

Founders

Magazine of the Fellowship of First Fleeters

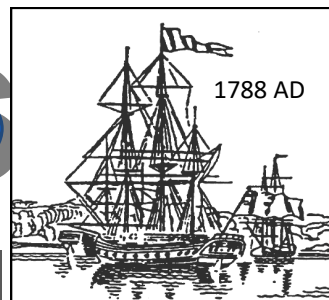
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PATRON: Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO

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

YARRA BAY ~ CRUISING INTO HISTORY

Heritage Site Threatened

Over the years the Fellowship has taken an active role in the preservation of our heritage, particularly when First Fleet sites are threatened. Last year President Jon read of a proposal to place a cruise ship terminal at Yarra Bay, the site of the landing of the first party from *HMS Sirius* on 18 January 1788, and where a Fellowship plaque is affixed to the historic monument there.

Jon's letter to the Sydney Morning Herald was published on 4 September. It read:

What is it with cruise ships and our heritage? ("Giant ships pose threats to planes", September 1-2). Already the now authenticated First Fleet landing place in Sydney Cove is hidden by the cruise terminal. Now Arthur Phillip's landing place at Yarra Bay is similarly threatened.

Members concerned about possible changes to the Bay that would come with cruise ships are encouraged to investigate what is proposed and take up the cause on our behalf as they see fit.

The general public has not been silent and the Fellowship recently received the following request from a non-member:

Hi First Fleeters,
I went yesterday
for a walking tour



of Yarra Bay and La Perouse and saw signs posted by the **Save The Bay Coalition** saying there was a proposal to build a cruise ship terminal in the bay. I don't think that many people know the significance of the site. Australia's colonial history started on this beach. So it is one of or the most important sites in Australia. The cruise terminal would totally wipe the site off the map to the eternal shame of Australia. This is another policy that vandalises common assets. It would also erode La Perouse Bay beach because of the dredging. So I've joined the campaign and hope to get you

on board. I will be writing letters to the Premier, Environment Minister, PM and all opposition shadows.

The place is also next to the aboriginal land granted by **Governor Macquarie** to the Cadigal people. This proposal is an insult to them and all Australian people. There would be environmental impacts on the local bird habitat and the likely reduction in the diversity of sea life in the area. Yarra Bay is also a place

loved by the local community as expressed by the thousands there recently and by thousands who enjoy a Greek blessing party each year. There are so many reasons not to proceed with the proposal. I hope the Fellowship can help.

Regards and Christmas wishes, **Andrew Starr**

A question for our readers: Can you imagine something the size of this (at left) even fitting in to a quiet corner of Botany Bay?



FOUNDERS

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Note: Other tasks are looked after by
our team of faithful volunteers who
are at First Fleet House on Mondays,
Wednesdays and Thursdays.

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PRESIDENT'S PEN

Jon Fearon

A new year is upon us and I look forward to some great Fellowship events and activities ahead. We started well on 19 January with another excellent Australia Day Luncheon and my thanks go to the Committee for their work along with the Pullman Hotel in conducting such a memorable occasion.



Our guest speaker, **Dr Nigel Erskine**, Curator and Head of Research at the Australian Maritime Museum, gave an interesting talk which he entitled '*Convicts, Castaways and the Long Voyage to New South Wales*'. There were many insights gained as we listened, particularly in relation to **Joseph Banks**, Breadfruit, **William Bligh** and **William Bradley**. The talk will be published in our next issue as what was learned, particularly in relation to William Bradley, his ship's log and ongoing career, needs to be shared with the wider membership.

VALE ~ ROBERT JAMES LAMB

Bob Lamb was elected as a Director of the Fellowship in 2011 and since that time has been a much loved member of the team. His sense of humour, along with his wisdom from his engineering background, has always been a blessing to our meetings and we will miss his contributions.

His deteriorating health over the last few years was due to the debilitating disease, Occularpharangeal Muscular Dystrophy. His wife, fellow director **Sharon**, reports: 'This disease takes away the ability to swallow and he spent over four years being fed through the tummy. Bob was exceptionally brave to be able to watch me, family and friends eat and enjoy a meal. This disease also stopped him from talking and caused fifteen bouts of pneumonia. Up to the time Bob became sick he assisted me with the archive indexing and loved helping others who were trying to determine their ancestry'.

Bob was a great help to Sharon when they moved to Kingsford Smith Retirement Village at Richmond and where together they were instrumental in setting up the Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter based mainly at Windsor and Penrith. The village's 'Hangar' was the perfect setting for over 100 family and friends to gather over a meal and celebrate Bob's life.

This gathering followed the service conducted on 21 December by the minister **Rev Je-Kon Oh** at St Andrews's Uniting Church at Richmond. All in attendance at the service were encouraged and blessed by the warmth of love in the memories shared by family members, the songs chosen and the photographic and floral tributes.



INAUGURAL MEETING BOTANY BAY CHAPTER

TUESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2019
at **GARDENS ON FOREST FUNCTION CENTRE**
764 Forest Rd PEAKHURST at 10:30 am

For Fellowship members, prospective members, friends, history enthusiasts, from southern Sydney or from wherever; all are welcome. For attendance and catering purposes please RSVP Carol Macklin, Secretary -Elect, on 0415 376 434, at 7 Boomi Pl WORONORA, or carolmacklin@hotmail.com

PRESIDENT'S TOAST TO OUR ANCESTORS 19 January 2019.

In researching First Fleeters and compiling their stories, how many of you have wondered, as I have done, how well our ancestors got to know their fellow travellers on the fleet. It would seem some of our voyagers maintained those shared friendships throughout their lives in the growing settlement.

This year, in our focus on the 72 First Fleeters represented here today, I have taken the liberty to go back a little further for those connections – back to the gaols, the hulks and the ships from where they gathered to make that amazing voyage that we celebrate today.

In her just published excellent history of early colonial Australia *In for the Long Haul*, author and member **Anne-gret Hall** gives careful explanation of the hulks, those clearing houses for the overflowing prisons of England. She suggests that those who spent time in the hulks, some of them for two or three years, because of the disciplined work regimes in dredging the Thames, the more nutritious food given them as labourers, together with the official protection from life-threatening diseases rampant in the prisons, were much fitter to withstand the rigours of the eight months ocean travel and then use that fitness to establish the new settlement through sheer hard work.

The Hulks Act was first passed in English Parliament in 1776 as a two-year temporary measure, specifically to house prisoners committed for transportation in decommissioned naval ships. **Duncan Campbell**, a former convict transportation owner was awarded the contract for overseeing prisoners on hulks and his ship the *Justitia* was the first on the Thames. Perhaps it is not surprising that those two years eventually spread out to over eighty due to the success of the scheme.

By 1785 there were five hulks in use, three on the Thames at Woolwich, a replacement *Justitia*, the *Ceres* and the *Censor*, one at Plymouth, the *Dunkirk* and one at Portsmouth, the *Fortunee*. In January 1787 Duncan Campbell was asked to select 202 transportees from his hulks. The Home Office had recommended that men be selected according to their fitness and health to make the arduous sea journey and the skills they would bring to the new settlement.

Fifty two of the 72 First Fleeters you are honouring today were convicts so we will list them in two groups, first those who spent time toughening up in the hulks and then those who were delivered to their transports straight from several gaols around the country.

From the *Justitia* were the hard labourers: James Bradley, James Freeman Joseph Hatton, Anthony Rope, James Ruse and James Williams. (Both Bradley and Ruse had also been on *Ceres*).

From the *Ceres* were: William Eggleton, John Martin, Richard Morgan, James Ogden, John Randall, James Sheers, Joseph Tusso and William Wall.

From the *Censor* were: William Boggis, James Bryan Cullen, Matthew Everingham, Robert Forrester, Nathaniel Lucas, Andrew Goodwin, Edward Humphreys, Edward Whitton, James Wright, and Joseph Wright. (Both Cullen and Lucas had worked from *Ceres* at some stage.

At Plymouth, where presumably there was no river to dredge, but there may have been other labouring tasks to be done, thirteen convicts, both men and women were held on the *Dunkirk* which had been set up there since 1784.

They were: Thomas Acres, Ann Beardsley, John Herbert, Susannah Holmes, Henry Kable, Edward Miles, John Morris AKA Stephens, Mary Phillips, Jane Poole, Elizabeth Pulley, William Roberts, John Small and Hannah Smith.

Not all convicts came from the hulks. Several of them were delivered to the waiting transports of the Fleet direct from several gaols.

From Newgate were: Elizabeth Burleigh, Jane Langley, Caroline Laycock, Lydia Munro, Mary Parker and perhaps Ann Sandlin and Mary Smith. From Southwark were Ann Colpitts, Ann Forbes and James Squire. From Gravesend came Mary Dickenson, Olivia Gascoigne and Ann Martin. Debra Ellam came direct from Chester gaol and Edward Pugh from Gloucester.

There are still 20 First Fleeters to be mentioned. They were not convicts but of course also need to be considered with honours today. Some of them were officers, seamen and marines whose previous ship was mentioned in the records.

Peter Hibbs served on *Goliath* in 1786 while William Nash was on *Bombay Castle* in 1784-6. John Palmer had served on *Richmond* back in 1781 while Thomas Shortland's previous ship was *Good Intent* and that of William Tunks, *Ganges*.

No doubt you descendants here have done your research and know more about your First Fleeter than I, a rushed researcher, could glean from Mollie Gillen's account. In this 'former ship unknown to me' list are John Barrisford, Andrew Fishburn, John McCarthy, James McManus, Frederick Meredith, Philip Scriven, John Shortland, Thomas Spencer, William Standley, Thomas Williams and John Winter.

Four more arrivals complete the tally – two of them wives of seamen, marines or officers, Hannah Barrisford and Marie Haynes/Nash; and we must not forget the surgeon assistant Thomas Arndell who'd served on *Rochford* back in 1782 and the youngster Henrietta Scriven/Langley, born at the Cape.

Well, there they are. Let's honour them. Have you charged your glasses? Let's go! Ladies and Gentlemen. Let's rise for a joyous toast, stating their names and living on in our hearts and minds as those never to die; OUR ANCESTORS

WJF

CENTENARY RE-ENACTMENT OF FIRST WIRELESS MESSAGE

Arthur Phillip Chapter attended this event at Wahroonga NSW on Saturday 22.09.2018



The Fisk Memorial, on the corner of Stuart and Cleveland Streets, commemorates the inaugural wireless message from Britain to Australia sent by Prime Minister W. ("Billy") M Hughes commenting on the valour of Australian troops at Amiens. The message was sent under the direction of the Marchese Marconi, from the Marconi Wireless Station, Carnarvon, Wales, was received by Sir Ernest T.

Fisk in the experimental wireless station at his residence, Lucania. Sir Ernest was the managing director of Amalgamated Wireless (Australasia) Ltd, and the station was constructed in front of his house by AWA technicians for the occasion.

Mounted on the base of the monument is a bronze tablet which tells the story: *The first direct wireless message from England to Australia, sent under the direction of the Marchese Marconi, from the Marconi wireless station, Carnarvon, Wales, was received by E. T. Fisk, in the experimental wireless station attached to his residence, Lucania, here on 22nd September 1918.*

Sailing ships were replaced by steam ships which hastened the exchange of overseas mail; in 1872 the laying of submarine cables under the world's oceans was a major advance in communications. The Australian Government was very conscious during World War 1 of enemy raiders severing the undersea cables. This new method of communication was very effective in overcoming Australia's isolation, connecting Australia with England and the rest of the world.

This historic event for the first time carried voices long distances across the ocean, something cables could not do until 1956. It marked the foundation of long distance wireless telegraph, telephone and broadcasting services, leading to huge advances in technology over

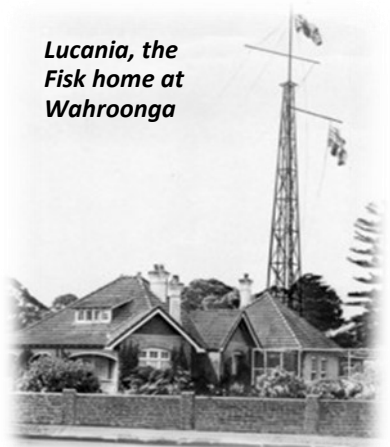
the next decades.

Jo Harris OAM, member of Arthur Phillip Chapter and the Ku-ring-gai Historical Society, had organised our table at the nearby St Andrews Church Hall for the display of our promotional material. On Friday the previous evening Jo appeared on Channel 7 News, interviewed in front of the Fisk Memorial, describing this British-Australian invention, the forerunner today's technologies. She looked a "natural" and spoke with conviction about its importance to the far-flung places around the world and especially to Australia.

Roderick White and Robbie Ford were up early on the morning of 22nd September to do the set-up of our display table and take the first shift. Visitors showed a lot of interest in our display, checking about their First and Second Fleeters, other arrivals and matters of general interest in our colonial history.

At 12.45am the Town Crier encouraged everyone to gather around the Fisk Memorial to hear the Ku-ring-gai Male Choir sing the Welsh national anthem and *God Save the King* (our anthem at that time).

Among the VIPs were: KMC Mayor Jennifer Anderson; Alistair Henskins and Matt Kean (NSW MPs); Jenny Joyce - President of KHS; Richard Nott AM - President of the Britain-Australia Society; entrepreneur Dick Smith, and Paul Fletcher - Federal member for Bradfield, who outlined the history of this transmission and its importance to today's society. At 1.15pm the re-enactment of the transmission commenced – with the distinct dots and dashes of Morse Code – simultaneously recorded by a Code transcriber.



Lucania, the Fisk home at Wahroonga



Back at the St Andrews Church Hall, the barbecue cooks were busy providing a sausage sizzle, hot and cold drinks and cake were also available. Jo Harris was interviewed by a local radio station; a rare Enigma machine from World War 2 was particularly pertinent to the advances of secret coding; other historic machines were popular; all stands attracted much interest.

Rod White, Robbie Ford, Joan Burns, Joy Zamiatin, John and Gillian Doyle - the stand volunteers for the day - were kept busy with enquiries and were pleased to see APC members in attendance. The Ku-ring-gai Male Choir sang the Welsh song, *Rachie*, following by the Welsh National Anthem (the first verse in Welsh), and concluding with the national anthem *Advance Australia Fair*.

The event drew a large enthusiastic crowd, all fascinated by the history – it was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all. We hope that our presence there will generate enquiries about joining FFF and our Chapter. The Ku-ring-gai Historical Society is to be congratulated for organising a very significant centenary event – they supplied the Souvenir pictured here to everyone who attended.



<https://makinghistoryatmacquarie.wordpress.com/2013/11/23/the-historical-significance-of-thewireless-monument-in-wahroonga/>
<https://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2018/20180630-1/index.php>

#3152 G Doyle

Sources:

<http://monumentaaustralia.org.au/themes/technology/industry/display/23624-fisk-memorial>

DERWENT AND ARTHUR PHILLIP CHAPTERS DINE IN HOBART

Scheduled during the Arthur Phillip Chapter Convict Tour of Van Diemen's Land was a combined dinner together with Derwent Chapter in Hobart.



Two Presidents:
Roderick White and
Dianne Snowdon

Twenty-two members of the Arthur Phillip Chapter gathered at the New Sydney Hotel on Tuesday 23 October for their special reunion dinner with the Derwent

Chapter. The twelve Derwent members were assembled as we entered the private room and everyone was quickly made feel very welcome.

We all took our places at the tables and **Dianne Snowdon**, President of the Derwent Chapter, extended a warm welcome to everyone. She suggested that each of us stand and give a short description of our First Fleeter, which revealed that several First Fleeters were represented in both Chapters. One attendee explained that he is the spouse of a First Fleeter, that their surname can be spelled the same backwards as forwards (a

palindrome), and that a slight variation is entered in the Doomsday Book compiled in 1085-6, which is far earlier than our 1788 arrivals. This brought a big laugh from everyone.

One Derwent member announced that he was the only person amongst the group to retain the name of his First Fleeter. It was an entertaining way for breaking the ice and soon stories were exchanged in more detail. The hotel dinner menu was delicious and choices very unique. Everyone agreed that it was a very happy and enjoyable night of fellowship and friendship. **GD**

To view a full description of this Chapter tour, log onto our website: <http://arthurphillipchapter.weebly.com/report-on-tasmanian-convict-heritage-tour-2018.html> or

<http://arthurphillipchapter.weebly.com/>

Hover the cursor over: *Meetings*

Click on drop-down sub-menu: *Recent Events and Activities*

Extension side-menu reveals *The Report*.



Swapping First Fleeter Family Stories

GOODWIN~MUNRO FAMILY MUSTER on NORFOLK ISLAND 21-28 OCTOBER

In October 2019 there will a muster of descendants of First Fleet convicts **Andrew Goodwin** (Scarborough) and **Lydia Munro** (Prince of Wales). Andrew and Lydia were married 2 March 1790 at St Phillips Sydney, and two days later they travelled to Norfolk Island with infant daughter **Mary**, aboard *HMS Sirius*. Andrew eventually became a settler on Norfolk Island. The family left Norfolk Island for VDL in December 1807 aboard the *Porpoise*, with seven of their children.

The Goodwin-Munro muster includes

- ☐ Half day tour of Norfolk Island
 - ☐ Sessions including Life in London pre transportation – Current research into the families and historic significance of DNA within the families – *HMS Sirius* – Life on Norfolk Island.
 - ☐ Goodwin – Munro Muster 1st Settlement Heritage Dinner
 - ☐ Step Back in Time tour: Explore old Sydney Town of the first settlement
 - ☐ Visit all the Goodwin Family lands and walk in the footsteps of your ancestors
 - ☐ Entries to all the museums and two tag along tours
 - ☐ Historic cemetery visit.
 - ☐ Norfolk Island 1st Settlement History and Family History research zone
 - ☐ Online access to collection of primary records regarding Goodwin – Munro family.
 - ☐ Marvel at the beauty and heritage of Norfolk Island and much more.
- Package includes Flights – Accommodation and all Muster inclusions. Flight Schedule: Syd-

ney: Monday 21 October – Monday 28 October 2019. A valid driving license - photo identification or passport is required for travel. Flights are also available from Brisbane Tuesday 22 – 29 October 2019.

Accommodation is at Pine Valley Apartment with one and two bedroom self-catering apartments surrounded by tropical gardens with an intimate BBQ gazebo area, guest laundry, a guest transit lounge for those who are arriving or departing.

All apartments have mobiles for your use (Norfolk Island local and mobiles). The apartments feature a fully-equipped kitchen with a dining and lounge area.

Centrally located on Norfolk Island and nestled in a quiet setting and just a few minutes' walk to the town centre of Burnt Pine.

Further enquiries contact: Cathy Dunn Heritage Tourism and Australian History Research (02) 44554780 email: office@heritagetourism.com.au

Join the Goodwin – Munro Muster in Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/172416810077874/>

Additional Activities: <https://heritagetourismau.rezdy.com/catalog/296896/goodwin-munromuster>

Settler or Landholder	Name	Occupation	No. of Acres	Trade or Occupation
95	Thos. Chapp	Marine	22	Baker
96	Chas Bishop	Do.	20	Farmer
97	Jas. Bailey	Do.	45	Farmer
98	And. Goodwin	Settlement	9	Do.

MORETON CHAPTER

10th Anniversary Celebrations

Sat 16th March 2019

Moreton Chapter will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of its Inauguration with a luncheon at

The Royal Queensland Golf Club

Bookings required

For more information Contact
Secretary Julia 0418747891
djjmcom@bigpond.com

BENNELONG PUTNEY PROJECT

The site of Bennelong's grave at Putney, a Sydney suburb, has recently been bought by the NSW government and a committee has been formed to transform the site into a Reconciliation Precinct.

Wollarawarre Bennelong was one of the most significant historical figures of the early Sydney colony. The Committee, guided by its convenor, **Mr Adam Joseph**, is now working to decide how best to preserve and protect it, and establish a fitting monument to the Australian Continent's first foreign envoy.

The site will also celebrate his friend the colonial horticulturist and brewer, **James Squire**, who buried Bennelong, his wife **Boorong**, and his protégé **Nanberry** there two centuries ago. Fellowship members with an interest in this project should contact *Founders* editor for further details as they come to hand.

CHILDREN OF CONVICTS

A brief history and genealogy of an Australian family with convict origins

Dr Neil Burrows (FFF #3472)

The convict origin of modern Australia is well known, with about 160,000 convicts transported from England to the colony from 1788 to 1860. But what became of them and their descendants? In today's multi-ethnic Australia, who are the descendants of the convicts? *Children of Convicts*, a 165 (A4) page manuscript soon to be published, is a brief history and genealogy of an Australian family with convict origins; the family of **John and Eleanor Burrows nee Meredith**. John Burrows, my 3rd great grandfather was a convict transported from England for 7 years (crime unknown to me), arriving in Port Jackson, New South Wales on the *Mariner* in October 1816. Later, he married Eleanor (Ellen) Meredith, daughter of **Frederick and Sarah Meredith** (nee Mason). Frederick, my 4th great grandfather, was a seaman on the convict transporter *Scarborough*, one of eleven ships of the First Fleet that arrived in Port Jackson on January 26, 1788. Sarah Mason, my 4th great grandmother was also a convict, transported from England for 7 years, arriving in Port Jackson on the *Bellona* in January 1793. Seven years became 7 generations.

I began the task of compiling information for this book as a part time hobby in 1984 and added to it over the next 30 years or so. The project lay dormant for months at a time between short term bursts of enthusiasm. The purpose of the book is to document, for my present and future family, something of our family's history in Australia since the First Fleet. It has been an enjoyable and personally rewarding task, if not cathartic, and I hope other family members (living and yet to live) will enjoy reading it and learning about their ancestors.

Most of the research was undertaken using library resources and writing letters to family members for information - the 'old fashioned' way, before the era of Google and on-line access to information. It is by no means a complete history of my ancestors, but a compilation of information that I have gleaned from a number of sources including oral history, archival material held in the National Library in Canberra, the Mitchell Library in Sydney, the Battye Library in Perth, local newspapers (in WA and NSW) and local history books. Information about births, deaths, marriages and occupations has been extracted from certificates acquired through the relevant authorities in the various Australian states and in the United Kingdom. I have most of these in my possession. Prior to about the 1830s, the churches (in this

case, the Church of England) maintained this information. Later, each colony (and later, state) established its own Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, or equivalent.

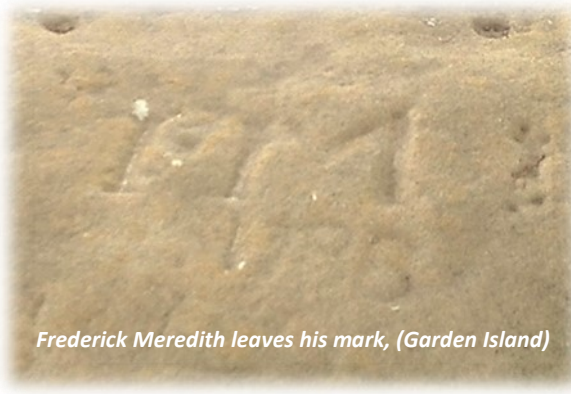
Children of Convicts is structured around each generation of my direct ancestors, beginning with my First Fleet ancestor **Frederick Meredith**. I have attempted to weave into each individual's brief biography some information about the times in which these people lived to provide a social and historical context. In doing so, I acknowledge paraphrasing, and in some cases, quoting *verbatim* from the published literature describing conditions in 18th century England, on the convict transporters and of the early convicts and settlers. Where I have directly cited or quoted other authors, I have acknowledged this and referenced the source. The Appendix contains copies of relevant birth, death and marriage certificates as 'evidence' of my ancestral link to the First Fleet.

This manuscript is a 'living' document, to be updated at will, so perhaps other family members will feel inclined to contribute? To the best of my knowledge, the information contained within is accurate. Genealogical research is almost never complete - I have been working on populating the (electronic) family tree since the 1980s - doing a bit at a time when I felt inclined - there are about 1,150 individuals in the 'tree' at this stage. I thank my second cousin **Shirley White** (nee Burrows, deceased) for providing me with a start on the family tree and I acknowledge use of **Val Ferrier's** (2000) unpublished manuscript, 'Caroline Eleanor Burrows/Ferrier nee Meredith 1813-1893: Burrows Descendants', to verify and correct names and dates.

This book is dedicated to the memory of my ancestors. Connecting with them through the process of compiling this book has given me a sense of my place in the space and time of human life and of the brevity of an individual's span. Knowing where I have come from is not only comforting, but also helps me to understand who I am and where I'm going.

This book is also dedicated to generations of my family yet to be born. May you live your life knowing who you are, where you came from and where you are going. Tell your children that they are descendants of the First Fleet.

Tell them they are descendants of the first free white settlers in Australia. Tell them they are descendants of convicts. Tell them they are descendants of drovers and stockmen. Tell them they are descendants of soldiers and airmen who fought in the Boer War, World War 1 and World War 2. They might not be interested, but tell them anyway.



Frederick Meredith leaves his mark, (Garden Island)

Neil D Burrows, 2018

EARLY ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN EUROPEANS AND ABORIGINES ~ PART 9

Archival Articles by historian, Ena Harper, conclude

Some time later, in 1818, a writer named **Peter Cunningham** gives an unforgettable account of the scene as he saw it then in his book, *Two Years in New South Wales*:

The natives throughout the county of Cumberland have become so much dependent upon the whites that without what they beg, earn or steal they could not well exist. Many of these men work upon the settlers' farms at odd jobs throughout the year and also at harvest ...

The Sydney tribes live chiefly by fishing, being supplied with hooks and lines by individuals in the town, to whom they bring all the fish they catch, receiving payment in old clothes, bread and rum ...

Peter Cunningham continues with a description of the scene in the streets of Sydney:

The women everywhere, that I have seen, wrap themselves in some species of cloak made of opossum skins or else in a blanket but the men walk carelessly about quite naked without betraying the least shame; even many at this day parading the streets of Sydney in natural costume or with a pair of breeches probably dangling around their necks which the modest meaning do not intend to be applied elsewhere.

It is amusing to see the consequential swagger of some of these dingy dandies as they pace lordly up our streets with a waddie twirling in their black paws. No Bond Street exquisite would ape the great man better, for none are better mimics of their superiors; our colonial climatised females mincing it past these undraped beaux or talking with them carelessly face to face as if unconscious of their nudity while the modest newcomers with giggle, blush, cover their eyes with their fingers and hurry confusedly by.

Corroborees at Brickfield Hill. One fact is memorable. The meeting place of the aborigines in and around Sydney was near Brickfield Hill. Clay suitable for bricks and tiles had been found on the outskirts of the town during the first year of settlement at this spot. South of modern Bathurst Street, George Street used to continue up a hill where the clay was found in the eastern side. Below a steep incline between Bathurst and Goulburn Streets the ground sloped to a small stream in the vicinity of present day Campbell Street. This was originally a wooded area. Huts for workmen had been erected nearby. It was in this area that the aborigines held their dances and contests.

These gatherings provided a diversion for the Europeans in the monotony of daily life and the hardships they had to endure in the wild new land. In the early years one of the recreations of Sydney people was to take a stroll in the evening down the track that led to the brickfields and while there, to watch the activities of the natives. Sometimes they assembled to sing and dance. **Tench** speaks of their dances in his journal:

At their dances I have often been present but I confess myself unable to convey in description an accurate account of them. Like their songs, they are conceived to represent the progress of the passions and the occupations of life. Full of seeming confusion, yet regular and systemic, their wild gesticulations and frantic distortions of body are calculated rather to terrify than delight a spectator.

However, it seems apparent that the assembly of natives was very often to settle grievances. Here a kind of rough justice was meted out by violent methods. Tench describes such a case where the man tells the tribe how he has been wronged. After listening to his story, they agree to support him and see revenge. Then all are summoned to the contest.

Battle ensues: they discharge their spears at each other and legs and arms are transpierced. When the spears are expended the combatants close and every species of violence is practised: they seize their antagonist and snap like enraged dogs: they wield the sword and club, the bone shatters beneath their fall and they drop the prey of unsparing vengeance.

As has been said, the area near Brickfield Hill became the chosen spot for such contests. **David Collins** speaks of this in December 1793. *The natives who lived about Sydney appeared to place the upmost confidence in us, choosing a clear spot between the town and Brickfield for the performance of any of their rites and ceremonies and for three evenings the town had been amused with one of their spectacles which might have been denominated a tragedy for it was all attended with a great effusion of blood.*

It is obvious from various accounts that the aborigines lived a violent life among themselves. From all the evidence of the journals the aborigines fought amongst each other as much as they did against the settlers.

Aboriginal Attacks on Farms. In the Early days of the settlement the aborigines reacted to the settlers' cultivation of the land in various ways. There are many accounts of stealing by the natives. In June 1792 Collins says that, in addition to the depredations of the convicts, the natives had for some time been suspected of stealing the corn at the settlements beyond Parramatta. On the 18th a party of about 16 aborigines was observed coming out of a hut at the middle settlement, dressed in clothing they found there and taking with them a quantity of corn in nets.

In their desperate struggle to survive, they took to stealing whatever foodstuffs or crops they could and soon acquired a taste for the white man's food. Collins tells of their liking for corn (May 1795).

The natives appeared in large bodies, men, women and children, provided with blankets and nets to carry off the corn of which they appeared as fond as the natives who lived among us and seemed determined to take it wherever and wherever they had the chance.

As a result, soldiers were sent out from Parramatta by **Captain Paterson** to kill as many natives as they could find and erect gibbets with the hope of striking terror into the rest of the tribes.

The above account gives some idea of life as it was in the western suburbs area where farms had been established between Sydney and Parramatta and beyond. As can be seen, the situation was almost chaotic as far as the native population was concerned. In February 1796 Collins wrote:

Those natives who lived with the settlers had tasted the sweets of a different mode of living and willing that their friends and companions should partake, either stole from those with whom they were living or communicated from time to time such favourable opportunities as offered of stealing from other settlers what they themselves were pleased with.

There are accounts of depredations on farms in various localities in the **Sydney Gazette** of 1804. In August there is an account of an incident at Georges River.

In the vicinity of Georges River several depredations have recently been committed by the natives on the settlers' stock, grain and other property. At the beginning of the last week the farmhouse of Gilbert was attacked and his wife treated with barbarity, unpardonable in the most savage race of men. The poor woman, perceiving that they were driving her little flock of poultry off the ground, reproached them with their injustice and vain would have rescued a portion of her property: but the unfeeling wretches turned their spears upon her, nearly twenty of which they threw but happily without the intended barbarous effect.

One of the miscreants ran into the house and seized a musket which she also grasped and determined not to part with; she maintained a short struggle against the assailant's whole exertions, who at length yielded to her resolution and quitted his hold but with a violent blow on the head brought her to the ground. The wretches then took away everything that was portable and took off.

As will be seen, desperate times drove both parties to desperate measures. Settlers defended themselves by firing on the natives with muskets and sometimes formed punitive parties. The military were at times called on but there does not appear to have been any wholesale massacre of aborigines in the defence of farms.

Fire at Mr Alt's Farm. Of interest to those in the mid-western suburbs is the account of a fire at Mr Alt's farm recorded in RAHS Journal Vol. 48, Part 5. It is an article written on Augustus Alt by **B. T. Dowd**.

*It was during the year 1794 that **Augustus Alt** received his first grant of land. The farm contained 100 acres at Petersham Hill district, granted by **Francis Grose**, February 20, 1794. Called Hermitage Farm, it extended from Iron Cove Creek south-westerly to within*

a few chains of the old Liverpool Rd, embracing what is now Croydon railway station. It was the house of Alt's farm which was referred to by him in his memorial, previously mentioned as having been plundered and burnt to the ground by blacks with all effects therein in August 1798. This happened at a time when Alt was absent during a sitting of the Vice-Admiralty Court in Sydney, some seven miles distant.

There is no direct answer to the question as to why Mr Alt's house was burnt, but it would appear that on various occasions the aborigines showed their resentment to the settlement of the land by Europeans by destroying dwellings or huts and murdering anyone who was unprotected.

So Tench writes in his journal in 1788:

..... similar to the vindictive spirit Mr Cook found to exist among their countrymen at Endeavour River, they more than once attempted to set fire to combustible matter in order to annoy us.

Collins writes of the destruction of the hut of a settler at Prospect Hill in August 1791 but does not say how it was carried out. He says the owner would have been murdered but for the timely appearance of another settler with a musket. In Jun 1798, the year that Mr Alt's house was burnt, Collins writes as follows:

..... the settlers at the northern farms were much annoyed by the natives who came down in a body and burnt several of their houses. This was the more unfortunate as those farms appeared to have had some industry bestowed upon them.

It would appear that the burning of the houses was done in a spirit of revenge, a protest at the European's fixed claim to the land and we can only conclude that the same motive applied to the burning of Mr Alt's house at Croydon.

Aborigines Along Parramatta Road. As we have seen when considering the foundation of the western suburbs, the area between Sydney and Parramatta was heavily wooded and in the early days the track between the two settlements was very primitive. It will be seen from an article in the Sydney Gazette, written November 11, 1804 that it was common for aborigines to be seen in the bush along the road.

A menace was a few days since held out by a band of natives which we hear relate with a design of putting travellers on their guard against a people in whose friendship and fidelity no confidence can at any time be placed. A few days ago Gilberthorpe, a settler driving his cart from Parramatta to Sydney, when about mid-way, discerned a body of natives, about 30 in number, to be loitering about the sides of the road: but this not being uncommon he proceeded onward, unsuspecting any malevolent intention. When he had approached to within a couple of hundred paces of their rendezvous, several of the men stepped into the road and shipped their spears to receive.
(to page 12)

BOOK REVIEW ~ IN FOR THE LONG HAUL by #8502.1 Annegret Hall

The First Fleet Voyage and Colonial Australia: The Convicts' Perspective

The main title of this newly published history of colonial Australia relates playfully to the life and times on the family featured in its pages. The subtitle, however, takes us further into our colonial past, not this time via the celebrities and decision makers, but rather our history as seen through the eyes of our dominant early settlers, the convicts.

This is not presented as a family history as such, but is rather a real history, sourced and written by a true historian whose love of research into the truth of our past bubbles out of the pages so effectively.

True, it is undoubtedly about a family, that of **Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley**. It is their story, but only as it relates to the major players of the day, the governors and their adversaries, the latter of whom, it would seem, were indeed many.

The author bases the early chapters of her history on the careful reading of original sources, particularly those of the diarists **Watkin Tench** and **David Collins**.

More widely-known incidents in this family's story are covered where relevant in the historical narrative, however in so doing Hall clearly states she is putting inaccuracies to rest, an approach perhaps surprising to some readers. She cites **Toby Ryan's** *Reminiscences of Australia*, compiled long after the lifetime of his grandparents, as the source of some furbies now discredited.

The heart of the story, and the focus of several chapters, is the adversity, hardship and courage of the family as 'quintessential pioneering settlers' facing the relentless opposition of big business interests particularly in the **John Macarthur** era. They had it tough but battled on, particularly when showing practical and loyal support to governors **King** and **Bligh** when the very survival of the colony was at risk from the blatant mismanagement and corruption engendered by the forces of dissent.

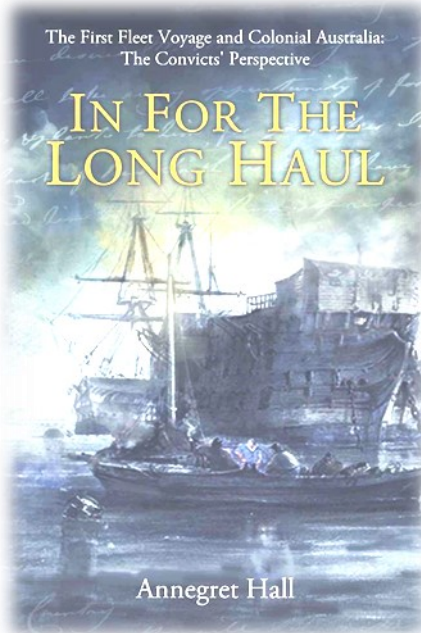
The author's approach is chronological, beginning with the preparation for and voyage of the fleet. From then on the development of the colony is seen in the term of each governor. Within that context we read about the Ropes' lives and those of their growing family.

The book, of over 320 pages, is suitably enhanced by over 40 helpfully clear maps and sketches suitably placed within the relevant text. Appendices include acknowledgements, an extensive bibliography, end notes based on the 24 chapters, and a useful index.

In sum, here is not the arresting hyperbole of the journalist, nor the dry and detailed assiduity of the academic, but rather colonial history worth reading for its own sake and presented in an engaging and most readable style.

In for the Long Haul is for everyone's shelf, not just for those whose family story enlivens its pages. **WJF**

Note: Book available through online booksellers such as Book Depository, Angus & Robertson etc, as well as from some bookshops.



SMEE SERIES COMPLETED

Those of us who did our FF research in the pre-internet era would be well versed in trawling through church and pioneers registers on micro fiche and film in libraries and family history societies.

Fellowship Friend #45, **Dr Craig James Sme**, has collected and published register records over a number of years and recently completed his major series of four books of records from 1788 to 1830 entitled *Births & Baptisms, Marriages & De Facto Relationships, Deaths & Burials New South Wales*.

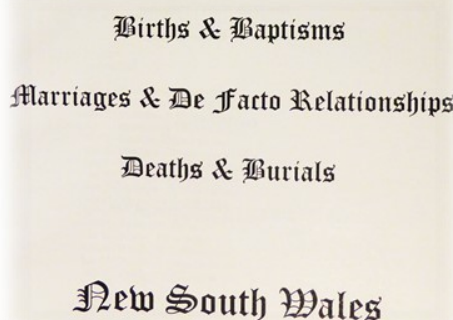
This is such a handy compilation and the Fellowship is indebted to Dr Sme for providing our FF House Library with the full set. Each book is set out exactly as the title suggests and due to

the time span, 43 years, and areas, NSW, NI and VDL, covered, most of the first and second generations of the early fleet arrivals can be found to verify our research.

The statistical tables are easy to use and contain useful information which is introduced with explanatory notes.

As an exercise your reviewer 'researched' the well-known **Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley** family via the Sme pages and can report that every member from those years, over three generations, is listed, referenced and cross-checked without error.

The whole concept is outstanding and Dr Sme is to be congratulated for his years of dedicated endeavour. Check out the series in your local library; you won't be disappointed.



Our Seventeen Chapters in Action

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

Venue: usually at Albury Library/Museum, Kiewa St. Albury, monthly meetings, third Saturday at 10:00 for 10.30 am. **Next Event:** . **Next Meetings:** 16 February: Luke Merriman, *Exploring Trove, please bring laptops.*; 16 March: Kevin Kennedy, *SES*; 20 April: Ray Gear, *Local History*. **Contact:** Mary Chalmers-Borella 6025 3283

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:** 15 February: Patrick Dodd, *Matthew Flinders*; 15 March: Mark Bundy. *Rookwood Cemetery*; 12 April: Ann Howard, *The Kindness of Strangers* **Next Event:** 21 February: History Cruise of Brisbane Water; 25 April: ANZAC service at Roseville Memorial Club. **Contact:** Judith O'Shea 9797 0240

BOTANY BAY - Southern Sydney, from Cooks River to Waterfall and west to Liverpool

Venue: For the Inaugural 'Launch' meeting, The Gardens on Forest Function Centre, 764 Forest Road Peakhurst. Tuesday 19 February, 10:30 am. **Contact:** Carol Macklin 0415376434

CANBERRA – ACT, Queanbeyan and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations in Canberra. **No Events** planned for this quarter. **Contact:** Geoff Cameron 62514095

CENTRAL COAST – From Lake Macquarie to Broken Bay, highlands to coast.

Venue: Point Clare Community Hall – meet monthly, second Saturday at 10 am for 10.30. **Next Meetings:** 9 February: Gavin Plunkett, *FF Thomas Chipp/Jane Langley*; 9 March: TBA; 13 April: TBA. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jon Fearon 43116254

DERWENT - Southern Tasmania

Venue: Bi-monthly, 11am, first Saturday at Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania, Sandy Bay. **Next Meetings:** 2 February, Honey Dower, *Stealing the Soul*; 6 April: Speaker TBA.. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Paul Dobber 0401566080

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 **Next Meetings:** 2 February: James Warrant, *Grounding of the Endeavour*; 2 March: Rob Shipton and Nancye Harris, *A Reading - Andrew Goodwin and Lydia Munro*; 6 April: Mark Dunn, *Pre 1830 Newcastle*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** Jennifer Follers 97991161

HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN --Western Sydney, Penrith to Windsor, Blue Mountains.

Venue: Windsor Library, Penrith Library and in Springwood. -- monthly, second Saturday, 11 am. **Next Meetings** (all at Windsor): 9 February: Ngullah Murrandah, *Descendant of Gundungurra people and FF John Nichols*; 9 March: Peter Cochrane: *The Making of Martin Sparrow*; 13 April: Heidi Brown, *The Female Factory*. **Next Event:** **Contact:** William Hempel 0410950101

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 Meetings:** 18 February: Judy Aubin, *Three Interim Governors of NSW*; 15 April: TBA **Next Event:** 18 March: Tour of Church St Maitland, with Di Steppa. **Contact:** Kerry Neinert 49615083

MID NORTH COAST -- Taree and Surrounds, Bulahdelah to Kempsey.

Venue: Presbyterian Church, 76 Albert Street, Taree, Bi-monthly on 4th Tuesday at 2pm.. **Next Meeting:** 26 March: Greg Powell, *Bushrangers of the Hunter and Mid North Coast*. **Contact:** Heather Bath 0427018566

MORETON – South East Queensland.

Venue: St. Augustine's Anglican Church Hall, Hamilton – bi-monthly meetings, at 10 am on an available 2nd Saturday. **Next Meetings:** 9 February: Caroline Hamilton, *John Oxley's 1823 Voyage up the Brisbane River*; 13 April: Mervyn Cobcroft, *The Maritime Adventures of Joseph Bradley*. **Next Event:** 16 March: Moreton Chapter 10th Anniversary Luncheon at Royal Queensland Golf Club. . **Contact:** Julia Cornford 0418747891

NORTH COAST – Boambee, Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo to Maclean

Venue: Either at Mylestom Hall or at members' homes, Bi-monthly, usually first Sunday at 10.30am. **Next Meetings:** 3 February: At Mylestom Hall followed by Social Lunch; 7 April: At Joe and Margaret Bass's Nana Glen. **Next Event:** 12-14 February: Trip to Tenterfield and visit to Stannum House. **Contact:** Robyn Condliffe 66533615

NORTHERN RIVERS – Lismore and surrounds.

Venue: Ballina Cherry Street Sports and Bowling Club - bi-monthly meetings, fourth Sunday at 11.30am followed by lunch; **Next Meeting:** 26 March: Speaker TBA. **Contact:** Karla Rojo 66884306

NORTH WEST – Tamworth and surrounds.

Venue: Various locations – bi-monthly meetings, usually first Saturday at 1.30pm **Next Meetings:** 2 February, with visit to Tamworth Hospital Museum. 6 April at FH Rooms: Melinda Gill, *Local Newspapers*.. **Contact:** Diana Harband 67652122

SOUTH COAST – Engadine to Burrill Lake.

Venue: Scribbly Gum Room, Ribbonwood Centre, 93-109 Princes Highway, Dapto – monthly except Jan, May and Dec. – first Tuesday at 10am - 1pm. **Next Meetings:** 5 February: *Members Show and Tell*; 5 March: Greg Domkins, *This is India*; 2 April: Ian Sheppard, *And then the Trains came to the South Coast*. **Next Event:** . **Contact:** Rob Ratcliffe 42321842

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS – Mittagong, Moss Vale and surrounds.

Venue: Mittagong Community Centre – bi-monthly – second Wednesday at 10.30am \$5 Admission. **Next Meetings:** 13 February: Howard Lewis, *An Array of Famous Faces*; 10 April: Rod Davis: *FF Philip Gidley King*. **Next Events:** 13 April: FFF Stall at Irish Festival, Berrima Public School.; 20 April: Convict Bonnets at Australian Heritage Festival, Harpers Mansion., Berrima; 25 April: ANZAC Wreath Laying at Mittagong. **Contact:** Wendy Selman 48624849

SWAN RIVER – Perth, Fremantle and surrounds.

Venue: 16 Inwood Place Murdoch, bi-monthly, usually first Saturday, at 2pm. **Next Meetings:** 2 February: Alex Aitken; *Outback Graves Project*; 6 April: Speaker TBA. **Next Event:** 23 March: Tour of Perth Mint and Gold Pour. **Contact:** Toni Mahony 0892717630

Karys Fearon, Chapter Liaison Officer

EDITOR'S NOTE: Closing date for this page for the next issue is 18 March 2019

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

DEATHS

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

WILLIAM TUNKS/JAMES OGDEN/JOHN HERBERT/DEBORAH ELLAM

#8922 Andrew Douglas Davis

FREDERICK MEREDITH

#8923 Margaret Lucille Keenan

THOMAS ACRES

#8924 Carol Ann Paterson

ANDREW GOODWIN/LYDIA MUNRO

#8925 Malcolm McKenzie

WILLIAM HAMBLY/MARY SPRINGHAM

#8926 Nicholas John Childs

Ordinary and Pensioner Members

STEPHEN MARTIN

#8927 Douglas Edward Hind

#8928 Andrew Lachlan Hind

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM

#8929 Roslyn Lesley Neligan

Associates

#8927.1 Jasmin Anne Beeks

#1251.1 Kevin John Snowball

#6607.1 Kevin Barry Binder

DAVID KILPACK

#1235 Bettina Amy Williams (nee Ind), of Taren Point, New South Wales, died on 10.09.2018, aged 92. Bettina had been a member of the Fellowship for 41 years and was always proud of her convict ancestry.

EDWARD WHITTON

#8248 Gwen Dolores Weule, of Dapto, New South Wales, died on 05.12.2018, aged 96. Gwen was a member of the South Coast Chapter, and had been a member of the Fellowship for the past 5 years. A very proud 5th generation descendent.

ASSOCIATE

#1318.1 Robert James Lamb, of North Richmond, New South Wales, died on 21.12.2018, aged 70. Bob, as he was known, was a member of Hawkesbury-Nepean Chapter and served as a Director of the Fellowship from 2018 until his death.

JAMES BLOODWORTH/SARAH BELLAMY

#8733 Christopher John Rowe, of Moss Vale, New South Wales, died on 13.11.2018, aged 74. Christopher was a member of Southern Highlands Chapter since joining the Fellowship in 2017.

WILLIAM ROBERTS

#2315 Lionel Edward Phelps AM of Goonellabah, New South Wales, died on 03.11.2018, aged 88. Sadly missed by wife Lenore and family. Lionel was founding President of the Northern Rivers Chapter in 1987 and also held other positions during his time. He was elected a life member of the Fellowship and was instrumental in the production and printing of the chapter's book 'Never to Die' in 2004. After a distinguished teaching career he served as second Chancellor of Southern Cross University from 1998 to 2001 and was also national secretary for Rotary's Bowel Screen system.



This year's anniversary of the **First Christian Service** falls on a Sunday and there will be two opportunities to commemorate this. St Philip's York St Sydney has the communion service using Chaplain Richard Johnson's prayer book at 8.30am on 3 February. Later that day, at 2 pm, the Australian Christian Nation will honour Mary Johnson and colonial women at their outdoor service in Richard Johnson Square, (Hunter and Bligh Streets).



Now is the time to add your family members who served their country in war to the **Fellowship's Honour Roll**. Have a look at the Roll, (it's on the website under 'Shop'), to see what is required and then contact Tony Holden at ajholden@bigpond.net.au with the details. Ring Tony at First Fleet House on Mondays if you have any questions. 2019 sees the 80th anniversary of the start of the next global conflict, WW2. We plan an updated edition by Anzac Day.

(from page 9) Suspecting this ceremonial to be no indication of friendship, Gilberthorpe instantly turned short and drove expeditiously toward the place from whence he set out, closely pursued: other inhabitants of the settlement appearing in view, the chase was given up.

This encounter would have taken place near the Burwood-Croydon portion of Parramatta Road and gives a brief picture of the situation between settlers and aborigines in that area at this period.

As more and more of the forest trees were felled and farms like Mr Alt's were established, there was less and less refuge for the aborigines. If they did not settle in the

towns they had to retreat further and further inland. As time went on, there were fewer accounts of depredations on farms in the Sydney-Parramatta area and constant references to attacks in the Hawkesbury farmlands. One hundred years later, the aborigines had vanished from this area as suburban homes replaced the farms.

As we look at Parramatta Road flanked on either side by car sales-yards festooned with multicoloured plastic pennants, it is hard to imagine that here was once a dense forest in which the dark forms of aborigines could sometimes be glimpsed. Who knows what secrets of life disappeared with them? Their passing left the white Australian with a burden of uneasy guilt. **(End)**

CHAPTER SECRETARIES

ALBURY-WODONGA DIST.

Mary Chalmers-Borella
02 6025 3283

ARTHUR PHILLIP

Judith O'Shea 02 9797 0240

BOTANY BAY

Carol Macklin 0415 376 434

CANBERRA

Brian Mattick 02 6231 8880

CENTRAL COAST

Jon Fearon 02 4311 6254

DERWENT

Paul Dobber 0401 566 080

EASTERN FARMS

Jennifer Follers 02 9799 1161

HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN

William Hempel 0410 950 101

HUNTER VALLEY

Kerry Neinert 02 4961 5083

MID NORTH COAST

Heather Bath 0427 018 566

MORETON

Julia Cornford 0418 747 891

NORTH COAST

Faye Smith 02 6653 1019

NORTHERN RIVERS

Karla Rojo 02 6688 4306

NORTH WEST

Diana Harband 02 6765 2122

SOUTH COAST

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