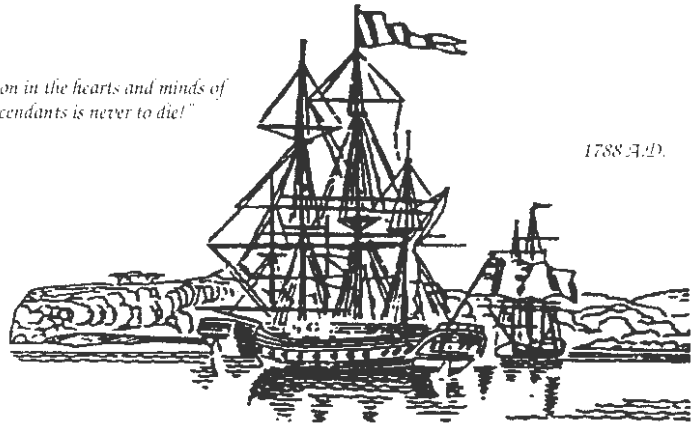


Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"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

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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

MARCH/APRIL 1995 VOLUME 26 NO. 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

We were all saddened at the passing of Barbara Townsend early in March. A number of Fellowship members joined me at the crematorium where, at the request of the family, I spoke of Barbara's involvement and deep commitment to our organisation. At my request, former President Mrs Beryl Lewis has written an obituary for this issue.

On your behalf I would like to thank the anonymous donor of the painted plates of five of the First Fleet reenactment ships. They indeed make a fine display at First Fleet House. Also our appreciation to Phyllis Selby for the donation to the library of the volume 'The Diaries of James Scott, Marine Sergeant of the First Fleet,' a most valuable acquisition. Also we are indebted to Cherie Cumming for donating a series of 'The Gloucestershire Family History Society' journal.

In this issue I would like to draw your attention to two family gatherings. On Sunday 22 May there will be the plaque dedication at Castlereagh Cemetery to Anthony Rope. It is of interest to note that the Reverend Samuel Marsden, a direct descendant of the early colonial chaplain, will dedicate the plaque. The other is that of Robert Williams F.F. to be held at 11.45 at St. Peter's, Richmond. Divine Service will be led by member the Rev. Jim Payne MBE, former Anglican Dean of Perth and for a number of years federal secretary of the

British and Foreign Bible Society. I look forward to being involved in both ceremonies.

In this issue there is a letter published taking me to task for making so-called political comments in my last report to you. I did not think for one moment that the comment I made re a change in Australia's National Day and the blatant portrayal of events, completely out of context, with regard to the First Fleet settlement would be misconstrued by any member of the Fellowship. Unfortunately there is a trend these days to rewrite our history, a fact with which I cannot go along.

F.F. member Elizabeth Heyer wrote a very telling letter in the July/August 1994 issue of the Newsletter. She said in essence that 'we cannot regard things that happened in the eighteenth century in the same way as if they happened in the twentieth century. It behoves both peoples now (ie white and aboriginal), plus our many peoples from other lands, to work together, to learn as much as possible, to be kind to each other and to make our nation go forward as one people.'

I do not resile from my comments as I know that I speak for an overwhelming majority of the Fellowship.

Nor do I consider those comments in any way political.

In Fellowship,
PETER

NORTHERN RIVERS CHAPTER

This very enthusiastic Chapter meets on the last Sunday of each second month and a talk on a First Fleeter is given at each meeting to complement the social activities.

An average attendance of about 30 is maintained and at the Australia Day meeting there were 36 in attendance.

The Australia Day meeting was also the Annual General Meeting, held at Heritage Park in Lismore, and graced with people from as far as Dorrigo and the Gold Coast.

The elections resulted in:

Hilda Jackson **Patron**

Bill Hunt **President**

Laurie Holmes **Vice-President**

Lionel Phelps **Secretary**

Vilmai McDonald **Treasurer**

John Kable **Publicity**

The Fellowship gratefully acknowledges the wonderful gift of 100 dollars to the 'Buy-a-Brick Fund.'

See inside for:

**Daytime Fellowship Calendar
Happenings with Laurel and
Brenda
Rope & Pulley May Reunions**

VALE BARBARA TOWNSEND

It was with sadness and a deep feeling of personal loss that I learned of the passing of Barbara Townsend on Thursday morning, 2 March 1995.

Barbara was very proud descendant of Philip Gidley King and a foundation member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, her number was 145.

I first came to know Barbara in the '70s when I joined the Newsletter team. I well remember my first days working on the mail-out. In those days Barbara literally printed the Newsletter – on an old Roneo machine, and she was covered in ink and the envelopes were handwritten! Some of us workers sat on the floor to work – we didn't own enough chairs. But what a happy group we were. As the Fellowship grew and became more affluent we obtained a Gestetner which did a better job and Barbara was cleaner! An Addressograph then printed the envelopes. Later a printer was contracted but Barbara still did the very big job of 'sending out the Newsletter,' she organised her helpers and got the Newsletter out on time. After the move to First Fleet House and the big increase in membership for the Bicentenary, this became a mammoth exercise. Time and health took its toll but Barbara was 'always there,' come

heatwave or freezing conditions. She travelled by public transport from Eastern Creek, not only Newsletter Monday, but usually one or two days the week before the Monday to 'sort and do the envelopes' which became very trying as Australia Post kept changing regulations, but Barbara was there and took it in her stride. She was a very hardworking First Fleeter and was awarded a well-deserved Life Membership in 1989. She was a very dedicated and proud member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

I'm sure all members will join me in extending sincere sympathy to her husband Ken, her son Philip and his wife Sylvia, daughter Jane, and her much loved granddaughter, Hayley.

I have lost a very dear friend and the Fellowship has lost a wonderful member.

She will be very sadly missed.

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

BERYL LEWIS (#796)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

(For period 24 November 1994 to 22 March 1995)

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period – 18 adults and one junior.

JOHN ANDERSON – ELIZABETH BRUCE: Mrs Wendy Judith McCormack.

WILLIAM BAKER – SUSANNAH HUFFNELL: Mrs Jean McCulloch Wilson.

JOHN and HANNAH BARRISFORD: Ms Margaret Ruth Down; Ms Holly Kate Cruse (jun.).

THOMAS CHIPP – JANE LANGLEY: Mr David Harold Crossley.

ANN FORBES: Mrs Jill Lyddiard.

NATHANIEL LUCAS – OLIVIA GASCOIGNE: Miss Deborah Louise Arch; Mr Harold William Thomsett.

RICHARD MORGAN: Mr Hugh Campbell McCubben.

SAMUEL PIGGOTT: Mr Clive Herbert Archibald Bachell; Mr Garry Clive Bachell.

WILLIAM ROBERTS: Dr Harold Reginald Magee.

JOHN SMALL – MARY PARKER: Mrs Dianna Oakes Balmain Willgoos; Mrs Nancy Joan Johns; Mr Gregory Stuart Johns; Mrs Susan Lorraine Hannibal; Mrs Kristine Louise Rubenach.

DANIEL STANFIELD – ALICE HARMSWORTH + JACOB BELLETT + EDWARD KIMBERLEY + JAMES MORRISBY: Mr Basil Albert Chipman.

EDWARD WESTLAKE: Mr John Dean Stanley Collier.

BIRTHS

A warm welcome to the following New First Fleeters:

OLIVER JAMES CHAMPION (F.F. William Tunks – Matthew Everingham), 30 July 1994. A son to Amanda and Neil Champion, and a grandson for Peter (#1881) and Joy Christian.

JOSHUA SCOTT JAMES CHRISTIAN (F.F. William Tunks – Matthew Everingham), 24 February 1995. To Felicia and Nicholas Christian a son, and another grandson for Peter (#1881) and Joy Christian.

BLAKE MATTHEW DONKIN (F.F. Patrick Burn - Ann Smith), 21 February 1995. First child of Diane and Paul Donkin, third great-grandchild of Jean Coulter (#2727). Eighth generation.

ALICE ROSE GIBBONS, 26 September 1994.

GEMMA GRACE GREENTREE (F.F. Matthew Everingham), 7 February 1995, at North Gosford Private Hospital. First child for Geoffrey and Sallianne.

DREW ROSS MAHAFFEY (F.F. Daniel Barnett), 29 June 1994. First great-grandchild for Clarice (Clare) Foster (#3026). An eighth generation First Fleeter.

FREDERICK JAMES MOSS (Jun.) (F.F. Thomas Chipp - Jane Langley), 17 January 1995 (same birthday as his father). A son for James and Melda (#5526).

OBITUARIES

Deepest sympathy is offered to the families of the following:

MYRTLE F. LUCAS, passed away March 1995. Beloved wife of Frank N. Lucas (#1764).

BARBARA JANE LETHBRIDGE TOWNSEND (#145), passed away 2 March 1995. Beloved wife of Ken, loving mother and mother-in-law of son Philip and his wife Sylvia, and of daughter Jane, and loving grandmother of Hayley.

HAPPENINGS with Laurel and Brenda



Commencing this month will be our open line to you, the members, to give you the opportunity to state your ideas and assist us in arranging activities throughout the year – in particular our National Day, 26 January.

We have noted commemorations have commenced throughout Australia regarding the end of World War II. We would like to honour those First Fleet descendants who made the ultimate sacrifice. If someone in your Family Tree fits this category we would like to receive your family members' name with Rank, Serial No. Where they Served and Died.

(If these full details are not known, please forward whatever information is available.)

We hope to acknowledge all letters received containing this information in the remaining Newsletters of the year.

During the last two months, a small group of members represented the Fellowship at Chatswood, Wollongong and Hornsby Shopping Centres at an excellent exhibition of Australia's Heritage called "Thanks for the Memories".

A little trivia to conclude this month:

Brenda has just celebrated the marriage (in New Zealand) of her second son, and Laurel has become a grandmother for the fourth time (Boy Thomas).

Both are on cloud nine.

DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

More than 30 enthusiastic members attended the annual meeting of the Daytime Fellowship Committee on Wednesday, 1 March 1995, at First Fleet House.

An invitation, which was accepted, was extended to Douglas Oakes to be convenor of this committee for the next 12 months.

The full committee is as follows:

Convenor: Douglas Oakes

Minute Secretary: Ann Davidson

Social Secretary: Phyllis Selby

Treasurer: Joyce Rixon

Beverly Naughton is the Fellowship's Convenor of the Activities Committee. This committee organises functions on the weekend and Australia Day events.

Our thanks go to Phyllis Selby for her leadership over the previous year and her continued involvement through being social secretary for the next 12 months.

After the meeting, Laurel McMiles gave a talk on her experience in family history research. Laurel's start was names on headstones in the local church cemetery.

The Daytime Committee was formed to organise functions during the weekdays for members and their friends to participate in and enjoy fellowship activities.

Events scheduled for the rest of this year are as follows:

4 June 1995

Historical walk through Hunters Hill

July 1995

Midweek soup and damper luncheon

August 1995

Another Sunday historical walk

September 1995

Midweek visit to 2000 Olympic site, Homebush

October 1995

Meet the President

November 1995

Annual General Meeting

December 1995

Christmas luncheon, Renaissance Hotel, Sydney

Further details will be given in future Newsletters. All bookings and further information may be made at First Fleet House, Monday to Friday, by phoning 360 3788 or 360 3988.

Please join us on these outings and feel part of the Fellowship of First Fleeters organisation.

DOUGLAS OAKES, Convenor

GOULBURN HONOURS MEMBERS OF THE FIRST FLEET

In keeping with Goulburn's heritage, streets in the Marsden Village subdivision of the city have been named Ruse Street and Mary Martin Drive.

Ruse Street (James Ruse 1759-1837) – Of all the convict migrants transported to the Colony of New South Wales during the first years of European settlement, only a small number are remembered. James Ruse was one of those who gained distinction through their successful careers as emancipated settlers and their contribution to the future nation.

Grant Number 1 in the grant register of the Land Titles Office established James Ruse as the first settler to receive a grant of land. He is recognised as Australia's first independent self-supporting farmer and settler, the founder of Australian agriculture.

Mary Martin Drive (Mary [Allen] Martin 1765-1843) – It is named in honour of Mary Martin, who was born in 1765 and transported to Australia as Mary Allen at King George III's pleasure with Governor Phillip's First Fleet. Mary Martin died in an area known as Old Goulburn on 9 June 1843, aged 78, and was buried at St. Saviour's Cemetery, Goulburn.

A request has been made that one of the streets in the Marsden Village subdivision be named in honour of my First Fleet ancestor, William Nash.

BETTY L. McALISTER (#1398)

SNOWY MONARO FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The Special Projects Subcommittee of the Snowy Monaro Family History Group is planning to compile a Register of Pioneers from the Cooma Monaro Shire and the Snowy River Shire pre-1850.

Anyone interested in submitting entries please contact Lyndsey Gray, 4 Elizabeth Street, Cooma 2630, or Leony Power, PO Box 837, Cooma 2630, phone (064) 524967.

ROPE AND PULLEY DOUBLE HEADER FOR MAY

Chaplain of the First Fleet, Rev. Richard Johnson married Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley on 19 May 1788. Our Rope-Pulley Heritage Association will celebrate their 207th wedding anniversary by holding a Family Reunion in Melrose Hall, at Dukes Park, Emu Plains on 20 May from 9.00am to 5.00pm. All family invited.

The next day, Sunday 21, we will honour Anthony Rope with a Dedication Service for a newly erected headstone and F.F.F. plaque at Castlereagh Cemetery starting at 10.15am – rain, hail or shine. The unveiling will be done jointly by a fifth and eighth generation descendant. (Elizabeth was similarly honoured back in 1985 when Mary Hope-Caten delivered the eulogy.)

Elizabeth was with child when she and Anthony married. Nothing unusual about that. What is unusual (for that time and place) is that they married! 'Only about one convict in every four in the First Fleet was female ... Only the luckier or more attractive women were able to cohabit with only one man.' (Russel Ward) I like to think Elizabeth was attractive in body and spirit. Her baby was born on 30 October 1788 and baptised Robert. My Grandma told all her children that Elizabeth's child was the first (white) male child conceived and born in Australia.

Grandma told us nothing of the circumstances surrounding Robert's conception. If she knew, it was a taboo subject. Governor Phillip did shed light on the matter in his diary entry of 6 February 1788: 'All the convicts are now disembarked, and at night when the last of the women convicts were landed, the blackening skies released a most terrible tropical storm. The male convicts unleashed frustrations built up in the 12 months they had been chained below decks, broke loose from their temporary jail and into the women's camps.' Something like Australia's version of the 'Rape of the Sabine Women,' said to be an essential feature of the foundation of Rome! Anthony and Elizabeth could not have known each other before 6 February. I believe they first came together during that summer storm – the sort of storm all Sydneysiders will recognise – and that their union was fruitful. Nine months later, almost to the day, Robert was born.

The Ropes married, stayed together, were freed by servitude, received a grant of land at the Ponds in 1791, later moved to the Nepean-Hawkesbury frontier, tilled the soil and above all, raised to adulthood a brood of seven Currency Kids. For me, this was their greatest contribution to Australia – a family of Currency Kids who in turn helped to settle the Cumberland Plain and beyond. Russel Ward again, 'For the first 25 years or so of Australia's history, observers were almost unanimous in expecting that the native born would produce the manners and morals of their progenitors. Yet no such thing happened.' Hallelujah!

There is much more to the Rope story. Some of their history will be told and illustrated in family trees at the Double Header on 20 and 21 May.

Family Memorabilia and History Books
– For sale

Socialising and Picnicking

ALL FAMILY WELCOME

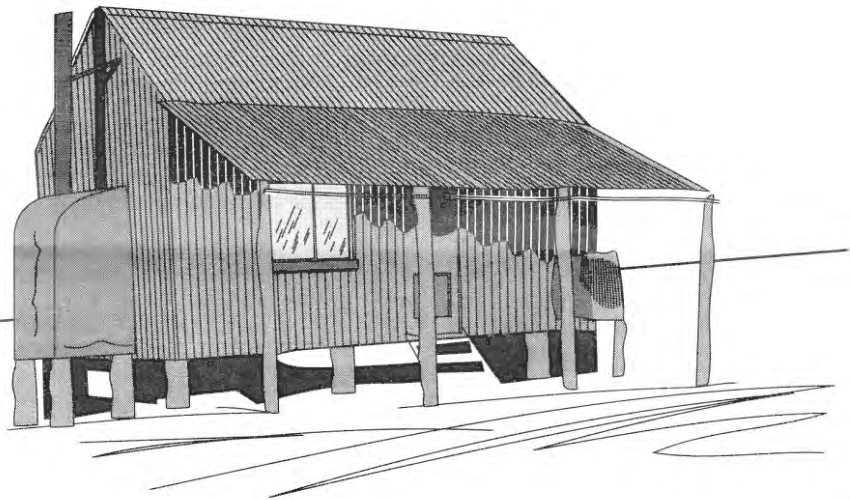
DEDICATION DAY

21 May, 10.15am, at Castlereagh Cemetery – corner of Church Street and E. Wilchard Road, Cranebrook

The program includes:

M.C. – Ray Edwards, a fifth generation descendant

Welcome – Mayor Pat Sheehy



On offer will be

REUNION DAY

20 May, 9.00am to 5.00pm, Melrose Hall, Dukes Park, Emu Plains

The program offerings include:

Family Charts and Photographs –
Barbara Drady

Historic Walk – Sue Suitor

Historic Talks –
Lorna Parr and George Gyford

Self-guided Tour – Melrose Hall, St. Paul's in Emu Plains, Emu Hall grounds and Castlereagh Cemetery

'Arms of Australia' Museum – open

Eulogy – Kelly Byrne, an eighth generation descendant

F.F.F. Speaker – President Peter Christian

Dedication Service – Rev. Samuel Marsden, Rector, Holy Trinity, Kelso

EVERYONE WELCOME –
Rain, Hail or Shine

For further information, phone:

Sydney: (02) 9537881 – Bunny Sloan, Convenor

Penrith: (047) 774221 – Alan Larsen

Muswellbrook: (065) 433473 – Norma Edwards



Book Review: **THE DARUG AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS**

J. Kohen – 1993 *Blacktown and District Historical Society and Darug Link*.

It is always exciting to add yet one more piece to the jigsaw puzzle of the past – just as it is frustrating to realise that there are other pieces which remain missing. Those pieces which are often missing from written history are those which link different groups or types of people living in one place. This can be achieved in family history. It is within the family that contact is made between areas which might be clearly differentiated in society. Most family histories will reflect previous societal tensions between Protestant/Catholic, the city/bush, the role of women or the changes deriving from multiculturalism.

An important contribution to the history of the families in the Sydney region is Jim Kohen's 'The Darug and Their Neighbours'. It tells the story (and provides some family trees) of some of the Aboriginal families of the Sydney region. It has a particular significance for the Fellowship in both providing essential additional detail to the story of those first years of settlement as well as drawing links between the First Fleeters and the Darug.

The links which Kohen describes are not just of public interaction but also of the private interaction and merging of families. The families of First Fleeters John Randall, John Martin, Esther Howard, Richard Partridge, Mary Greenwood and Matthew Everingham. Unfortunately, Kohen appears to be unfamiliar with Mollie Gillen's work and so misses some links between these families. For example, Richard Partridge was one of the executors of the will of John Martin.

While these interconnections provide fascinating insights into First Fleeter society, they are, quite rightly, only secondary to the stories of those families in which he is interested. Largely, though not entirely, he concentrates upon the descendants of Gomebeere of the Boorooberongal clan. This clan lived near present-day Richmond. Gomebeere's grandson was the Colebee who accompanied William Cox during the construction of the road across the Blue Mountains. For his efforts, Colebee received from Governor Macquarie a grant of 30 acres near present-day Plumpton. As with much Aboriginal history, land plays a central role in the story. This parcel is no exception.

The family of Colebee intermittently resided on this grant from 1816 until 1831. From 1831 until approximately

1908 there was continual occupation. In that latter year the first descendant is removed to be placed in an institution. All of the family had been forcibly removed from the land by 1920. Despite efforts by family members to recover the land, granted to their ancestor, through court action by the late 1940s the Government disposed of the land on the basis that it had been abandoned. Of the many cameo stories in this book this one struck me as being particularly unjust.

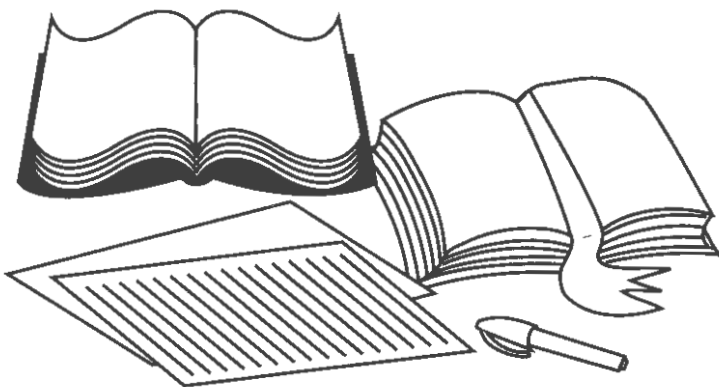
While concentrating upon the 'family' history of the Darug, it is a pity that Kohen didn't make greater use of other histories of the Aborigines of the Sydney area. Isabel McBryde's 'Guests of the Governor,' K. Wiley's 'When the Sky Fell Down' and Christine Wises's article 'Black Rebel: Musquito' come to mind.

But what does the work say on the new political correctness of a 'white invasion'. Kohen does not use the term. Wisely, he refers to it by utilising the terms of contemporaries. He refers to it as 'The First Australian War.' This description comes from a letter of the botanist, George Caley, who wrote in 1809: 'the cause of this war began about some sheep which the stockkeepers said the natives had speared. Accordingly war was declared without much deliberation ...'. First Fleeters Tunks and Meredith gain mention in this part of the story as recipients of the attacks of Pemulwhy and his son Tedbury.

The term 'war' reflects what was perceived at the time. The term 'invasion' on the other hand implies either an intent to forcibly conquer or the overrun to the detriment of current inhabitants. (These alternatives are respectively illustrated by D-Day and by ants.) As the evidence suggests that the British were more interested in disposing of convicts or protecting imperial trade and that the white settlement was initially vastly outnumbered by the Aborigines, neither of these alternatives appears suitable. The term is also used emotively in a way which is not always appropriate.

Kohen says that 'the book aims to tell the story of just some of the Aboriginal families from the Sydney region, some of the Darug and their neighbours'. It does this well and provides much needed detail. I regret that he didn't take a few extra steps to widen the story to that of the Aborigines of the Sydney region.

ROD BEST



SMALL FAMILY ASSOCIATION

This association is having another open meeting following the success of the December 1994 meeting. The open meeting will be held on Saturday, 29 April 1995, at Addington, 813 Victoria Road, Ryde, commencing at 2.00pm.

Mrs Joyce Cowell, Archivist of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and authoress of a number of history books and co-author of 'Where First Fleeters Lie', will give a talk on the voyage of the First Fleet.

The meeting is not restricted to descendants of John Small and Mary Parker. All are welcome.

The Small Family Association is still seeking information for the supplement of its family book, 'The Small Family in Australia 1788-1988.' They are seeking details of names and dates missing from the book to be printed in a supplement for release in October 1995. If any descendants or other parties could supply the missing information the association would like to hear from them.

Please contact the secretary, Douglas Oakes, on (02) 4282806 for further information.

ROBERT WILLIAMS MEMORIAL

Descendants of Robert Williams are having the family vault restored by Mr Gordon Brown. Gordon Brown has restored numerous First Fleeter memorials on behalf of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. The family vault is in St. Peter's Cemetery, Richmond, NSW.

Robert Williams is the son of First Fleeter Robert Williams. Both Roberts and other descendants are buried at St. Peter's Cemetery. A plaque will be installed on the family vault for First Fleeter Robert Williams.

The full restoration project including the plaque for First Fleeter Robert has been costed at \$2304 (this does not include the cost of restoring the surrounding fencing).

Numerous members of the family have made contributions but further funds are needed. Any person wishing to help is asked to make contributions payable to the Williams/Eather Family Vault Fund and send it to J. E. Mills & Associates, Solicitors, PO Box 68, Eastwood, NSW, 2122.

The Fellowship congratulates the Robert Williams Family Association for its enterprise and urges your support in this project.

DOUG OAKES, Plaques Convenor

FIRST FLEETER ROBERT WILLIAMS – 1762-1811

A Service in recognition of First Fleeter Robert Williams, arrived in Scarborough 26 January 1788, died 8 July 1811, will be held in St. Peter's Anglican Church, Richmond, NSW, on Sunday, 25 June 1995, beginning at 11.45am.

The Service will be led by 'The Cathedral Singers' under the direction of Shirley Mills. An address will be delivered by the Reverend Jim Payne MBE. (Both Shirley Mills and Jim Payne are descendants of Robert Williams, and members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.)

A Lesson will be read by Peter Christian, President of the Fellowship.

At the conclusion of the Service there will be a brief dedication of the F.F.F. plaque on the Williams Family Vault in St. Peter's Cemetery.

Yvonne Browning in her book, 'St. Peter's, Richmond, the Early People and Burials 1791-1855,' after much research reports that Robert Williams was the youngest of the First Fleeters (aged 53) buried in St. Peter's Cemetery (in an unmarked grave) and the first First Fleeter to die in the area.

At 1.00pm a picnic will be held at Smith Park, beside Pugh's Lagoon (below St. Peter's Church). In the event of unfavourable weather, it will move to the spacious Education Centre adjacent to the church. (Bring your own food and drink.)

All members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and friends are invited to attend the Service and picnic.

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

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.

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

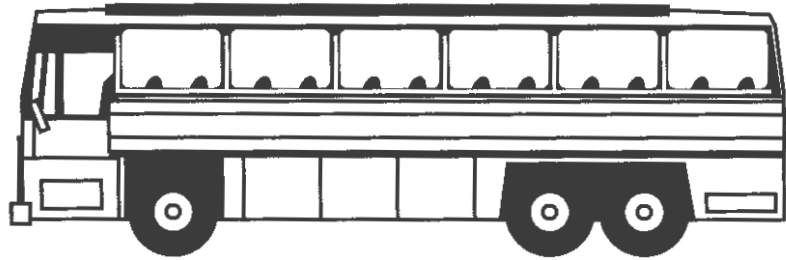
WISEMANS FERRY

Thirty-two members joined our coach trip on Sunday, 2 April, travelling first to Fagan Park at Galston. After enjoying morning tea, everybody set off at their own pace to explore this beautiful, vast parkland and to view as many of the Gardens of Nations as possible during this brief visit.

We continued our journey on to Wisemans Ferry where a delicious picnic lunch was served. A short detour was then made to view the plaque on the grave site of First Fleeter Peter Hibbs.

It was then on to the punt to cross to the northern bank of the Hawkesbury River, to wend our way up through some spectacular scenery with sandstone cliffs rising out of the fertile river valley. After admiring the display of art and crafts at the Brumble Hill Studio we joined the freeway for our return to Sydney.

The success and enjoyment of this day was made possible through the enthusiasm and support of those members who came along. It was a great pleasure to welcome Rod and Margaret Davis, members of the Northern Rivers Chapter.



A sincere thankyou must also go to John, our driver, who once again went beyond the call of duty to ensure the day was an enjoyable success. To all those inquiring when the next trip was to be, if a good response is assured maybe one could be arranged later in the year.

JOY PANKHURST

REDISCOVERED

Herein is Episode 3 of the memorial to Governor Phillip R.N., first Governor of New South Wales, which was erected in St. Mildred's Church, Bread Street, London, in 1932. The story began in the November/December Newsletter with the details of the design and erection of the memorial on the external wall of St. Mildred's (Arthur Phillip was born 10 October 1738 and baptised in All Hallows', Bread Street, within the sound of Bow Bells).

St. Mildred's was among the churches destroyed by enemy action in 1941 during the London blitz. Fortunately the bronze bust and two panels were salvaged from the ruins.

In May 1968 a replica of the original memorial was erected on the outside wall of the Bank of America building, on corner of Cannon and Bread Streets, and has the two panels - sculpture scenes of the Founding Ceremony, Sydney Cove - one on each side of the bust.

But more importantly, on Thursday, 23 January 1992, at a special Australia Day Service in St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, the beautifully restored bronze bust of Admiral Arthur Phillip R.N. was dedicated by the Bishop of London and unveiled by the Lord Mayor of London. It was a very colourful and moving ceremony attended by the Australian High Commissioner and many notables.

After the singing of the two national anthems the service concluded, and the

Bells of Bow rang out over London in tribute to Admiral Arthur Phillip.

A bronze tablet on the wall beside the memorial (rear wall inside the church) bears the following inscription:

'In honour of Admiral Arthur Phillip R.N. Citizen of London, Founder and First Governor of Australia. Baptised in All Hallows' Church, Bread Street, 11.10.1758. Entered Royal Navy 1755 - died 31.8.1814 (aged 76 Years).

'To his indomitable courage, prophetic vision, forbearance, faith, inspiration and wisdom was due the success of the First Settlement of Australia at Sydney on Saturday, 26th January 1788.

'This Memorial, originally erected at St. Mildred's, Bread Street, on 7th December 1952, was presented by the late Charles Cheers, Baron Wakefield of Hythe, CBE, L.L.D., Alderman of the Ward of Bread Street, Lord Mayor of London 1915-16. [Former Governor of New South Wales. Ed]

'To the Citizens of London and the people of Australia as an enduring link between the Motherland and the Great Island Continent of Australia.'

The memorial was restored and re-erected by the Australia-Britain Bicentennial Trust.



WHY ST. MARY-LE-BOW

It was the bells of St. Mary-le-Bow (Bow Bells) that rang out to Dick Whittington in 1375; the 'Great bell of Bow' features in the nursery rhyme 'Oranges and Lemons', which is possibly 500 years old. There has been a church on the site since the eleventh century. It has been the custom to ring church bells as a signal for 'curfew.' The custom survived as a signal for the city gates to be closed and taverns to shut. The 9 o'clock curfew was the signal that the day's work was done!

The church was destroyed in the Great Fire in 1666, but the bells were recast in 1699. Before World War II the BBC had used a recording of Bow Bells as an interval signal and their daily sound became familiar throughout Britain and the Commonwealth.

The bells were silenced by enemy action in 1941 but the BBC continued to record their sound. When the bells were recast and rehung in 1961, they brought joy to millions throughout the world.

The church received its name from the bow-shaped arches of the medieval tower. Designed by that great architect Christopher Wren, the seventeenth century church of St. Mary-le-Bow remains one of the most beautiful and historic churches of London, and probably the best known; to be a true Londoner, 'Cockney', you must be born within the sound of Bow Bells.

Alice Clarke

'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

LETTERS

I read in the January Newsletter President Peter Christian's remarks about the proposed change of Australia's National Day and the portrayal of aborigines in the Museum of Sydney. Peter is welcome to his views on these subjects but I am concerned about his implied assumption that all Fellowship members hold, or should hold, similar views.

These issues are part of the on-going debate within contemporary Australian democracy and as such I don't wish to comment on them here. However their treatment by Mr Christian denies the fact that the Fellowship of First Fleeters is not a political organisation. Fellowship members are free to participate in the Australian democratic process expressing whatever views they wish.

The events of 1788 are over, their political impact has been made and society has moved on. Nobody can take away the facts of history regardless of how that history is interpreted. It is the facts of our ancestors' history we are charged with preserving, not any one political interpretation.

None of us consciously chose our First Fleet ancestors. Their legacy belongs to all Australians. First Fleeters necessarily constituted all strata of white Australian society in 1788, it is safe to assume their descendants should be found in all levels of contemporary society, representing all opinions in the current political debate. We have no special rights in modern Australia by virtue of our ancestors. We have equal rights with every Australian.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters is a unique organisation; at the same time exclusive and egalitarian. Entry qualification is by accident of birth. It has the potential to be a respected and significant element in Australian society. The number of potential members is growing with each generation, not shrinking. Yet why is it reported that only 18 members turn up to a function in Tumbalong Park?

If the Fellowship of First Fleeters espoused less political rhetoric it might be seen as more relevant by those potential members who find they have nothing in common with its current political agenda.

BRUCE LIEBAU (F.F. Tunks. #3835)

FROM THE LIBRARY

'CONVICTS, CURRENCY FOLK AND CHANCE' (A story of six generations in Australia), by Bernarr (Bunny) P. Sloan.

[Available from the Fellowship, \$27.00 plus postage.]

This an incredible volume of some 592 pages of six generations commencing from the 'Ropes and Pulleys.' Incredible because of the detail of not only the lives of Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley but of the history of Australia from 1788 to the 1930s and how it affected six generations of the family.

It covers the early days of the Colony, the struggles through the 1880s, the Boer War and World War I and the Depression and also how these six generations lived, and learned to adapt to their native land.

Bunny Sloan's homespun philosophy, which is interwoven in the narrative, has in no way departed from the historical accuracy of the times. It is a volume well put together, quotations apropos to the chapters; maps, caricatures and family photographs abound.



I was extremely taken by his chapters on the Toby Ryan family, Toby Ryan's second wife being Sarah Hadley, a descendant of F.F. William Tunks.

This is the second in a series of four books and certainly to my mind it is one of the most interesting and telling volumes of First Fleet descendants.

In his introduction, Bunny writes -

My aim has been to weave together family stories and family events with some historical events of New South Wales, and to a lesser extent Australia, so as to create a time a place and an extended family. It is a sort of pact between the dead Sharps, Corderoys, Ryans, Dempseys and Ropes on the one hand, the living Sharps, Macdonalds, Randalls, Bakers and Sloans on the other hand, and the yet unborn future.

Congratulations Bunny, a magnificent effort.
P.G.C.