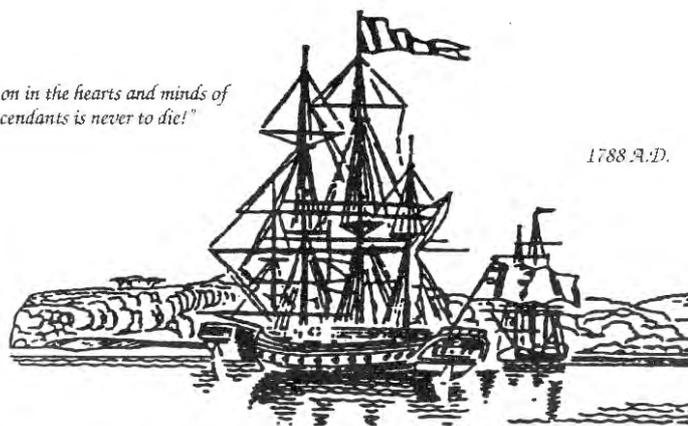


Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"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, AC, Governor of New South Wales

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1995 VOLUME 26 NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Some 60 members of the Fellowship gathered together on the eve of Australia Day to duly celebrate the 207th year of our forebears arriving in this land. It was a joyous occasion of good food, speeches, and our usual toasts. Guest of honour Col. Ralph Sutton's speech*, historical in content, was well received. I am certain that we all left the function in a state of euphoria, content that the strivings of our ancestors would be recognised by all as an achievement 'par excellence.' We were certainly in for a shock. To our dismay Premier Fahey of New South Wales makes it known that he favours 1 January as Australia's national day!!

Another shock was the opening by the State Minister for the Arts, Peter Collins, of First Government House Place, at the forecourt of the misnamed 'Museum of Sydney.' As a prelude to the opening ceremony we were treated to the spectacle of four or five seven-metre high panels of photographs of aborigines in chains - completely out of time-span, belonging probably to the 1860 era - not only out of time-span but completely out of context.

It seems that this museum stands as a memorial to some so-called invasion which was supposed to have occurred

in 1788. Each and everyone of the members present were angered, appalled and disappointed, by this act of desecration on a sacred First Fleet site. I doubt very much that any representative of the Fellowship will accept any official invitation to the proposed opening of the museum in March!

Well, after all that, we did manage to participate in the official Australia Day celebrations, and thanks are due to Laurel McMiles and Brenda Burke for their efforts in the Fellowship at least being recognised by participating in the parade at the official ceremony at Darling Harbour, we did actually receive some media attention!

A number of members were guests in the afternoon at the Jewish Museum, Darlinghurst, for refreshments and the launching of a new display, 'The Jews of Goulburn,' on 25 January. I represented the Fellowship, and read the First Lesson, at the Pioneer Service at the Garrison Church on 29 January.

Keep up the good work - we are within \$13,000 of wiping the debt on First Fleet House. Dare we hope by next year---??

In Fellowship,
PETER

**See page 7*

WISEMAN'S FERRY - YARRAMALONG VALLEY

COACH TRIP

SUNDAY, 2 APRIL

Come and spend a great day exploring this beautiful historic area. Our morning tea stop is Fagan Park at Galston with time for a wander through 'The Gardens of Seven Nations.'

Then we head for Wiseman's Ferry and across the Hawkesbury River on the old punt to enjoy a delicious lunch set amidst this spectacular scenery. On through the beautiful Yarramalong Valley.

All inclusive Coach, Morning Tea and Lunch \$29.00

Send Cheques or Money Orders to Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Early bookings are essential. Please indicate where you wish to join the coach.

Cremorne 8.10am
Outside Metropole Hotel
Central Railway 8.30am
Eddy Avenue

Lane Cove 8.45am
Near Epping Road - Longueville
Road

Inquiries to FFF Office on Tuesdays.
Joy Pankhurst 360 3788
or 360 3988.

For Sale

THE SHIPS OF THE FIRST FLEET POSTERS

56cm by 90cm, gloss print \$5.00 (\$9.00 Posted in Cylinder)

FIRST FLEET SALES

105 Cathedral Street Woolloomooloo NSW 2011 (02) 360 3788

FAMILY HISTORIES

TWO HAWKESBURY PIONEERS

The Hawkesbury Bicentenary Celebration was the venue for the descendants of Edward Weaver and Daniel Smallwood to hold a family reunion. It was also the occasion to launch a new book, 'Two Hawkesbury Pioneers,' which details the lives of these two original pioneers, both of whom settled in the Hawkesbury in 1794, its first year of European settlement.

Author Ian Forster gives a detailed account of the lives of both men and their families, from their time in England before transportation to their later settlement in Pitt Town. A listing of all their known children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren is included, together with many interesting biographical details, anecdotes, maps and photographs. Also given is an idea of the lifestyle and social structure experienced in those early days.

To order, or obtain more information about the book, contact Ian Forster, 6 Bligh Street, Northbridge 2063. Phone (02) 958 7257.

'THE RELUCTANT TRAVELLER'

by Betty M. Brown

The life-story of Edward Kimberley and his descendants in Australia

With a magnificent four-colour hard cover, it contains 172 pages in A4 size.

As well as reproductions of various family photographs and the usual family listings, there is information of wills, birth-death-marriage certificates. Additional data relating to Edward Kimberley's life as Chief Constable at Norfolk Island, and later in Van Dieman's Land, is included.

It also deals briefly with the descendants of Daniel Stanfield, sen., and Alice Harmsworth.

Similarly, information relating to First Fleeter William Standley and his children fall within the framework of 'The Reluctant Traveller.'

A few copies are still available at the remarkably low cost of \$25.00 each, plus postage (usually found to be \$2.80) from:

Mrs BETTY M. BROWN,
29 Commonwealth Avenue,
Burrill Lake NSW 2539

THE STORY OF THOMAS ARNDELL

Following a reprint for the Hawkesbury celebrations and the Arndell Family Reunion, seven copies of each of the following books are available -

Assistant Surgeon Thomas Arndell -
The Man He Was Not

\$12.00 plus \$4 packaging and postage.

Assistant Surgeon Thomas Arndell -
The Man He Was

\$42.00 plus \$6 packaging and postage.

(If they are posted together the postage is \$8.00.)

These books will NOT be reprinted.

Apply to:
Marjorie Raven,
7 Griffin Avenue, Bexley 2207
Phone (02) 587 0528

FAMILY REUNIONS

FIRST FLEETER ROBERT WILLIAMS 1762-1811

On Sunday, 25 June 1995, descendants of Robert Williams will be having a Family Reunion at Richmond, NSW, the highlight of which will be the dedication of the restored Williams Family vault at St. Peter's Cemetery, Richmond.

The day will commence with descendants joining the parishioners of St. Peter's Church, Richmond, at the 10 o'clock Morning Service. The choir from St. Andrew's will be in attendance.

After the Church Service a dedication service will be held at St. Peter's Cemetery for the restored Williams Family vault.

A memorial plaque will be installed on the vault in memory of First Fleeter Robert Williams who, sentenced to seven years transportation, arrived on the Scarborough in 1788 and worked as a carpenter at Port Jackson. In 1791 he married Elizabeth Young who had arrived 1791, and they had two children, Elizabeth and Robert. On 19 September 1796 she was found bludgeoned to death at The Ponds.

On 11 May 1807 he married Elizabeth Curtan who worked for his employer, a Jonathan Griffiths a Second Fleeter. Williams was buried from St. Matthew's, Windsor, on 8 July 1811, age given as 53.

After this service a Family Reunion Picnic will be held in Smith Park, Richmond.

The Fellowship congratulates these descendants for their efforts and looks forward to being with them on 25 June.

For further details please make contact with either Reverend Jim Payne (06) 254 6722 or Shirley Mills on (02) 876 2482.

ROPE PULLEY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Bunny Sloan, with fellow committee members Laurie and Helen Harkness, is making plans for a family reunion on the weekend of 20-21 May 1995.

The reunion is planned for Emu Plains on Saturday, 20 May, and a dedication service on Sunday, 21 May, at the Castlereagh Cemetery.

A memorial has been built in memory of Anthony Rope next to the memorial for Elizabeth Pulley at Castlereagh Cemetery. Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley were married in Sydney on 19 May 1788.

Any descendant or interested party who would like further information, please ring Bunny Sloan on (02) 953 7881 or Laurie and Helen Harkness on (02) 718 6021.

DOUG OAKES,
Plaques Convenor

Culcairn Hotel's Kelly Tour

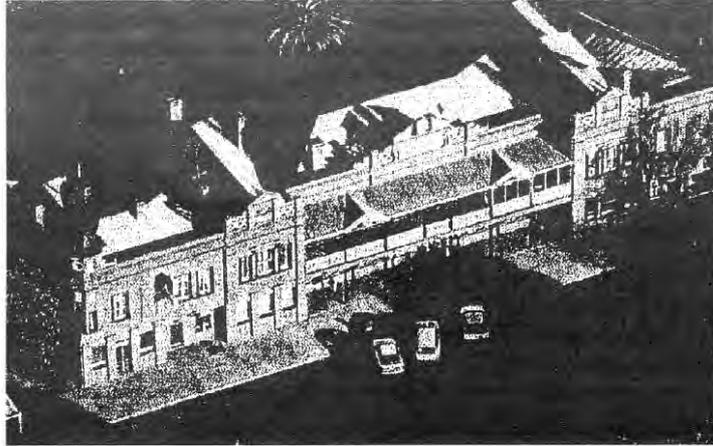
SUNDAY, 7 MAY – SATURDAY, 13 MAY HOLIDAY TOUR

**Southern NSW
Region and North-
east Victoria**

**Seven days/Six
nights**

Wagga Wagga, Junee,
Albury, Corowa,
Yarrawonga,
Beechworth, Bright,
Wangaratta,
Glenrowan

Staying at the famous
Culcairn Hotel



Tour Hostess:

The hotel has a tour hostess, Christine Barber, who accompanies the tours each day providing that personal service that makes the holiday more enjoyable for you.

Coach:

The hotel charts a 45-seater coach from Lodge's Coaches, Culcairn. Reclining seats and fully air-conditioned.

Cost is \$325 per person (excluding travel to and from Culcairn).

Tour commences from when you arrive on Sunday afternoon until the following Saturday morning of your departure.

Included in the cost of the Tour:

- * Twin share accommodation
- * Fully cooked breakfast, picnic lunch every day
- * Morning and afternoon tea, where possible
- * Dinner in the dining-room or Function Room
- * All 'day tour' costs and entrance fees
- * Single persons welcome, at no extra charge.

Day trips include:

- * Lake cruise, winery, museums
- * Corowa Bowling Club
- * Beechworth and Bright
- * Ned Kelly Theatre
- * Wangaratta Woollen Mills
- * Drage Air World
- * Wagga Chinese Garden
- * Monte Cristo Homestead, etc.

Evening Activities:

There is a guest pianist to entertain us two nights of each week with some soft dinner music. There is a guest lounge upstairs with an open fireplace with tea and coffee making facilities and a television set to keep in touch with favourite programs. On Monday nights the local bowling club has bingo to which everyone is welcome.

There is no single surcharge for singles and facilities are available for a small number on each weekly tour.

XPT timetable from Sydney:

The XPT departs Sydney Central Station at 8.10am and arrives at Culcairn at 3.01pm where we are met at the station and transported the 200 metres to the hotel. The XPT departs Saturday at 12.01pm arriving Sydney Central Station at 7.13pm.

Bookings and further information from:

FIRST FLEET HOUSE
105 Cathedral Street
Woolloomooloo 2011
Phone: (02) 360 3788, 360 3988

JOHN NICHOLS, FIRST FLEETER Nichols Family Picnic Day

Sunday 5 March 1995, 9.00am – 5.00pm

To be held in the large shelter shed, Wharf Road, Newcastle, on the foreshores of Newcastle Harbour, behind the Old Customs House.

A short walk from the railway station.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Winsome Miller
14 Tomago Parade, Mt. Hutton 2290
Phone (049) 487724

NASH FAMILY REUNION

Sunday, 12 February

at Observatory Hill following a Church Service at St. Phillip's, Church Hill, at 10.00am.

Inquiries: LYDIA HOPE

831 2279

THE DAY WE CELEBRATE

In proposing the toast 'The Day We Celebrate' at the Australia Day eve luncheon, held at the Masonic Club in Sydney, our President had this to say:

Together we celebrate the 207th anniversary of European settlement in this country. We, the proud descendants of those settlers both bonded and free, in the past three decades have made enormous progress in recording the pioneering of this land of those First Fleeters and their progeny.

For the most part the first settlers were of Anglo-Saxon stock. It is of interest to note that in this generation, many First Fleet families appear to becoming integrated into our so-called multicultural society – it is to be hoped that these descendants will give due recognition to the part played by their forebears in the building of this nation, just as one hopes that those who claim descent from the original inhabitants of this land may in time rejoice in their dual heritage, as it is patently evident many share this dual heritage!!

Some years ago Professor Ken Cable, speaking at a function such as this, said – 'Membership of the Fellowship of First Fleeters is a rare privilege but a heavy responsibility,' he went on to say 'that in a special way WE are Australian history, maintain you Fellowship, maintain your keen enthusiasm and preserve your co-operation to ensure that it really means something.'

And again, a few years later Past President Beryl Lewis, in proposing this very toast, had this to say – 'As your president I beseech you all to hold fast to your heritage – be true to your country and in celebrating this Australia Day endeavour to spread the knowledge of our early history to coming generations, always remembering that in our search for knowledge we never reach journey's end.'

I sincerely believe that the future will ensure that our Fellowship will grow from strength to strength. We have a wondrous, intriguing story to hand down, not only to future generations of First Fleet descendants but also to the peoples of this Australian nation regardless of their ethnic background.

The Day We Celebrate is a triumph of progress over adversity, we truly honour our forebears who arrived in such inauspicious circumstances on 26 January 1788.

Peter Christian



AUSTRALIA DAY CELEBRATES THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST FLEET IN 1788

What a bitter disappointment!!

After a rather large effort to attempt to promote Australia Day and have a large contingent of descendants of First Fleeters present, it was extremely disappointing to find that of the 7,000 certificates issued from this Fellowship only a meagre 18 descendants of those in the metropolitan area could afford the time and effort to give their support and display the pride in their heritage on this our very special day for the parade in Tumbalong Park.

As FIRST FLEET DESCENDANTS and AUSTRALIANS we will continue to remain a silent minority unless we take a firm stand to rid ourselves of this apathetic attitude which so many appear to have towards our heritage.

Are we as Australians going to sit back and allow this to happen? Our history is fading into obscurity. For the sake of those who come after us, promotion of the first European settlement is of vital importance.

Our grateful thanks to those persons who joined us throughout the day beginning at Hyde Park Barracks for the official opening of Australia Day by the Lord Mayor, Frank Sartor.

As a group behind the First Fleet Banner we proceeded to the opening of the "OLD GOVERNMENT HOUSE SITE", where our presence appeared to some to be an embarrassment. Whilst on the other hand, many people came up to us to offer their approval of our silent stance to preserve the history of our forebears BEGINNING ON THIS DAY in 1788.

At approximately 6.00pm 18 Lone Descendants gathered by the Cockle Bay Bar and proudly paraded through Tumbalong Park with other groups to the Official Ceremony hosted by His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair AC Governor of New South Wales who in his address to the people of New

South Wales stipulated the importance of Heritage, Mateship and the Combining of all Cultures in today's modern Australia.

The ceremony did not go without its hitches - when our Australian flag was to be raised by the lads of Kings School, it refused to fly above about half mast, however the large crowd were unperturbed and showed their enthusiasm by holding miniature flags above their heads en masse whilst singing the national anthem

We will be setting up a register for members who are interested in future promotions of the Fellowship to enable us to contact them for their support.

In conclusion we quote the words of the founder of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and a proud Australian John Lavett (deceased):

"For the sake of the Australians who are to come after us, I hope we face the task of our day and to the best of our individual ability do our best to ensure the continuance of the country's progress and prosperity."

TO LIVE ON IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF DESCENDANTS IS NEVER TO DIE.

BRENDA and LAUREL

BACKGROUND TO THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES

[For reasons of space, we produce a condensed version of the Address delivered by Colonel Ralph Sutton (Rtd.) at the Australia Day Eve Luncheon on 25 January 1995.]

For centuries trade has been the lifeblood of the nations. In the fifteenth century Portuguese and Spanish navigators sailed further and further away from their home countries in search of new products for the home market and in search of new lands where goods could be sold and lands which could prove to be invaluable colonies.

In 1642 the Dutch Governor of Batavia dispatched Abel Janszoon Tasman to explore southern and eastern waters. He discovered Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, and islands of Tonga and Fiji. On his return to Batavia he reexplored the north coast of New Guinea.

In Paris in 1756 President Charles de Brosses published a history of voyages to Terra Australis. De Brosses recommended colonisation by France of lands discovered in the southern hemisphere.

In 1766, no doubt influenced by President de Brosses's book, the French Government dispatched Louis Bougainville, via Cape Horn, to search for new lands in the Pacific.

De Brosses's book was translated by Englishman John Callander and published in three volumes between 1766 and 1768. Callander recommended the settlement of New Britain and Terra Australis. If, as many had believed for centuries, a great southern continent extended north from the South Pole into the temperate zones of the Pacific Ocean, whatever nation settled it would wield enormous power for many years to come. Britain could not afford to let France, her arch-rival, gain such a strategic advantage.

In 1767 the Royal Society of London began preparations for observing from several locations the "Passage of the Planet Venus over the Disk of the Sun on the 3rd of June 1769" and petitioned King George III for assistance.

The Admiralty selected James Cook, master of the schooner HMS Grenville, who had come to notice as a result of his navigational skills in North America. On 25 May 1768 Cook was commissioned a lieutenant in the Royal Navy and was given command of the 366-ton bark HMS Endeavour.

Cook departed from England on 26 August 1768 and the observations at Tahiti were successfully carried out. On 9 August 1769 he set out to search for the imagined great southern continent. After completing the circumnavigation he struck westwards until he observed the eastern coastline of New Holland at Point Hicks. He then sailed north and anchored on 29 April 1770 in Stingray Bay which he later called Botany Bay. After one week's local exploration he sailed north on 7 May, naming Port Jackson as he passed by the heads. On 22 August he reached Torres Strait and landed on an island where he took possession of the east coast of New Holland, which he then named New Wales. The British Government was still not sure that Cook was correct and sent him off again to search for the Great South Land.

Cook discovered Norfolk Island on 10 September 1774 and departed on the following day. However, his short time there allowed him to report favourably on the island's resources and suitability for settlement.

At the climax of his investigations his murder at Hawaii on 14 February 1779 brought to an untimely end his great contribution to British exploration by sea. Within the space of ten years Cook had made known by precise surveys the

inhabitable lands and the islands of the Pacific Ocean. He proved that the most suitable means of penetrating the Pacific Ocean was from the south-west via the Cape of Good Hope and that New South Wales offered the best prospects for immediate colonisation.

Meanwhile, in 1776, the British Government realised that transportation to the colonies had deprived the country of forced labour potential for employment on government projects. Accordingly, an act was passed which provided that convicts sentenced to transportation could be employed on hard labour in England. Sir William Blackstone, Mr William Eden and Mr John Howard were then appointed to examine the means for the disposal of convicts. The outcome of their deliberations was the passing of an Act in 1779 for the establishment of penitentiaries. Hulks would also be provided where convicts were to be employed on the docks.

With the conclusion of the American War of Independence in 1783 the American Loyalist James Maria Matra - who had accompanied Cook on his first voyage - Captain Sir George Young of the Royal Navy and Young's brother-in-law, Colonel John Call, discussed the advantages of colonisation and the likelihood of resettling, in the new colony, the American Loyalists who had fled to Nova Scotia.

In August 1783, whilst working in the Home Department, Matra submitted, with the support of Sir Joseph Banks, a proposal for establishing a settlement in New South Wales. The comprehensive document pointed out, amongst other things:

- a) the provision of a base for merchant ships trading with China, other locations in Asia and the islands of the north Pacific Ocean;
- b) the advantage of a base for trading in the Molucca Seas under the newly approved agreement with Holland;
- c) the likelihood of providing asylum to the American loyalists, following the Treaty of Versailles which granted independence to the American colonies
- d) the possibility of obtaining labourers from China.

"The place which New South Wales holds on our Globe might give it a very commanding Influence in the policy of Europe. If a Colony from Britain was established in that large tract of Country, and if we were at war with Holland or Spain, we might very powerfully annoy either State from our new settlement. We might, with a safe and expeditious voyage, make Naval Incursions on Java and the other Dutch Settlements, and we might

with equal facility invade the coasts of Spanish America, and intercept the Manilla ships, laden with the Treasures of the West. This check which New South Wales would be in time of War on both these Powers, make it a very important object, ..."

In an appendix to the proposal Matra indicated that Lord Sydney, in discussing his plan with him, had suggested that the settlement would be a proper place for placing criminals sentenced to transportation. Matra then remarked on the dispatch of convicts to New South Wales, their reformation and the provision of land grants, thus providing "economy to the public and humanity to the individual."

In September 1784 Matra's colleague, Colonel John Call, recommended the sending of criminals to New South Wales or New Zealand with a view to establishing a base from which to establish trade with the Spanish colonies in America and of obtaining urgently required timber and flax from Norfolk Island. Call concluded: "In short, if the whole Sea Coast and Interior Parts of New Holland were peopled in any comparative degree with Europe, Asia or America, it would receive and return objects of Commerce equal to any Quarter of the Globe."

In 1784 and 1785, whilst considering its future role in the Pacific Ocean, the British Government had received other proposals for the establishment of colonies in temperate climates where convicts could serve their sentence, be usefully employed as a labour force and resettle on completion of their sentences. Arcas suggested included southern Africa where a base would provide advantages similar to those which Cape Town provided for the Dutch in relation to the East Indies. It would provide a base for whaling in the south seas between Africa and the Falkland Islands. It would be a suitable location for resettling the American Loyalists; other free persons would be encouraged to settle there. The proponents of the scheme cited the progress of the American colonies as an example of what could be expected.

After evaluating the proposals it is almost certain that the Government had in mind dispatching the hardened criminals to Africa and the petty offenders, usually young people, to New South Wales. Evan Nepean, the Permanent Under-Secretary of the Home Office, considered these alternatives but saw too many disadvantages and he and officials from the Treasury then produced their financial estimates and finalised plans for establishing settlements at Botany Bay and Norfolk Island. In planning,

Nepean dealt directly with the Prime Minister, William Pitt, bypassing the weak Lord Sydney, except for having him sign the necessary instructions.

On 18 August, Lord Sydney informed the Treasury of the Government's decision and requested that funds be provided for the project.

Attached to the letter was a list of stores and a document bearing the title Heads of a Plan - believed to have been prepared by Evan Nepean - which set out the administrative arrangements for establishing the colony.

On 31 August Lord Sydney informed the Lords of the Admiralty and requested that ships be provided to transport the convicts and the Marines who would provide guards for the convicts and the garrison in the new colony.

On 12 October 1786 on behalf of King George III, Lord Sydney issued a commission to Captain Phillip, appointing him Governor of the territory of New South Wales. The commission gave details of the region of responsibility and a short summary of Phillip's responsibilities as Governor. On 24 October Lord Sydney issued commissions to Phillip's principal officers.

Why was Phillip selected? When Lord Sydney informed Lord Howe that Captain Phillip was to be the new Governor he had replied: "I cannot say the little knowledge I have of Captain Phillip would have led me to select him for a service of this complicated nature." It is understood that Lord Howe would have preferred to have Captain John Blankett of the Home Office, with whom Phillip had been closely associated in British espionage, or Captain John Hunter as Governor.

On 6 December 1786 the House of Commons passed the Transportation Act which authorised the transportation of offenders to the eastern coast of New South Wales or to adjacent islands, thus allowing the public impression that the main purpose of the new settlement was simply that of re-locating convicts.

In 1786 John Stockdale of London anonymously published An Historical Narrative of the Discovery of New Holland and New South Wales, the conclusion of which summarised the advantages of settling Botany Bay. He said:

"Should a war break out with the Court of Spain, cruisers from Botany Bay might much interrupt, if not destroy, their lucrative commerce from the Philippine islands to Aquapulco, besides alarming and distressing their settlements on the west coast of South America."

The British occupied New South Wales as "desert and uninhabited lands." The establishment of the first colony, the expansion of that colony into several Australasian colonies and the achievement of dominion status by Australia and New Zealand were straightforward and logical steps in the directly associated strategic and commercial paths to the expansion of the Empire.

The plan to establish a settlement at Botany Bay was an essential sequence in the whole process. The convicts with the First Fleet provided the labour force which was essential to the successful growth of a colony which for some years would be a base for Britain's commercial and strategic actions in South America and the Pacific Ocean. The colony provided a secure and remote place for prisoners to serve out the time of their sentences and it provided them with a reasonable opportunity for rehabilitation and return to society on completion of their sentences. The colony was not simply a convict colony!



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(Additional names for period September-October 1994)

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - eight adults, two juniors, and three spouse associates.

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: Mr Dennis James Jarvie.

ANTHONY ROPE - ELIZABETH PULLEY: Mr Kenneth James Baker (sp. Mrs Leonie Michele Baker); Mr Sean Christopher Baker; Mr Samuel Christopher Baker (jun.); Mr Martin James Baker; Miss Karen Elizabeth Baker; Miss Rachael Louise Baker.

JOHN RYAN: Mr Dudley Charles Smith (sp. Mrs Eileen Kathleen Smith).

JOHN SMALL - MARY PARKER: Miss Katrina Elise Christian (jun.).

ROBERT WILLIAMS: Rev. James Richmond Payne.

NORTHERN RIVERS CHAPTER

The Northern Rivers Chapter averages 20 to 30 members at the bimonthly barbecue luncheon and meeting. The venues vary, ranging from McLean to the Tweed, but it is centred around Lismore. There is always a guest speaker, and is the highlight of the meeting.

The Chapter entered a float in the Australia Day procession in 1988, in Lismore, and has mounted displays in the first two Festivals of Flowers and Music in St Carthage's Cathedral, also in Lismore.

For those interested in contacting the Northern Rivers Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, contact names are Bill Hunt (066) 212152 and Lionel Phelps (066) 242363.

New Members are always most welcome.

F.F.F. display in Festival of Flowers in memory of John and Ufa Byrnes

SPOUSE ASSOCIATE OF EARLIER MEMBER: Mrs Suzanne Snowball spouse of Mr Glenn David Snowball.

BIRTHS

A warm welcome to the following New First Fleeters:

ROBERT BENJAMIN FLOOD (F.F. Jane Langley - Phillip Scriven - Henrietta Scriven), 5 November 1994. Second son for Victoria and Jon Flood, grandson of Canon Robert (#6203) and Margaret Hardwick. Ninth generation.

OBITUARIES

Deepest sympathy is offered to the families of the following:

CHARLES ALEXANDER WEBSTER (#2190), passed away November 1994, aged 86 years. He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter, three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

ISABEL ANNIE WEEKS (#1500), passed away 12 August 1994, aged 90 years. Beloved mother of Marie J. Gray.

FROM THE LIBRARY

Merinos, Myths and Macarthurs

(Australian Graziers and Their Sheep 1788 – 1900)

By J. C. Garran and L. White

An extremely well-written, well-researched volume on the beginnings of our wool industry. The authors claim "that it is generally, but wrongly assumed that all Macarthur's stud sheep were pure bred. Macarthur has been credited with having a vision of a great Australian industry and has gained a carefully fostered but unmerited reputation as a scientific breeder, a knowledgeable grazier and a producer of superior sheep. None of these assumptions is tenable and this book demolishes once and for all the claims by Macarthur and later advocates to his being the father of the wool industry in Australia."

The Fellowship is indebted to Winifred Garran for her donation of this important book to its Library.

A Far Prospect

by The Herbert Family Association

One day in August 1964 while reading the morning edition of the "Daily Telegraph" Cecil Herbert was confronted with a quotation: "Wind NW to west. Temp 59 degrees. Benjamin the son of John and Deborah Herbert was christened."

This led the late Cecil Herbert to embark upon a long, arduous task of finding his First Fleet family roots and this book could well be a tribute to this dedicated descendant of First Fleeters John Herbert and Deborah Ellam.

The Herbert Family Association Book Committee, comprised of Robert and Gwen Herbert, Elsie and Bob Cuthbert, Dr Marlene Herbert Goldsmith, MLC, and Glenda and Bob Burns, is to be congratulated on this volume of some 316 pages outlining a well-documented history of this pioneering First Fleet family.

Our appreciation to the Herbert Family Association for the donation to our Library. "A Far Prospect," \$45.00 plus \$6.00 post, from PO Box 990 Bowral NSW 2576.

Bushrangers, Bandits and Bastards

An Illustrated History of Colonial Crime 1850-1900

by Edgar Penzig

Edgar Penzig was the guest speaker at our Christmas luncheon December last and we are indebted to the Daytime Fellowship for donating this book to our Library.

In this book, Edgar, the author of some 17 volumes relating to the Colony's bushranging history, has resurrected many names of those early 'black sheep' previously lost in the annals of early Australian history.

He writes in his introduction that the book 'is a treasure trove of rare photographs and engravings of artefacts and the people who inhabited our

colonies during the years known as our Wild Colonial Days!

Copies available from Trantel Enterprises, PO Box 43 Katoomba NSW 2780

P.G.C.



WHAT HAVE WE GOT?

All Family Historians ask themselves this question at some stage of their research. From this we approach new angles for our research. Over the past few months, we have been slowly Indexing/Cataloguing our Fellowship Library. This has been a slow but valuable undertaking. To tantalise the avid or novice researcher among our members, we have included some details of materials we have in our Reference Library. You are welcome to come in and use these materials at First Fleet House.

Did you know we have a microfiche reader?

Some of the material we hold in our Library:

Historical Records of New South Wales

The Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts by Cobley

Pioneer Registers – 2nd Edition

First Fleet Families-Fourth Fleet Families of Australia

Genealogical Research Directory-1994

St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta-Cemetery Inscriptions

St. Peter's Cemetery, Richmond, NSW-Cemetery Inscriptions

Various other-Cemetery Inscriptions

Fellowship of First Fleeters Newsletters – since 1970

Various Local Histories – etc etc etc

We have on microfiche B.D.M.s for New South Wales. Pioneers Index-1788/1918-also Probate Indexes.

There is a lot more available. Why not plan a day to visit your Library at First Fleet House and see what is available. You may be surprised!

Happy Researching. – K.F.

IN SEARCH OF ELIZABETH THOMAS, c1766-1835

Recently I had an opportunity to visit the village of Chipping, which is featured in the Doomsday Book. It is about 12 kilometres north-west of Preston in Lancashire. A charming place which still retains a large degree of old worldliness of narrow streets and very old buildings set in countryside of rolling green hills separated from similar villages by equally narrow roads; Chipping is the alleged birthplace of our First Fleeter Elizabeth Thomas.

While speaking with Mr and Mrs Latham of the local newsagency, I told of being a descendant of one of their earlier residents, Elizabeth Thomas. They mentioned they were members of the local historical society and asked would I like to meet the president, Mrs Muriel Lord. Naturally I jumped at the chance to find out more about our ancestor.

From correspondence with the Public Record Office in Bow Lane, Preston, I already had some detail about her trial in January 1787. Since then invaluable research assistance by Mr Arthur Lord has revealed much more information which may be of interest to the Fellowship because of the intended memorial for her at St. Matthew's in Rokeby early next year.

Bow Lane records show that Elizabeth Thomas, late of Chipping, spinster on 24 August 1786 was charged with stealing by force of arms one printed cotton gown to the value of sixpence, goods of Jennett Sturzaker. Pleads guilty. To be transported beyond the sea for seven years. Witnesses were John and Jennett Sturzaker and Edward Cowburn, the latter was the jailer at the Preston House of Correction. The prosecutor was Mr John Grimshaw and the total cost of the prosecution was three pounds eight shillings and two pence.

The records officer advised for interest that immediately below Elizabeth Thomas's order was that of Ellen Wainwright, alias Esther Eccles of Rishton, similarly transported for seven years.

Additional research by Mr Lord unearthed another roll of parchment which was a prisoner quarterly return for December 1786 by Edward Cowburn which listed Elizabeth Thomas at the top of the page as 'Carried forward' from early in October and apparently in custody from Wigan's October Quarter

Sessions, 'completed a three month sentence at Preston with hard labour and a whipping at the rogue's post. Servant to the Honourable Richard Jones Esq. but absented his service with out consent. discharged, detained as below.'

Near the bottom of the list 'Same Elizabeth Thomas detained by JP, Mr Robin Shuttleworth on 25 December charged on oath on suspicion of feloniously stealing a printed cotton gown the property of Jennett Sturzaker.'

On 26 December Mr Sturzaker made a bond before Mr Shuttleworth to appear to give evidence on forfeit of 20 pound.

From the above it appears that Elizabeth absconded from service sometime in August. She goes to Chipping seeking work at the recently established cotton spinning industry. On 24 August she steals the gown but is apprehended and found to be an absconded servant. Sent for trial at the October Quarter Sessions at Wigan she is sentenced to three months and a whipping. (Had she absconded before to get three months?) On discharge from that sentence she is rearrested on the Chipping felony and remanded for trial at Preston January Quarter Sessions and gets seven years.

The rest is in the history of Australia.

There is no evidence that she was born or ever lived in Chipping. There are no Thomases or Sturzakers living there now, but interestingly a Sturzaker lives in Clitheroe.

- JOE HARVEY (#6260),
Lesmurdic W.A.

'EXTRAORDINARY COINCIDENCE'

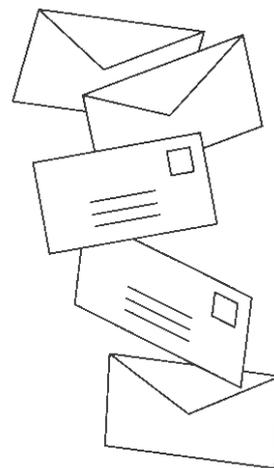
As one of the two ladies mentioned, and also because of the interesting history involved, I was very pleased to reread the letter from Captain S. R. Watts, of the British Royal Engineers, under the heading 'Extraordinary Coincidence!' reprinted in the November/December 1994 Newsletter.

Captain Watts's letter was first printed in the September/October 1989 Newsletter and my response appeared in the following Newsletter.

I wrote then:

'I was one of the two ladies mentioned in Captain S. R. Watts's letter.

'With my friend Brenda Henry, I was visiting Britain on a 10-week holiday in



mid-1977 (not 1978 as Captain Watts wrote). To see Captain Phillip's memorial in Bathampton and to meet its architect were among the objectives of my trip.

'It really is remarkable that, on our way there, we should call in at the Black Ox at Llandovery in South Wales, and there meet Captain Watts, who had, we learned and as he mentioned in his letter, prepared the design sketch for a bronze memorial honouring Phillip. Captain Watts stated in his letter that the memorial, on a wall of St. Mildred's Church, London, was destroyed in the bombing of London in World War II. I recall we had a very interesting conversation with him.

'I have just finished writing an Airletter to him, and have promised to send him copies of the September/October Newsletter and the issue in which this will appear.

'One or two corrections to Captain Watts's letter (though, for a 90-year-old man, he has a remarkable recollection of a meeting more than 12 years ago):

- '1. I was the only one of the two ladies who is a First Fleeter.
- '2. The First Fleet flagship was, of course, Sirius, not Supply.
- '3. Also, the Flag was planted at Sydney Cove, not Manly Bay.
- '4. I am sure we did not go into the Black Ox just to check on the merits and demerits of English ales!!'

I duly sent him a copy of each Newsletter mentioned, and corresponded with him for some time, but I understand he has now passed on. Towards the end he had to have someone writing to me for him, but I still think of him as being a very remarkable gentleman.

- JOAN ROSS,
Life Member #13