

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS NEWSLETTER

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September/October 1987
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting was held at the Central Coast Leagues Club on Sunday 27th Sept last. 76 Members and 29 Associates/Visitors attended. There was a good roll up of First Fleeters from the Gosford and Hunter area and a special welcome was accorded to members Mr and Mrs Gray from Tasmania and Western Australia (Mrs E Rogers).

The reports were received and the President's address to the meeting is printed in this issue. A list of newly elected executive is also in this issue.

There were a number of glaring errors in the report you received last issue. One error I wish to correct is that Mrs Naida Jackson, our dedicated hardworking Membership Committee Convenor, attended 10 of the 11 meetings held during the year. The typist had changed that 10 into 3. Be assured that we shall not use that firm of so called professional typists again !!

The Executive at its August meeting donated on behalf of the Fellowship one thousand dollars to the 2GB First Fleet Re-enactment Appeal.

Plans are well in hand for our supplementary Bicentennial Project, namely the Plaque in First Fleet Park. Architect and Executive Member, Lloyd Allchin has put forward an extremely pleasing design and we now await the go-ahead from the Public Works Department.

There are a number of order forms with this Newsletter. Please order early especially with regard to the Australia Day Eve Dinner. Our guest speaker will be First Fleeter Graham Freudenberg, who has been speech writer to a Prime Minister or two.

Life Membership was conferred on three members of the Fellowship at the AGM, on the recommendation of the Executive. Mrs Joan Cox (FF Henry Kable/Susannah Holmes), Mr Len Chalmers (FF William Tunks) and Mr Ray Meredith (FF Frederick Meredith) have all given sterling service to our organisation. Their Life Membership badges will be presented to them in 1988.

At the AGM two new Executive members were elected - Mrs Yvonne Bentley (FF Ed Whitton) and Mr Jim Donohoe (FF Lucas/Gascoigne/Squire/Goodin). Both are keen genealogists and Jim is Assistant Principal Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. At its first meeting the incoming Executive elected Mr John Bourne (FF Ed Whitton) and the Chairman of the Canberra chapter Mrs Pat Gilmour (FF John Randall/John Martin).

The Christmas get together for the members will be held this year on December 14th at the Bowlers Club, York St, at 7pm. See insert for tear off acceptance.

Two members who have been on the sick list of late are Jack Cross and Frank Everingham. Frank, one of our Vice Presidents, has been laid low with pneumonia - we wish them both a speedy recovery.

There are still some seats left on our bus tour to the Hunter Valley on Sat Nov 7th next.

I am still unable to tell you about times on Australia Day. There will be some form of ceremony at Customs House Square - no one seems to know exactly what time. There will also be a ceremony at Fleet Stairs, Farm Cove - again no time has been announced officially or unofficially. I have stated that the Fellowship requires reserved space for both ceremonies - we don't want to be near VIP's - we just want our own space and we will be there with "banners and bells"!! There WILL be details in the December Newsletter.

IN FELLOWSHIP
Peter Christian

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

We have just completed the most successful year yet in the 20-year history of the Fellowship. In October 1986 our membership stood at 3662; 11 months later 1000 members had been added to the Register, including the descendants of 14 new First Fleeters.

The Executive met on 11 occasions during the year - the Annual Reports and my summary spell out the work that has been accomplished, and due sentiments of appreciation have been accorded to all concerned. Earlier today you ratified the minutes appertaining to the incorporation of the Fellowship. It is a well-known fact that the wheels of the Corporate Affairs Commission move slowly, but we are assured by our two legal advisors, both members of the Executive - namely Rod Best & Sue Stanton — that indeed incorporation is near. We will then be able to dispose of that quaint and curious method of voting which seems to confuse a number of members, especially new ones.

Last year we had on display the proposed mural to have been executed as a ceramic panel as our Bicentenary project. As a suitable home was not forthcoming to house this mural, the Executive decided not to proceed but, instead, to channel our efforts and funds into the purchase of our own premises. I had hoped, today, to make an announcement on this, but it was not to be and we are still looking !!!

Our supplementary Bicentennial project is centred on the dedication of a number of memorial plaques at a cost of some \$5000.00, and V.P. Doug Oakes will be giving more info on this later on at this meeting. A new banner was purchased this year and an FFF flag is in the process of being made. It is hoped that the flag will be flown by the Re-enactment Fleet from Botany Bay to Port Jackson on 26th January next. And whilst on the subject of the Re-enactment, the Executive donated \$1000.00 to the 2GB First Fleet Re-enactment Appeal.

Members took part in a number of celebrations during the year - the Flag-raising Ceremony at Fleet Stairs, Farm Cove, was well attended, as was the small ceremony at Government House which took place previously on that day.

The Fellowship was represented at various functions throughout the year - memorial services at the Garrison Church and St Philip's, in addition to the Manly Colonial Day Parade and the opening of the Westpac Museum at The Rocks. A stall was manned at The Rocks over the Australia Day holiday and during Heritage Week in Macquarie St. These, together with the combined Royal Australian Historical Society stall at the Easter Show, proved financially successful.

The President's Receptions to new members have proved very popular - with the increase in membership it has been necessary to hold two such nights in October and November. A number of interviews to various media reps were given over the past 12 months. It commenced earlier this year with a number of members being interviewed by the NBC of the USA. Two West German magazines went away with good stories of our pioneers, as did a Dutch journalist, a Japanese reporter and two people preparing articles for the Readers Digest. Only one went away empty-handed after an earnest request followed by an equally earnest refusal for the President to produce a present-day convict who was the descendant of a First Fleet convict !!

One of the highlights of the year was the anniversary of the departure of the First Fleet. A number of Executive members led by secretary/archivist Joyce Cowell represented the Fellowship at Portsmouth for the celebrations held there in May of this year. They were first-rate ambassadors not only for the Fellowship but for their country, and indeed were given V.I.P. treatment.

Australia Post at this end held ceremonies in Sydney and Canberra at which members played a prominent part.

Our participation in the Liaison Committee's plans to have plaques presented at the ports of call of the First Fleet proved an interesting historical exercise.

Joyce Cowell handed the plaques over to the FF Re-enactment authorities in England, and these in turn were deposited at Tenerife, Rio and Capetown. They are inscribed in suitable terms both in the indigenous language and English conveying sentiments of appreciation to the people for their hospitality to vessels of the First Fleet in 1787.

In 1987 a Canberra Chapter became a reality - the presence of the Fellowship in our National Capital must of necessity be of inestimable benefit to our organization — we wish Pat Gilmour and her Committee well in their endeavours.

That is the past year - now what of the future ? A full calendar of events for 1988 will be available shortly. January 26th celebrations unfortunately are still under wraps. I had hoped that long-awaited plans for an early flag-raising ceremony at Circular Quay would be on hand. Nor have we been informed of our role at Farm Cove. It is to be hoped that the authorities will release plans for next Australia Day in the very near future.

With the next Newsletter there will be a number of order forms for our Bicentenary Calendar, which features Tom Silk's painting of the First Fleet, Christmas cards, First Fleet commemorative plaque, and an application for tickets to our Bicentennial Dinner.

In conclusion may I say that 1987 has been a good year — next year is our year, let's enjoy it to the full.

FROM THE MAIL BOX

FROM Bonne Offner, No:3052 — FF John Nicholls

In reply to the par in the May/June Newsletter re Newcastle Bicentennial celebrations.

Having contacted the co-ordinator Mr Warwick Powell, Bonne organized a get - together at her home with a view to seeking out FFF Members in the Hunter Region. Seven Members with associate spouses and children (18 in all) were all delighted to meet in Fellowship and now are anxious to make contact with other First Fleeters in the area.

The members who originally met together were Mrs Bonne Offner, Mrs Barbara Bushell, Mr Ray Meredith, Dr R.W. Wright, Miss Lynn Hutchings, Mrs Margaret Annan and Mrs Clare Foley.

Clare has consented to act as liaison officer with a view to further Fellowship and to decide just what part this group could play in the Newcastle celebrations. Any interested Hunter Valley Member please contact:

Mrs Clare Foley
118 Pacific Highway
Belmont North
Ph: (Newcastle) 489834

(Bonne was present at the AGM and spoke to those present. We had a good roll up from the Newcastle area — Thanks, Bonne).

FROM Doris Lumley No:742 Altonville

We owe an apology for including her name and address on a circular to non-financial members 1968-1978. Sorry, Doris - you are well and truly a financial member - your old card had been placed in amongst some 400 cards of lapsed members, thank you for your sentiments of appreciation re the Newsletter.

It is of interest that although nearly 400 letters were sent out, with a Newsletter, to our early members who had not renewed, only 50 were returned for one reason or another — mainly "left address" was the Aust Post reply. A member had passed on - one relative really took umbrage that we should dare to send a letter to one who had died some 15 years ago - "embarrassing and disgusting" was the curt reply on the envelope !! — only a small number rejoined but at least we tried !

FROM A.J. Gibbins No:2112 FF Frederick Meredith

Suggested the possibility of highlighting FFF Memberships in each State the ships of the Re-Enactment fleet will visit. Possibly a special visit to one of the ships?

(A good idea from John. I think you will find that the Re-Enactment body will make a charge to visit ships of the fleet - if we can seek out a FFF contact point in each State so that you can organise joint celebrations in 1988, members will feel more personally involved).

FROM Jean Rushton No:3202 FF William Roberts

Telling us that her aunt is the only surviving grandchild (to her knowledge) of John Primrose convict "Morley" 1817. Her aunt is 96 years of age. Jean goes on to say that John Primrose married Ann Roberts, the 9th child of Wm Roberts FF and Kezia Brown (2nd fleet) in 1826.

(Have we any other family members in the Fellowship who are grandchildren of convicts?)

FROM John Higman No: 2076 FF George Johnston Esther Abrahams

Relating to us his interesting Bicentennial Project.

John is collecting a photographic link/tree from his parents to his First Fleeters George and Esther who are his great-great-great-grandparents. He would like to know if this is unique - has it been attempted before with other families. But he needs help with photos of George and Blanche Weston. Can any descendant provide him with a good photograph of these pioneers?

Enquiries to John Higman

**44 Nelson Road
Nelson 2765**

John also suggests that the Fellowship collects as many photos of paintings of individual First Fleeters as possible. (An excellent idea, especially for our new premises - John, we certainly would like to take you up on your offer of the colour prints of George and Esther).

FROM Thelma Hill No:3044

Dear Editor

May I, through the Fellowship Newsletter, ask if any members have information about Jane Andrews, daughter of James and Hannah Andrews who resided in Windsor c 1820. Jane is thought to have been born 1810-1814 and married Phillip Gould in 1851. The couple are believed to have had eight children, Sarah 1839, James 1843, Mary 1845, William 1847, Ann and Jane 1850, Emily 1852 and Henry Thomas 1854. An entry in a family Bible records her death at Alexandria (Sydney) on 25 November 1889. We believe her to have been our great-great-grandmother, in which case some of her grandchildren married into the vast Everingham family. I should also like to record my enjoyment of the Newsletter.

Information to be forwarded to:

**Thelma Hill
7/71 Oxford Street
Epping 2121**

FROM Gwen Thew — FF Daniel Stanfield

With sentiments of appreciation for her membership certificate and saying - "I accept it with pride and gratitude for, firstly that such a Fellowship exists and secondly with an awareness of the work that has gone into producing and collating the necessary information with regard to First Fleeters. I refer to my own case in which the work of providing authentication of information I had concerning my ancestor, Daniel Stanfield, was made so easy for me by virtue of the fact that the Fellowship was in possession of the necessary records with regard to the first 3 generations; so what seemed to me to be an arduous task was in fact extremely simple.

(Thank you, Gwen - it was a pleasure to meet you at the AGM - Ed)

FROM Thea Hosking MBE (Known to many of us as Thea Rowe)

At a recent function of the Cornish Association of Sydney, Life Membership was bestowed on Thea Hosking and her husband Breffni Hosking who were the

first Australians to be made Cords of the Cornish Gorsedd in 1951 at their yearly ceremony. Oswald Pryor, the famous South Australian cartoonist, was made a Cord at the same ceremony in absentia.

The Bardic title bestowed on Thea was Melenek Godolghan (Linnet of Godolghan) for the ancient Cornish family from which she was descended. Breffni's title was Molgh Cannas (Herald Thrush) and this ceremony was conducted and conferred on him in September 1951.

(Thea's husband Breffni, who was recently enrolled as our associate, offered help in small ways if needed. We indeed appreciate Breffni's offer and as always Thea's abiding interest in the Fellowship - Ed).

FROM Mrs Louise Ellis No:3860

Voicing her objections to the fact that certain prominent personages were nominated to take part in a proposed Re-Enactment landing. Louise thought it more democratic to have had a ballot to choose members of the FFF to take part.

(Evidently events for the 26th January next do not allow for any Re-Enactment landing from the fleet. Thank you Louise, for your views - Ed).

FROM Jane Hodges FF in Geneva

Relating her trip to Portsmouth and meeting fellow members there. We are indebted to Jane for the photo she so kindly sent for our archives.

OBITUARIES

It is with deep regret we record the passing of the following and our sympathy goes out to all of the families concerned...

Margery Jones No: 1147 FF William Broughton died June 5th 1987.

Martha Blackwell No: 1316 FF died July 18th aged 90 years.

Robert Francis Saville No: 2088 FF John Redman died July 19th.

Freda Alma Burns died at the age of 90 years was the mother of member and former Hon. Sec. Ann Campbell. Mrs Burns was the youngest of 15 children.

Lois Amelia Neale No: 1103 FF Thomas Arndell died Sept 3rd last aged 75. She was a resident of Balmain and a very proud First Fleeter.

Clive S. Griffiths died at the Mercy Hospital, Albury July 21st last at the age of 68. He was a keen member of the Fellowship and was researching the Palmer, Griffiths and Parnaby Family Trees.

Maxwell Charles Bruce Beard No: 4370 FF John Harris and Mary Green, died July 29th last. A letter from his family to the Executive related that, although his life was drawing to a close, when shown his certificate of Membership, he was aware of his acceptance as a member of the Fellowship.

In the last Newsletter we inadvertently stated that the late **Ian Harris Walker** was member No: 888 FF William Broughton. His widow Barbara is the member. (My personal apologies to the family. Ed)

BIRTHS...

Alexander John Golding: 8th generation Australian born son of Clare and Wayne. Third grandchild of Fay and Bert Golding, great-grandchild of Frances Britnell and Sarah Golding.

(FF Thomas Acres)

OUR BICENTENNIAL YEAR

The following is a time-table throughout the year of events in which we as a Fellowship will participate and/or organize. It is by no means complete and we will be releasing full details at a later date.

January	
23rd Sat	Manly Colonial Day.
24th Sun	Church Services, St. Philip's & St. Mary's.
25th Mon	Anniversary dinner at Sheraton Wentworth Hotel 7pm.
26th Tues	Morning - flag raising at Farm Cove (to be confirmed). Lunch - Botanic Gardens; Evening (to be confirmed).
30th Sat	Sackville Reach - Plaque service 3pm. Anne Forbes Reunion, 10am.
February	
7th Sun	St Anne's Ryde - Plaque Service.
March	
4th Fri	Norfolk Island Tour departs.
5th Sat	Goulburn - Plaque unveiling.
6th Sun	Norfolk Island Plaque ceremony. Tour returns from Norfolk Island.
April	
16th Sat	Windsor - Hawkesbury Pioneer Day.
17th Sun	St Matthew's Windsor - Plaque service.
May	
13th Fri	Wilton - Woolshed dance.
15th Sun	St. Peter's Richmond - Plaque ceremony 10am.
June	
5th Sun	St. John's Wilberforce - Plaque ceremony 3pm.
July	
24th Sun	Liverpool Park - Plaque ceremony 3pm.
August	
6th Sat	Tunks Bicentenary dinner.
21st Sun	Centennial Park — Children's Picnic.
September	
17th Sat	Castle Hill Showground - family reunions.
18th Sun	Castle Hill Showground - family reunions.
23rd or	
30th Sun	F.F.F. A.G.M. (tentative).
October	
9th Tues	The Small Family Gathering.
28th Fri	Tour to Tasmania begins.
November	
6th Sun	Tour returns from Tasmania.
13th Sun	St. Peters Campbelltown - Plaque service 10am.

Functions to be organized;
Botany Pioneer Park. (June 26th)
Devonshire Street Pedestrian Tunnel.
Sydney Town Hall. (Sun 27th March).
First Fleet Park (January 9th).
Archives Office of N.S.W. Plaque ceremony.

BITS AND PIECES

Another donation has been forwarded to the Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn to aid the St. Saviour's Cathedral Bells Appeal. We forwarded a cheque for \$100.00 on behalf of the Fishburn Family Association. The following donors are acknowledged ...

The Fishburn Family Association per N.Smith	\$45.00
L.P. and G.H. Baldwin	\$10.00
The Brodie Family	\$10.00
Vicky Macpherson	\$10.00
Marj Macpherson	\$10.00
Chris and Nicole Bowman	\$5.00
Anon	\$10.00
TOTAL	\$100.00

The Fishburn Family Association will be registered as Godparents to the Fishburn Bell. There are twelve bells in all being forged in the U.K. at the present time and it is envisaged that they will be dedicated in a ceremony on March 5th 1988.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1987/8

President:	Peter Christian
Vice Presidents:	Doug Oakes, Frank Everingham
Hon Secretary:	Pam Quick
Hon Treasurer:	Shirley Beale
Minute Secretary and Convenor	
Functions	
Committee:	Alice Clarke (Ph. 428 4530)
Archivist:	Joyce Cowell
Committee:	Lloyd Allchin, Rod Best, Yvonne Bentley, Naida Jackson (Convenor Membership Committee), Pat Gilmour (Chairman Canberra Chapter FFF), Vicki Lamb, Jim Maclean, Hugh Morgan, James Donohoe, Sue Stanton and John Bourne.
Convenor Graves	
Committee:	Doug Oakes
Newsletter Editor:	Peter Christian

EARLY SYDNEY

EXTRACT FROM "SYDNEY GAZETTE" 1804 - 1805

The house of Joseph Hatton a settler in the district of Kissing Point was on Saturday morning the 22nd instant broke open and entered between the hours of two and five in the morning and robbed of the following articles, viz.

Three womens gowns, two light coloured and one dark cotton, four women's petticoats, one white cotton one long cloth one blue plain calimanco and one flannel.

Two girl's blue striped calimanco petticoats and one round dress.

Six womens caps five ribbands of different colours.

Three muslin handkerchiefs two half handkerchiefs, one cravat one plaid bonnet, nine pair men and women stockings.

Three shirts, two linen, one long cloth ruffled one nankeen waistcoat, three pocket handkerchiefs two birds eye ditto, one sprigged muslin apron.

Two boys frilled shirts and one dress, one pair pantaloons, a pair of duck trousers and waistcoat, one shawl flowered at two of the corners, one pair of white cotton gloves, one ditto mittens.

Three womens and two girls shifts.

Copper tea kettle, iron pot to contain two gallons one china tea pot, three womens jackets and two cotton aprons striped, one child's cotton round-about with many other articles.

We are authorised to tender a reward of Five pounds on discovery of any offender which will be paid by Joseph Hatton on conviction.

Advertisement on Sunday 30th December 1804
Joseph Hatton arrived on the "Scarborough" First Fleet (Research: **Mary Hope Caten**)

Friends of First Government House Site

Friends and visitors have been invited to Parliament House Theatre on Wed 11th November at 6pm to a lecture co-hosted by:

Mr John Dowd, L.L.B. M.L.A.

Mr James Samios M.B.E. B.A. L.L.B. M.L.C.

Guest Speaker: Mr Robert Irving - President R.A.H.S. —Member of Heritage Council.

Title: "What Was Built by the Governors' Men"

Our hosts have invited us to partake of light refreshment.

Latest Library Acquisitions...

The 1814 Muster.

The 1st and 2nd Volumes of The Australian Dictionary of Biography.

"The Fettered and the Free", by Irene Nesdale.

"The Fatal Shore", by Robert Hughes.

"Exploring Sydney's West", by Helen Proudfoot (a donation from Wed. Auxiliary).

The Library has also recently acquired the Indexes of Births, Deaths and Marriages from 1900 to 1905.

First Fleeters living in the Rockdale Municipality please contact the Secretary, Rockdale Bicentennial Committee, P.O. Box 21, Rockdale, NSW 2216, and include details of Family History. Please do this before Friday, 27th November, 1987.

There is a par in regard to Newcastle First Fleeters elsewhere in this Newsletter, but all members of the Fellowship, if they wish to be part of the celebrations in this our Bicentenary, contact your local Bicentennial Committee, C/- your local Municipal or Shire Council.

The winners of the concession tickets for the Norfolk Island trip are Mrs R Devine, of Bulli, and Mrs Barbara Townsend, of Eastern Creek, NSW. Those who have booked on the tour will be receiving details of the trip within the next month.

Vic Walters (FF Matthew James Everingham) tells us that the U.T.A. ferry "Scarborough" plies between Circular Quay and Meadowbank. This is of interest no doubt to all members, but it has special significance to the descendants of Matthew Everingham and Joseph Hatton. After having both arrived on the "Scarborough", they received their first grants of land not far from Meadowbank.

The Research Register, St Mary's, South Creek, will be holding its Annual Foundation Gathering on Sunday 22nd Nov. Contact the Secretary, C/- P.O. Box 38, Woodford, NSW 2778, re venue. The aim of this group is to promote interest in the historical significance of the area, the Church of St Mary Magdalene and its adjoining graveyard. The cemetery and surrounding district, known in the early days as South Creek, is of special significance to descendants of a number of First Fleeters, including the Gidley King family.

FIRST FLEET RE-ENACTMENT VOYAGE

NEW F.F.F. MEMBER SAILING THE
MAURITIUS/SYDNEY LEGS

No: 4747 Mrs Carolyn Mary Badger (nee Alderson), 36-year-old daughter of Member No: 3206 Mr Lester Alderson, a medical centre receptionist of Taree, will be joining the First Fleet Re-enactment fleet at Mauritius in late October for the remainder of the voyage to Sydney.

The fleet is due at Mauritius on 27th October and leaves for Fremantle on 5th November; it is due at Fremantle on 17th December and via Botany Bay at Sydney on 26th January 1988.

Carolyn was the lucky winner of a competition run by the "Daily Telegraph" involving answering a daily question over a week on excerpts from the First Fleet log and writing a 25-word answer to the question, "How sailing on the First Fleet Re-enactment would give a better understanding of the history of NSW".

Carolyn wrote her answer in verse as follows:

**"Hardship and toil
Is what it's about,
Sailing ships
And future of doubt.
Hist'ry of ours
Becomes so near
I understand
Our beginnings so clear."**

Carolyn's First Fleet ancestors were: Ann Forbes - Prince of Wales, Robert Forrester - Scarborough and Edward Miles - Scarborough. The President, Executive and members wish Carolyn an enjoyable, safe and fulfilling voyage.

REPORT FROM THE CANBERRA CHAPTER FFF

About 70 people attended our first meeting at the Griffin Centre Canberra on Friday 31st July. These people represented 40 First Fleeters. From the enthusiastic response, the committee planned two further events for this year.

On Wednesday 7th October there was a tour of the manuscript and microfilm newspaper rooms at the National Library where resource material in this collection relating to the First Fleet was explained. A picnic outing is tentatively planned for Saturday 28th November.

If any FFF member from Canberra region is interested in receiving information about our activities please contact members of the local committee.

Pat Gilmour 886467; Meryl Smith 543168; Marion Batchelor 882558; or Doug Webster 488403.

Meryl Smith.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	\$
Postage	41.58
Envelopes	5.40
Hire of Postal Box	21.25
Hire of room (Griffin Centre)	23.00
Misc items for meeting	3.85
Supper for meeting	39.18
Received from Sydney	100.00
Overspent	34.26

WEDNESDAY DAY AUXILIARY

Our tour of St. Mary's Cathedral on September 2nd last was most interesting and enjoyed by all present. Br. Keenan told us the history of the building and showed us the wonderful stained glass windows and the mosaic floor of the crypt. Our fund raising effort for the year has enabled us to purchase the book "Exploring Sydney's West" by Helen Proudfoot, for the Fellowship Library in addition to obtaining cords and tassels for the new F.F.F. banner.

Wed 4th November 1.30pm. Mrs Joyce Cowell will be telling us of her trip to Portsmouth and the First Fleet Re-enactment.

On Wednesday 2nd December next at 12 noon, we shall be holding our Christmas Luncheon at Grace Bros Garden Court Restaurant on the 6th floor of their Market St building. It will be a smorgasbord luncheon. Do come along and enjoy our last get-together for the year. Bookings are essential and the cost will be \$11.50 (\$10.50 at the door and a donation to Fellowship funds of \$1.00)

Mary Hope-Caten.
Ph: 407-1042

1988 BICENTENNIAL PLAQUE SERVICES

The Fellowship is organising a number of plaque dedication services to be held during 1988 as one of our Bicentenary projects. The intention is to place a plaque measuring 254mm x 254mm on an appropriate wall in memory of First Fleeters buried nearby, some with tombstones, some without tombstones and others whose actual location is unknown.

There are twelve services organised for location in NSW, one service on Norfolk Island and six services for Tasmania. This project has received the endorsement of the Australian Bicentennial Authority.

The dates and venues are as follows:

Sunday 24th January 1988: St Philip's Church, York St, Sydney. The Service will follow the 10am morning service for First Fleeters buried from there. Known First Fleeters are as follows.

Mary Dickerson d 25.8.1799; Edward Humphrey d 4.11.1804; James McManus d 15.4.1798; John Nicholls d 26.12.1822; Jane Doole d 1826; Ann Sandlin d 4.1.1809; William Tunks d 6.8.1821; William Whiting d 8.8.1808; Joseph Wright d 30.8.1811 and Susannah Huffnell d 11.4.1814.

Saturday 30th January 1988: Sackville Reach Cemetery, Sackville. We will be joining the Ann Forbes family re-union at Sackville Reach cemetery for a plaque dedication service at 3pm. Known First Fleeters buried there are: Ann Forbes d 29.12.1851; Owen Cavanaugh d 24.9.1834 and Margaret Cavanaugh d 24.4.1834.

Sunday 7th February 1988: St Annes Anglican Church, 46 Church St., Ryde. The service will follow the 10am morning service. Known First Fleeters buried there are: Richard Hawkes d 15.3.1832; James Bradley d 16.2.1838; Edward Goodin d 8.1.1839; Joseph Hatton d 1.6.1828 and John Small d 3.10.1851.

Saturday 5th March 1988: St Saviour's Cemetery, Cemetery St., Goulburn. Bus tour is to be organised to this cemetery to unveil a plaque 100mm x 74mm at 3pm on the tombstone of Mary Martin d 9.6.1843. We have also been invited to attend the Cathedral Church of St Saviour's in the morning where the Archbishop of Canterbury will be dedicating the Bells.

Sunday 6th March 1988: Norfolk Island. Many of our members and their relatives and friends will be on Norfolk Island to celebrate the Re-enactment service. They will be taking a plaque to be installed near Emily Bay in memory of the First Fleeters who journeyed to the island. Some died there, and others only stayed for a time.

Sunday 27th March 1988: Sydney Town Hall, St Andrews Square, Sydney. The Very Reverend L.R. Shilton has agreed to join us in a dedication service for a plaque to be placed on the wall of Sydney Town Hall directly opposite St Andrews Cathedral. The Service will follow their 10am Service. Known First Fleeters buried there and/or Devonshire St. are as follows: Those First Fleeters buried from St. Phillips plus the following: James Bloodworth d 21.3.1804; Sarah Bellamy; Phoebe Flaherty d 27.1.1817; John Renman d Nov. 1837; Hannah Smith d 17.10.1826; Robert Watson d 1.11.1819 and John Nicholls d 25.12.1827.

Sunday 17th April 1988: St Mathews Anglican Church, Windsor. We will be placing a small plaque on the tombstone of Daniel Barnett d 15.2.1823 as well as the larger plaque on the gateway pillar from Greenway Crescent, Windsor. The Service will follow the 10am Service. Known First Fleeters buried there are as follows: Thomas Arndell d 2.5.1821; Elizabeth Randell d 31.1.1843; John Cross d 24.12.1824; Edward Miles d 19.8.1838; Benjamin Cusley d 20.6.1845; Robert Forrester d 14.2.1827; Henry Kable d 16.4.1846; Susannah Holmes d 8.11.1825; John Merriott d 7.5.1812; William Roberts d 14.2.1820 Ann d 3.9.1820 and Daniel Barnett d 15.2.1823.

Sunday 15th May 1988: St Peters Anglican Church, Windsor St, Richmond. We will be placing two plaques on the family vault for Elias Bishop d 11.11.1835 and Catherine Bishop d 28.8.1835 as well as on the Columbarium for all the First Fleeters buried there. Known First Fleeters buried there are as follows: Elias Bishop d 11.11.1835; Catherine Bishop 28.8.1835; Thomas Spencer d 3.2.1821; William Baxter d 13.8.1830; Margaret Watt d 30.4.1836 and John Watt d 23.8.1837. The Dedication service will follow the 10am morning service.

Sunday 5th June 1988: St Johns Cemetery, Wilberforce. The Rev Peter Clarke from St Johns Anglican Church will join us in a service at the cemetery commencing 3pm to dedicate a plaque placed on the Columbarium wall. Known First Fleeters buried there are as follows: Phillip Devine d 9.12.1821; Matthew Everingham d 25.12.1812 and Catherine Johnson d May 1838.

Sunday 26th June 1988: Botany Pioneer Park, Bunnerong Rd. Chifley. A small plaque will be placed on the tombstone of John Trace d 1.7.1823, the only First Fleeter buried there with a tombstone. Known First Fleeters buried there are as follows: James Squire d 16.5.1822; William Tyrrell d 26.6.1827; Elizabeth Beckford d 10.1.1827; Thomas Prior d 24.7.1836; France Mints d 11.11.1828; Mary Marshall d 29.4.1849; John Nicholls d 25.12.1822; Robert Watson, Isaac Archer and his spouse.

Sunday 24th July 1988: Liverpool Memorial Park, Liverpool. This service will commence at 3pm for a plaque to be placed above the doorway on the service building. Known First Fleeters buried there are as follows: Frederick Meredith d 23.6.1836; Elenor Frazer 8.11.1840; William Broughton d 20.7.1821 and John Drummond d 11.7.1827. Nathaniel Lucas d 28.4.1818 is buried nearby at St Lukes Anglican Church, Liverpool.

Sunday 16th October 1988: Devonshire Street Tunnel, Central Railway, Chalmers St. Sydney. The Dedication service will follow the 10.30am morning service at Christ Church St. Laurence, George St. Railway Square. Known First Fleeters buried there; John Redman d 11.1839; John Nicholls d 25.12.1822; William Hubbard d 18.5.1843 and Jane Langley (Chipp) d 19.2.1836.



1988 BICENTENNIAL SOCIAL FUNCTIONS

The Fellowship has a number of social functions organised for 1988.

Saturday 9th January: First Fleet Park, Circular Quay, Sydney. The revamped park will officially be opened by the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Barrie Unsworth. Our commemorative plaque in memory of the First Fleet settling in Sydney Cove will be erected on the landing of the stairway from the park to George St.

Thursday 21st January 1988: Ferry trip to see Re-enactment ships in Botany Bay. Two hour cruise from 12-2pm, ferry leaves Sans Souci wharf near Captain Cook Bridge. \$16.00 adults and [REDACTED] children. Refreshments sold on board. See booking form.

Saturday 23rd January 1988: Manly Colonial Day, St Patrick's College, Manly. We will be assembling in Manly Park at 10.00am in costume to join the procession which ends at St Patrick's College around 1pm. Lunch is provided by the organisers, buses are provided to carry the not so young up Darley Road to the College. Further details to follow.

Sunday 24th January 1988: Church Services at St Philip's Anglican Church, Sydney; St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney and the Garrison Church, The Rocks, Sydney. A plaque dedication service is scheduled for St Philip's after the morning service.

Monday 25th January 1988: Australia Day Dinner at Sheraton Wentworth Hotel, Sydney. \$50.00 per ticket includes pre-dinner drink, 3-course dinner, toast at midnight. Guest speaker is Graham Freudenberg. See booking form.

Friday 13th May 1988: Woolshed dance - Wilton (details to follow in later Newsletter).

Sunday 21st August 1988: Children's picnic Centennial Park - details to follow.

Friday 28th October to Sunday 6th November 1988: Bus tour to Tasmania for plaque dedication service and sightseeing tour. Further details in another article. See booking form.

Friday 28th October 1988: A bus tour will depart for Tasmania to visit six known cemeteries where over forty First Fleeters are buried., returning Sunday 6th November.

Sunday 13th November 1988: St Peters Anglican Church, Campbelltown. This service will follow the 10am service. The plaque will be placed on the Columbarium wall. A known First Fleeter buried there is Henrietta Fletcher (nee Scriven) d 11.8.1828.

We are inviting as many descendants of these First Fleeters and others to join us in these Dedication Services. The local historical societies and municipal and/or shire leaders will also be invited.

DOUG OAKES
Graves Convenor.

FROM THE FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE

SATURDAY 7TH NOV., 1987: Coach tour to Tyrrell's Winery, Hunter Valley - bring picnic lunch, cost of trip is \$20.00 which includes wine tasting and tour of winery. Koala coach leaves Cnr. Jamieson and York Streets, City at 8.00am, St Leonards Station at 8.15am and Cenotaph, Hornsby Station at 8.45am. See order form for bookings.

MONDAY 14TH DECEMBER 1987: Xmas dinner at Bowlers Club, York St, City. Buffet of hot and cold entrees and main courses, sweets, tea and coffee, \$17.00 per person. Drinks not included. See order form for bookings.

MONDAY 25TH JANUARY 1988: Australia Day dinner at Sheraton Wentworth Hotel. \$50.00 per person includes 3 course dinner, and table wine, pre-dinner drink and toast at midnight. Lounge suit or black tie. Guest speaker is Graham Freudenberg. Booking essential, see form.

THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY 1988: Ferry trip around First Fleet re-enactment fleet in Botany Bay. \$16.00 per person for 2 hour cruise, \$16.00 children (ferry co. are not making any reduction for children). Refreshments sold on board. Ferry leaves Sans Souci Wharf near Captain Cook bridge at 12 noon, returns 2pm. Book early, see form.

SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY 1988: Colonial Day at Manly. Details to follow.

Xmas cards and calendars will be available from October. They feature the Painting of the Fleet entering Sydney Heads on 26th January, 1788 by member Tom Silk which the artist presented to the Fellowship and now proudly hangs in our office. These cards and calendars are exclusive to the Fellowship and make a truly individual gift to your friends. See order form for prices.

Our own Bicentennial Medallion in a presentation box will be available from late January. See order form for details.

TASMANIAN TOUR

Duration ten days from Friday 28th October 1988. Cost approx \$1300. Avoid disappointment — book now with a deposit of \$100. Ph Alice Clarke 29-8007 (Fridays) or home 428-4530.

A BICENTENNIAL CHAIR OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

Professor Brian Fletcher has been appointed to the newly formed Chair of Australian History at Sydney University. He is a Vice-President of the Royal Australian Historical Society and has been actively involved for many years in various aspects of the teaching of History at both Secondary and Tertiary levels. The establishment of the Chair, part funded by \$500,000 from the NSW Government through the NSW Bicentennial Council, is a Bicentennial activity. The State Government is to be congratulated on this long overdue step and the Fellowship hopes that the teaching of our nation's history will be given similar priority on a Primary and Secondary school level.

WILLIAM BROUGHTON FF

Margaret Carty's book, "William Broughton & the Kennedy Connection" was launched by the well-known Buzz Kennedy at the Murrumbateman Winery near Yass, on Sunday 13th September.

More than 200 Broughton and/or Kennedy descendants, of all ages, were present, enjoying the winter sunshine and inspecting the interesting winery. The owners, Trish and Geoffrey Broughton Middleton, provided an excellent barbecue lunch.

The occasion was a splendid climax to many years hard work by Margaret Carty. The book is an excellent piece of historical research and is recommended to all Broughton descendants and, indeed, all those interested in Australian history. Copies can be obtained from Mrs Carty, Dunroe, RSD 117, Hamilton, Vic. 3300 at the cost of \$30 plus postage.

ANNE DAVISON
(FFF William Broughton)

AROUND THE TREES



John Berisford FF — Hanna Berisford FF — Descendants requested to contact:

Mrs Jennifer Little, 18 Girraween Ave, Oatley - To join the Family Association. First family gathering Sunday November 22nd 1987 at Parramatta Park 10am. Further details 528-2320.

Matthew James Everingham FF - A pre 1988 lunch is being organized for the many descendants of **Matthew Everingham** and **Elizabeth Rhymes**. Further details 524-2797 B. O'Neill 85-4410 or Val Frost. Saturday November 14th, Masonic Centre, Castlereagh and Goulburn St., 11.30am. Smorgasbord \$20.00 each.

William Douglas FF Mary Groves FF - Family gathering Saturday March 26th 1988 at St Albans Park (near the Settlers Arms Inn) at 10am. A welcome is also given to the descendants of the Pioneer families of the Macdonald Valley where **William Douglas** spent the last years of his life and is buried.

Contact **Minnie Morris (Singleton) Ph 065-721331**.

IS YOUR NAME....

Allsop, Bellamy, Bowerman, Brooker, Burton, Catt, Cochrane, Cohen, Cotter, Dadd, Devaney, Edwards, Eyles, Franks, Gilbert, Groves, Harris, Hatfield, Hawker, Hockley, Jefferay, King, Knight, Lisson, McGowan, Madden, Martin, Mobbs, Moore, Naylor, Nichols, Pepper, Perry, Sands, Scott, Shepherd, Shields, Sonter, Staples, Todorovitch, Turner, Wilkinson, Williamson, Yeomans (and that's not all!) ?

If so, you could be a descendant of Richard Partridge and Mary Greenwood, First Fleeters, and I, your remote cousin, would appreciate your help in the compilation of a Register of their descendants.

Richard and Mary were tried at the Old Bailey for separate crimes for which they were capitally convicted. Both were respited and sentenced to transportation, which brought them to these shores in 1788. They married in 1810 when they already had two teenage children, also Richard and Mary. The elder Richard died in 1831 aged 72, and his wife, Mary, in 1837 aged 69, a few months short of the 50th anniversary of her arrival in the Colony.

Although there were the two children, only Mary seems to have had any issue and further descendants and they have been numerous, intermarrying with many of the other families and, as the names above suggest, collecting others along the way.

So far over 1300 people (including spouses) have been identified, but clearly there are many more waiting to be "found".

The information sought is date and place of births, deaths and marriages, parents, spouse and issue.

I would be very grateful to hear from anyone who can help with the Register. Naturally, general enquiries would also be very welcome.

ELAINE SHEEHAN

44 Florida Avenue
New Lambton N.S.W. 2305

A SUCCESSFUL QUEST

'Sarah's Story'

One of the delights of our recent trip to England was a visit to Belbroughton in Worcestershire, where, with the co-operation of the Belbroughton History Society we discovered the birthplace of our First Fleeter, Sarah Bellamy. This second visit was primarily to attend a Major Exhibition, displaying the history of this ancient village.

All facets of village life were recorded, very attractively, around the church hall, which incidentally was a centuries-old building. In the very centre, on a tall pyramidal structure, was the focal feature of the Exhibition, 'Sarah's Story'. This, together with the publicity given by local media, including The 'Birmingham Post' to the visit of two direct descendants of Sarah's, from Australia, to the Exhibition, created great interest - even Mr Francis Bellamy presented himself, hoping to establish a relationship.

We were entertained that evening at a dinner by the members of the local History Society, a small but enthusiastic group of 14. The following morning Sunday, 17th May, as the rain, at which we were almost oblivious, pelted down, we performed a most exciting and unique task of unveiling a plaque, erected on the stone wall of the village green, on which was the following inscription.

Sarah Bellamy, born Belbroughton 1770, was convicted of theft and transported to Australia on the 'Lady Penrhyn', as part of the First Fleet, 13th May 1787.

Belbroughton History Society erected this plaque to mark the visit of her descendants in this Bicentennial year, 13th May 1987.

After this very pleasant ceremony, we, with the members of the History Society, were invited by one of the residents, Mr Neville Noble, to "drinks", at his home, 4 Queens Hill. Imagine our surprise and delight, when we were informed that a part of his house had been the Bellamy home, where Sarah had lived 1770-1779. In the 18th century the building comprised three houses, known as the "Nog Houses" for poorer parishioners - 6 months rent 30 shillings. Our presence in the house where our great-great-great-grandmother had spent her early childhood was toasted with champagne.

We attended the service at Holy Trinity where we were warmly welcomed by the Rector, who stated it was appropriate that there was a christening that morning at the church where Sarah was baptised 3.2.1770.

From there we drove to the village of Fairfield within the Belbroughton Parish, to see the "Malt House" where Sarah was taken in 1779, as an apprentice servant to Joseph Spurrier, the overseer. Unfortunately the owners were absent. It is not known why Sarah left the Malt House, but in 1785 she was working for Benjamin Haden of Dudley.

This was indeed a memorable interlude and one of the highlights of our trip abroad.

Ula Clarke

**PHILIP DEVINE FF -
FAMILY GATHERING WARWICK QLD.
9TH AND 10TH JANUARY 1988 -
Contact Mrs Noel Shields 449-7349**

THE AUSTRALIA DAY EVE DINNER

Will be held on: **Mon 25th January 1988 -7pm**
At: **The Sheraton Wentworth Hotel**
(Elizabeth St. Sydney)

Celebrate our 200th Birthday - Toast in the day

TICKETS: \$50 single \$100 double
DRESS: Dinner Jacket or Lounge Suit

Book early - To Miss A Clarke, P.O. Box 328,
Lane Cove 2066.

Send Cheques to: Fellowship of First Fleeters
(With stamped addressed envelope)

PORTSMOUTH MAY 1987

It was with a great sense of pride and feeling of humility that I stood on the Dockside for the handing over of the Ports of Call plaques with the Tall Ships of the Re-enactment Fleet astern and a small crowd consisting of naval and re-enactment officers, participants, press and T.V. and 5 of us F.F.F.

In the evening we F.F.F. members were honoured to be the guests of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Miss Marie Seaman, at the Farewell Dinner, in the Lord Mayor's Banqueting Room, Guildhall, in honour of the re-enactment of the sailing of the First Fleet. A very elegant room and an excellent dinner.

The following afternoon, as my sister Ula and I crossed the Solent by hydrofoil, we were able to wave our farewell to the Tall Ships as they dipped and rolled their way to the Mother Bank in a strong swell, to prepare for the departure on the morrow. Our destination was the St Thomas Centre, Ryde, Isle of Wight, where we had an appointment with Derek Jameson of BBC2 Radio.

At last the day dawned, Wednesday 13th May - the day we had travelled to Britain for, to join in the celebrations for the 200th anniversary of the sailing of the First Fleet, and to attend the Opening by HM The Queen of the British Australian Heritage Society Centre at Ryde, Isle of Wight, at 3.30pm.

But first our attention was riveted to the "Breakfast Programme" on BBC2 Radio which began with a short history of the sailing of the First Fleet 13.5.1787 and preparations for the re-enactment. Interspersed with song and dialogue were interviews with the Chairman of Portsmouth - Australia Bicentennial Committee, with Jonathan King and members of the Re-enactment Committee, the crew and "passengers" of the Fleet. Then came the big moment when Derek Jameson interviewed 2 Australian ladies descended from two First Fleet convicts. We felt proud that James Bloodworth and Sarah Bellamy were part of the programme on that very important day.

The Official Programme for the day began at Guildhall Square when HM the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh were received by the Mayor of Portsmouth. After a Royal Salute by the R.N. Guard of Honour and the National Anthem, the Queen inspected the Guard of Honour and received the Keys of the City.

The ceremony continued with a Royal Marine fanfare; music by the Band of the Royal Marines; the release of balloons by children in the Square; the arrival of a Royal Mail Coach and Four; and A display by Aboriginal dancers from N.T. (The Northern Territory).

Then came Portsmouth's gift to the City of Sydney (a replica of the gig used by Captain Phillip to land at Sydney Cove) which was drawn by youth groups; and finally a display by the City of Sydney Bicentennial Concert Band.

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh then drove to Sally Port where Her Majesty opened the First Fleet Exhibition in The Square Tower. Presently the Queen emerged from within the Square Tower and walked past the Links memorial and our F.F.F. group to unveil a plaque on the wall to commemorate the sailing of the First Fleet on 13th May 1787.

After the unveiling, as the Queen went to greet the local children Louanna (daughter of Jonathan and Jane, F.F.F.) presented Her Majesty with a bouquet of Australian wild-flowers.

The climax came when the Queen went on board HMS Sirius and gave the signal at 2.30pm - a salute of 21 guns rang out from HMS Dolphin and the gallant ships of the First Fleet Re-enactment weighed anchor to begin their voyage along the route that our forebears traversed on their epic journey 200 years ago.

I wish to express sincere thanks from our F.F.F. members to the Portsmouth Bicentennial Committee for their hospitality to us; for the invitation to the Royal Enclosure at Sally Port, and for providing a bus to take us to the wharf to catch a ferry to the Isle of Wight for the opening of the Heritage Centre; and the invitations to the Farewell Dinner. Then came the Reception in the Round Tower on the evening of the 13th, with a fine view of the spectacular fireworks display on the Solent; a very happy ending to a most memorable day. Thank you, Portsmouth. Regretfully we were not able to accept the invitation on the ferry to watch the sailing of the Fleet due to our commitment on the Isle of Wight.

Alice Clarke



The following article, written by our former President, Beryl Lewis, was printed in a local Portsmouth daily newspaper and we thank Beryl for making the article available to the FFF Newsletter.

As we probe and search to find the truth of the beginnings of our country, it becomes exceedingly clear that our early history, on a personal level, is a matter of pure speculation.

We are faced with the situation that our beginnings are presented to us by those fortunate few who were educated and, for the most part, free. A rather unsatisfactory position when we consider that approximately 700 on the First Fleet were convicts and of these a very large proportion were illiterate.

For my part my ancestry is something of which I am very proud, for it can be traced back to one day in history which marked the birth of a nation. On January 26, 1788, the greatest experiment in colonizing the world has ever seen began when the 11 little sailing ships comprising the First Fleet entered Port Jackson and anchored near Sydney Cove.

On board among the unfortunate convicts were two people destined to be my great-great-grand parents. By today's standards John Small and Mary Parker were petty thieves. As neither could read or write, we know nothing of their experiences on the voyage. Their names do not appear in any records kept on board ship nor in journals written by diarists.

I can only assume they were of good behaviour during the long eight-month journey between England and Australia, or their names would have appeared. The only other personal matter recorded is that they were Protestants. As they arrived on separate ships, John Small on the Charlotte and Mary Parker on the Lady Penrhyn, they were probably unaware of each other's existence until journey's end.

They were married on October 12, 1788, and it proved to be one of the stable marriages entered into in the early days of settlement. John Small had but one fall from grace in the colony. He had been assigned to duty in the hospital soon after the arrival of the First Fleet, and in July of that year, together with a fellow convict, Thomas Chadwick, he came upon an unguarded flagon of red wine belonging to Surgeon John White. The pair were discovered gloriously drunk. They were charged but acquitted for want of sufficient evidence.

John Small's sentence expired in March 1792, and he received his first land grant of 30 acres on February 20, 1794, at Eastern Farms (later Kissing Point, now Ryde), seven miles up river from Sydney Cove. He received a second 30 acres in 1811.

After years of back-breaking work, these grants became some of the choicest orchard land in the district. His main responsibility came when he became the official constable at Kissing Point, a position from which he retired in 1825, on a police pension of Nine Pounds two shillings and six pence after 17 years' service.

The family they raised was Small in name only, for they had seven children — four sons and three daughters, the youngest of whom were twins, Sarah and Samuel. I am descended from Samuel.

He and his eldest son, Samuel spent their entire lives working the soil at Kissing Point. They

specialised in growing black Hamburg grapes, which grew in such abundance that the excess production was converted to a fine vinegar which was excellent for pickling. Samuel Small's other speciality was strawberries. Their abundance he attributed to his own particular mulch of brewery hops which produced the colony's most luscious strawberries.

John and Mary's other three sons also left their mark. John Jnr. became the local constable with his father; William became an Inspector of Police and Governor of Berrima Gaol; and Thomas became a publican and owned the "Waterloo Tavern" at Kissing Point.

Their three daughters all married — Rebecca to Francis Oakes, a "Duff" missionary; Mary to Mathew Hughes, a schoolmaster; Sarah to George Patfield. Collectively, these seven children presented John and Mary Small with 74 grandchildren (34 girls and 40 boys).

At the time of Australia's centenary in 1888, the "Sydney Morning Herald" reported that William Small, John and Mary's fourth child, was "the oldest living Australian born."

Known as a Currency Lad, he was then 92 years old. He reckoned his own descendants as ten children (eight sons and two daughters), 77 grandchildren, 139 great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

This nonagenarian attributed his longevity to the fact that he had never smoked, whereas his younger brother Samuel (seven years his junior) was a heavy smoker and was a mere 85 when he died! They were obviously a robust clan for, with one exception, each of John and Mary's children lived beyond 85 years.

John Small was almost 89 when he died on October 2, 1850, and of all the convicts who landed at Sydney Cove on January 26, 1788, he was the last known survivor and is buried in St Anne's Cemetery, Ryde. He was a widower for 26 years as Mary was accidentally drowned on April 4, 1824, and her exact burial place is unknown.

In 1971 a family gathering of the descendants of John Small and Mary (nee Parker) was held at Ryde. More than 400 direct descendants crammed St Anne's Church for a thanksgiving service and later in the adjacent parish hall started to sort out their prolific and intricate family background. It certainly was a large Small family gathering!

During the years that have followed, more than 16,000 people, more than eight generations, have been verified as descendants. They have figured largely in community affairs — Members of Parliament, Knights of the Realm, the Judiciary, Schoolmasters, the Armed Services, the Church and local government.

In my own family, my father, Eric Mobbs, entered local government and eventually became Mayor of the City of Parramatta, the second city of New South Wales. He was made M.B.E. for service to the community in 1968. The Smalls really are very proud to be Smalls. Somewhere "up there" John and Mary must be well pleased with their offspring.

John and Mary Small, with the majority of First Fleeters, were stout-hearted people who plucked a living from virgin soil, produced a large family, and lived a good and respectable life despite their adverse beginnings.

Reluctant pioneers? Surely. Convict First Fleeters? Yes. But my great-great-great-grandparents — how proud I am!

BERYL LEWIS: Fifth generation Australian-born descendant of First Fleet prisoners John Small and Mary Parker. Past President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Member of the Society of Australian Genealogists. Member of the Australia-Britain Society. Member of the Library Society of New South Wales. Justice of the Peace.

FIRST FLEETER NEWSLETTER

"WHO WAS FIRST ASHORE?"

With the Bicentenary fast approaching, it seems like the perfect time to once again bring up that favourite old contentious issue "Who was first ashore?". Not that I think an accurate conclusion will ever be made, as I am sure it can't be, because primary sources seem to have failed to make an accurate record of the event.

It appears that the longboat which brought Captain Phillip to the shores of Sydney Cove held quite a number of persons of various stations.

The family of Henry Kable follow strongly the legend of his being first ashore, he having carried Arthur Phillip upon his large shoulders so that the Captain of the fleet would not get his feet wet. This legend continues in widespread branches of the family all over the eastern coast of Australia to this day.

The first written reference I can find appears to be when Henry's daughter Susannah Mileham died in 1885. Her obituary proclaims that "her father was first ashore at Sydney Cove". Papers of the day did not appear to contradict this statement, which seems to give it strength. However, no further evidence seems to be available on this issue.

Secondly, the descendants of Owen Cavanaugh seem to feel they can lay claim to a definite story on Owen's being first to set foot ashore. Is this also equally an assumption and a legend? (Newspaper article misquote 1930's??).

Just to make the whole issue even more colourful, other claims have appeared. One was that "James Ruse carried Lt. Johnson, while Henry Kable carried Arthur Phillip". (J.N. Ford's cuttings, Mitchell Library).

Then there are one or two other fellows about whose activities in this regard, little is known.

The first is Robert Watson. He is the chap after whom Watson's Bay was named. The reason we haven't heard about him was because he left no known issue, therefore there could be no descendants to "raise the wind".

Here is his claim, and it appears to at least have some documentation in punary-source material, though the writer admits to doubt.

Papers
Gill — Bigge
May 30th, 1822

Reference
61080 — (P6658)

Cardiff, 30th May, 1822

Sir,

I believe Watson came to the colony of New South Wales free, and I think I have heard it said he was the first sailor that leapt out of the boat which landed Governor Phillip, which circumstances together with his having been so many years in the service of the Crown, were the principal motives for granting his pardon I apprehend.

I have the honor to remain, etc
(signed)
Jno. M. Gill.
To: J.T. Bigge Esq.

Note: Robert Watson had earlier been convicted of pilfering from the Government Stores of which he had been in charge.

This seems like a rather strong case for Robert Watson. (sailmaker, "Sirius").

I was just settling in to decide that this may be the final possibility when I was sent yet another clipping, from a book called "The Gentleman's Magazine", January 1837. In a section, "Obituary", it states thus:

"Durham — At South Shields, aged 71, Mr John Winter, supposed to be the last survivor of those who sailed with Governor Phillip to Botany Bay, in 1787. He was second officer in the boat the crew of which discovered Port Jackson and was the first European who landed at Sydney Cove."

Note: John Winter was not the last survivor of the First Fleet landing. For a start Henry Kable lived till 1846.

John Winter - second officer on the "Supply". (There were in fact two John Winters in the First Fleet.)

On goes the list of possibles. However, in conclusion, it does seem as though most, if not all, of these people were in the longboat carrying Captain Phillip ashore. It will be interesting to see what further information other Fleeters can produce!! Can you add to any of this?

**Zillah Campbell,
Convener,
Kable Descendants.**



TWO SONGS ARE BORN? OR MUSIC MAKERS

The Fellowship has had in its possession, lying in its "too hard" basket, two songs (lyrics and music).

One is "The First Fleeters", by Molly MacMahon, of Ungarie, New South Wales, originally forwarded by the composer in 1980 through member Joan Stear for use in the 1988 celebrations.


The second song dates even further back, to 1970! It is "The Freedom of the Seas", by Eileen Smith, of Malanda, Queensland, submitted for a National Anthem Quest.

Has any member of the Fellowship any ideas on how these two songs can be tested to see if publication is possible?

Note: The second song actually seems to have three titles: "O'er Australian Seas", "Freedom of the Seas" and "The Freedom of the Seas".

STOP PRESS!!

THE FELLOWSHIP HAS BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OFFICIAL BICENTENNIAL PARADE TO BE HELD IN THE CITY ON JAN. 9TH NEXT. THE THEME WILL BE "NEW SOUTH WALES 1788-1988." THIS EVENT WILL TIE IN WITH CELEBRATIONS TO MARK COMPLETION OF "THE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMMES" OF CIRCULAR QUAY AND MACQUARIE ST. PLEASE KEEP THIS DATE FREE - DETAILS IN NEXT NEWSLETTER.



THE FELLOWSHIP IS ALSO ISSUING A LIMITED NUMBER OF BICENTENNIAL MEDALLIONS. ORDER FORM IN THIS ISSUE.

