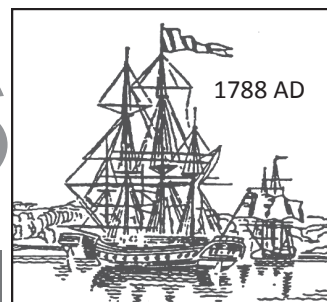


Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters Inc.

ACN 003 223 425

PATRON: Her Excellency, Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of New South Wales



Volume 45, Issue 1

46th Year of Publication

February/March 2014

To live on in the hearts and minds
of descendants is never to die

RON, YOU'VE REALLY DONE US PROUD

When Sydney architect, **George Allen Mansfield** designed his 'first class house in Macquarie Street' back in 1871, he would never have anticipated its many uses from that time until the present day. Yes, having been a gentleman's family residence with a view out over the Botanic Gardens and the harbour beyond, it has seen time as a club, a boarding house and doctors' consulting rooms.

Since 1970, as *History House*, it has been the permanent home of the Royal Australian Historical Society. Its authentically restored drawing and dining rooms became the perfect venue for the 17 December 2013 launch of **Ron Withington's** book '*Dispatched Downunder, Tracing the Resting Places of the First Fleeters*'.

About thirty members of the Fellowship, including four presidents past and present, gathered to see the launch of this new book, a worthy successor to the Fellowship's earlier publication *Where First Fleeters Lie*, written by Rod Best and Joyce Cowell some twenty-five years ago.

Proceedings began at 2pm when President **Ian Palmer** called on **Rod Best** to give the occasional address. This, said Rod, was in essence a celebration of the sense of belonging. Rod began by mentioning some interesting family connections. These ranged from his own links to the Sephardic Jews of London and Amsterdam to his paying respect to the Cadigal people of the Eora nation. As he said, most of the latter were unknown by name but nonetheless folk sharing their history with those who sailed into Port Jackson in 1788 and the families that followed.

Of interest to Rod and his family over the years have been the connections that turn up as family history is more sharply investigated. He spoke of finding his own medical connections that relate to both heart problems and longevity. He challenged family researchers to focus more on those other connections that come about through

adoption, fostering children and the wider matter of the stolen generation. For all of us, whatever our background, there is always a 'sense of belonging'.

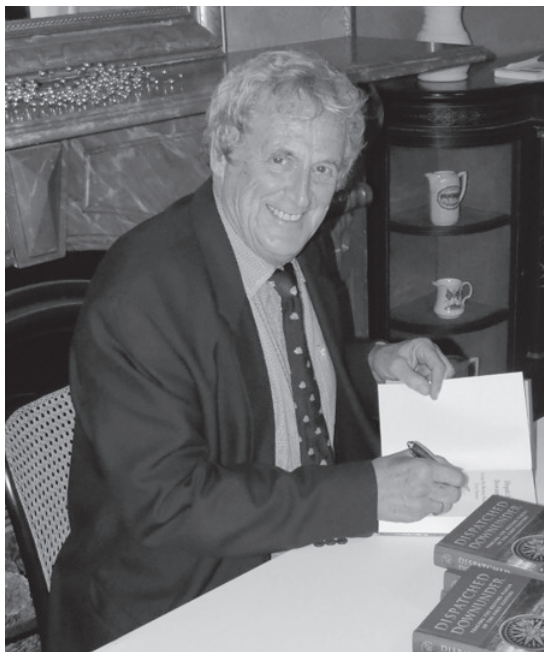
And so to *Dispatched Downunder* itself. The book, said Rod, is much more than merely about people. It 'links people and place' and this is the key to its effectiveness. The stories that have been gathered really belong to the places where the people lie buried, and Rod's own travels

over the years, both for the Fellowship and as a family came vividly to mind as he read the book.

He shared three anecdotes of his own, the memories of each occasioned by his reading of specific chapters about the burial grounds and those resting there. Rod told of his trip to Liskeard in Cornwall in 1993 to locate the gravesite of First Fleeter **George Worgan**, whose famous piano remained in Australia with **Elizabeth McArthur**. At Rod's request, the post cards of the village were eventually located and they turned out to be a 'vintage 1950' and certainly not the kind to be found in the modern tourist trail!

Another reminiscence was of the installation of a stainless steel plaque on the headstone of **Thomas Headington** on Norfolk Island in 1980. {Editor's Note: this is the plaque that has 'gone missing' and as yet the Fellowship's replacement is not allowed to be installed due to 'conservation guidelines'}

Rod's last story gave some background to the burial story of Major **George Johnston** and the placing of a plaque at Annandale Public School in 1997. An expected group of 20 for lunch grew into nearly 100 and urgent catering help for his wife Louise was sought from the extended Best family before a historic Annandale walk by two groups found their way back to the school for the dedication. **Cont. Page 3**



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Hunting bricks and
oak trees.

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Founders

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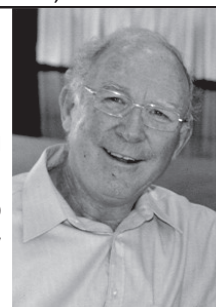
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2. President's Desk; Arthur Phillip Year
3. Book Launch (concluded)
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President's Desk

Ian Palmer



Welcome to the first edition of Founders for 2014. I hope your Festive Season was as enjoyable and relaxing as mine. This is a great time of the year for catching up with friends and family and of course getting back to that family research that you have been meaning to do for some time.



The December book launch of *Dispatched Downunder* was a very friendly occasion and timely for those folk who attended and who were looking for a last minute Christmas present. An order form is available on our web site for those folk still wishing to buy.

At the December meeting of the Eastern Farms Chapter one of our Members glanced through the book and was perplexed when he could not find any reference to his First Fleeter, Maria Haynes. I explained to him that the Fellowship had no knowledge of the final resting place of this First Fleeter to which our Member responded "the Nash family know where she is!" This exchange shows once again that our own Members are one of the best sources of information on family history. The Fellowship is grateful for this knowledge as it adds one more to our known resting places of a First Fleeter. Let us hope the book flushes out more such snippets so that we can identify more grave sites of our First Fleet ancestors.

2014, THE ARTHUR PHILLIP YEAR

We begin with a question - will Australia officially recognise that Arthur Phillip, the founding governor of New South Wales died two hundred years ago on 31st August, 1814? The Fellowship, as ever, is hopeful but given what seems like a conspiracy of silence on the return of his bronze memorial to Sydney Cove, we are fast losing hope.

Yes, there is time to recognise Phillip both locally and nationally and there are many societies, our Fellowship included, asking the relevant questions in high places. Some of our members have been urgently circulating petitions, contacting members of parliament and generally noising abroad the need for the bronze to be restored to its rightful place with due honour and ceremony befitting the man himself.

The recent issue of *The Site-Gazette*, the newsletter of the *Friends of the First Government House Site (Inc)* is headlined : **THIS IS HOW BRITAIN IS CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY** ; BUT WHY IS NOTHING BEING DONE IN AUSTRALIA? The gazette gives an update on what is planned for the Phillip Year in Britain, the preliminary arrangements for which have been outlined in *Founders* several times already.

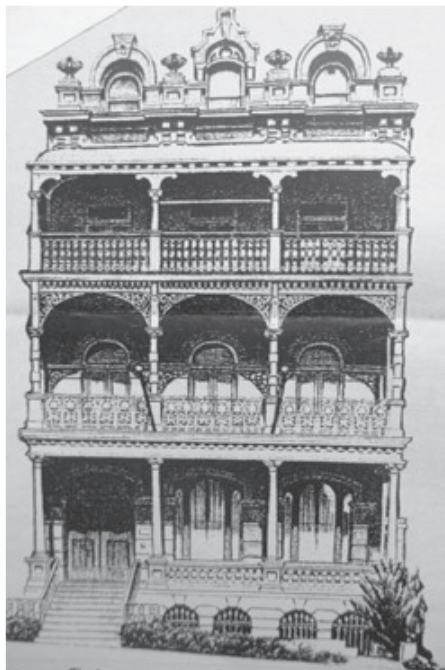
Next issue we hope to show you the artist's rendition of the memorial that is to be unveiled in **Westminster Abbey**. Advanced publicity has been given during a recent visit to Australia of Pauline Lyle-Smith of the Britain-Australia Society, whose aim, because Phillip has been under recognised in the land of his birth, is to honour him as "first Governor of Australia (who) used his great skills of insight, management, pragmatism and humanitarianism to overcome huge odds in founding the successful colony of NSW". *Founders* understand that the large memorial will be made of Sydney stone.

In **Bath** an informative tribute sculpture is being built in a formal garden at the Assembly Rooms near the house in Bennett St where the then Admiral Phillip and his wife lived. The commission for the monument has been given to the famous sundial maker David Harber who will collaborate with the Somerset based stone carver Nigel Fenwick. It will be in the form of sphere modelling the celestial coordinates in the night sky and include other important navigational features. (See picture on page 5).

The Society is fund raising to assist St Nicholas Church in nearby **Bathampton** village, where Phillip and his wife are buried, to install etched glass doors for the entrance 'to enhance access to the memorial chapel and the Phillip ledgerstone'.

So it would seem that London, Bath and Bathampton will be the places to visit this year where we **know** things will be happening. Meanwhile, *Founders* suggests any corresponding event at Sydney Cove might end up being a rather contemplative and somewhat lonely vigil and not a bicentennial celebration to suit the occasion.

See page 5, this issue, for the publicised dates and contact Vice President Denis Smith if you would still like to be part of the Australian contingent to England in July.



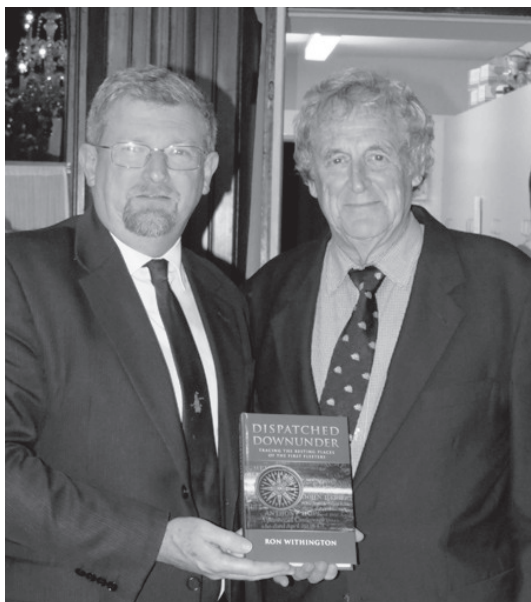
Cont. From Page 1
Rod concluded his address with a short tribute to the memory of his co-author of the earlier book, **Joyce Cowell** who he felt sure, would be delighted with Ron Withington's worthy new work. He then launched *Dispatched Downunder* with the words "Ron, you've really done us proud!"

President Ian thanked Rod Best for his entertaining and informative address then posed the

question: How do you follow that? His own answer was 'Not me, but Ron' and he introduced the author Ron Withington for his comments and response.

Ron began with a warm tribute to Rod for his kind words and his expressed appreciation of the new publication. He talked about the birth of the book and how the seed was sown in 2010 with a visit to the plaque dedication for First Fleeter **John Alexander Herbert** in Tasmania that year. He realised that in the years since *Where First Fleeters Lie* had been published, another forty gravesites had been found and the relevant plaques dedicated. So this book has added thirty seven of the stories, the current indexing project for *Founders* being instrumental in their retelling due to the records of all the additional dedications to date.

The contents and presentation of the book were clearly set out in the relevant order form that was included in *Founders* 44/6 so will not be repeated here. Ron did, however, mention each of the new features and went on to say how he has visited all the relevant Australian cemeteries looking for the plaques and that sometimes forgetting his camera necessitated a revisit.



In passing on his thanks to past presidents for their encouragement, he also called his audience's attention to the great work done by Research Director **John Boyd** in the thorough preparation and presentation of the appendices and associated indexation. **Geoff Blundell's** proofreading skills were warmly acknowledged and Ron paid tribute to the huge contribution over the years by (the late) **Douglas Oakes** in ensuring that dedications were adequately planned and carried out with such professionalism.

Ron reminded everyone that identifying graves has always been a work of the Fellowship and that it still continues. In fact, the book is in one sense out of date as #4092 **Harry James**, with the help of John Boyd and his research team, has just this year located the burial site of his First Fleeter **Maria Haynes/Nash**, the wife of a marine. The site is now part of the aquatic centre at Penrith Lakes, Castlereagh NSW. Ron wonders whether the next dedication will be our first to be carried out under water!

Ron concluded his talk with one of the interesting grave inscriptions observed in his travels, that of **James Ruse** who, it is said, carved his own headstone before his death in 1837,

*My Mother reread me tenderly,
with me she took much pains.
And when I arrived in this coelny,
I sowed the first grain.
And now with my heavenly father,
I hope for ever to remain.*

The formalities for the afternoon came to an end with some appreciative comments by director John Boyd who worked with Ron on the indexing and appendices of *Dispatched Downunder*. John said that he and Ron had worked together to produce our current *Founders of the Nation* Chart, [Still available at First Fleet House - Ed] and that they both drew much from and highly commended the research of **Mollie Gillen**.

President Ian invited all present to enjoy afternoon tea together and urged them to buy the book! Fellowship treasurer Kevin Thomas sat at receipt of custom and author Ron Withington was alongside busily signing copies for the eager purchasers. So ended another memorable and historic day for the Fellowship.

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

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WILLIAM EGGLETON & MARY DICKINSON

William Eggleton, alias 'Bones', was a convicted thief, transported from England to the Penal Colony of New South Wales, as a convict. He arrived at Sydney Cove on the 26th January 1788, aboard the transport ship *Alexander*. This vessel was one of the eleven ships that made up the First Fleet that established an English settlement in Australia.

His trial had been held at the Surrey Lent Assizes that commenced at Kingston upon Thames on Wednesday the 22nd March 1786, before Sir Henry Gould, Knight and Sir William Henry Ashurst, Knight.

He was tried on the morning of the 23rd March 1786 and charged with –

'a) Committed 23 January 1786 b) ... that William Eggleton otherwise Bones late of the parish of Saint Saviour within the borough of Southwark labourer and James Spencer late of the same Upon the 12th day of January ... with force and arms at the parish aforesaid ... the dwelling house of Edward Warren feloniously did break and enter ... and one Deal Box of the value of 2s. one Iron Padlock of the value of 6d. three woollen cloth Coats of the value of £3 one pair of Jean Breeches of the value of 5s. one pair of Corduroy Breeches of the value of 4s. one pair of Nankeen Breeches of the value of 3s. one Shag Waistcoat of the value of 4s. one silk Waistcoat of the value of 4s. one dimity Waistcoat of the value of 2s. one black Silk Gown of the value 15s. one muslin Gown of the value of 20s. one printed cotton Gown of the value of 10s. and one black silk Cloak of the value of 20s. of the goods and chattels of the said Edward Warren feloniously did steal'

'Not Guilty of breaking and entering, guilty of stealing goods v 39s. no chattels. Trans: 7 years beyond the sea.'

Occupation: Labourer Age: 26¹

Mary Dickinson also arrived at Sydney Cove on the 26th January 1788. She was a convict who had sailed from England aboard the First Fleet transport ship, *Lady Penrhyn*.

Her trial had been held at Southwark, Surrey, Quarter Sessions on the 8th January 1787 where she was charged with –

'a) Committed the 23rd day of November, 1786, by T. Waterhouse, Esq, charged on the oaths of Elizabeth Marin, Richard Marks, John Hall and Richard Jackson on suspicion of feloniously stealing, taking and carrying away, from the shop of Richard Marks, on the 22d inst, in the parish of St. Saviour, in this County, eleven waistcoats, the property of the said Richard Marks.'

*'b) ... Convicted of Felony and ... ordered to be transported for the Term of Seven Years ... to such parts beyond the Seas as His Majesty in his Privy Council shall be pleased to appoint and direct.'*²

Occupation: Barrow-woman Age: 26²

On the 17th February 1788, just three weeks after arriving in their new country, William Eggleton and Mary Dickinson were married. Theirs was one of fifteen similar ceremonies performed by the **Rev. Richard Johnson**, Chaplain of the First Fleet, on that day.

The couple's first daughter **Sarah** was born on the 25th December 1788.

By 1790 the colony was desperately short of provisions so Governor **Arthur Phillip** decided to establish a new farming district at Prospect with a view to supplying the starving settlement with much needed food and grain. He selected twenty six of the most reliable convicts, with proven good character, to begin the new endeavour.

'None but ye industrious and sober were allowed to become farmers'.

William Eggleton was one of the chosen convicts and in 1791 started farming on a sixty acre property at the foot of Prospect Hill, on what is now Old Toongabbie Road.

On the 16th October 1791 a son **William** was born to William and Mary. The child died on the 5th June in 1792.

A second son, also called **William** was born on the 12th May 1793.

The sixty acre property at Prospect that William had named *Eggleton's Endeavour* was granted to him by Lieutenant Governor, **Francis Grose** on the 28th May 1793.³

On the 1st April 1794, William Eggleton was granted a lease, on a seven acre property at Petersham by the Lieutenant Governor, Francis Grose. This land was described as being -

'nearly at the foot of Petersham Hill'.⁴

In July of 1794 William sold his 60 acre grant at Prospect to **Thomas Daveny** for 60 guineas.

On the 18th February 1796 a second daughter, **Elizabeth** was born to William and Mary Eggleton.

On the 25th August 1799, Mary Eggleton died and was buried in the Old Sydney Burial Ground, (where the Sydney Town Hall now stands). William apparently reared his children single-handed from this time.

On the 19th November 1799, William was appointed by the Governor to check the quality and quantity of grain supplied to the Government stores in the Sydney and adjacent areas. The appointment was worded –

'The Governor has thought proper to appoint the Person Hereunder named to take an accurate Survey of the grain which has been produced this season on the farms of Officers or others. It is his desire that each person of that description will without any let of hindrance give a true and faithful account to the persons herby authorized to receive the same according to the plan which they have received for that purpose, and it is expected and insisted that every person attend the examination on his own ground and give every information.'

It was recorded in 1802 that William held 80 acres, by purchase, in the Field of Mars area. Seventy acres were cleared with ten sown with wheat and eight ready for maize. He owned nine hogs and held 20 bushels of maize. By 1806 he again had ten acres of wheat in addition to a vegetable garden and 38 acres of pasture on which he ran eight sheep, two goats and ten hogs. There is no record of a wife, however three children are noted.

In the 1811 Muster, William Eggleton and Family are listed as being landholders and living in the Windsor area.

By 1814 William was working on additional land he had re-

ceived at Airds. This area of 60 acres was granted to him on the 18th January in 1817, and was situated behind the present Macarthur Shopping Square at Campbelltown.

Between 1816 and 1820 William was recorded several times in the Colonial Secretary's correspondence on the Return of Horned Cattle issued from the Government herds.

In 1820 William Eggleton wrote a memorial to Governor Thomas Brisbane requesting a further land grant. He said in part -

'I arrived in the Colony about 36 years ago and have been a free man for 20 years during which time my conduct has been uniformly good. The petitioner has not ever had his name brought into question'.

The Governor responded to the request by granting William 50 acres at Bargo, now Wilton. The land grant was gazetted on the 30th June 1823. The family farmed the ground well into the 1840s. This land was situated close to the present Wilton Parachuting School.

In the 1822 muster, William Eggleton was listed as employed by **Robert Lack** on his property near Liverpool. This farm was located in what is Campbelltown today.

William Eggleton was not listed in the 1828 Census. Apparently he died between 1825 and 1828. His death was not recorded and his gravesite is unknown.

- Endnotes**
- 1 *Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts* John Cobley page 83
 - 2 *Crimes of the First Fleet Convicts* John Cobley page 77
 - 3 *Land Grant #114 Book A1 page 60*
 - 4 *Land Grant #180 Book A1 page 93*

Bibliography

William Eggleton by Shirley White

General Muster of New South Wales 1814

General Muster and Land & Stock Muster of New South Wales 1822

Census of New South Wales November 1828

Ian Palmer

First Fleeter Story Challenge

The challenge is on.

Members are checking the Fellowship website to see if there is a story there about their First Fleet ancestor.

Indications are that quite a few members are preparing stories and we look forward to reading these when they are published in Founders prior to being placed into the Web site.

It is early days yet but one story has already been received from Eastern Farms chapter and one from Derwent..



The new sculpture at the Assembly Rooms at Bath will commemorate links between that city and Governor Phillip. It is planned that residents, visitors and school children will learn more about the First Fleet voyage and its leader's life.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN ENGLAND IN 2014

WEST COUNTRY BRANCH

- * Sunday 2nd February – Hartham Park
- * Sunday 27th April, – ANZAC lunch and service, Sutton Veny.
- * Friday 10th October – Admiral Phillip service & lunch, Bathampton and Bath.

Book Through Branch Web Site

<http://www.britozeast.org.uk/events.asp>

THE ADMIRAL ARTHUR PHILLIP MEMORIALS

- * Tuesday 8th July, London. Welcome Reception Australian High Commission, 6:00 – 8:00pm
- * Wednesday 9th July - Westminster Abbey – Dedication of the Stone Reserved seats *by invitation only to donors*.
- * Friday 11th July. Welcome Reception with the Mayor of Bath. The Bath Guildhall 6:00 – 8:00pm
- * Saturday 12th July. The Memorial Unveiling ceremony at the Assembly Rooms Bath, followed by afternoon tea. Reception at Number 1 Royal Crescent 6:00 – 7:15 pm
- * Saturday 12th July. The Admiral Phillip Dinner, the Assembly Rooms, Bath, 8:00pm
- * Sunday 13th July. Optional visit to Lyndhurst with overnight stay at the Lyndhurst Park Hotel. site of Captain Phillip's New Forest Farm.

PROGRAMMES & BOOKING

Book Through European Connoisseur Travel, Bath <http://www.ectravel.com/index.php/partnerships/britain-australia-society/admiral-arthur-phillip-rn-commemoration> Some visitors may wish to continue to Portsmouth. Arrangements should be made either individually or via: Brian Hall, Portsmouth Branch

Chairman: b_m_hall@hotmail.com

STOP PRESS

Her Excellency Professor The Hon. Marie Bashir AC CVO, Governor of New South Wales, will be present both in London and Bath and also at Lyndhurst.

PETER HIBBS REUNION 2015

Calling for expressions of interest from descendants of PETER HIBBS for a reunion & family get together of our forefather who sailed on the *Sirius* and descendants of others who also sailed on her.

I am organising a trip to NORFOLK ISLAND for the 225th Anniversary 19th March 2015 of the **sinking of HMS SIRIUS**, the Flagship of the First Fleet.

Please email Robyn Stanford at

possum.grove@bigpond.com

if you would like to join the mailing list for updates of prices & information. Please include you ancestor.

See **Sailing of the Hibbs Line* compiled by Allen Maunder. 1995*

H.M.S. SIRIUS



MARY ALLEN STORY.

The First Fleeter Mary Allen was christened on 25th November 1764 at St. Leonards church, Shoreditch. Her father was **Benjamin** and the mother's name was **Alice**.

At the age of 22 she was tried by a Middlesex jury in the Old Bailey for assaulting Hugh Harding on the King's highway, on the 14th September 1786. She and her accomplice, her sister **Tamasin Allen**, had put Harding 'in corporal fear and danger of his life' taking from him against his will, a watch with a tortoise-shell case, value 30s a chain, value 2s, four gold seals, value 40s, a base metal watch key, value 2d, his property.

She and her sister were both found guilty of stealing, but not violently, and were to be transported for 7 years.

The record lists as her occupation: A poor unhappy woman of the town.

She and her sister were assigned to the *Lady Penrhyn*. There were 101 female convicts on this ship which according to one report had a rebellious crew and a collection of convict women who were abandoned prostitutes. Some of the crew members were transferred to *HMS Sirius* because of their mutinous behaviour. The women were controlled by having thumb-screws or iron fetters put on them or by having their heads shaved. However it was a healthy ship with few deaths and little disease.

We don't know how she and others survived the trip from Portsmouth to Port Jackson, let alone to the age of 78 in the harsh land that Australia was in those days. To come from the slums of London with thousands of people to this desolate place, with nothing but bush, and only strangers to depend on.

She had to live on the ship out in the harbour for the first month before coming ashore to live under a lean-to make-shift roof. Convict women needed a lot of strength of character to survive having to stay on board until fenced accommodation was built. This was done to save them from being molested by the male convicts as soon as they came ashore.

After 18 months in Port Jackson, Mary had her first child fathered by a sailor **Frederick Meredith**. Fred arrived with the first Fleet ship *Scarborough*. He was a sailor. Their child was a girl named **Charlotte**, who died before the age of 2.

She then met a convict from the Second Fleet, **Edward Pales** who arrived on *Surprise* in 1790. He was 27.

Her five children to him were all girls: **Susannah**, born 5th June 1792; **Mary**, born 1st April 1794; **Elizabeth**, who died at birth on 20th April 1797; **Ann**, born 15th April 1798 and **Elizabeth** (2) who died at birth 14th May 1801.

Ann Pales married **John Hollis**, a convict from the second fleet and she later had husbands by the name of **Richards** and **Gould**.

Edward Pales died 31st December 1802 age 43 in Sydney.

Elizabeth (2) Died at birth 14th May 1801

The widowed Mary Pales then moved to the Hawkesbury and married **John Martin** who had come to NSW on the *Nep-*

tune in 1790. She had three children to him: **Thomas**, born 2nd April 1805; **John**, born 1810 and **Sarah**, born 11th May 1812.

They rented 8 acres in Windsor where they raised corn, barley and wheat. Unfortunately John Martin died seven years after the marriage, aged 40, on 29th April 1812, just a few days before his last child was born. So Mary was left a widow yet again. She managed to raise her children with the help of government assistance.

As Mary Martin grew older she lived with or near her son, Thomas and her daughter Ann in Goulburn. She died in the old township age 78. What a remarkable woman to go through so much and live to that age. She is buried in the Old Goulburn Cemetery opposite the goal. A plaque was placed in St Saviour's cemetery by the Fellowship of First Fleeters and he descendants on 5th March 1988.

Ann's home which is known as *Riversdale* is owned by the National Trust in Goulburn and is open to visitors at weekends.

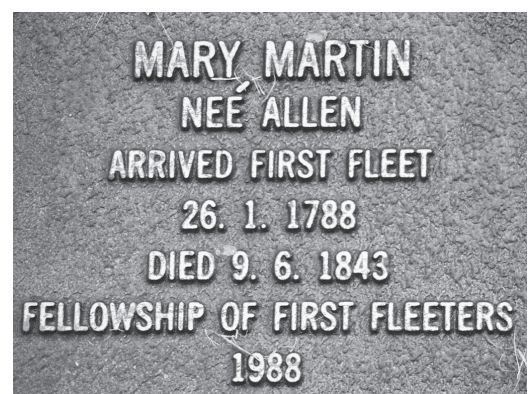
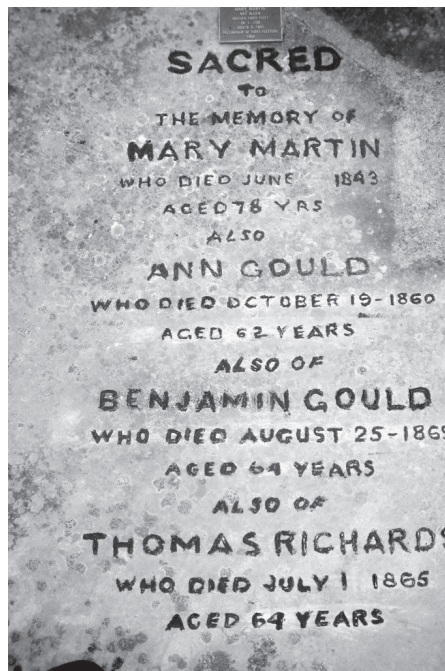
Mary lived to see her children and grandchildren prosper. They married convicts, children of convicts, assisted immigrants and free settlers. Her son-in-law began the building of *Riversdale* and after his death her daughter saw it completed and run as an inn over 160 years ago.

Over the years the descendants of Mary Allen-Pales-Martin have been involved in all aspects of Australian growth. From the granddaughter who went to a gold-mining town as a teacher to a grandson who was an innkeeper; from a blacksmith to a cabinet maker; and from account-

ants to a bank manager, farmer, architect, doctor, nurse, chemist, dentist, professors and a clergyman. All claim Mary Allen as an ancestor. Some of her descendants with the brims of the digger hats turned up fought bravely in both World Wars. One descendant was secretary to the Postmaster General and a grandson was Goulburn town clerk. One descendant was bandmaster of the Goulburn volunteer rifles. A great grandson, a doctor, became a Member of Parliament and another was the founder of the Goulburn Musical and Opera society and organist at St. Saviours.

We as a family think Mary Allen did very well with the situation presented to her. We often wish she could come back from her hard life and catch a glimpse of what this country is today.

*Katy and
Herby Ghea*



DERWENT CHAPTER VISIT TO NEW NORFOLK

On the 7th December, on a beautiful sunny day, instead of our usual meeting, Derwent Chapter went to Tynwald Park at New Norfolk to enjoy a picnic lunch and a relaxed couple of hours, giving members and friends a chance to get to know each other a little better. The outing was also attended by a couple of first timers and they were made very welcome by the members and friends at the picnic.

After lunch the 18 people who attended adjourned to Willow Court at New Norfolk where they were lucky enough to have Tony Nicholson, who had previously worked at the site and currently is a councillor with Derwent Valley Council, talk to them about the history of the Barracks building at Willow Court. Willow Court was named because Lady Jane Franklin planted a willow in the courtyard. The Barracks building was originally built in 1830-31 and housed invalid convicts including those who had become insane and later free people who paid a fee to be housed there.

Some of the members and friends at the Barracks.

Following on from our very informative talk we were guests of the New Norfolk Historical Information Centre and were provided with a wonderful Devonshire tea and sundry Christmas treats by NNHC volunteers Ruth Binny and Di Cowburn. Ruth and Di also gave us information on what

holdings they had, books for sale etc and no doubt many of us will return to seek out new information for our family research. The NNHC has produced at least eight publications concerning the history of New Norfolk, people, places, buildings, cemeteries and burial records as well as having holdings of family files

Judith Wood

President

For more information on Willow Court go to http://www.newnorfolk.org/~willow_court/newnorfolk.pdf



WHERE IS THIS? NO 5 IN AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

Here, pictured left is your **latest challenge**, with thanks to #1079 Marge Raven for supplying a picture and some associated information. **Your clue** is that the cairn is to be found in a southern suburb of Sydney.

Now to the **results of Puzzle 4** -

Founders is astonished. Not one person responded with the information we were looking for. Perhaps you knew and either thought everyone else would supply the answer or else you were too busy to let us know yourself!

We have enlarged the plaque - see picture below - so you can learn of its benefactor and installation. The wall - see also story on page 12 this issue - is immediately behind the large nineteenth century Arthur Phillip monument in the south west corner of Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden.

The monument itself is well known and must surely be an essential part of First Fleeters' pilgrimages to Sydney. It is pictured on our website under *Photo Gallery - Monuments* and is the site of celebrations conducted by the Women's Pioneer Society honouring Phillip's birthday in October each year.

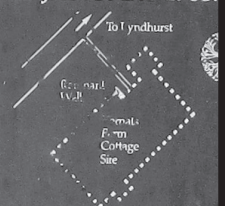
THIS WALL STANDS AS A MEMORIAL
TO CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILLIP RN, FIRST GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES
WHO LED THE FIRST FLEET TO AUSTRALIA AND FOUNDED THE NEW COLONY AT SYDNEY COVE IN JANUARY 1788.



A distinguished navigator, humane leader and farmer, Phillip guided the establishment of the first farm on the Australian continent at a site now part of the Royal Botanic Gardens.

These bricks came from the 17th century house at Vernals Farm, Lyndhurst, in Hampshire where Phillip lived before his historic voyage to Australia. They were carefully dismantled from the remains of the house and reconstructed here in English bond, bedded in lime mortar as they stood in England in 1787.

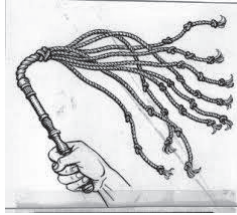
As a living link with Arthur Phillip an oak tree is planted nearby. It was grown from an acorn from an ancient tree in the original garden of Vernals Farm.



THIS BOWER, A BICENTENNIAL GIFT FROM MR GEOFFREY L. COTTEE TO THE PEOPLE OF SYDNEY, WAS UNVEILED BY HIS EXCELLENCY AIR MARSHAL SIR JAMES ROWLAND AC, KBE, DFC, AFC, GOVERNOR OF NEW SOUTH WALES, IN JANUARY 1988.

WILLIAM BOGGIS and ELIZABETH SMITH

Sometime during 1782 **William Boggis**, a sailor, was arrested with **William Hubbard** for stealing a bed sheet valued at three shillings. He was confined in cells at the House of Correction until both men were brought in chains to the Old Town Hall in the Market Place of Kingston-upon-Thames, County Surrey, to appear before the Court of Quarter Sessions in January 1783. Both were found guilty and sentenced "to be publicly whipt of the cats tail between 12 and 2 on Saturday the 22nd February from the County Gaol to St Thomas' Hospital and discharged."



They were remanded to appear again before the Surrey Summer Assizes on 24 March 1784 accused of a felony, a serious offence which at times carried the death penalty. Their death sentence was commuted on 24 March 1784 to transportation to America for seven years, so on 8 April 1785, aged 18, both men were transferred to the hulk *Censor* at Woolwich. ⁽¹⁾

On 2 March 1787 Boggis and Hubbard were amongst 210 shackled prisoners loaded on wagons that travelled to Portsmouth; they were assigned to the ship *Scarborough*, one of the 11 ships of the First Fleet. On 6 March 1787 the two men were among 186 transportees, manacled in pairs, who crossed in lighters to be imprisoned in the hold of the *Scarborough* which Phillip had designated as an all-male ship to carry the most hardened criminals. Boggis was 21 years of age at the time of the departure of the First Fleet from Portsmouth on 13 May 1787, having already been incarcerated for more than 4 years.

Most convicts were in reasonable health when the ships dropped anchor at Botany Bay. Parties of convicts were immediately landed to cut grass for the livestock – not green and lush but dried brown by the hot summer sun. As Botany Bay did not have a plentiful water supply Phillip explored north to Port Jackson where he found a fine harbour with flowing water. He immediately gave orders that the Fleet relocate and, on Saturday 26 January 1788, Phillip and his officers landed at Sydney Cove and declared this land for England. At dawn the following day, convicts from the *Scarborough* were disembarked and began felling trees and dragging away logs; or pitching tents; or bringing up such stores as were more immediately wanted.

On 2nd August 1788 Boggis was arrested for gambling for a knife and sentenced to "Fifty lashes on the bare back with ... Nine Tails". Only a month later he was "accused by **Lydia Munro** of wanting to have connexion (sic) with her against her will". He was found guilty and sentenced to receive 100 lashes. The Court met again on 20 September when Boggis convinced the magistrates that Lydia Munro was considered a prostitute by other convicts. He was acquitted, a notation stating "afterwards forgiven".

To relieve the Colony's food shortages, Governor Phillip had established a government farm at Rose Hill to grow fresh produce. Boggis was sent there to work in the fields where he and other convicts were required to turn over one-tenth of an acre per day, tilling the soil with a hoe. On 14 July 1789 he appeared



before the Court at Rose Hill charged with the crime of entering a hut for which he received the sentence of 200 lashes. He appeared again before the Court at Sydney Cove on 25 July charged with "... entering house ... with the intent to commit a felony". Boggis was found guilty of "stealing ... shirt – to receive one hundred lashes on his bare back, at Rose Hill – to work with an iron on his leg – to wear a label with the word Thief painted on it – and made fast on his cloathing [sic]". A further notation was made that, having received 200 lashes at Rose Hill, the Justices did not think it proper to impose more punishment.

Starvation in the Colony was imminent. Phillip sent **Captain Hunter** to Cape Town for fresh supplies; the *Sirius* circumnavigated the globe and returned to Sydney on 9 May 1789 with a maximum cargo – the first supplies in 18 months. Within 6 months the situation at Sydney Cove was again critical – rations were so meagre that people lacked the energy to work; clothes were in shreds, no one had shoes.

Boggis appeared before the magistrate on Wednesday 7 October 1789, charged with stealing a jacket and comb. He claimed that he did not commit the robbery, and that he was not out of his house that night. A witness corroborated that Boggis "was with him from the close of the evening" and this was sufficient for William to be discharged.

To counter the starvation threatening the Colony Governor Phillip transferred as many convicts as possible in *Sirius* and *Supply*. Early on Saturday 6 March 1790 the ships departed for the sub-colony on Norfolk Island where **Philip Gidley King** was Lieutenant-Governor. Among the convicts on board was William Boggis. By 13 March 1790 the Captains sighted the island but, because of inclement weather, moved the ships round to the more sheltered Cascade Bay, where all convicts were disembarked by 17 March.

Gales then forced the ships to retreat to safety several miles off shore until the flag at Kingston signalled the all-clear to land. The unloading of *Supply* was completed first. Then *Sirius* was moved in and the crew loaded boats with cargo and the oarsmen rowed to shore. A strong riptide and blustery winds suddenly threatened the ship; Captain Hunter manoeuvred frantically but the *Sirius* was driven stern-first on the jagged reef. All accessible provisions were removed from the hold and secured to the gun deck for discharge onto the tenders; provisions were hauled along a hawser; casks, bedding, sea chests, boxes and anything salvageable were jettisoned to float across the reef ahead of the heavy surf. Unloading continued until 28 March when a huge swell threatened to break up the ship. All available convicts, including Boggis, were kept busy gathering the flotsam that littered the beach, spreading it out in the warm sun and transferring the dried goods to the Store Yard.

Among the orders from Governor Phillip delivered to Lieutenant-Governor King was his recall to Sydney in order to carry reports to England with a desperate plea for urgent dispatch of store ships. Phillip appointed **Major Ross** as Lieutenant-Governor during King's absence.

. Three hungry months dragged by in Sydney before the flag at South Head was raised signaling the arrival of a ship – it was the *Lady Juliana* – not the long-awaited storeship, but a transport of female prisoners. A convict disembarking from the *Lady Juliana* on 11 June 1790 was **Elizabeth Smith**. She had been tried at Old Bailey Sessions, Middlesex Assizes on 11 July 1787 and sentenced to 7 years transportation for the theft of a watch, a pair of stone knee buckles, a silk handkerchief and a crown piece. Elizabeth Smith was held in Newgate Gaol until 12 March 1789 when she boarded the *Lady Juliana* in irons, riveted not locked, her age recorded as 39.

On 20 June the *Justinian* sailed into Sydney laden entirely with provisions and everyone went on full rations. Six days later the first of the Second Fleet ships, *Surprise* ⁽²⁾, entered the harbour, only days ahead of the *Neptune* and *Scarborough*. Many prisoners were either ill, had died of starvation, ill-treatment or disease. The sudden increase in population brought an urgent need of housing so Phillip ordered the transfer of most of the women convicts from the *Lady Juliana* onto the *Surprise*. Elizabeth Smith was one of 157 women and 37 male convicts who sailed on 1 August 1790 for Norfolk Island.

Within a month William Boggis and Elizabeth Smith were working in close proximity, he with the convicts clearing ground and planting Indian corn, while she was among the women who were pulling up the blight-stricken corn and replanting, or picking off plagues of caterpillars, digging and carting potatoes, or establishing the flax business.

When his 7 year term expired in March 1791 Boggis had been given a 10 acre grant of land overlooking Ball's Bay. It was a difficult block as only 2 acres were level, a small portion of which was cleared, but with the benefit of a road kept in good repair for emergency boat landings. By 1 July 1791 he had two acres and 120 rods cleared and had been given a piglet to rear.

Elizabeth Smith was assigned to housekeep and work for William. A daughter was born to them on 3 February 1792 also named **Elizabeth**. By October 1793 they had cultivated seven acres, of which only four ploughed easily. The remaining three acres were steep and suitable only for animal forage. By 2 November that year the family was "independent of Government Stores for animal food."

Lieutenant King returned to Norfolk Island in November 1791 to be reinstated as Lieutenant-Governor. William was one of a group of settlers who made recommendations to King concerning prices for their produce, the nature of fines and the means of increasing production; also on 29 September 1793 William was 38th of 90 signatories to a resolution regarding de facto relationships of a year or more which held that, on the death of a male member, the woman was to be considered a widow and entitled to benefit from a settlers' fund – they recommended that widows of settlers should receive aid in the form of payment of fares to Europe or America.

Lieutenant-Governor King was a benign and thoughtful leader. He provided a school to educate children and train them to be useful citizens and founded an orphan school for the protection of young girls who had lost or been neglected by their parents. Late in 1795 King became dangerously ill, recovering sufficiently to return to Sydney and thence to England to regain his health. Administration of the Island was left under the command of Lieutenant-Governor **Joseph Foveaux**.

The second Governor of NSW, Captain John Hunter, con-

firmed William's land grant on 31 December 1796 and from that date William had to pay a high annual quit rent of 10 shillings, probably because he was among a list of settlers who indicated having enough credit to leave the Island.

In the summer of 1797-8 the wheat crop failed and the community relied on crops stored from previous years. Because of food shortages Elizabeth and her child were back "on stores" and dependent on the Government. Drought gripped the Island again in 1799; the maize crop failed; the flocks of mutton birds had been decimated and did not return on their annual migration. Ill health plagued the population.

Prosperity dissipated and hence the depressed state of life on the Island convincing William that he should pay for a passage to Sydney on one of the government vessels that visited the Island. In 1794, William's previous occupation is recorded as "Sailor" ⁽³⁾ so once back in Sydney, he may have joined the crews of British and American whaling ships that intermittently used Port Jackson as a depot and called at the Island for wood, water, and provisions (if they could be spared).

In the "List of Residents of Norfolk Island 1788-1814" ⁽⁴⁾ William is listed as leaving the Island in October 1796, though the notation indicates "after date noted". Sometime between the years of 1797 and 1801, William left Norfolk Island, knowing he was leaving his family unprovided for and dependent on the authorities for their survival. On his desertion William's farm did not become the property of his abandoned family but reverted to the Government for re-granting to **Luke Normington** ⁽⁵⁾ and back-dated to 1796 – as Island records suggest. Mother and daughter had to leave the farm and, according to government ruling, school-aged daughter, Elizabeth, was now regarded as an orphan and therefore eligible to enter the Island Orphanage. Her name was not in the island records when they recommenced in 1802, by which time she was a pupil at the Female Orphan School in Sydney.

William is listed with William Hubbard as being back in Sydney and located on "Rented Land on the Northern Boundary" ⁽⁶⁾. The last record of William Boggis was in the "Colonial Register of Arms", which listed him as being in possession of a gun and living at Brickfield Hill in April 1802. Registered guns were issued to capable settlers to supplement Government Stores by hunting the plentiful kangaroos and wallabies that roamed the outskirts of Sydney. After this date William disappears without a trace, but his family lives on through his daughter, Elizabeth.

Gillian Doyle

Extracts from the book:

Where Honour Guides the Prow by Elisabeth Curtis (deceased) & Gillian Doyle, 1988 © Now a rare book, limited copies are available from:

Gillian Doyle - Contact email: gdoyle2851@gmail.com 14/3/13

Extra sources:

⁽¹⁾ On page 2, *Treasury Papers AJCP Reel T1/636 Reel 3550 – an account of expenses in conducting convicts from Woolwich to Portsmouth by Townsend & Sing*.

Web: <http://www.heavenandhelltogether.com/?q=node/247>

⁽²⁾ Page 535 entry entitled Smith, Elizabeth (c1749-1820), *The Second Fleet – Britain's Grim Convict Armada of 1790*, by Michael Flynn, reprinted 1993.

⁽³⁾ "Previous Occupations of Norfolk Island Residents (as recorded 1794 for 83 People). Page 60, of *The Forgotten Generation of Norfolk Island and Van Diemens Land* by Reg Wright.

⁽⁴⁾ Page 191 of *Raymond Nobb's Norfolk Island and its first settlement 1788-1814*, based on the references quoted on page 190. The reference also notes that William was married.

⁽⁵⁾ Page 68, Table 7, *Proprietors of Allotments at Norfolk Island 1796, Lot 15, 10 acres, occupier Luke Normington*, compiled from the sources quoted on the back endpaper of *The Forgotten Generation of Norfolk Island and Van Diemens Land*, by Reg Wright

⁽⁶⁾ *Muster of 1800-1802 (List 6: "list of persons" c1801).*

CAPTAIN BLIGH'S PETTICOAT MUTINY - by James Hugh Donohoe

Reading this book, published as a second edition in 2013, is no easy task. Its presentation, unfortunately, leaves much to be desired with its extremely small font size and the lack of page numbering. The latter is rather surprising, coming from the publishing house of many of Donohoe's works in history and family history. According to the table of contents, pages are allocated as one would normally expect, but alas, no numbers are to be found. Perhaps this is an oversight that has since been rectified and your reviewer has been handed a faulty copy.

This is not a book to be read from cover to cover, but rather to be delved in as a collection of family history reminiscences and opinionated comments on snippets of history centred on the petitions of 26th-27th January 1808. It is largely assumed that the reader is already familiar with incidents that led to **Major George Johnson**, the Commander of the NSW Corps, heeding the two petitions and arresting **Captain William Bligh** the colonial governor. For those not so informed a chronological account in the main text is not readily apparent.

There have been many histories, popular and academic, written about Governor Bligh. This one should rather be seen as an approach through the window of family history. It is, in summary, an impassioned vilification of Bligh and the reader gets the impression that as governor from 1806 to 1808 William Bligh made no positive contribution of any kind. In fact, the chapter page purported to be an outline of his achievements as governor has nothing on it!

Throughout the work the author emphasises the significant roles played by First Fleeters and their descendants, the currency children, not only as petitioners but also as worthy citizens of a developing community.

From the title I was expecting a successfully argued case that the women of Sydney town were responsible for the removal of Bligh. However, after one hundred pages of weaving back and forth, the author really only claims the significance of the 'petticoat' involvement by implication. Descendants of these

women would no doubt be happy to agree with the author's conclusions.

For First Fleeters, the best place to start is Chapter 19. Here we have a straight-forward and readable nine-page account of events leading up to the formation of the fleet, and an outline of the beginning and eventual success of the colonial settlement. From there this reviewer's recommendation is to go back to what the author calls Overview and which leads into the chapters proper.

The second half of the book, the appendices, have much of value and their inclusion is to be commended. Donohoe has also compiled a short diary of events leading to Bligh's dismissal and these should be read in conjunction with the textual coverage in the first part of the book. There is, however much repetition throughout.

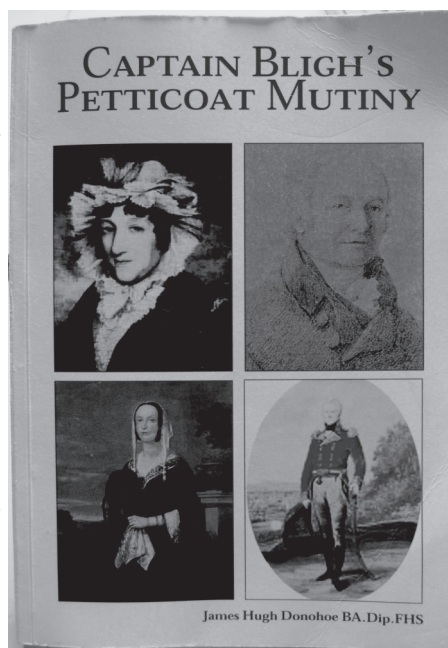
The biographical treatment will please descendants of the 150 women listed. None of these it would seem were actually petitioners, apparently a male prerogative at the time, but the author claims many of them would have been the collectors of the signatures.

Also of interest in the second half of the book is the list of descendants of those who supported the removal of Bligh and their eventual services as NSW Parliamentarians. Readers of *Great Expectations* by Charles

Dickens may also enjoy reading of the link between real colonial characters and their eventual portrayal in Dickens's fictional account.

Overall, the book appears to be a gathering together of many of the author's writings on history and family history. Apparent throughout are his distaste for Bligh, his love of the past and especially his link to three of the four First Fleet convicts from whom he is descended, **Olivia Gascoigne**, **Nathaniel Lucas** and **James Squire**.

James Hugh Donohoe is a former president of the First Fleeters (1990-93). His book is available from Gould Genealogy Box 119 ST AGNES SA 5097, price \$35 plus P & P.



FIRST FLEETERS AT THE FAIR

Central Coast Chapter was invited to set up a table at the recent Fair held at their centre at East Gosford by the Central Coast Family History Society.

Committee members spent a very rewarding day on site and were happy to answer questions and look up records for the many interested folk who came to the fair from far and wide. Contact lists were upgraded and invitations given out for the 2014 meetings and activities.

Helpful talks on family history research were provided at the fair and



chapter members were able to get along to some of these when space and time were available.

Vice President, Margaret Tomlinson, on duty for the day, suggests all chapters be on the lookout for opportunities to fly our flag at Family History events nationwide.

The President of Taree Family History Inc. also a first fleeter, was in attendance at Gosford for the day and invited the Fellowship to have a table at the 'Larrikins and Leg Irons' Fair at Taree on 25th May, 2014.

Our Sixteen Chapters in Action

ALBURY-WODONGA DISTRICT – *Both sides of the Murray River.*

Venue: Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury -monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10am for 10.30

Next Meeting: 15 February, Trevor Langstrom, FF Nathaniel Lucas/Olivia Gascoigne; . **Contact:** Val Heel 03 57282613

ARTHUR PHILLIP – *Milsons Point to Brooklyn and across to all northern beaches.*

Venue: Meeting Room, Old Gordon Public School. 799 Pacific Highway, Gordon - monthly meetings, third Friday at 10.30 .

Next Meetings: 21 February: Victor Grant *Matthew Flinders*; 21 March: Greg de Moore *Thomas Wills, Cricketer*; 11 April (1 week early): Members *How did you learn you were a First Fleeter?* **Events:** 27 February: Garden Island Tour; 3 April: Excursion to Parramatta, the Inland Port **Contact:** Joy Zamiatin, 9451 8665

CANBERRA – *ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations to be advised. **Next Event:** TBA. **Contact:** Geoff Cameron 6251 4095

CENTRAL COAST – *Gosford, Tuggerah Lake, Wyong, Budgewoi and surrounds.*

Venue: Wyong RSL Club, corner Anzac Ave and Margaret Street, Wyong - monthly meetings, second Saturday at 10am

for 10.45. **Next Meeting:** 8 February: Val Kennedy *Finding your WWI ancestors*; 8 March: Ian Palmer *FF John Palmer*; 12 April (at Evergreen Life Care, West Gosford) Victor Grant *Matthew Flinders*. **Next Event:** In March, date TBA, Tour and morning tea at *Flyndozie*, historic home at Ourimbah. **Contact:** Jon Fearon 4323 1849

DERWENT – *Southern Tasmania*

Venue: Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meeting:** 1 February, 11 am, Short Talks on Members publications;

5 April: Reg Watson, *First Fleeter Richard Morgan*. **Event:** . **Contact:** Cecily Dougan 03 6231 1256

EASTERN FARMS – *Ryde, Eastwood, Parramatta, Kings Langley, Pennant Hills and surrounds.*

Venue: The Hall at Brush Farm House, 19 Lawson St. Eastwood -monthly meetings, first Saturday from 10am – 12.00 noon

Next Meetings: 1 March: Gordon Mar; 5 April: Mark Dunn, *Joseph Fowles the artist*. **Contact:** Robin Palmer 9871 4102

HUNTER VALLEY – *Hunter Region, Newcastle and surrounds.*

Venue: Adamstown Senior Citizens' Hall, 153A Brunner Road, Adamstown - bi-monthly meetings, usually third Monday

from 10am – 12.30pm. **Next Meeting:** 17 February: Terry Musgrave: *My three First Fleet ancestors*. **Next Event:** 17 March, Visit to Tocal College, Paterson, Travel details from Yvonne on 49574748. **Contact:** Raymond Green 4964 1328

LACHLAN MACQUARIE – *Orange, Bathurst, Parkes, Dubbo, White Rock, Cowra, Kelso.*

Venue: Kinross Wolaroi School Library, Orange – **Next (Quarterly) Meeting:** 15 February, at 2 pm. Speaker, TBA. For details, **Contact:** Judy Dwyer 6365 8234 or 0428 173 213

MORETON – *South East Queensland.*

Venue: St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton - bi-monthly meetings, on an available Saturday. **Next Meeting:**

8 February: John Moore: *Edward Gooden, Scarborough convict*. 12 April : Julie Webb, *Advances in DNA technology*. **Next Event:** Wednesday 5 March: Visit to Queensland State Records. **Contact:** Don Cornford 04 5746 6020

NEW ENGLAND – *Armidale to Glen Innes and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - five times per year, **Next Meetings:** 8 February: Bob Lemcke, *FF Lt George Johnston*. 12 noon at Anglican Parish Centre, Armidale. 5 April: Combined meeting and picnic lunch with North West Chapter at First Fleet Gardens, Wallabadah. **Events:** . **Contact:** Wal Whalley 6772 3499

NORTH COAST – *Boambee, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo to Woolgoolga.*

Venue: Often Mylestom Hall, Bi-monthly meetings, first Sunday at 11.30am. **Next Meeting:** 2 February, at Mylestom Hall, *Beekeeping*; 6 April, at Nana Glen, *Radio Communications*. **Next Event:** .. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 6653 3615

NORTHERN RIVERS – *Lismore and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am; **Next Meeting:** at Alstonville Bowls Club, 11.30 am. Speaker: *a tall ships sailor*. **Contact:** Margaret Soward 6686 3597

NORTH WEST – *Tamworth and surrounds.*

Venue: Various locations - bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meeting:** TBA. **Next Event:** 5 April: Combined meeting and picnic lunch with North-West Chapter at First Fleet Gardens, Wallabadah. **Contact:** Jo Crossing 6766 8255

SOUTH COAST – *Engadine to Burrill Lake.*

Venue: Laurel Room, Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto - monthly meetings except. Jan, May and Dec. - first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm **Next Meetings:** 4 February: *Chapter Chats*; 4 March: Betty Warn, *Her First Fleeter*; 1 April: Cecily, *Living with Blindness*. **Events:** . **Contact:** Dorothy Conkey 4261 2337

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS – *Mittagong, Moss Vale and surrounds.*

Venue: Mittagong Community Centre - bi-monthly - second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meetings:** 12 February: Rod Davis, *Exploring Sydney Plain with Governor Phillip*; 9 April: Vic Grant, *Matthew Flinders bicentenary*. **Next Event:** 26 March: Tour of Joadja, Heritage Mining ghost town.. **Contact:** Neville Usher 4869 1406

SWAN RIVER – *Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.*

Next Meeting: 22 February: 2 pm at Level 1, 14 Oatram Street, West Perth. **Next event:** 23 February: Afternoon sail on tall ship Leeuwin II. **Contact:** Jodi Gratton 08 9384 5944

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison officer

A TALE OF BRICKS AND OAKS

Astute readers of our last issue 44/6, 'At the Helm' page 12, will have noticed the item about the lost bricks from Vernals Farm, Arthur Phillip's home at Lyndhurst in the New Forest, Hampshire.

We have to report, however, that at this stage no one has drawn upon his or her forensic skills to solve the mystery. The 50 bricks donated to Gold Fields House in 1970 and some other building we believe to have been constructed in 1973, and adjoining St Philip's in York St Sydney, remain unfound and probably well and truly forgotten. If all else fails, photographs of the installations would be appreciated for the Fellowship archives.

Not all the Vernals' bricks that came to Australia were lost, however, and we know of at least three spots in Sydney where they have been installed with relevant plaques. We also understand one set was installed and dedicated at the Viv Kable Museum at Blayney NSW in January 1988. Individual schools in that district, including Lyndhurst, were each presented with one brick.

By far the best collection is their re-erection as the wall behind the Governor Phillip statue in Sydney's Royal Botanic Garden. This of course was the solution to 'Where is This', No. 4, the details of which you can read about on Page 7.

A good friend of the Fellowship, **Len Cornell** and his wife, were visiting Sydney last year and as representatives of the Lyndhurst Parish Council, Hampshire, photographed the wall and its garden bower beyond. Len then contacted V P **Denis Smith** asking him about the health of the oak tree that had been planted at the time of the wall's installation. Len had unfortunately forgotten to look for the said oak and in fact could not see any sign of it in the photograph he took during his visit.

Directors were put on the case by Denis and after several leafy forays by *Founders* into the aforesaid forest, your intrepid explorers were of the definite opinion that, alas, the Sydney oak tree was no longer to be found. Director **Karys Fearon** contacted the Botanic Garden's manager and her reply appears below:

Dear Mrs Fearon - Thank you for your ongoing interest in the Phillip memorial wall and associated English oak at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney.

*Seed from an English oak (Quercus robur) collected from Captain Phillip's garden at Lyndhurst was donated to the Gardens by Mr **Geoffrey Cottee** in 1985. A tree grown from this seed was planted in the bed adjacent to the Captain Phillip Wall in 1988. Another tree from the same seed collection was also planted at the Blue Mountains Botanic Gardens Mount Tomah.*

You are correct in your conclusion that the Sydney oak is no longer to be found, because in 2001, a large branch fell across it, unfortunately killing it. However, the other oak of the same seed source is still growing very well at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden, where the climate is much more favourable to English oaks. The Sydney Gardens has not planted more English oaks since this one was planted because Sydney's changing climate is rendering them less viable than previously, particularly with the increase in the number and temperature of our very hot days.

Rather than have the plaque altered (which in itself is significant), the Gardens suggests that an additional small plaque is added, explaining the fate of the oak and where the tree can be found at the Blue Mountains Botanic Garden. The Blue Mountains Botanic Garden oak is accessioned 850048, IRN4181777, and is located in Bed EUW195.

Should you have any further queries or require more information I would be happy to help.

All the best

Frances Jackson, Manager, Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney.

Len Cornell has been informed of our search results and he has now decided when next at the farm to assess the health of the 'ancient tree' in the garden there and give us an update in due course.

So, we have located at least one descendant, now to go back and find the hopefully still living ancestor! Photos, in proof, forthcoming!

Wall remains of Vernals Farm at Lyndhurst, UK.



BIRTHS

THOMAS ACRES

Finley Michael Douglas 2nd son of Catherine & Martin Douglas of Corowa born 16.08.2012

Cameron Anthony Rhodes 1st child of Sarah & Dominic Rhodes of Neutral Bay born 23.05.2013

Charlotte Sophia Simmons 3rd child of Linda & Duncan Simmons of Canberra born 01.07.2013 9th, 10th & 11th grandchildren of #7269 Jeanette & Trevor McBeath and 18th, 20th & 21st great grandchildren of #3707 Mabel Pearce.

THOMAS ARNDELL/ELIZABETH BURLEY

Alexander Kenneth Johnson 1st son of Laurel & Mitchell Johnson of Airlie Beach, born 16.12.13, 1st great grandson of #1079 Marge Raven.

DEATHS

EDWARD MILES

FF3206 Barbara Alderson of Galston, NSW, passed away on 27.11.13

WE GOT IT WRONG - SORRY:

The First Fleeter of member #8284 Patricia Joan Markuse was wrongly stated in *Founders* 44/6 as Joseph Hatton. It should have been listed as Ann Forbes.

MEDIA WATCH

As we go to press we seem to be in that "silly season" approaching Australia Day when the media pulls all stops out reporting on what it means to be Australian and how the day is to be celebrated. Readers will have noticed that the First Settlement seems a no-go zone.

Founders asks you to send items of interest on this to the editor. More anon.

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James Talbot, in gratitude for those who have purchased his novel, *The Thief Fleet*.