



FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

During the past few months a number of family reunions were held and it was my privilege to represent the Fellowship at the following:

*William Nash/Maria Haynes — 28/9/85
Andrew Fishburn — 6/10/85
John Small/Mary Parker — 13/10/85
William Tunks — 3/11/85*

The plaque unveiling ceremonies at Richmond and Castlereagh were both well attended and a report on these will be published in the Newsletter.

The President's reception was held in the Fellowship Rooms on October 23rd. This is a recent innovation, whereby new members are welcomed and encouraged to join in the activities of the Fellowship. These evenings will continue indefinitely.

Completed questionnaires are still being received and I hope to contact those concerned in the near future, particularly in regard to those who offered assistance both in the office and at Fellowship stalls. The Executive was heartened by the response and called the special "think tank" operation to discuss our Bicentennial Programme.

Participation in the Australia Day festivities will see a major change in the Fellowship's role. Our tent will be in the park as usual, but it will be for display and PR purposes only. A team of members will be on hand to advise and encourage interested people in genealogical matters. A separate stall will be operated for the sale of our souvenirs, etc.

In late October I was contacted by the BBC who wished to film a segment about the Fellowship, either on 24th November or 16th December next. An on-the-spot decision was made, in consultation with our Graves Convenor, Doug Oakes, to hold a special plaque unveiling ceremony at the grave of Henry Kable Jr at The Oaks on Sunday 24th November. Unfortunately we were not able to let you know about this in the last Newsletter, but as many of the Kable family were notified as possible and a report of proceedings will be found in the next issue of the Newsletter.

*The Executive is seeking the help of two members of the Fellowship for the following positions: firstly, a **Tours Director**. It is envisaged that during 1986 we re-introduce the practice of organising outings for members, both of historical and genealogical interest.*

*The other position is that of **Librarian**. Any interested members please contact me on 868 3063 any evening after 7 pm.*

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the members of the Executive to wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. May we all, within the bond of fellowship, eagerly meet the challenges of the coming year.

Peter Christian

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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57 3059 (home)
- Frank Everingham (Mathew Everingham,
also James)
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Thornleigh 2120
84 2794 (home)
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439 1611 (business)

AUSTRALIA DAY ARRANGEMENTS

Church Services: Please telephone the FFF Office 29 8007 for information.

Stalls: This year there will be two stalls: a large tent under the pylon as usual, which will be used for providing genealogical information to the public, and a small stall on the street providing sale of goods and souvenirs. Offers to help and donations of saleable items are most welcome. For further information please ring the office.

The Flag Raising Ceremony will be held in Macquarie Place at 11 am on Australia Day. Members are asked to wear costume if possible. (See Festival of Sydney Programme).

On Monday 27 January: Presentation of Scroll of Loyalty at Government House — 9.30 am.

AUSTRALIA DAY DINNER

The Australia Day Dinner will be held at the Australasian Pioneers' Club, 61 York Street, Sydney, on Friday, January 24 — 7.30pm for 8pm. The Club is closed at weekends, so it is impossible to hold the dinner on the Saturday.

The cost is \$20 per head — drinks will be purchased separately.

We are delighted to have the opportunity of celebrating Australia Day at this interesting and appropriate venue. Only 100 places are available, so please book early. All monies should be forwarded one week after booking. No tickets will be issued — a check list will be kept of those who have paid.

Do join us at this function . . . please contact Miss Alice Clarke, P.O. Box 328, Lane Cove, NSW 2066.

FAMILY NOTICES

The Kable family will be holding the second Queensland Australia Day Barbecue Picnic Day on Sunday 26 January 1986 at Slaughter Falls, near the new Botanical Gardens, Brisbane, from 11 am to 4 pm. All Kable descendants are welcome to attend. For further information please contact: Patricia Kable, 44 Kupunda Street, Toowong, Brisbane.

There will be an Australia Day stall for the Kable family at Sydney Cove on Sunday 26 January 1986. All Kables are invited to visit the stall and get their names placed in the attendance book. Proposals for a Bicentennial project will be available. Helpers will be appreciated.



REPORT OF THE LECTURE EVENING 18th OCTOBER 1985

There was a good roll-up of members to hear Mr Whinney from the Railway Historical Society. A number of historic slides were shown, mainly of the early days of Redfern and Central Railway Stations and sites on the northern line to the Hawkesbury River. He outlined the development of the State Rail system from 1855 when the Sydney (Redfern) to Parramatta (Granville) line opened. The Sydney Station was located between Cleveland St. and Devonshire St. South, with a branch line to Darling Harbour. The station itself was a fairly elementary structure with wooden platforms within a tin shed. The second Sydney terminal was a more pretentious brick enclosed structure which, by 1890, outgrew itself. There had been a phenomenal growth in the railway system between 1875 and 1885 due to the incredible energy and expertise of the Chief Engineer, John Whitton. In the early years of this century, the government purchased the old Devonshire Cemetery site and commenced the erection of the present Central Station. It was opened for use in 1908 and completed 1918. We thank Mr Whinney for a most interesting evening.

P.G.C.

The birth of Sophie Isabella Tschuschnigg (8.5.85), grand-daughter of our secretary, Anne Campbell, links the descendants of Lieut. John Shortland FF with those of Herr Kurt von Schuschnigg, the Austrian Chancellor at the time of Hitler's invasion of that country. It would be of historical interest to many to know that this patriot of Austria survived many years of hardship, in both Sachsenhausen and Dachau Concentration Camps, to write his memoirs, "Austrian Requiem" after the end of World War II.

Peter Christian

AFTERNOON MEETING

The Afternoon Meeting on Wednesday 6 November took the form of a trip to Goat Island. We had a delightful day. Thirty-four people came on the tour, among whom there was quite a few men — pleasing to see. The Island is very beautiful as well as interesting, and the guide gave us a very good account of activities on the Island. The tour was enjoyed so much that a longer stay would have been appreciated, and enquiries were made as to where and when our next tour would be. Owing to the Christmas holidays, it was thought that our first meeting for next year will be held 5 February 1986, in the Fellowship rooms, at 2 pm.

Wynne Anderson

The Illawarra Family History Group has asked us to advise that they are compiling a pre-1900 Pioneer Register of Local Families, as a 1988 Bicentennial Project. Applications for inclusion in the Register must be made on the official entry form. Further information can be obtained from Val Porter on (042) 28 9775.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT — OCTOBER 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 — **Ann Forbes**: Sgt. Kenneth Lawrence LAWLER; Mr Richard Lawrence LAWLER.

Thomas Chipp — **Jane Langley**: Mr William Robert George RUE, (sp Mrs Beatrice Pearl RUE).

William Douglas — **Mary Groves**: Mrs Jeanette Maree ROSS.

William Eggleton — **Mary Dickenson**: Mr Wilbour Humphry COWLED; Mrs Patricia Margaret Edna REID; Miss Diane Patricia GLOVER; Miss Julie Ann GLOVER; Mrs Leone Rosemary HILL; Mr Martin Humphrey HILL; Mr Campbell HILL; Mrs Valerie Marie ANDREWS; Mr David ANDREWS; Miss Susan ANDREWS; Miss Catherine Elizabeth GLOVER.

Matthew Everingham: Mrs Val-Mei Lily FOKKENS; Miss Hannah Isabel EVERINGHAM (Jnr).

Ann Forbes: Mr Edward Frederick CAMERON.

Edward Goodin: Mrs Louise May NEWTON.

Caroline Laycock: Mrs Nola Olive ROBINSON; Steven Mark FRANCIS (Jnr); Miss Kim Louise FRANCIS (Jnr).

Frederick Meredith: Mr Barry Donald GIBBINS; Mr Ian David GIBBINS.

John Nicholls: Miss Mary Josephine DEVERY; Mrs Patricia Joan EDWARDS; (sp Mr John Cyril Hall EDWARDS).

William Roberts: Mrs Megan Jane EDGE; Matthew John EDGE (Jnr); Mr Paul David WINDRED; Mr Keith George WINDRED; Mr Bruce Simon George WINDRED; Jonathon Allen Edward WINDRED (Jnr); Mrs Jillian Marie BROOKER; Lucas Geoffrey BROOKER (Jnr); Daniel Philip BROOKER (Jnr).

Anthony Rope — **Elizabeth Pulley**: Mrs Olive Harriet DAVIS.

John Small — **Mary Parker**: Mrs Dorothy Joyce HINCKSMAN; Mr Ian Donald CRAIG; (sp Mrs Celia Craig) Matthew Thomas CRAIG (Jnr); Miss Megan Louie CRAIG (Jnr).

SPOUSE ASSOCIATES OF EARLIER MEMBERS:

Mrs Carol Joyce Francis, wife of Mr. Colin H. Francis No. 2970

Mr Herbert J. Perkins, husband of Mrs Constance H. Perkins No. 1591

Mrs Shirley Joy Astley, wife of Mr Lynn Astley No. 2736

Mrs Debra Brown, wife of Mr. Glenn Brown No. 3304

ADDITIONAL FIRST FLEET ANCESTOR:

Miss Alicia Mills (Jnr) adds Ann Forbes and William Dring to Thomas Arndell.

The President's Receptions will be held on the third Wednesday in February and March, in lieu of Lecture Nights.



GRAVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Four more plaques have been placed on tombstones since our September 1985 service at Sackville Reach.

On Sunday 20 October 1985, in the morning, we dedicated a plaque placed on the tombstone of a marine, Thomas Spencer, in the cemetery opposite St Peter's Church, Richmond.

Thomas Spencer arrived in the First Fleet on the transport ship 'Scarborough', and died on his farm on 3 February 1821. President Peter Christian introduced the dedication service. Keith Webb, a descendant of Thomas Spencer, read the history of his ancestor. Rev. Noel Pilcher from St Peter's Church gave a short prayer, and Councillor Tex Stubbs from Hawkesbury Shire Council raised the St Anne's flag, which covered the tombstone, to dedicate the plaque.

A large crowd of Thomas Spencer descendants and their friends were in attendance.

We then travelled on to Regatta Park, Emu Plains, to join the Pulley/Rope family group for lunch, and in the afternoon drove to the Castlereagh Cemetery for a dedication service for a plaque on Elizabeth Rope's tombstone.

Elizabeth Rope travelled on the 'Friendship' and 'Prince of Wales' in the First Fleet and died 9 August 1837.

Peter Christian again officiated at this service. Mary Hope-Caten, a descendant of Elizabeth Rope, read the history of her ancestor. Naida Jackson, Convenor of the Membership Committee, raised the St Anne's flag to dedicate the plaque. Another large crowd attended this service.

Mrs Joyce Cowell, the Fellowship's Archivist, has advised us that she was able to persuade Church officials to have one of our plaques placed on the railing surrounding Captain Arthur Phillip's grave at St Nicholas' Church, Bathampton, Bath, on her recent trip to England.

On Sunday 24 November 1985 we had a dedication service for a plaque attached to the tombstone of Henry Kable Junior, at St Matthew's Church, the Old Oaks.

This service was organised in a hurry due to a request from the BBC for us to hold a family reunion on that weekend. Regrettably, there was no time to have an article placed in the Newsletter. Despite this, a large crowd was in attendance.

Henry Kable was born 17 February 1786 and travelled with his parents, Henry Cabell and Susannah Holmes, in the 'Charlotte' in the First Fleet to Botany Bay, and died at Vanderville on the 15 May 1852, the last survivor of the First Fleeters. Henry was baptised on 5 December 1786 as Henry Cable. In 1790 Henry Senior had the family name legally changed to Kable.

The Rector, Rev. Wayne Gott, conducted a short service in the wooden church which was erected in 1838. After the church service we went to Henry Kable's grave with a movie camera rolling, and our President introduced the Fellowship. Peter Christian had to repeat his speech after the service, as the first take was unsatisfactory. Roy Kable, a descendant of Henry Cabell, read his story of Henry Kable Junior. The Rev. Wayne Gott gave a short prayer and the President of The Oaks Historical Society, Merv Daley, raised the St Anne's flag to dedicate the plaque.

Doug Oakes, Convenor

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAQUE UNVEILING CEREMONY AT THE GRAVE OF FIRST FLEETER ELIZABETH ROPE nee PULLEY, BY PETER CHRISTIAN, PRESIDENT OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS AT THE CASTLEREAGH CEMETERY ON SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER 1985.

"I take this opportunity, as President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, to bid you welcome to this afternoon's ceremony of the dedication and unveiling of the 42nd plaque, denoting the final resting place of one who first set foot in Sydney Cove on the 26th January 1788. The First Fleeter on this occasion is Elizabeth Rope nee Pulley or Powley, and it is indeed a pleasure to see so many of her descendants here today. Before introducing those taking part in the ceremony, I wish to say a few words about this cemetery.

Around us lie the remains of some of the best known pioneers of the Nepean District . . . these people were indeed 'the hewers of wood and drawers of water' . . . they survived flood, famine and fire and eked out a meagre existence in the early years of the colony. They raised their children here, who in turn sought fresh fields in the colony and brought forth fruitful seed. These were OUR ancestors . . . the Ropes . . . the Randalls . . . the Frasers . . . the Cox family . . . the Hadleys . . . the Fultons . . . the Fields . . . the McHenry's . . . the Harris family to name but a few. Much of the history of the pioneers of this section of the Nepean Valley was inscribed on these headstones, and it is to our lasting shame that their final resting place is in the disgraceful condition that you see about you. It was quite close to this spot that the saintly chaplain, the Rev. Henry Fulton, had his original church and Schoolhouse. Both he and his daughter, Lydia, taught the children of the settlers.

The four acres which originally constituted this cemetery is indeed a significant part and parcel of our heritage . . . Let us hope that in this district someone, or some organisation, will give the lead to embark upon a programme of restoration to preserve this unique and historic part of our Australian heritage."



FELLOWSHIP ROOMS

Members are reminded that a number of books are available for use in research and reading in our Rooms in the Assembly Building. We have a good library, and a microfiche reader, which is of great use and interest to those researching their family history.

All Fellowship members are welcome to use these facilities.

BIRTHS

We are happy to announce the arrival of the following potential Fellowship members:

Hannah Isabel Crossley, born on 11/10/85 to Frances Isabel (nee Everingham) and Gordon Crossley. Hannah is the first grandchild of Frank and the late Heather Everingham. Frank Everingham is a Foundation member of the Fellowship, the second President, and currently a member of the Executive Committee. Hannah's ancestors are Thomas Crossley (1828), Mary Matcham Pitt, James Wilshire, Elizabeth Rhymes and Mathew James Everingham.

From Mary Matcham Pitt, she is ninth generation to live in Australia, and seventh generation to be born here. From Mathew James Everingham, she is seventh generation born here.

Allira Sandra Moore, born 22/9/85 to Sandra and Ian Moore, and a grandchild of Beryl and Raymond Williams. Allira is a William Nash-Maria Haynes descendant.

GET WELL WISHES

Greetings to Joy Christian, wife of our President, who has been in hospital for the second time in recent months. Get well soon, Joy — sincere wishes from all your friends in the Fellowship.

THE BICENTENARY — NORFOLK ISLAND

Those who are descended from the people who began the first settlement in Norfolk Island may be interested in joining in the celebration on that Island. Lieut. King, together with nine male and six female convicts, as well as five or six marines, made the first landing there on 6 March 1788. They arrived at the Island on 29 February 1788 but did not land until nearly a week later.

Anyone interested in joining a party to be formed to attend celebrations at Norfolk are asked to advise Mrs Wynne Anderson at the Fellowship office on Thursdays (02) 29 8007, or at home, 871 4118, or write to her c/- the Fellowship, P.O. Box 283N, Grosvenor Street, Sydney 2000. Alternatively, contact Rhonda Knockment, 14 Fitzpatrick Cres., Casula — telephone 602 4657.

Please let us have initial enquiries before 28 February 1986, so that arrangements can be made to organise a tour, and enquirers will be advised of costs, etc., and, if still interested, be asked to make a commitment.

CORRECTION

It is regretted that an incorrect telephone number was given in the last issue of the Newsletter in relation to the paragraph about Sutherland Shire's Register of First Fleeters. Vicki Lamb can be contacted at 1 Marsh Avenue, Cronulla, and her telephone number is 523 8028, NOT 523 8208 as published.

OBITUARY

Sadly we report the passing of Mr Barry Parkes (FF Thomas Arndell), member No. 2159, on 20 September 1985. Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Patricia and family.

OFFICE STAFF CHRISTMAS PARTY

This function will be held at the NSW Leagues Club, Phillip Street, Sydney on Thursday 19 December 1985, 7 pm for 7.30 pm.

The cost is \$15 per head. Please have booking and money to the office before Tuesday 17 December; bookings cannot be held past that date.

Anne Campbell, Secretary

ANN HUXLEY (NEE FORBES)

The following speech was given by Bruce Arnett at the plaque dedication ceremony on Sunday 15 September 1985.

To come to this place is a homecoming for those of you who trace your beginnings in Australia to Ann Forbes. Ann Forbes, our First Fleet ancestor, at one and the same time a convict and co-founder of this country we know today.

It could be easy to judge her a wanton person as I recount her life story but that is to forget the conditions of those times. I just wonder how we would have coped in her circumstances?

Ann was born around 1770. It was a time of poverty and hardship when basic welfare as we know it was but a dream for the future. It was a time when fathers stole from the landed gentry to feed their families; a time when children worked in factories and down mines with scant regard for their welfare, and orphans learnt to be pick-pockets and thieves for their survival.

Courts were very severe on people caught stealing and, on the River Thames near London, derelict ships were overloaded with convicts for whom there was no room in the gaols.

Inevitably, Ann's way of life was to bring her into strife with the law for, at the age of about 16 years, she is recorded in "The Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts" by Copley, in the following manner:

"Ann Forbes, from the Borough of Southwark in the County of Surrey — Spinster, and Lydia Munro — Spinster on the 28th day of October (1786) did feloniously steal ten yards of printed cotton of the value of 20 shillings in the shop of James Rollinson. They were tried on 5th April 1787, found guilty and having no chattels were sentenced to be hanged. Subsequently on the 30th April they were reprieved and were sentenced to be transported for seven years."

Now an interesting concurrent course of events occurred. On 12th October 1786, Captain Arthur Philip was commissioned to take 11 ships of convicts, stores, marines, a few with their wives, and crew to establish a penal colony in New South Wales. Because of a host of problems related to the condition of the ships and provisioning of such a remarkable expedition, it took seven months to organise. During that time, Ann was in gaol and on the 5th April 1787 she was found guilty and sentenced to hang. On the 30th April she was reprieved and sentenced to transportation, and on the 13th May 1787 she found herself departing forever with the First Fleet, on board the "Prince of Wales".

One wonders about her fate, had there been no First Fleet! And so ultimately to Port Jackson, where the colony was established on the 26th January 1788. On 24th February 1788, Philip Gidley King took a party of 24 to Norfolk Island, which Cook in his travels had located and recommended, erroneously, as a place of pines suitable for ships' masts and the growing of flax for ropes.

Instead it was to become the salvation from starvation of those early immigrants as first their crops failed and then their follow-up supply ship failed to arrive.

In October 1788, a party including another First Fleeter, William Dring, was sent to Norfolk Island aboard the "Golden Grove" where he was employed landing stores. William Dring was sentenced in 1784 to seven years transportation beyond the seas for two crimes of theft, both to the value of ten pence.

Meanwhile, still back in Sydney, Ann appears to have become associated with a George Bannister, who was convicted at the age of 16 for stealing, in 1784. It is recorded that a daughter of George and Ann was christened Sarah Bannister on 15th November 1789.

Conditions worsened in Sydney, and Ann, with others, was despatched on board the "Sirius", arriving at Norfolk Island on 13th March 1790. (It is not clear what happened to her child Sarah). Six days later the "Sirius" was wrecked, fortunately without loss of life.

In the Norfolk Island Victualling List, William Dring is recorded as associated with Ann Forbes. Then, in 1792, a daughter Ann was born to them, and a second daughter, Elizabeth, was born 30th August 1794. On 6th November 1794, the family returned on board the "Daedalus" to Sydney. Sadly, their first daughter was to die (possibly 24th January 1795); however, a son Charles was born 20th August 1796.

The story of the Dring connection ends here, for it is not known what became of William Dring or their son Charles. On the other hand, Elizabeth appears to have remained associated with her mother and ultimately to settle in the Hawkesbury district, leading a full and productive life.

Also, of Sarah Bannister I can only offer an unsubstantiated suggestion that she married about 1813 and her descendants still live in the district.

Our story now involves Thomas Huckles. His crime was to steal a pig and for his trouble he was sentenced on 25th February 1789 to 7 years transportation. He arrived with the Third Fleet, on board the "Salamander", on 12th March 1791 and was directly sent by the same ship to Norfolk Island. Thus it is not unreasonable to suggest that he may have become acquainted with Ann Forbes there. As I said previously, the Dring family returned on the "Daedalus" in late 1794, while Thomas Huckles was not to return until 28th May 1796, some 18 months later, on the "Marquis Cornwallis". Around this time the association between Ann and Dring ends, for a little later, on 24th August 1798, it is recorded that a daughter, Jane, is born to Ann Forbes and Thomas Jones. We know that this was Thomas Huckles, who had taken the alias Jones by reference to records both in the Lands Titles Office and the Musters of 1806, 1814-1820 and 1825.

Interestingly, in 1821 Ann Forbes is listed as being married to Thomas Uxley of Windsor. Obviously he did not like his name; however, by the 1828 census he had formally become known as Huxley. In this census Ann and Thomas believed themselves to be 55 years old, while Thomas is recorded as a farmer with 100 acres, 40 cleared, at Lower Portland. In another reference, Huxley at some time owned Peacock's Farm, which he subsequently sold to John Smith when he left the river to "seek fresh fields and pastures new". Peacock's then became a store and pub, and later a parsonage. Huxley was also the owner of a vessel trading between the river and Sydney.

Altogether, Ann and Thomas had nine children — Jane, Charlotte, Thomas, Ann, James, Samuel, John, Esther and Sophia.

Thomas Huxley died on 4th July 1854 and is buried at St Peter's Church of England, Richmond.

Ann died three years earlier, on 29th December 1851, and was buried here at Sackville Reach, or, as it was then known "Portland Head". She was the oldest person still living who had arrived in the First Fleet and who died in

Australia. As was the manner in those days, the funeral would have been followed by a long line of boats coming from Lower Portland to Sackville Reach to the wooden church that in those days stood here. That church was swept away in the great flood of 1867. In its place is the fine stone church built high up out of the floods' way, in which we worship today.

Ann was the mother of 13 children, and from these children a link can be found by marriage to most of the early families of this district, the Hibbs, Arndells, Everingham, Cavanoughs, Ellens, Walls, Haymans, Mitchells, Ridges, etc. In fact, she could have boasted at least 96 grandchildren.

Even today, known to me is living a spread of descendants from great-grandchildren to the eighth generation and, if not already, very soon there will be a ninth — all directly descended from Ann.

What more need be said about Ann? Regarding her crime, I can only conclude that she stole to survive. Regarding her being wanton, she was but 16 or 17 years old when she was held for six months in prison, of the kind and conditions we could not even begin to imagine, and then sentenced to hang. As a convict girl in Sydney, one of about 192 amongst over 1000 unattached men of all kinds, her position must again have been terrifying.

Finally, she formed a firm and enduring relationship with Thomas Huxley, and that to me is the most important clue, that she was warm-natured, strong and capable in a woman's way; a woman to be proud of, as no doubt her family was when they many years ago erected this headstone and wanted her remembered as Ann Huxley. In the same way today we are reaffirming that sentiment. To ANN HUXLEY (nee Ann Forbes) — very special FIRST FLEETER.

Proudly contributed by Bruce Arnett, a sixth generation descendant. (Any member wishing to have a copy of this report, please contact Bruce Arnett (02) 636 3440.)



CONTACTS SOUGHT

Mrs Joan Brown, Willow Bank, Cooma NSW 2630 would like to hear from descendants of the Chipp/Langley family, and is particularly interested in early photographs of the members of this family.

Mrs Susan A. Yule (Member No. 2881), of 53 Tramway Rd., North Avoca, NSW 2260, would like to hear from fellow descendants of First Fleeters Patrick Burn-Ann Smith and also Joseph Wright, for exchange of information.