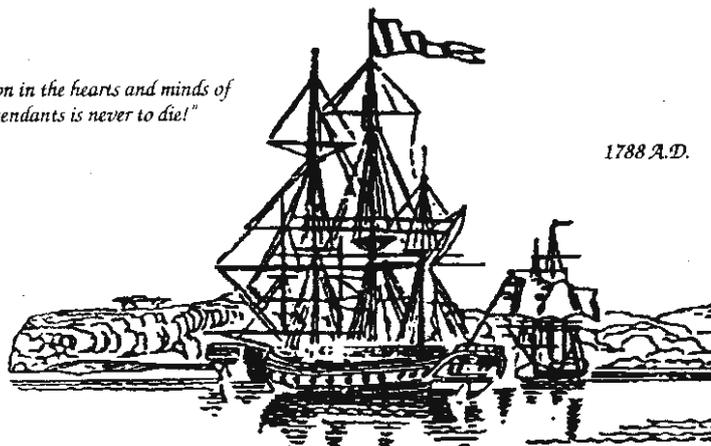


Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"To live on in the hearts and minds of
Descendants is never to die!"*

1788 A.D.



NEWSLETTER

JOURNAL OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS INC. NSW 1988

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PATRON: His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AO, Governor of New South Wales

OFFICE ADDRESS: First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street Woolloomooloo NSW 2011 **PHONE:** (02) 360 3788, 360 3988

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1993 VOLUME 24 NO. 6

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I recently received a most welcome phone call from our Vice Patron, Commander Paul Kable, RAN. Paul, who is attached to the Defence Department in London, sends his best wishes and congratulates all concerned with the successful management of the Fellowship over the past year. He informed me that he was Guest of Honour at the Arthur Phillip Memorial Celebrations at Bathampton last October, officially representing not only the Fellowship of First Fleeters but also the Australian High Commission.

It was also of interest that Paul represented the Australian Chief of Defence Forces at Villers Bretonneux in relation to the ceremonies connected with the Australian Unknown Soldier.

Of the 40,000 Australians who fell in the battlefields of France and Belgium there would have been many with First Fleet ancestry. In my own family profiles there are a number who were slain but only one, Herbert Edwin Cowell, is buried in an unknown grave.

On 10 October last I attended and spoke to a gathering of the Small Family

at a dedication of a memorial plaque to the first born of John Small and Mary Parker.

On 16 October it was a pleasure and privilege to chair the annual meeting of the Newcastle Chapter. Ray Meredith (F.F. Frederick Meredith) is the incoming President of the small but dedicated group and we wish him well.

We always look forward to greeting members at First Fleet House but it was particularly a pleasure to meet once again Mrs Denis Wyatt from Auckland, NZ, last month.

In the August Newsletter I mentioned two missing Everingham volumes from the library. We are indebted to Lorna Blamire (F.F. William Tunks) for donating one of the volumes missing, namely Matthew Everingham His Life and Times.

This particular book was handed down to Lorna from her sister the late Jean Cowell. Thank you, Lorna, for that replacement.

A successful Annual General Meeting was held at First Fleet House on

Sunday, 14 November, and you have been stuck with me for another year. I must admit that I have enjoyed working for the Fellowship in the first year of my second term as President. I look forward to meeting and speaking with First Fleeters. We all indeed have a common and peculiar bond.

Your newly elected Executive for 1993 - 1994 is:

President: Peter Christian

Vice-Presidents: Alice Clarke and Douglas Oakes

Treasurer: Roy Morris

Committee: Rod Best, Ula Clarke, Joyce Cowell, James Donohoe, Naida Jackson, Ron Maguire, Bonney Savill, Phyllis Selby, Bernice Smart, Cec Thompson

In conclusion may I take this opportunity to say a happy and holy Christmas and may the new year be a time of amity and of goodwill among all.

In Fellowship,
PETER



Seasons Greetings

CHRISTMAS NEW YEAR CLOSURE

First Fleet House will be closed

from 3.00pm Friday, 17 December 1993

to 10.00am Tuesday, 4 January 1994

DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

What a joy to welcome 23 people to our tour of the Masonic Centre on 3 November. We required two guides, as we were too many for one group. The beautiful interior of this building is a surprise after the austere look from the street. We were given a lengthy tour, before enjoying a very nice two-course lunch. Throughout our stay we asked many questions and I know we left with a better understanding of the Masons, and the standards they set.

We hope to have more interesting things to do in 1994. Our year will start with the annual general meeting on 3 March. The following is a list of dates for our proposed outings:

Wednesday 26 January
Australia Day Luncheon

Thursday 3 March
Daytime Fellowship A.G.M. & Talk

Sunday 10 April
Excursion

Wednesday 4 May
Daytime Fellowship Outing

Sunday 12 June
Excursion

Thursday 7 July
Soup and Damper Lunch & Talk

Sunday 14 August
Excursion

Monday 5-Friday 9 September
Tour to Medlow Bath

Sunday 9 October
Excursion

Wednesday 2 November
Daytime Fellowship Outing

December
Christmas Luncheon

Our president, Joyce, is joining me in the column today, so I will close with the season's greetings to all members and friends.

- BERNICE SMART

In this, the last Newsletter for 1993, as president of the Daytime Fellowship, I would like to thank all those members who have come along to our meetings and excursions. The committee members and I have enjoyed your company and the office had benefited from the money raised.

The library books, the veranda office furnishings, the vertical blinds and ceiling fans have been provided by

the funds raised by our program of activities.

Although I will not be the president next year, I hope to participate in the meetings and excursions already planned for 1994.

I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. May you all return to us with renewed enthusiasm to partake of the planned functions in the New Year.

- JOYCE COWELL

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR PERIOD 23 SEPTEMBER TO 24 NOVEMBER 1993

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - 17 adults, six juniors and four spouse associates.

DAVID BARNETT: Mr Hayden Sydney Robertson McLaggan (jun.).

JOHN and HANNAH BARRISFORD: Mrs Stella Audrey Down.

ANN COLEPITTS - THOMAS SMITH: Mr Michael John Burgess (sp. Mrs Patricia Isabel Burgess).

BENJAMIN CUSLEY: Mrs Lillian Irene Heath.

WILLIAM DOUGLAS - MARY GROVES: Mrs Patricia Fay Slattery.

WILLIAM DRING - ANN FORBES + THOMAS ARNDELL: Mrs Deborah Lee Sanders.

ELLEN FRASER: Mr Peter Henry Rudolph Meyer.

EDWIN GOODIN: Mrs Roslyn Cheryl McFarland.

JAMES McMANUS - JANE POOLE + JAMES BRADLEY: Mr Keith Stanley Kates (sp. Mrs Rita May Kates).

JOHN NICHOLS: Mrs Kathleen Florence Spottiswood; Mrs Morcen Lenore Spelta (sp. Mr Ron Spelta); Mrs Narelle June Piva (sp. Mr Rennie Piva); Mrs Janita Maree Piva; Mr Craig Alan Piva; Mr Michael Rennie Piva (jun.); Mr Dennis Noel Piva (jun.).

SAMUEL PIGOTT: Mr Adam Paul Van Der Leeden (jun.).

BARTHOLOMEW REARDON: Mrs Norma Vilma Chantler.

WILLIAM ROBERTS: Mr Kevin Roy Phelps.

ANTHONY ROPE - ELIZABETH PULLEY: Miss Bronnagh Norris (jun.); Mrs Delerie Patricia Shields.

ELIZABETH THOMAS: Mr John Joseph Harvey.

WILLIAM TUNKS + MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: Miss Jessica Louise Christian (jun.)

BIRTHS

A warm welcome to the following New First Fleeters:

PETER STUART BOOTH (F.F. Peter Hibbs - Matthew Everingham), 23 February 1993.

LACHLAN OLIVER CALDWELL (F.F. William Broughton), 5 September 1993. A son for Rebecca Huxham and James Caldwell, a great-grandson for Anne Davison (#1660).

AMY LETITIA MARION LEGGE (F.F. James Squire - Edward Goodin), 5 July 1993. Third child of James and Rachel (#196) Legge, third grandchild of Loch and Wilma (#195) Townsend, and sixth grandchild of Rex and Elizabeth Legge. Amy was baptised at Christ Church Anglican Gosford on 10 October 1993.

HAYDEN SYDNEY ROBERTSON McLAGGAN (F.F. Daniel Barnett), 5 April 1993. Second son of Robertson Neil McLaggan (#4702) and Roseanne. Grandson of Dorothy Joan (#4701) and Neil Rawdon McLaggan.

BRONNAGH NORRIS, 9 June 1993. First daughter of Danny (#1274) and Robyn Norris, first grandchild of Jeanette (#1273) and Reg Norris.

The book raffle was won by Mrs M.A. Brian of Dover Heights NSW (#3439)

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON

Wednesday, 26 January 1994

will be at

THE ARGYLE TAVERN
18 Argyle Street,
THE ROCKS

enjoy The Carvery Buffet
in the Rum Room

Time: 12.30pm
Cost: \$30.00 per head

Please send cheque/money
order, with stamped self-
addressed envelope, to:

Fellowship of First Fleeters
105 Cathedral Street
Woolloomooloo 2011

Phone 360 3788 and 360 3988
or Alice Clarke on home
number 428 4530

THE HERBERT ASSOCIATION

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY

In genealogy this question arises more often than there are answers to the questions.

John Herbert, First Fleeter, who arrived on the transport Charlotte, was sentenced to death then commuted to transportation along with John Small. In company with Stephen Davenport and Robert Ellwood they were arrested for highway robbery, all were sentenced to death. On appeal Davenport was pardoned, Herbert and Small sentenced to transportation and Ellwood was hanged. There wasn't a tittle of evidence recorded as to why Ellwood was hanged, it appears that in those times in the case of a group felony on appeal one was hanged as a warning to others. It is bad luck if your name is last on the list.

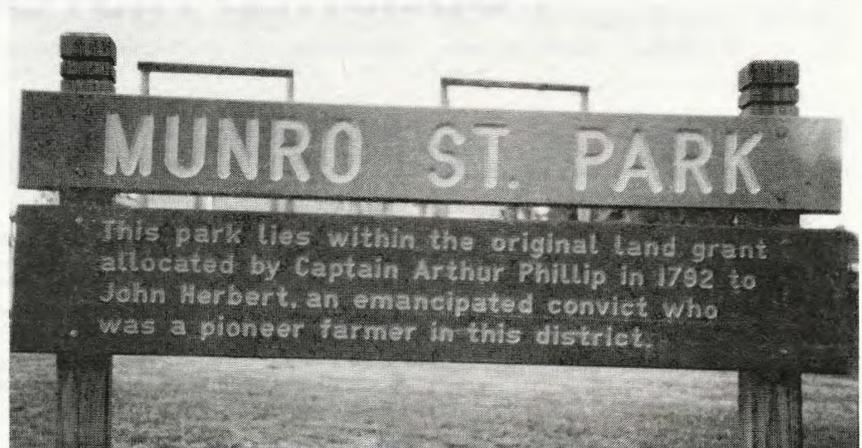
John Herbert was a seaman the other three were marines. During the war of American Independence he served on Captain Phillip's staff on the British man-o-war Europe, he was discharged when the ship returned home to Plymouth after the war was lost. Ellwood joined the ship in Portsmouth for the return to the marines' base in Plymouth, was paid off in June 1784 and Herbert in July 1784.

Nothing is known of the movements of these four fellows from when they were discharged, Davenport December 1783 and Small in 1784, until they were tried for a felony in March 1785. There is no transcript of evidence of the trial nor of the date the offence was supposed to have been committed, so their movements from the date of discharge until the trial is somewhat of a mystery.

Herbert being a seaman received the balance of his seapay of nineteen shillings a month and one English pound on discharge. The other three were marines whose pay would have been similar and would not have lasted very long. It was obvious they were hanging around Plymouth looking for work which must have been very hard to find for England was in dire economic straits following the disastrous war.

Herbert and Ellwood were known to each other by association and it was likely the other two marines were known to Ellwood which would account for their association.

Contemporary writers insinuate that there is no evidence that the John Herbert discharged from Europe is one



and the same John Herbert charged with the felony. That is possibly true for their movements between these incidents is a mystery. Just as much a mystery as the evidence to prove that the two John Smalls are one and the same person. The laws of probability point to them being the same people that served in the British Navy and were transported for that felony.

If any historians or family history writers know of any evidence that will confirm or deny this belief please advise the Secretary of the Herbert Family Association, Mrs Gwen Herbert, PO Box 990, Bowral. The Association members would like to know.

CECIL HERBERT
Past President

ASSOCIATION NEWS

Members of the Herbert Family Association Inc. recently came together to attend the dedication and unveiling of a special plaque in Munro Street Park, Greystanes.

Holroyd City Council erected the sign to commemorate a historic event dating back over two hundred years.

The inscription reads: "This park lies within the original land grant allocated by Captain Arthur Phillip in 1792 to John Herbert, an emancipated convict who was a pioneer farmer in this district."

Special guests at the unveiling included the Hon. Dr Marlene Herbert Goldsmith, MLC, Holroyd Mayor Ald. Allan Ezzy, Ald. Marlene McLaughlin, President of the Prospect Trust the late Mr Robert Brown and Treasurer Mrs Lyn Merrin.

During his speech Robert Herbert paid tribute to former president Cecil Herbert, who had negotiated with the Council to develop the memorial.

Following the celebration picnic and formalities, nine grey gums were planted in the park – one each for John and Deborah Herbert and one for each of their seven children.

The Herbert Family Association is in the process of compiling a major publication about the descendants of John Herbert and Deborah Ellam. The book will be launched at the next family reunion to be held on the anniversary of John and Deborah, 2 April 1994.

HERBERT and ELLAM 1994 REUNION

The descendants of John
Herbert and Deborah Ellam will
again be holding a reunion and
book launch to mark the

206th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

of

JOHN and DEBORAH

DATE: 2 April 1994

LOCATION:

The Masonic Centre,
Homestead Road,
Orchard Hills

For further information please
contact the Secretary,
PO Box 990 Bowral 2576

TIPS ON HOW TO BECOME A PUBLISHED HISTORIAN

by Graeme Eggins

Graeme's background is in journalism and publishing; he runs a small business consultancy which includes advising individuals, community groups and business on publishing projects. His main interest is in personal or limited edition publishing, helping writers to produce books on their own pet subjects.

“If your family history is to be of interest and value to others it must be consolidated into a single understandable form. Just throwing everything in a box is not good enough. You may know the significance of the collection but will it mean anything to those who find it after you have gone?”

The reasons for researching family history are many. They may include any or all of the following:

- curiosity about the people who went before you
- finding out if you have any famous or infamous ancestors
- building a feeling of belonging to a larger group
- for religious reasons, as in the case of Mormons
- a fascination with people

Every family historian keeps a record of research. It may be a folder of typescript or boxes of scrappy notes and old photos. My purpose is to help you turn that research into a publication.

Why should you publish?

As a group, family historians are doing much to build Australia's national identity. Without getting into the republican debate there is no doubt that Australians, no matter where their parents or grandparents came from, are increasingly seeing themselves as an independent nation, the result of a special and unique history. This growing nationalism doesn't mean ignoring our roots. Rather the reverse. History helps us to set ourselves, our family, our community and our nation in a properly rounded context.

A well-presented family history is of value to many people, more than you think. For example ...

- To your own immediate and more distant family
- To family members not yet born
- To historians
- To researchers in other fields

A family history may help researchers to discover why land uses have changed or what traditional recipes or old remedies can be adapted for use today.

If your family history is to be of interest and value to others it must be consolidated into a single understandable form. Just throwing everything in a box is not good enough. You may know the significance of the collection but will it mean anything to those who find it after you have gone?

So how do you turn your notes into something readable? I am not going to tell you how to research your work. You know that much better than I do. But I can help you when you have reached the stage of wanting to put your words and illustrations into a permanent form. For the sake of convenience we'll call it a publication. It may be a series of notes, a booklet or a book. Please don't be frightened by the word book. If you have enough nous to research your family's history, you can write a reference book on the results. You don't have to be specially gifted, just careful and methodical.

So what form of publication should your work take? You have an incredibly wide choice, ranging all the way from handwriting a history and photostating a few copies up to a full-scale commercial publication.

Today I am going to talk only about personal publications, ie ones where you alone control the cost and appearance and format. For example, say that in order to publish your family history you estimate you need 30 pages and would like 30 copies. You could produce that publication in a number of ways.

- As a series of typed or handwritten sheets stapled or pinned together
- The same sheets but produced via a computer-driven laser printer
- As a booklet that has been assembled using a computer page layout program then photostatted
- As a booklet properly typeset by a printer

The cover could range from being a clear plastic or cardboard folder through various forms of inexpensive wire coil or plastic binding, to a properly bound hard cover. The cost per book would range from less than \$5 to \$30 or more, depending on the method chosen, paper quality and if colour is used. So you don't have to spend a fortune to produce something worthwhile, a reference that will endure and give value to all who read it. A family history also makes a meaningful gift for any member of your family at any time. And it is a very suitable gift to give to new in-laws.

Presentation is important. It is unfortunately true that most people do judge a

book by its cover and general appearance. A professionally laid out and presented publication will have more credibility than the same material presented as a scrappy collection of notes held together with a rusting paper clip.

But I am getting ahead of myself. Before you decide on what you want the final version of your family history to look like, you have to write it. This is the point where a lot of us come to a halt. We think we can collect the information and record it accurately but we find it difficult to see ourselves as authors. Don't think like that. Writing non-fiction, which is what family histories are, can be accomplished if you follow a few simple rules.

Let us take an example. Suppose you have spent some time researching the history of your family. You end up with notes, old photographs, sketches, perhaps some maps or ideas for maps, old letters and so on. Most historians that I know of sort their information into discrete groups, eg

- family stories and anecdotes
- events concerning one person or place
- miscellaneous information

Now how do you turn that material into a narrative? One technique that many non-fiction writers use is the manilla folder method. I recommend it wholeheartedly. Usually the easiest way is to chronologically, that is, to tell the story of your family from as far back as you can trace, up to the present. Now you may change this approach once you get started but let's stick with the idea for the moment.

How do you use the folder method? Let's say you have some information about the family history in England up to 1880 when a couple migrated to Australia. You then have some information covering the years in Sydney, their move to Ballina, then more up to the present day.

First equip yourself with some folders and a broad black pen. Mark one folder pre-1880 and put into it all the information covering the family life in England. Mark the others with the relevant period and fill each folder with the information you have concerning that time.

If you have notes or references that cover several of these periods, photostat them and put a copy in one folder and the original in another. If you are not sure where a particular piece should go, photostat it and put copies in each likely folder. The same advice applies to

photos, maps, etc. Now get four more folders and mark them References and/or acknowledgments, Introduction, Pedigrees and Unplaced. By broadly sorting your notes into folders you have begun to bring them into manageable files.

Continue going through your notes until you have them sorted into your various folders. In doing this you may decide one folder has too much in it. This can be broken down into several folders containing shorter time frames. This exercise will help you identify gaps in your research and also give you a feeling for the flow of your family history.

At this stage you may decide not to follow the chronological form after all but to write about your family in other ways, eg, to deal with the various branches of the family in their own separate chapters. Or you may decide to use the device of following the history of an heirloom like a cedar chair as it goes from one family to another.

Whichever way you decide to go, the folder method will work equally well. The whole point is to break your notes down into manageable packets. In fact, the headings on your folders become the chapters of your publication. If you decide not to follow the chronological approach you can then shuffle your folders around until you are happy about their order. Next, give each chapter a number, 1 for the first chapter and so on.

Note you have not yet written a word. Don't worry. That next. Look at your folders. Which one contains the most interesting and best research material? The one you are happiest about. Choose it. Now go to your computer, typewriter or desk and combine all the material into one narrative. don't worry too much about style. The aim is to convert all those bits of paper into one continuous manuscript.

Now that shouldn't have been too hard. You have just written a chapter of your book. You can always polish it later. Now pick another folder and write another chapter. Continue until you have written what is in fact the first draft of your publication.

Now you need to go through the draft correcting any misspellings or repetitions. Then cut it by a quarter. Why?

Because we all write too much. After cutting, you have a second draft. Now you confidently write the introduction to your publication, explaining what it covers and briefly highlighting some of the main characters and events.

You can decide what photos, maps, etc, are needed and what can be discarded or converted into a text reference. eg, You can write "early maps indicate that Fred Flang's farm was 20 kilometres west of Lismore" rather than showing a map.

A few points to remember:

■ Identify your sources, especially any statements that may be controversial.

■ A picture is worth a thousand words. Well, not entirely, but illustrations, be they sketches, maps or photographs, all help to get your story across. They amplify the text.

■ Remember, computers these days make it very simple to generate charts and graphs.

■ Captions under photographs and illustrations should give a detail that is not immediately apparent from the photograph. Don't write eg "A North Coast sugar mill" but "The Broadwater sugar mill shown here soon after it was built in 1931."

■ Remember the KISS principle – Keep it simple, stupid. Never write something you don't understand even if you copy it from a well-known authority. After you have written it, ask someone to represent your typical reader and see if they understand it. If they don't, rewrite until they do.

■ Prefer simple, concrete words and phrases to complex, abstract ones eg say "use" rather than "utilise." Clarity of expression is vital, particularly to authors such as family historians whose work will be consulted by others for many years to come.

■ Be consistent. In writing dates use either 15th June or June 15, but not both.

To sum up:

Family histories are valuable resources, both for families and the community.

Don't say you can't write your family history, you can.

Don't say your research is not finished – if authors waited for that, no one would ever publish anything.

By following these simple guidelines you CAN be a published historian.

Whatever you can do, or dream you can do, begin it. – Goethe

— Courtesy of "The Cedar Log," Richmond-Tweed Family History Soc. Inc.

SMALL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Sunday, 10 October 1993, was a big day for the Small Family. Everything occurring at St. Anne's, Ryde.

John and Mary (Parker) Small were married on 12 October 1788 and spent most of their lives at Ryde. Having owned the land on which St. Anne's Church is built.

John Small and three of his seven children are buried in St. Anne's church grounds. The wives of two of them are also buried there.

The day started with the annual meeting in the Centenary Memorial Hall and the committee for the next year was announced as follows: President, Susan O'Brien; Vice-President, John Pollock; Secretary, Douglas Oakes; Assistant Secretary, Thora Moxon; Treasurer, Edith Turner; Committee Members, Beryl Lewis and Janice Thomas.

Bess Hooke, who had been Secretary since inception (1971), was given a bunch of flowers by the outgoing committee in appreciation of her long service.

At the twenty-first thanksgiving service, opera singer John Brosnan gave a beautiful rendition of the ever-popular The Holy City and How Can I Keep From Singing. The Small Family Choir sang Song of Australia.

After the thanksgiving service the Small Family Memorial in the grounds of St. Anne's was dedicated. Councillor Mick Lardelli, Mayor of Ryde, raised the Queen Anne flag off the memorial to dedicate the plaque. The Reverend John Gelding completed the service with a dedication prayer.

Other guests were Mr Peter Christian, President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, and Mr Roland Trevitt, representing the President of the Ryde Historical Society.

The Small Family Association would like to remind everyone of its Family Picnic on Sunday, 13 March 1994, at Smith Park, Richmond, NSW.

John and Mary Small's second daughter, Mary, and her husband, Matthew Hughes, are buried at St. Peter's Cemetery, Richmond.

In 1982 Mrs Dulcie Bullock had the tombstone of Matthew and Mary Hughes restored. This year the Small Family Association had the base restored and weed-proofed

The Hughes Memorial will be dedicated after the 10 o'clock Morning Service at St. Peter's, Richmond.

The Fellowship received a letter from the Maclean District Historical Society about a reference to the Smalls of Woodford Island which appeared in the Newsletter.

The article stated that access to the burial site of John and Elizabeth Small on Woodford Island, Clarence River, was most difficult other than by truck or walking and then only at special times of the year.

The Maclean District Historical Society has assured the Fellowship that the site is accessible at all times!

There is a signpost on the track leading from the South Arm Road to the property on which the cemetery is located. The property is owned by Mr Reg Barnier who has given permission for anyone to enter. It is rather rough walking but easily trafficable by car.

The cemetery consists of two burial sites. The sites are surrounded by metal railing fences installed by the Maclean Shire Council.

The first site has a tombstone in memory of Elizabeth Small who died 29 May 1870, aged 68 years. It is inscribed with: "Precious in the sight of the Lord the death of His saints". Beside this

tombstone is a concrete slab where it is thought John Small is buried, although unidentified.

In the other site there are two large tombstones. One for the son, John Frederick Small, who died 15 October 1897, has the quotation: "In my Father's house there are many mansions, I go to prepare a place for you." The other tombstone is for daughter-in-law Matilda Small who died 16 October 1860, aged 45 years. Its inscription is: "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God." There is also a plaque for Matilda's mother, Mrs C. Choune, who died in 1885 and is believed to have been over 100 years old.

Two grandchildren, Louise Henrietta Small, 17.7.1865 - 25.9.1865, and John Frederick Small, died 4.1.1910 aged two years four months, also have small tombstones.

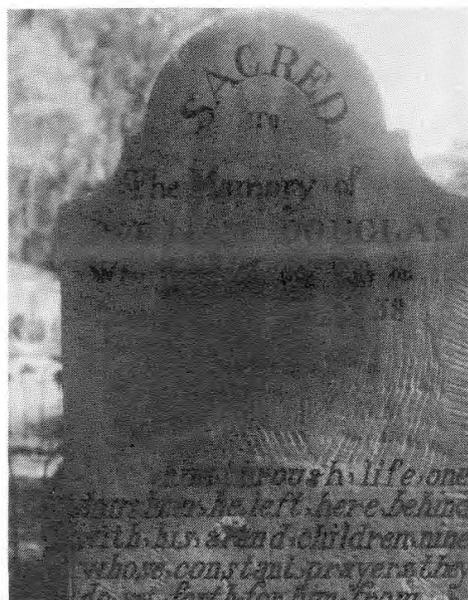
The second site also has a tombstone for a Thomas Small who died 28 October 1893, aged seven years. This child is believed to be a member of Thomas Small's family.

The Maclean District Historical Society's efforts in bringing this information forward to the Small Family Association and to the Fellowship is most appreciated and a sincere "thank" you is extended.

- DOUG OAKES, Plaques Convenor

THE WILLIAM DOUGLAS MEMORIAL

Our thanks go to Earl Morris of Tenambit via Maitland for supplying the words on William Douglas's tombstone.



The inscription reads as follows:

SACRED
TO
the Memory of
WILLIAM DOUGLAS
Who Departed this Life on
November the 27 1838
Aged 81 Years
Bless him through life one
daughter he left here behind
with his grand children nine
whose constant prayers they
do set forth for him from
time to time may his soul
rest in peace amen

HEALTH AND HEALING WITH THE FIRST FLEET SURGEONS

At the time our ancestors arrived in Sydney, most internal illnesses could not be diagnosed, internal operations were impossible, and amputations were carried out by a surgeon with unsterilised knife and saw, while the screaming patient, fortified by strong liquor, was held down by a team of strong men. Death from shock and blood poisoning was common for the knowledge of bacteria and anaesthetics was still in the future. It is against this background that the work of the First Fleet doctors must be evaluated.

There were eight surgeons and two surgeon's mates sent with the First Fleet to attend to the medical needs of some 1,500 people making a voyage half way round the world. Of these, 778 were convicts, most of whom were in poor health from being imprisoned on disease-ridden hulks or in the overcrowded jails of England. The chief surgeon was Dr John White. In spite of the conditions, and the eight-months voyage, only 34 people died.

But White's problems on arrival were enormous. Many had scurvy or dysentery, there was no accommodation and medical supplies were woefully inadequate. White and his assistants responded well to the challenge. A rough structure of bark and canvas was erected on the western side of Sydney Cove to serve as a hospital. White was a keen amateur naturalist and was able to make up medicines from native trees and plants. The situation was improving when the Second Fleet arrived with 500 seriously ill and dying convicts. No sooner had White and his team saved half of these than the Third Fleet arrived with many more sick convicts. In spite of all his efforts, there were 436 deaths in 1792. However, when White returned to England in 1794, the position was much improved with only 59 deaths occurring in that year.

Another medico of note was Thomas Jamison, the surgeon's mate in the Sirius. He was responsible for the health of the increasing numbers of people sent to Norfolk Island from March 1788 to October 1799. Back in Sydney, he became Surgeon-General, successor to William Balmain. He helped to carry out the first successful vaccination of children here against smallpox. He published the first medical articles in the Gazette, and gained permission for surgeons to go into private practice to attend to women in childbirth.

Surgeon Thomas Arndell was assistant surgeon on Friendship. When Rose Hill was opened up as a settlement, he became surgeon in charge of the hospital there. He was a capable doctor, but he gradually became more interested in farming and gave up his post at the hospital in 1795. However, from his farm, he attended to the people of the area by accepting from Bligh the position of assistant surgeon at the Hawkesbury. He remained in New South Wales to establish a numerous and well-respected family.

With the coming of Macquarie, the work of these medical pioneers was consolidated - Sydney Hospital was built to serve the growing needs of the citizens of Sydney.

CONTROLLING THE COMMISSARIAT

Of all the tasks that faced the First Fleeters, both before sailing and on arrival in New South Wales, that of managing the commissariat must have been, to use a modern expression, "mind-blowing." What to take? There were literally thousands of items as axes, shovels, hoes, iron pots, wooden platters, fishing nets and hooks, candles, bedding and clothes. And how to issue the stores? What they brought with them were virtually the only supplies in the Colony. The officer in charge of the stores was the commissary.

The first man to hold this important position was Andrew Miller. He came out on Sirius with Phillip, and for a short time, he was his secretary. Miller found the job fraught with problems, even when he was given a trustworthy assistant, Zachariah Clark. There was no coinage, and assigned servants had to be paid in rum, tobacco, tea, sugar, clothing, flour, salt, pork or rice. Free workmen were paid in notes on the British Treasury. Miller's health broke

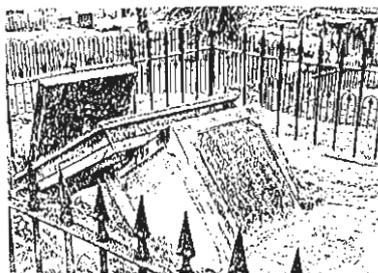
down under the strain, and he resigned in 1790. He died on the return journey to England.

Another First Fleeter, John Palmer, took up the task of handling the stores. He had had experience at handling and issuing stores as the purser on Sirius. He became the commissary in June 1791. The job had become more complicated now, for, besides issuing government stores, he was responsible for negotiating with merchants to buy in new stores. He arranged the deals, fixed the prices and drew up treasury bills for payments. He had to keep accounts and virtually act as banker to the Colony. Palmer, sophisticated and self-confident, with a friendly personality and good intellect, handled his great responsibilities well. He decided to stay in the Colony, brought out his family and built himself a fine house at Woolloomooloo. Here he entertained the highest gentry in the Colony. He was seated at the Governor's table on the night of Bligh's arrest in the Rum Rebellion. His support of the Governor involved him in difficulties with the New South Wales Corps, but he was reinstated by Macquarie. However, the commissariat was restructured, and Palmer lost some of his power. But he remained an influential man in the Colony till his death in 1833.

Another First Fleeter employed in the commissariat was William Broughton who came on the Charlotte as servant to surgeon White. He was at first storekeeper at Rose Hill, but his most important work was done as acting deputy commissary of Norfolk Island. He also held positions in the commissariat in Sydney and Hobart. He was highly praised for his honesty and hard work by Macquarie. Later he took up farming and stayed to found a family in the colony.

Australia was fortunate to have men of such character to put in charge of the housekeeping requirements of the young Colony.

A PLEA FOR RESTORATION HELP THE THOMAS CHASELING VAULT



The vault of the Founder of the large Chaseling Family is in a sad, broken-down state. Chaseling descendants will agree that its restoration would be a worthwhile project.

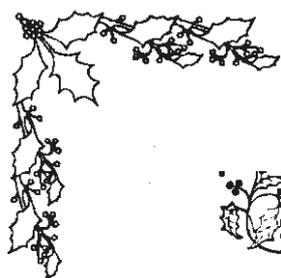
The vault is in St. John's Wilberforce Cemetery, N.S.W., not very far from Matthew Everingham's grave.

The Family Association would be happy to be a contact point which members of the Chaseling Family could use to meet each other to organise restoration.

Please contact (02) 524 2797.

WHAT YOUR DOLLAR CAN BUY FOR YOU AT FIRST FLEET HOUSE

Get your Christmas Present Orders in Now!



	Price (Postage Extra)
Plain Cards - "The Beginning" on Cover	70c ea
Xmas Cards - "The Beginning" on cover, message inside	70c ea
Laminated Place Mats - "The Beginning"	\$4.50 - 4 for \$16.00
Foam-backed Place mats - "The Beginning"	\$6.00 ea
Tea Towels - "The Beginning" by Tom Silk	\$3.00 ea
Charts: Macquarie's Sydney	\$3.00 ea
The Green Hills	\$3.00 ea
Car Stickers with our Logo	\$1.50 ea
Stick Pins with our Logo	\$3.50 ea
Bottle Opener with our Logo	\$3.50 ea
Key Ring on leather with our Logo	\$5.00 ea
Teaspoons, Tea Caddy, Fluted Spoon and Cake Forks with our Logo	\$4.00 ea
MAG/NFY Book Mark with Sirius Supply	\$3.00 ea
Range of Refrige Magnets: Sirius/Supply, The Landing, Sydney	
Coat of Arms, Aust. Coat of Arms, Aussie Animals, Aussie Birds, True Blue Koala, Fellowship of First Fleeters	\$2.00 ea.

LAST CHANCE TO BUY AT THIS PRICE (not all colours or sizes)

T-SHIRTS Navy, White, Gold, and Marine Blue:			
Child	\$9.00	posted	\$12.00
Adult	\$12.00	posted	\$15.00
XXL	\$13.00	posted	\$16.00
WINDCHEATERS Navy, White, and Marine Blue:			
Child	\$18.00	posted	\$21.00
Adult	\$23.00	posted	\$25.00
XXL	\$24.00	posted	\$27.00

Have you recorded your Size, Colour, 1st or 2nd choice of colour? You can only buy Fellowship T-Shirts and Windcheaters from our office.

Wear them with pride at Family Gatherings.

BOOKS

	Price	Postage
Compiling your Family History by Nancy Gray	\$5.95	\$2.50
A Convict Life updated to How to Trace Your Convict Ancestors by Janet Reakes	\$9.95	\$2.50
Norfolk Island by James Hugh Donohoe	\$14.00	\$2.50
Arthur Phillip by Thea Stanley Hughes	\$5.50	\$2.50
The First Fleet by Jonathan King	\$28.00	\$6.00
The Secret History of the Convict Colony by Robert King	\$25.00	\$5.00
Norfolk Island Embarkments by Irene Schaffer & Thelma McKay	\$9.50	\$4.00
Profiles of Norfolk Island by Irene Schaffer & Thelma McKay	\$10.50	\$4.00
Where First Fleeters Lie by Rod Best & Joyce Cowell	\$22.00	\$2.50
Settlers & Convicts of the Bellona	\$7.00	\$2.00

ON CONSIGNMENT BOOKS

Mobbs Musters by Beryl Lewis & Alan Lemon	\$30.00	\$6.00
A View of Governor Phillip's House	\$6.00	\$2.00
A Rich Inheritance Vol. 2 (Williams Roberts & Kezia Brown)	\$50.00	\$5.00
Memorial to a Marine by Joyce Cowell	\$5.00	\$2.00
Parramatta Bicentenary by Collingridge Rivett	\$10.00	\$2.50
Transported to Paradise (Ann Forbes & Thomas Huxley Families) by Douglas Huxley	\$77.00	\$7.00
John Herbert	\$14.50	\$2.00

NAME BARS may be ordered through F.F.F. Office
First Fleeters names plus your name \$8.00 \$1.00

MEMBERS' TIES for Members only \$18.50 \$2.00

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE "FRENCH CONNECTION"

Inspection of the Laperouse Museum

Sunday 10 October proved to be a day which transported an interested group of First Fleeters back in time to the amazing voyage of two French vessels, L'Astrolabe and La Boussole. These were under the command of Jean-Francois de Galaup, Comte de Laperouse, and were commissioned by Louis XVI to embark on a scientific voyage of discovery.

The expedition set sail in 1785 and was equipped for a four-year voyage. After two and a half years exploring the Pacific Ocean, the French ships, under Laperouse, appeared in Botany Bay

within days of the arrival of Captain Phillip and the First Fleet.

The two captains established a cordial relationship and Laperouse entrusted Phillip with reports and letters to the French king when L'Astrolabe and La Boussole sailed from Botany Bay in March 1788. The ships were not sighted again until 1828 when the two wrecks were discovered on the reefs of Vanikoro off the Solomon Islands.

The Laperouse Museum tells the story of this voyage and as our guide conducted our group from room to room we were able to observe some rare and fascinating navigational maps, ancient scientific instruments as well as relics salvaged from the wrecks.

Altogether a most interesting display and very relevant to our early beginnings!

After partaking of a tasty fish lunch at a local cafe, some of the group stayed to pay a visit to the Aboriginal Museum which is housed adjoining the Laperouse Museum. Though it is not as comprehensive as the French exhibit - this was also very interesting.

The attendants were very helpful and obliging and there were many Aboriginal pictures and artefacts as well as mementos for sale. An interesting video showing present-day young people being taught the old dances and songs was also showing.

Altogether a most informative and enjoyable day.

NAIDA JACKSON