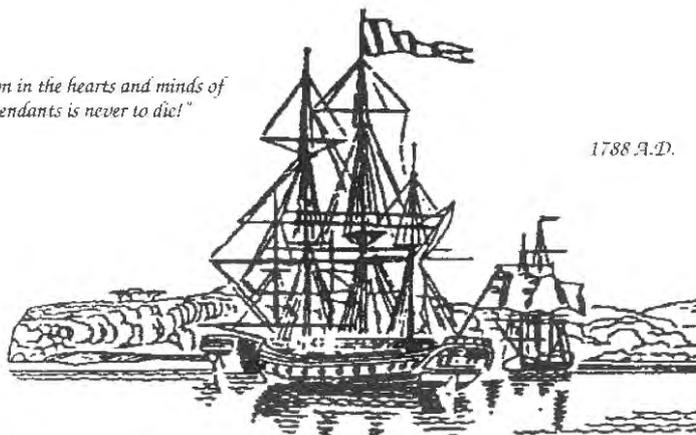


Fellowship of First Fleeters

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

1788 A.D.



N E W S L E T T E R

JOURNAL OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS INC. NSW 1988

PRICE 50¢ Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 1271

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

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

MAY/JUNE 1994 VOLUME 25 NO. 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The end of the financial year is once more upon us and with this issue of the Newsletter you will find your renewal subscription form. Your financial support is vital for the day to day running of the Fellowship. At our April Executive meeting, Treasurer Roy Morris reported that in this financial year we had paid \$12,000 off the mortgage on First Fleet House. We hope that with your continued support, in conjunction with a fairly steady flow of new members, we will be in a position to say that First Fleet House will be paid off in three to four years hence!!

The Friends of First Government House Site recently wrote to us again re proposals for the setting up of a museum on the original site of Governor Phillip's house. In response to the Friends' letter, the Executive directed that I write to the Premier expressing concern that the museum would become a place for debate on the rights and wrongs of the First Settlement, in effect, giving priority to political expediency as opposed to historical fact. If memory serves me right I reported this problem to you in the Newsletter of July/August 1993. I said then, and I will say now, in the certain knowledge that I have the unanimous support of your Executive, that it seems that the proposed Museum of Sydney (a misnomer if ever there was one) could end up as a pseudo-intellectual white-wash promoting the idea that the arrival of the First Fleet was a full-scale invasion. Our First Fleet forebears deserve a better memorial than that!!

Would you please keep in mind the excursion to La Perouse on Sunday, 10 October next. As reported in the last Newsletter we are presenting to the French Museum, at a future date to be announced, a rather fine, framed print of the French ships commanded by La Perouse entering Botany Bay.

After some six years, our computer has been updated, and at the last Executive meeting, the Daytime Fellowship has offered to meet the cost of installing a software program which will enable us to enhance our output of First Fleet family trees.

On the first weekend in October Windsor will celebrate the bicentenary of settlement in the Hawkesbury region. On Saturday 1 October there will be a procession of pioneers and I hope that members of the Fellowship, especially those descendants of First Fleeters who pioneered the Hawkesbury area, will take part in the celebrations. If you wish to take part in this please contact Laurel McMiles (phone 6044457), Brenda Burke (7551027) or myself (8683063).

In this issue one of our members has written an open letter to myself as President. May I say that I do not resent from what I believe, or perceive, that the role our convict forebears played in the pioneering of our nation does not reflect on past demeanours, or that we should have a guilt complex on the circumstances of the First Fleet Settlement.

What do you think?

In Fellowship, PETER

NORTH SYDNEY TO WAVERTON WALK

DATE: Sunday, 12 June 1944

TIME: 2.00pm to 4.00pm

COST: \$5.00 – includes entry to Don Bank Museum

PLACE: Meet outside North Sydney Station, Blue Street.

Finish at Waverton Station.

A steady walk with Pat Miller as our guide. Pat will show us the charm of the North Sydney area and we will visit Don Bank Museum, the oldest house in the district.

Wear comfortable walking shoes and there are plenty of places where you can get afternoon tea afterwards if you wish.

Please phone office on 360 3788 or 360 3988 for bookings.

**July Function
SOUP & DAMPER DAY
Details on page 2**

DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

Once again we welcomed some new faces in the gathering of 25 members who spent a day at Parramatta on 4 May. We even had a bit of an incident thrown in on our way up in the Rivercat. We passed a ferry that had earlier crashed into a bridge due to an electrical fault on board. There were plans at one stage to transfer us to buses, but we were eventually allowed to continue as we were. Most of our assembly had not been in this area for many years and were surprised at how large and modern Parramatta City has become.

Bookings for the Cooma trip are very pleasing, and the motel advised that owing to coach cancellations we can now be allocated more rooms. Names on our list total 35 at the time of writing, and five more places can be filled. With this number, and barring cancellations, the motel will send its own coach to Sydney to pick us up, instead of meeting us off the train at Canberra. This may involve a few extra dollars in travel costs for some, and a decrease for others, depending on travel entitlements, but the convenience should benefit all. Once all deposits are in at the end of June, a letter will be sent to all those participating, explaining the travel arrangement and payment of the balance. I must apologise for the fact that in the last Newsletter my name erroneously appeared below the outline of daily activities that the motel had supplied. It looked like a clear case of plagiarism, but I'm innocent, your Honour.

On now to our July function. This is our soup and damper day, where a full lunch will be available after our meeting and later still, afternoon tea.

Mr John McClymont, past president of Parramatta and District Historical Society, will be our guest speaker, and show us slides on his subject, 'Early Parramatta.' John is a councillor with the Royal Australian Historical Society, a member of the Brush Farm Historical Society, and a member of the John Horbury Hunt Club, a band of people who admire work of this last century architect. When 'The History of Parramatta' is published next year, John

will be seen as co-author with Carol Liston and Terry Kass.

We hope for a good crowd as usual, and a donation of \$3.00 will help build our funds. Details are set out below. See you then.

DATE: 7 July (Thursday)

PLACE: First Fleet House

TIME: 11.30am (Meeting)

1.15pm approx. (Guest Speaker)

BERNICE SMART

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR PERIOD 21 APRIL TO 25 MAY 1994

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - two adults, one junior and one spouse associate.

JAMES McMANUS - JANE POOLE + JAMES BRADLEY: Mrs Margaret Anne Duncan (sp. Mr Howard G. Duncan).

THOMAS WILLIAMS: Mr Ali Hammad Williams; Miss Yasmin Ali Williams (jun.).

BIRTHS

A warm welcome to the following New First Fleeters:

ASHLEE MARGARET ALLAND (F.F. Anthony Rope - Elizabeth Pulley), 1 December 1993. First child to Don (#6141) and Bev Alland, a granddaughter for Gwen.

THOMAS BENJAMIN CANNING (F.F. Matthew Everingham), 6 April 1994. Son to Carol and Peter (#4032) Canning and grandson to Enid (#4031) and Robert Canning.

MATTHEW DAVIS (F.F. Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes), January 1994. Second son for Helen (#383) and Greg Davis.

LUCY MAREE DEAN (F.F. William

Roberts). Second daughter for Mark and Lisa Dean and a sister for Pippa. Second granddaughter for Brian (#3207) and Cecily Chesworth.

IAKE WILLIAM GOLDING (F.F. Thomas Acres), 28 April 1994. First born son to Robyn and Craig, brother to twin sisters Laura and Jessica, grandson to Fay (#4420) and Bert Golding, great-grandson to Sarah Golding.

KATE MARIE MAGUIRE (F.F. James Sheers - Mary Smith), 27 April 1994. First child for Grant and Julie, sixth grandchild for Ron (#6435) and Zona Maguire, great-granddaughter to Mabel Upfold.

THOMAS ANTHONY NEWMAN (F.F. Ann Sandlin - John Winter), 24 March 1994. Third child for Denise (#3900) and Tony Newman, third grandchild and first grandson of Vince (#3899) and Jacqueline Gattenhof. Third great-grandchild of Dorice Mary Gattenhof.

IAN WILKINSON (F.F. Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes), 15 November 1993. Second son and third child for Kate and Chris (#384) Wilkinson.

JAMES WILKINSON (F.F. Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes), 5 March 1994. First Child for Catherine and Paul (#385) Wilkinson.

OBITUARIES

Deepest sympathy is offered to the families of the following:

DAVID JOHN HAMILTON (#3764), passed away 3 August 1992. Beloved husband of Ellen R. Hamilton.

WILLIAM ROBERT HERBERT (#5410), passed away 9 March 1944. Past President and Patron of Herbert Family Association. Sadly missed by wife Leonie and family, and 16 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

ETHEL DOREEN KEWLEY (#5552), passed away 30 April 1944. Devoted Mother of her family.

JEAN M. TERRILL, husband of Samuel E. Terrill (#1199).

BITS AND PIECES

In the March-April issue of the Newsletter Helen Bersten, archivist of the Australian Jewish Historical Society provided a very informative article on Jewish arrivals on the First Fleet. By coincidence, on Sunday, 10 April, a group of Fellowship members spent an interesting afternoon at the Sydney Jewish Museum. We were first shown a

film on the history of Jewry and were then escorted through the museum by a very dedicated young man - beginning with a display depicting those who arrived in 1788. We were led through displays of all the different aspects of Jewish life and customs. All very informative and our guide very knowledgeable. He then left us to browse upstairs at our own pace. This is where the Holocaust is displayed and

explained to us by survivors of that terrible era. They shared their experiences with us and told how they eventually came to Australia and found a new life here.

In all it was a very thought-provoking afternoon and one which should make us all appreciate the wonderful country we live in and the freedom we all enjoy.
- Naida Jackson

SMALL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

The Small Family Association was delighted at the response by its members to the dedication service and family picnic held at Richmond on Sunday, 13 March 1994. The dedication service was for the restored memorial to Matthew and Mary Hughes and their infant son, Robert, at Saint Peter's Cemetery, Richmond.

Mary Small was John and Mary Small's second daughter. She was born 13 December 1791. Matthew Hughes, who was born in 1770, arrived in this country in the ill-fated *Brittania* in 1796. He took up the position of schoolteacher at the Kissing Point School. It was here that Matthew and Mary met, Mary being a student.

They were first married in a civil service on 6 October 1808 and then on 12 March 1810 a marriage ceremony was conducted at Richmond by the Reverend Henry Fulton. Matthew by this time had been appointed schoolmaster at the Richmond school.

Matthew died 25 December 1845 and Mary died 21 November 1879.

In 1982 Mrs Dulcie Bullock, at her own expense, had the tombstone of their grave restored and in 1993 the Small Family Association had the grave restored.

The eulogy for Matthew and Mary Hughes was given by Mrs Valerie Samson, the daughter of Dulcie Bullock. Dr Rex Stubbs, President of the Hawkesbury Historical Society, dedicated the memorial.

After the dedication service a family picnic was held at Smith Park, Richmond.

The next gathering of the Small Family will be on the weekend of 8-9 October. During the afternoon of the Saturday

they will be conducting a walk through Rookwood Cemetery with the Friends of Rookwood, finishing with a dedication service at the restored grave of Rebecca Oakes.

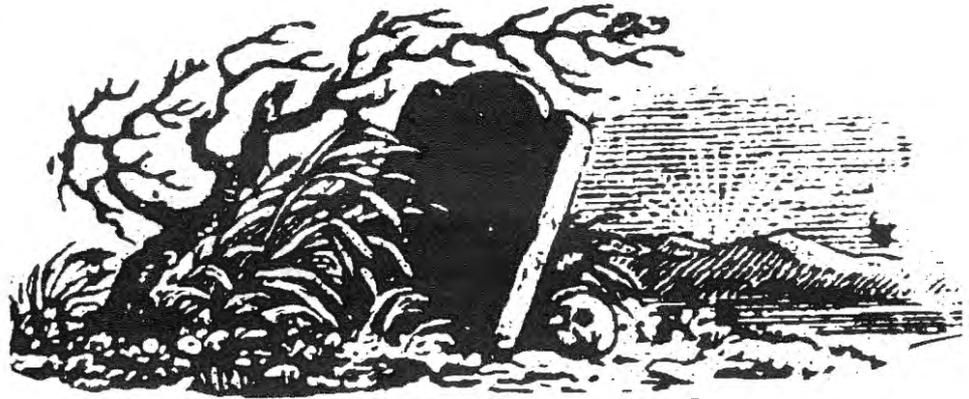
Rebecca Oakes was first child born to John and Mary Small. She was born 22 September 1789 and died 30 January 1883, aged 93.

On Sunday, 9 October, the annual family gathering will take place at Saint Anne's, Ryde. The day will start with the

held in the Colony on 19 May 1788. By 1806 they had a grant of 48 acres at Nepean.

Elizabeth died on 9 August 1837 leaving eight children, namely Robert (1788), Mary (1791), Elizabeth (1794), John (1795), Sarah (1798), Susanne (1801), William (1805), and Elizabeth Ann (1808). She was buried at Castlereagh Cemetery on 11 August 1837, aged 80 years.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters in 1985



annual meeting in the Memorial Hall at 11.00am, with lunch to follow.

At 3.00pm a Thanksgiving Service will be held in historical Saint Anne's Church, Ryde.

Any member seeking further information may contact Douglas Oakes on (02) 4282806.

ROPE PULLEY ASSOCIATION

Anthony Rope arrived in the First Fleet aboard the *Alexander*. Elizabeth Pulley's trip with the First Fleet started on Friendship but she was transferred to Prince of Wales at Capetown.

They met soon after arriving in this country and were married in Port Jackson in one of the first marriages

had a memorial plaque attached to her tombstone and in 1993 had the tombstone cleaned and restored.

Anthony rope died 20 April 1843, aged 84, and was buried at Castlereagh Cemetery.

The Rope Pulley Family Association will be erecting a memorial for Anthony Rope on the site adjacent to Elizabeth Pulley's burial site at the cemetery. The Fellowship will be having one of its plaques attached to the memorial.

In May 1995 the Rope Pulley Family will be having a family reunion at Castlereagh, which will include a dedication service for the new memorial to Anthony Rope.

Any member seeking further information may contact Bunny Sloan on (02) 9537881 or Laurie and Helen Harkness on (02) 7186021.

Arndell Family Reunion

The Thomas Arndell Family Association is holding its third reunion on 3 October 1994 during the 1994 Hawkesbury Bicentenary. The reunion will include a church service at Ebenezer Uniting Church followed by a picnic lunch and activities at Cattai National Park.

For further details of the reunion please contact Bob Davis, 31 Clarinda Street, Hornsby 2077.

Information Wanted

I'm searching for descendants of Hannah and William Johnson. Hannah was a Fishburn whose grandfather was Andrew Fishburn. The two-hundredth anniversary of the marriage of Andrew and Sarah was 24 May 1994.

Contact Pearl Simmons on 5792754 or 5446266.

EARLY COUNCILS FOR

by J.H. Luscombe

When Town Clerk of Sydney 20-odd years ago, J. H. Luscombe wrote this article for the Journal of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. At the time he was also Vice-Patron of the Fellowship. The way government of the State's major city has evolved makes fascinating reading for everyone interested in the Colony's history. Hopefully it may create a desire in younger generations to look further into their cities' backgrounds.

Until 1823 the Government of the whole of the Colony was vested solely in the Governor but in that year a Legislative Council was appointed to assist him. The Council, however, was appointed, not elected, and the ordinary citizen had no say in the government of his country.

I believe that between 1823 and 1842 there were some persons elected to a Legislative Council but I am not sure what the franchise was, so therefore it cannot be claimed that the Municipal Council of Sydney was the first elected body in the Colony.

It was not until ten years later that Sydney itself achieved a separate identity from that of the Colony. In 1833 a Proclamation was issued passing the Government of Sydney to three Police Magistrates under an "Act for regulating the police in the town and Port of Sydney and for removing and preventing nuisances and obstructions therein". The magisterial system was not particularly successful as police duties frequently took precedence over civic affairs. Nor were all the early Police Magistrates noted for their probity. Moreover, there were sometimes only one or two Magistrates, instead of the stipulated three, to supervise the affairs of the town.

As a result in July, 1835, a petition was presented to Governor Bourke requesting some more organised form of municipal Government. The petitioners also asked for additional revenue to be set aside for civic management and improvement.

The Governor laid the petition before the Legislative Council which, after due consideration, resolved that Commissioners should be elected by the land- and house-holders of the town. The Commissioners would be in control of streets, lighting, sewerage, water supply, etc., and would have the power to assess and levy rates for these purposes. Also, certain revenues collected in the town would be available for five years for civic purposes. The revenues to go to the town were -

- (a) The amount received for licences to retail spirits within the town of Sydney.
- (b) The Sydney market dues.
- (c) The income from conducting water to private houses (in these days there was not a water supply in the City and at some time later Busby's Bore was completed).

However, in order to introduce such a form of Municipal Government the Council further stated that a private bill would have to be prepared, presented to the Governor, and then placed before the Council. Nothing appeared to have been done about presenting this bill and the matter fell into abeyance until 1839.

In 1840 Governor Gipps brought forward a bill in the Legislative Council providing for the introduction of municipal Government in New South Wales. Unfortunately, the bill included



a clause which prohibited all persons who had been transported to the Colony from voting or being elected to the proposed municipal bodies. This clause ignited a powder keg of controversy and in the resulting explosion the bill itself was lost.

Governor Gipps reported the failure of his bill and the controversy to England.

THE CITY OF SYDNEY

Lord John Russell, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, replied in a dispatch dated 21 July 1841. In this dispatch Lord Russell assured Gipps that the New South Wales Legislative Council had powers as full as those of any other British Colony and was quite competent to enact municipal legislation.

Lord Russell expressed disappointment that the bill had been defeated since he found it, apart from the offending clauses which Gipps had by then

(Melbourne had already been incorporated on 12 August 1842, but only as a town. Consequently, Melbourne's inhabitants were merely "burgesses", while those of Sydney were "citizens".) The cost of incorporating Sydney was 257 pounds 19 shillings and 6 pence.

Although the City was in sore need of development and efficient services, Municipal Government could hardly have been worse from a financial point of view. The whole community was entering the most disastrous recession yet experienced.

Transportation diminished to a thin trickle and then dried up altogether. This meant that cheap labour was no longer available and the cost of everything increased. The Government in England spent less money in the Colony as she no longer had to contribute so much towards the expense of transportation. She also withdrew capital from New South Wales in order to finance immigration.

Finally, a severe two-year drought sent food prices soaring, while wool prices dropped by as much as 50%. A contemporary letter-writer stated that a friend of his had to pay "40% for 300 pounds in order to meet a bill for that amount" and that "one-half of the Sydney merchants and some of the stockholders were on their last legs".

Into this wave, which was a veritable dumper, the young Sydney Municipal Council was flung. That it survived at all is surprising - that it not only managed to keep its head above water, but eventually learned to swim, may be considered a small miracle.

Under the provisions of the Act incorporating Sydney, the City was divided into six Wards, namely, Bourke, Cook, Gipps, Macquarie, Brisbane and Phillip. In order to facilitate the smooth functioning of the election and to provide officers to carry out municipal duties until the elected Council should take over, Governor Gipps appointed six provisional Aldermen. That two of the six Aldermen appointed by the Governor were later to be found guilty of lapses from duty is a sad commentary on human probity as the Governor had doubtless attempted to choose men noted for their honesty and devotion to duty.

As well as appointing provisional Aldermen, Governor Gipps also appointed two Assessors for each Ward and a temporary Town Clerk.

It is interesting to note that one of the Assessors who was appointed on 3 September 1842 was a Mr David Jones who was the Founder of the firm of that name which is situated in Sydney today.

The method of electing the Councillors and Aldermen was complicated in the extreme. Any person in possession of 1,000 pounds worth of property or who was rated at an annual value of not less than 50 pounds was eligible to stand for election. Four Councillors were to be elected for each Ward, making a total of 24 in all.

Another intimidating clause in the Act stated that any person elected to the position of Councillor, Alderman, Auditor or Assessor must assume duty or pay a fine of not less than 25 pounds or more than 50 pounds; while a person elected and refusing office had to pay a fine of not less than 50 pounds or more than 100 pounds.

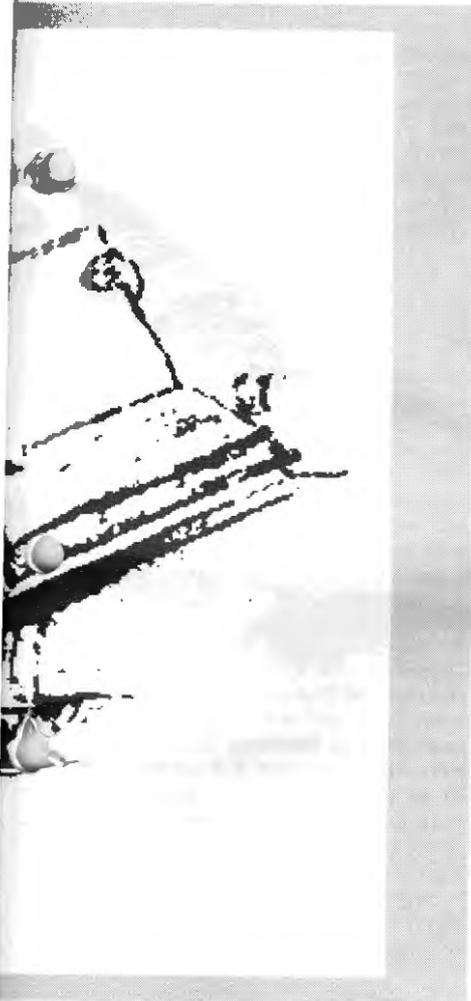
Any person who assumed office but later wished to resign had to pay an equivalent fine, depending on his position. As the consent of a nominee for office did not have to be obtained it was on the cards that a person could be elected without either his consent or knowledge. This unlikely situation did occur in 1843, when a certain Hastings Elwin was elected Auditor against his will. Fortunately Mr Elwin was over the age of 65 years and thus exempt under the Act. He therefore was able to resign for free.

The date of the first election was 1 November 1842, a day as the "Sydney Morning Herald" described it whose "genial weather and cool breeze added much to the general enjoyment".

The polling places were opened from 9am to 4pm, and the day was remarkably free from incident, although Brisbane Ward saw a violent quarrel between husband and wife over which candidate the husband should support.

It might be noted that the voters had "to deliver to the Presiding Officer a ballot paper containing the names, addresses and descriptions of the candidates they wish to vote for". The paper was signed by the voter and the candidates had the option of examining the papers after the election. Such a system would give considerable opportunity for intimidation and bribery, one would imagine.

(Continued overleaf)



apparently removed, "judicious and well considered".

As a result of Russell's support and approval, the Governor introduced the bill to the Legislative Council again in 1842, and it was passed on 20 July of that year. The Act is entitled "an Act to declare the town of Sydney to be a City and to incorporate the inhabitants thereof".

(Continued from previous page)

The day after the election the "Sydney Morning Herald" commented on the election. It stated bluntly that "the evil consequences of the low franchise is apparent in the great number of uneducated men who have been elected". Some days later the "Herald" offered some advice to the embryo Council. After emphasising that the Councillors, having taken public office, could no longer shelter "behind the snug fences of domestic privacy", it continued, "They stand on elevated ground, exposed to the rough elements of popular observation and criticism. They must be content to abide the peltings of many a storm. They are public property. Their office has been created for public benefit. These persons have been elected by the public voice and for the public use and in accepting the suffrages of their fellow citizens they have enlisted themselves as public servants. It is important that this new relation should never be forgotten by them".

After this excellent and timeless advice, the paper explained even more explicitly the Councillors' positions and duties. "Their peculiar position is that they are the first body of Sydney representatives. If by their prudence, zeal and honest devotedness to the public interests they should do credit to the new fledged corporation great will be the honours shed upon their names and lasting their fame in our Municipal annals".

As a final warning the "Herald" offered these remarks -

"If, on the contrary, by their remissness, their ignorance, their blundering measures, their violent temper and angry contentions, they shall cause Sydney to blush for her maiden Council, they will draw down upon their heads the scorn and indignation of the whole Colony and consign their names to an infamous immortality".

On 9 November 1842 the newly elected Councillors assembled for the first time in a room in the north-eastern corner of the old Market Building in George Street for the purpose of electing a mayor.

Alderman John Hosking achieved the distinction of being the first elected Mayor of Sydney. After their arduous first meeting the Councillors adjourned until the following week.

At the second meeting the principal business was the appointment of a Town Clerk at a salary of 400 pounds per annum. There were five nominees for the position and the successful applicant was Charles Henry Chambers.

A duty imposed on the Mayor by the 1842 Act of Incorporation was to have boundary stones set up to mark the limits of the City and the Wards. The markers were to be erected within six months of his election, and consequently Mr Hosking placed an order for the requisite number of boundary stones with the firm of P.N. Russell.

**“Into this wave,
which was a veritable
dumper, the young
Sydney Municipal
Council was flung.
That it survived at all
is surprising – that it
not only managed to
keep its head above
water, but eventually
learned to swim, may
be considered a
small miracle.”**

As well as having boundary posts erected, the Mayor and Town Clerk were to make "a circuit of perambulation" every three years. During this "perambulation" the Town Clerk was to "enquire whether the name or names whereby the said metes and bounds, or any part thereof, are or is described have or has been changed". All such changes were to be entered in a special book known as the Boundary Book.

This in fact was merely a local version of the old English custom of "beating the bounds". In the days when literacy was rare, and street maps even rarer, this custom helped to impress the boundaries of parish or town upon the residents by dint of repetition. It also helped to preserve the local records of such boundaries with accuracy, and so prevent disputes with adjoining parishes.

The first Balance Sheet of the Council was prepared for the period November 1842 to August 1843 and showed that

4,462 pounds and 10 pence had been received and that 4,587 pounds 9 shillings and 6 pence had been expended. It is interesting to note that the expenditure now runs to many millions of dollars.

It is not generally known that for a brief period the City Council had control of the Police Force in Sydney. "Had control" is perhaps not the best term, for the Council appeared to do little except foot the bill.

In his instructions to the Commissioner of Police of 6 March 1843, the Colonial Secretary wrote, "In the execution of your duties you will take orders only from the Government. The distribution of the police force will rest with you, under such orders as you may receive from the Government, although the numerical strength of the Police and the amount of their pay and allowances, are matters which, under the Corporation Act, are to be regulated by the Mayor and Council of the City". A position which could be compared with the policing of parking meters today. Council pays the salary and/or wages of the Parking Police but the State Government receives all penalties.

As a result of Council's dissatisfaction and complaint, an Act was passed in November 1845 suspending for one year the operation of the Corporation Act which related to the Police and vesting management of the Force in the Executive Council. The suspension was continued only until 1850 when the first Corporation Act was repealed. In the new Corporation Act the police clauses were not re-enacted and thus ended the Council's connection with the Force.

Three times during the Council's history it was suspended from office and Commissioners appointed to administer the city. The first time was between the years 1854 and 1857. The second time from 1928 to 1930 and the third time from 1967 until 1969. It is not proposed to go into the pros and cons of the reasons for the dissolution of the council as there are many and varied arguments both for and against. It is merely mentioned here to indicate that the elected body had not had continuity of office.

CONCLUSION

I have endeavoured to outline some of the difficulties and the atmosphere in which the young City of Sydney was born. It has continued to thrive and will thrive and although not the seat of the Federal Government for the Commonwealth of Australia it undoubtedly is the principal city and I feel sure that it will remain so.

RICHARD THE LION HEART GRANTS TOWN CHARTER

Sister City Portsmouth Celebrates

Portsmouth is not shy about owning up to its age. It is 800 years old in 1994 having been granted its town charter in 1194. In absolutely perfect weather its year-long birthday party began on the holiday weekend 30 April - 2 May and Alice, Ula and I were there to take part in the formal events and enjoy the fun in the informal ones.

A street parade set off from the Guildhall at noon on Saturday, the Lord mayor at its head in his gold coach. For the next one and a half hours the people lining the streets were entertained by decorated floats, marching groups and street actors. Medieval costume predominated along with horse-drawn vehicles, knights in armour and crusaders bearing crosses and swords.

After recovering from standing in the street to watch this procession, we donned our finery to attend the Lord Mayor's 'Grand Charity Masked Ball.' Here all was pomp and ceremony. The guests entered the Guildhall via the bronze

This brought to an end our participation in the birthday party events. I can recommend Portsmouth to members intending to travel to the U.K. this year. There is so much to see and do in Portsmouth and events celebrating the 800 years continue all through 1994.

JOYCE COWELL



Above: Ruth, Joyce, Ula and Alice on Guild Hall steps on their way to the Lord Mayor's Ball.

Left: Joyce at Bonds of Friendship monument linking Sydney and Portsmouth.

Below: The crowd in front of the City Museum awaits the arrival of King Richard and his entourage.



doors over a red carpet with a guard of honour provided by the Fort Cumberland Guard. Most of the evening was taken up with eating and drinking, but when the dancing began we were able to admire the beautiful gowns of the women guests.

Sunday was a rest day when we attended Morning Service in the Cathedral Church of St Thomas of Canterbury. The singing of the young boys' choir could only be described as heavenly. In the afternoon we visited the Sally Port to see the 'Bonds of Friendship' monument linking our city of Sydney with the English city of Portsmouth.

Monday was a fun day. Outside the City Museum, in a walled arena, street actors represented King Richard the Lion Heart and his knights arriving on horseback to grant the city its charter. Jousts, sword fights and hand contests followed. Neither the actors nor the horses were accustomed to these activities so the crowd enjoyed many unintentional hilarious sidelights. A children's fancy dress parade produced several Maid Marians, Robin Hoods and King Richards. The pig on the spit provided Pork (somewhat burnt) Hamburgers for lunch, after which a new display 'The History of Portsmouth' was opened in the museum by the Lord Mayor.



OPEN LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Peter Christian,

I am honoured that you chose in your Australia Day toast to quote from my foreword to the book 'John Nichols - First Fleeter,' which I helped write to illuminate the family of my husband's First Fleet ancestor.

I hope you will allow me the opportunity to record my reaction to your toast (and to similar speeches and articles which have appeared in the Fellowship of First Fleeters Newsletter over the last few years).

Perhaps I am the only Newsletter reader who feels this way, but when I take pride in the arrival of my children's First Fleet ancestor (and my own early convict antecedents) I am also sensible that by their arrival they usurped the heritage of an indigenous people whose ancestors had lived here for tens of thousands of years.

I am also aware that although the arrival of the First Fleet is a source of personal pride to my husband and children, intrinsically it is no more important than the arrival of anyone else's ancestors in Australia. In a country where all our ancestors, except our Koori ones, are immigrants, I would consider the arrival of a boatload of Irish orphans in the 1850s, or Middle European stateless persons after World War II, or Vietnamese refugees in the 1970s to be just as significant, particularly if it had included one of my ancestors.

While you rejoice in the fact that few today in the Fellowship of First Fleeters would deny any part of their heritage, I would wager that most of us can remember when this was not altogether the case. When I began my family history research in the early 1970s convict ancestry was not universally welcomed and many family members were distinctly discomfited by the knowledge that their forebears were of convict rather than military or settler stock. In fact I was once accused of

shortening the life of an elderly Nichols family member when I (innocent of the fact that family lore disagreed) commented on the arrival of a direct ancestor as a convict some 150 years before.

I feel I would be justified in saying that most of the early members of the various genealogical and pioneer societies were celebrating their free, rather than convict, ancestors. [To support this notion I surveyed the 1788-1820 Association's Second Edition Vol 1, which contains biographies based on information supplied to the Association between 1968 and 1981 on individuals who arrived pre-1820. There were 128 entries whose surnames began with the letters A - C inclusive. Of the 121 whose status on arrival was known, 68 were convicts and 53 were free. Since 'it was not until the closing years of Macquarie's administration that the actual numbers of free immigrants ceased to be insignificant' (Portia Robinson, 'Hatch and Brood of Time,' p29), surely these figures should be much more heavily weighted in favour of convicts to be representative?] To me these figures help demonstrate that unearthing convict ancestors has really only become acceptable relatively recently, even though convicts are often easier to trace because of their extensive documentation.

When I wrote in my foreword that knowledge of our ancestors 'may help us to understand better the people we have become and even what we could contemplate for our future,' I hoped I was recommending (family) historical research to all Australian families, regardless of their date of arrival. I firmly believe that all who choose to live permanently in Australia are true Australians; and that all will contribute significantly to their country's collective sum, if they are allowed.

Mrs Kaye Purnell,
Gynea Bay, NSW.

NOSTALGIA

*I remember the cheese of my
childhood,*

*And the bread that we cut with a
knife.*

*When children helped with the
housework*

*And the man went to work - not
the wife.*

*The cheese never needed an ice
chest,*

*And the bread was so crusty and
hot.*

*The children were seldom
unhappy,*

*And the wife was content with her
lot.*

*I remember the milk from the
billy,*

*With the yummy rich cream on
the top.*

*Our dinners came hot from the
oven*

And not from the fridge in a shop.

*The kids were a lot more
contented,*

*They didn't need money for
"kicks."*

*Just a game with their mates in
the paddock,*

*And sometimes the Saturday
flicks.*

*I remember the shop on the
corner*

*Where a pennyworth of lollies
was sold.*

*Do you think I'm a bit too
nostalgic?*

Or is it I'm just getting old.

ROSE COTTAGE RESTORATION

The Rose Family Society needs to raise money to be able to apply for a further \$ for \$ Heritage Grant, which will enable the restoration work of Rose Cottage to be completed.

An Outback Australia trip has been organised from 8 to 30 August 1994. Some of the highlights include Great Hall of Fame in Longreach, Mt Isa, Darwin, Katherine Gorge, Mataranka,

Alice Springs, Ayres Rock, Kakadu, Coober Pedy and much, much more.

All inclusive (except some lunches) for the very reasonable cost of \$2,960 per person. Single accommodation extra.

Keith and Enid Carruthers will be Host and Hostess throughout the trip. They are very experienced tour guides and also members of the Rose Family.

For further information please ring Enid on (049) 337165 or Louise Prince (02) 441773, or write to Louise at 30 Booralong Road, Pymble 2073, for more information.

Only 46 seats available. All profits from the trip will go to the Rose Cottage Restoration.