on 26th November, 1825 he remarried Elizabeth Shurwell and to them one son was born in 1837 when he was 62 years old. (Refer 1788-1820 Pioneer Register). In 1842 he left Australia for the last time and retired to "Paddington House" Tulse Hill Brixton Surrey where he died on 10th February, 1844 aged 67 years.

His Will, which is signed in a clear flourishing hand acknowledges his children by Phyllis Pound, Mary Anne Powell and Elizabeth Shurwell.

Mary BALLARD); Mr Raymond Keith SPINKS; Mrs Betty Mary PETRICH; Mr Leslie Allen FINDLAY; Miss Janille Matheson ANDERSON; David Robert HUNTER (Jnr)

Charles Peat — Hannah Mullens: Mrs Pamela Beryl KING; Bruce Antony KING (Jnr); Miss Michaelle Anne KING (Jnr)

Anthony Rope — Elizabeth Pulley: Mrs Esmay Beryl Elizabeth CLAYTON

James Ruse: Mrs Jane Mary EDWARDS; Miss Linda Marie EDWARDS (Jnr); Michael James EDWARDS (Jnr)

John Ryan: Mr Michael Charles GRIFFITHS; Mr Gregory Mark GRIFFITHS

John Small — Mary Parker: Miss Joanna Leah BUTCHART (Jnr); Miss Lauren Nicola BUTCHART (Jnr)

Ellen Wainwright: Mrs Alexa Annie DOOLAN; Mr Peter James BILSTON

William Whiting: Mrs Jean Marie LOVEJOY; Mrs Dorothy May BROWN

James Wright: Mrs Janice Caroline POTTER

Spouse associates of earlier members: Mr Bruce Martin CUNNINGHAM husband of Mrs Norma Jean CUNNINGHAM, Mrs Deborah OSLAND, wife of Mr Brian David OSLAND, Mr Leonard Charles KING, husband of Mrs Pamela Beryl KING.

New First Fleet ancestor: John Griffiths, marine, "Friendship"

Additional First Fleet ancestors: Mr Keith Gordon GREENTREE has added Owen Cavanaugh, Margaret Darnell, William Dring, Ann Forbes and Thomas Arndell to his previously recorded ancestor **Matthew Everingham**. **Membership renewals:** Mrs Myrtle Annette McDONALD, Miss Juanita BARRY, and Mrs Frances HAMMETT, have been re-admitted as members with **Nathaniel Lucas — Olivier Gascoigne** as their First Fleet ancestors.

NAME ERROR: Previously recorded as Miss Kerrily Jean CUNNINGHAM, should have been **Miss Kerrily JANE CUNNINGHAM**.

OBITUARY

Mrs Audrey Sturges (member no. 2365) of Doncaster, Vic. died suddenly in December 1984; our sincere sympathy is extended to the family.

The amount of \$2,000 has been received from Mr R. F. Doust, State Librarian, of the State Library of New South Wales, in refund of the amount the Fellowship spent on the preliminary designs for the Bicentenary Tapestry.

Congratulations to Ken and Yvonne Anderson (Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne + James Squire) on the birth of a son, Derek Robert, Best wishes to all.



SPEECH MADE BY MRS JUNE CANAVAN ON SUNDAY, 5/5/85 AT PETER HIBBS GRAVE

Peter Hibbs was born in England around 1756, and according to word of mouth passed down from generation to generation first visited Australia in 1770 as a member of Captain Cook's expedition. He returned to Botany Bay as a seaman on board the "Sirius" with the First Fleet in 1788. In June, 1789 he was selected as one of the picked crew which the Governor took upon the exploring expedition, which resulted in the discovery of the Hawkesbury.

Upon the voyage up the river, Hibbs took a great fancy to a piece of land where they camped, and, upon venturing to approach Governor Phillip, His Excellency told him he could have it for a pig run.

The written records may have been unkind to Peter Hibbs. His name is not mentioned in Captain Cook's papers and it is also apparent that he did not immediately settle on the Hawkesbury. After being stranded in 1790 at Norfolk Island, after the wreck of the "Sirius" he married Mary Pardoe, a convict girl who had arrived in Sydney on 3/6/1790 from England in the "Lady Juliana", and who had been sent to Norfolk Island; she already had a daughter, Ann, born aboard the "Lady Juliana", whose father was a seaman on the ship . . . Edward Scott.

There is no marriage certificate of Peter and Mary listed in the Mutch Index but the children were always baptised and given on their certificate as children of Peter and Mary Hibbs on the Church of England Format for children of married couples. In November, 1791, the Rev Johnson visited the island for three weeks to perform marriages and baptisms, and this is the most likely time when the marriage took place.

He took up land on the south side of Cascade Run. On his return to Sydney he went on a voyage with Matthew Flinders to prove that Van Dieman's Land was an island and Point Hibbs is named after him.

He was granted land at Mulgrave Place in 1803 and by 1806 he had 17 acres under crop. In 1808 he received a land grant at the mouth of the creek opposite Spencer and there he and Mary lived for some years in a huge cave there near the water's edge at the mouth of Pumpkin Creek.

They had several children including George, Peter, William, Sarah, Richard and Joseph.

Peter Hibbs farmed with his sons until his death at Portland Head on 12th September, 1847 aged 91 years.

Through my husband, James Canavan, we have here today our 3 grandchildren Kate, Emma and Andrew, who are 7th generation Australian born descendants of Peter and Mary.



Is this James Underwood the same person who married Mary Kendall?

Did this James Underwood arrive on the First or Third Fleet?

The 1806 Muster does not mention any Underwoods.

The 1811 Census records only two: Charlotte, the wife of brother Joseph who arrived on the "Sydney Cove" in 1807 and the Third Fleeter James. There is no mention of a Mary Kendall or Mary Underwood. A James at this time was of course fathering children by Letitia Reynolds.

The 1814 Muster, by which time James Continuing had married Mary Ann Powell, discloses Joseph and his wife Charlotte and James and his wife Mary. All but Mary are said to have arrived on the "Sydney Cove". However no James Underwood so arrived.

The 1822 Census shows James Underwood the 12-year-old son of brother Joseph and James Continuing — but of James Continuing no age is given and it is said that he arrived on the "Sydney Cove". Of the children of James, Charlotte (born 14th September, 1803) is not listed as she had married on 23rd August, 1820 Robert Owen Surgeon of Port Dalrymple, Tasmania and neither are Sarah the daughter by Letitia Reynolds nor his son Richard who was 3 years old, for some unexplained reason. The entire family of Joseph is also shown except for his two eldest sons, Richard and Thomas, born in England and then aged 21 and 19 years respectively.

The 1825 Muster again shows James Continuing as the only adult James Underwood. Against James Continuing is said to have arrived aboard the "Sydney Cove" in 1807. Of his children, again Charlotte and Sarah Reynolds are not shown. However, Lucy who died on 25th October, 1823 aged 21 months is listed.

The 1828 Census again lists James Continuing as the only adult James Underwood. Again it says he arrived on the "Sydney Cove" but this time in 1808 and states that he came free. All of his surviving children are shown — including his eldest, married daughter Charlotte, who is again listed as an Underwood. Of the children of brother Joseph, all are listed including his two eldest sons and his daughter Mary Ann aged 20 years. Mary Ann Underwood had died on 15th August, 1813 and was buried from St Phillips, Sydney.

To confuse the story further, the other brother of James Continuing was William who had two children. By the time his son was married he had died, and the witness to the son's marriage was his sister, Catherine Lucy. However, as at that date she was only 9 years old. The widow of brother William, Mary had remarried on 7th November, 1829 to Mr Thomas Brunton the late Ballet Master of the Surrey Theatre.

Surrey is a common feature both to the place of conviction of Third Fleeter James Underwood and the place of death of James Continuing.

James Continuing could sign his name, James Underwood who married Mary Kendall could not.

The married couple James Underwood and Mary Kendall disappeared after 1803. Only James Continuing received land grants and has children in the Colony — assuming that he fathered the child of Letitia Reynolds.

Laurence Halloran in an unpublished article suggests that the parents of James Continuing were Joseph Underwood innholder of Dovercourt Essex and Mary Markham who were married on 9th October, 1777 at Falkesham East Suffolk. However, if James Continuing was 67 years old when he died, this would mean that he was born out of wedlock. No evidence in support of the proposition is advanced by Mr Halloran.

The questions therefore are:

1. Is James Continuing the James Underwood who arrived on the First Fleet?
2. Did James Continuing marry Mary Kendall?

3. What became of Mary Kendall and, if her husband was not James Continuing, of her husband James Underwood?

Do any members have any answers?



MEMBERSHIP REPORT — APRIL/MAY, 1985

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members, spouses and juniors.

(First Fleet ancestor's names are shown in heavy type)

Thomas Arndell — Elizabeth Dalton: Miss Judith Isabel Molly SIDDINS

Thomas Arndell + Ann Forbes: Mr William Lawrence LAWLER; William Huxley LAWLER (Jnr)

Thomas Arndell + William Dring — Ann Forbes + James Shiers — Mary Smith: Mrs Jennifer Christine HIGGINS, (sp Mr Derek David HIGGINS); Benjamin David HIGGINS (Jnr); Miss Lisa Michelle HIGGINS (Jnr); Samuel Alexander HIGGINS (Jnr)

Daniel Barnett: Mrs Elva Mary SHORT

John Barrisford — Hannah Barrisford: Mrs Nancy Irene Oakley HORNE.

James Bloodworth — Sarah Bellamy + James Lee: Robert William OWEN (Jnr)

William Broughton: Miss Ruth Marjorie WHITE

Owen Cavanough — Margaret Darnell + Matthew Everingham: Mrs Thelma Beatrice SMITH; Mrs Wendy Joan CORCORAN

Philip Devine: Mr Reginald Albert DEVINE; Brendan Paul DEVINE (Jnr); Miss Alison Caroline DEVINE (Jnr)

William Eggleton — Mary Dickenson: Mr John Edmund James FRAZER

Matthew Everingham: Mrs Elaine Anne ARTHUR

Andrew Fishburn: Mrs Edith Muriel McDONALD

Ann Forbes: Mr Earle Vincent Lyle CAMERON; Mrs Hilda Dorothy TAYLOR

Edward Garth — Susannah Garth + Jacob Bellett: Mr Arthur Harry HUNT

Andrew Goodwin: Mrs Hazel Letitia Olwen BIGNELL

Edward Goodin: Mr David Nigel HICKS

John Herbert (Scarb): Mrs Barbara Phyllis TORRENTS, (sp Mr Leslie Ronald TORRENTS)

John Herbert — Deborah Ellam: Mr Terence William CHAPMAN

Hugh Hughes: Mr Roger James BRENNAN

Thomas Jamison + John Griffiths: Mrs Jennifer Ethnie WEIR

Henry Kable — Susannah Holmes: Luke Charlton MACLEAN (Jnr); Kirk Lachlan MACLEAN (Jnr)

Thomas Kidney: Mrs Betty Joy MARTIN, (sp Mr Noel Kevin MARTIN)

Philip Gidley King — Ann Innett: Mrs Hazel Velloa BROWN

Caroline Laycock: Mrs Berenice Lorna SMART

John Nichols: Mr Edwin Hartley BALLARD, (sp Mrs Kerry Anne BALLARD); Brett Ian BALLARD (Jnr); Glenn Michael BALLARD (Jnr); Harrison Bruce BALLARD (Jnr); Mr Bruce William BALLARD, (sp Mrs Elizabeth

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE
FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
VICTORIAN DIVISIONAL COUNCIL HELD IN
MELBOURNE ON 20th MAY, 1985**

The President and Members of the Executive of the Victorian Divisional Council of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure to be here with you this evening and to have enjoyed the delights of the railway system on the way here.

The other day for the first time in some 11 years of train travel, I left my wallet containing my weekly ticket at home. Needless to say, I encountered for the first time in as many years, a ticket inspector. After explaining my dilemma he asked for identification. Ho ho, I thought, he's trying to trick me — for all my identification is in my wallet. But no, he just wanted me to establish my identification pure and simple. This is somewhat like the story of the young man who went to report the loss of his driver's licence and was asked to produce identification. He said he didn't have any, for the same reason as myself in that he had likewise lost his wallet, but the young lady behind the counter said "well if you don't have any you can't get a replacement licence". Thinking quickly, indeed more quickly than myself, he turned to his young son and said "Son who am I?" and the little boy said "dad". Where upon the girl wrote down "identified by relative".

In an increasingly technological age with more people involved with the transfer of information rather than with the production of tangible items, with the increase in mass produced goods and the general categorisation of individuals into groups or classes, there will be a growing demand to boost self esteem and individualism. This will evidence itself in personalised activities and goods and in a search to establish personal uniqueness — to establish an identification of the individual as an individual. Self esteem will no longer come from the hard, physical labour of the day's employment, nor from the crop grown sheep shorn or machinery constructed — for fewer and fewer will be able to afford the luxury of this physical labour. An important development of the last 15 years: whereby the ordinary individual, you and me, can resolve in our own minds our uniqueness and importance, to preserve our own faith in ourselves as significant contributors to the world around resides in the growth of the family historian.

From the family historian comes living proof of the importance of the minor, the everyday person of yesterday. Such a person is significant today for it was from them that each nation presently existing was born and grew. Furthermore, these family histories are significant not only in this larger sphere but within our own family tree which is unique for no-one else has exactly the same descent as ourselves — for only we can occupy that special position in our own family. However, for this you need more than just identification by relatives, to refer to our earlier story, for you need a proven independently established identification.

Beyond this, I suppose, you also need those who are prepared to listen to your researches, to talk "genies" so as to give your individual importance some significance. From there it is but a short step to intertwining of families and a discovery of the importance of the individual, any individual, in the broader scheme of society. At that stage you have the formation of a genealogical society.

These are clearly one of the growth industries of Australia. In the last 10 years, of the 29 genealogical societies in Australasia known to me, 17 were

established with a further eight in the decade before that. We are therefore witnessing in genealogical societies the same growth that once occurred amongst the local historical societies. Unlike the local historical societies however, the endeavours of each of these local family history groups are not restricted to families in the immediate locality of the group, nor is there the equivalent of an affiliated society network. There is therefore a tremendous duplication of resources and hence waste of resources, as the same family is researched in different parts of the country. Nor is it merely a waste of physical resources as many man hours are spent by men and women researching families, but there is also the financial burden of duplication of materials of microfiche, microfilm, publications and the like which all now feel necessary to acquire. In turn this means that while all of the small societies can purchase a microfiche of birth, death and marriage information, there is, through a lack of pooling of funds little opportunity to acquire the more expensive microfiche or film such as newspaper indexes. While we might all wish to lower the Government's deficit, is it really necessary that we increase the profits of our respective Registrars of Birth, Death and Marriage by all acquiring the same Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates — with all the errors which they may contain.

With this background where then does the Fellowship of First Fleeters fit in. On my reckoning it is about the eighth oldest society in Australasia interested in family history and approximately the fifth largest. It holds more information on the families of the First Fleet than any other society or body in the world. Its membership is world-wide and is amongst the top 100 societies membership wise. Its base is however, Sydney. While it has previously had Councils in Port Macquarie and Queensland, these no longer exist. The Sydney base has merit in logistical terms as that is where the Fellowship was established and where the majority of its members reside. This base can also, and principally, be justified on other grounds namely:—

1. Sydney was where the Fleet came to anchor.
2. Sydney was where the majority of the First Fleeters lived.
3. Sydney holds more of the primary records of the Fleet than any other city in the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is for the first two of these reasons that, for instance, our Patron is the Governor of New South Wales and not the Governor-General for the Commonwealth of Australia, for the Governor of New South Wales holds an office in direct descent from that held by Governor Arthur Phillip.

While talking of a wealth of societies and duplication, what is the role of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Here it is important to remember that the Fellowship by its very nature, is not merely a family history society. Its membership is strictly governed by genealogical rules and hence a considerable amount of administrative work is occupied in that field and this in turn has led to the development of the resources earlier mentioned. But once a member is admitted then the object is to fulfil the motto of the Fellowship, to ensure that "to live on in the hearts and minds of descendants is never to die" or as expressed in the aims and objects "to disseminate a deeper knowledge and create a greater awareness of the part played by those pioneers who arrived in Sydney with the First Fleet on 26th January, 1778 and to ensure the accurate and authentic recording of the history of the members of the First Fleet" and by this means "to encourage Australian patriotism and to strengthen the bonds of loyalty by all people living in Australia

irrespective of their birth place or origin, creed or party and to welcome and extend hospitality to migrants and visitors from overseas".

In fulfilment of these aims, the Fellowship has established its own archives and resources, it was instrumental in the restoration and establishment of the Australia Chapel at St. Nicholas Bathampton in the United Kingdom, the burial place of Arthur Phillip. It is identifying and placing plaques on the graves of all proven First Fleeters having done so in Worthing in the United Kingdom, Norfolk Island, Parramatta, Liverpool, Camellia, Ashfield, Campbelltown, Windsor, Wilberforce, Richmond, and recently on the upper Hawkesbury and St. Albans. It is presently working hard to identify all such graves in Tasmania. It has significantly contributed to sculptures at Circular Quay and the Rocks in Sydney and in Portsmouth in the United Kingdom. It is continuing to play a role in the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City relations. It publishes a newsletter containing information on all First Fleet families and sponsors and assists other First Fleet Family Associations where possible. Its strength for fellowship, however, rests solely with the contribution which its members are prepared to make.

In all of this its unique contribution is, and can be made, only because in all that is done we can say that only descendants are full members of the Fellowship and only it represents those descendants. Our voice has strength only because of that. That is our *raison d'être* and that must never be forgotten.

A large, geographically dispersed membership has its problems, particularly for Fellowship. It means that some potential members may not wish to join for fear that they can only participate on a financial basis while those many who do join can feel left out and ignored. The revival of divisional Councils and especially the establishment of one in Victoria is to be welcomed. This should facilitate the growth of fellowship in both quantity and more especially in quality. Our forebears established a nation, the Commonwealth of Australia and not just the city of Sydney. The Fellowship should therefore be a force in the nation and not just in the City of Sydney — AND IT WILL BE SO.

That is the euphoria, now for the reality.

1. In being a force in the nation what we must never forget is that our descent is not only our base, our power, but also our sole justification for being a separate organisation amongst the multitude of genealogical and historical societies now existing. Nothing must be done to weaken or destroy that base. Indeed the Fellowship will not permit anything to be done to weaken or destroy it. It is now firmly entrenched with sound research and a policy of expulsion where later research proves earlier research inadequate. It is however far easier to refuse membership than to expel.
2. Our resources in manpower and finances are not limitless. We cannot therefore permit duplication. Resources, information and trained voluntary office staff exist, albeit in Sydney, and they must be utilised for vetting membership if we are to avoid wasting those resources which we do have, both to ensure uniformity in membership so as to avoid embarrassment, and to effectively use what we already have.
3. If this cross-pollination and sharing of information is to work there must also be agreement as to the means of sharing costs. A Victorian Divisional Council cannot exist in a vacuum as any other office will not be sufficiently financial to subsidise the workings of any other.
4. If the Fellowship is to have a voice in any public

issue, especially in relation to the Bi-centenary, it must be a united voice — which can only be brought about with co-operation and mutual understanding — a true fellowship.

Let us therefore work as one towards establishing that Fellowship comprised of those who descend from the First Fleeters — not merely as a part of the 1988 celebrations but, beyond that, as a continuing force within the nation which our ancestors founded so that at all future times across the nation we will be able to say through our one organisation that we can be identified by relatives.

