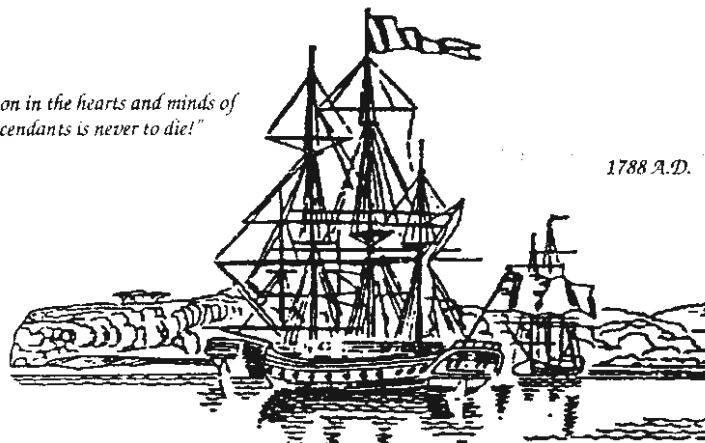


# Fellowship of First Fleeters

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

1788 A.D.



## NEWSLETTER

JOURNAL OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS INC. NSW 1988 ACN 003 223 425

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**PATRON:** His Excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC AO, Governor of New South Wales

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

**MAY/JUNE 1993 VOLUME 24 NO. 3**

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**O**ur Silver Jubilee Cocktail Party held at Parliament House on 31 March last was celebrated by some 70 members and friends. Our appreciation to our host the Hon. Stephen Mutch, M.L.C. (F.F. Edward Whitton), not only for allowing us use of the Reception Room but also for the mini-tour of the House later in the evening. We were given an official welcome in the Council Chamber, during the sitting, by the President, the Hon. Max Willis, M.L.C. Thanks are due to Alice Clarke for organising the evening.

On 4 April, Joy and I with a number of members thoroughly enjoyed the Balmain Walk. It was led by Bob Irving, member of the Royal Australian Historical Society and a long-time resident of Balmain. Our congratulations to Bob and our activities convener, Beverley Naughton, for their efforts in bringing to life this gem, which is an integral part of Sydney's history.

As your representative I attended my first meeting of the Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee. During the proceedings a presentation was made to Rod Best, in appreciation by members, as retiring chairman of that body.

Congratulations are also in order to Rod on his election as a councillor of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

Plans are in the pipeline for a plaque ceremony at the grave of Philip Gidley King in the United Kingdom. A number of members would know that his actual headstone was brought out from St. Nicholas', Tooting, and placed next to

the graves of his wife and son in the churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene, St. Marys, N.S.W., in 1988. We believe there is a replacement on the original gravesite and it is my hope that whilst on a visit to London for a week in October this year, I will have the opportunity of placing our plaque on the site of this last resting place of our third Governor.

Unfortunately one of our members and keen Thursday office helper, Olive O'Reilly, suffered a nasty accident at Parliament House on the night of our Silver Jubilee function. The result was a fractured hip and Olive is still in hospital at the time of writing. I know you will all join me in wishing her a speedy recovery.

We were saddened to hear of the death of Jim Maclean in May. Jim, a very proud descendant of Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes, was a keen office helper at First Fleet House and member of the Executive for some years. He was granted life membership at our Australia Day function this year. To his wife Nada, his children, Ian and Glenys, we offer our deepest sympathy.

My speech on the occasion of our twenty-fifth year since inauguration is elsewhere in this Newsletter, and in closing this report I would like to reiterate that whatever the future holds for we Australians as a nation, the circumstances which bind us together as First Fleeters far, far outweigh those that appear to divide us.

In Fellowship,  
**Peter Christian**

### DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

### TOUR TO MANNING VALLEY

**August 30 to  
September 3**

### DAILY COACH TOURS

Visit North Brother Mountain, Port Macquarie, Harrington, Ellenborough Falls, Comboyne, a Macadamia Farm, etc., plus a cruise on the Manning River.

Price includes:

All breakfasts, dinners, morning teas, three lunches, all coach tours and cruise, staying at Telstar Motel, Taree.

Cost \$300.00 per person  
(twin share)

Plus Country Link train and coach to Taree - \$38 concession rate

Interested members please apply to the Fellowship Office, now, for an itinerary as numbers are limited.

# CANBERRA CHAPTER

Once again the Canberra Chapter has held some very successful activities, namely the Annual Dinner with guest speaker Laurel Heath speaking on the Female Factory and the Annual General Meeting with guest speaker Mr Victor Crittenden.

In November we held a very successful White Elephant stall at the Weston Creek Festival. We finished up 1992 with our Christmas Party and started 1993 with our Australia Day Picnic. We also had members represent us at the flag raising ceremony and signing the visitors' book at the Governor-General's residence, Yarralumla.

The only problem we seem to be having, is that even though there is a large number of members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters in and around the ACT and southern New South Wales, we never hear from most of them. This is an appeal to those members to make contact with us and to assist with our activities, as well as to supply some ideas for other things to do during the year.

Contact can be made with members of the committee on the phone numbers following:

President, Mr Geoff Cameron,  
(06) 2514095;

Secretary, Mrs Helen Palmer,  
(06) 2883640;  
Mrs Marion Batchelor, (06) 2882558;  
Mr Laurie Copping, (06) 2861402.

The following is the proposed program for 1993.

## March

Petticoat Lane - Griffith Centre

## April

Heritage Week

## May 15

Visit the Palmerville site, 2.00pm

## June

Research Night

## July

War Memorial - Research Facilities

## August

Research Night

## September

Annual Dinner - venue still to be decided

## October

Annual General Meeting

## November

Weston Creek Festival

## December

Christmas Party

## January

Australia Day Picnic

## DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

Once again our group was blessed with a glorious day for our visit to Old Sydney Town on 5 May. There was a lot to see and do.

The excellent outdoor and indoor comedy skits throughout the day proved to be a highlight. With a few of our regular trippers unable to be with us because of various health reasons, we were happy to number 16, and to welcome some of our newer members. It's great to see them supporting our functions.

Our next meeting is, of course, our yearly soup and damper day, now extended even further, so that a good lunch can be obtained for your donation. Mrs Joan Hall is to be our guest speaker, and her subject will be "Nutcote," the Sydney home of the late children's authoress, May Gibb. So come along and enjoy the day with us.

Looking a few months ahead, we have secured a booking for our Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, 8 December, and we ask members to put that date aside for our big day. Relatives and friends are welcome also.

For now though, remember our meeting.

**WHERE?** First Fleet House

**WHEN?** Thursday, 1 July, at 11.30am

**BERNICE SMART**

## BIRTHS

A warm welcome to the following New First Fleeters:

**SAM LOCKART** 9 October 1992, F.F. Owen Cavanaugh/Margaret Darnell. A son for Ken and Helen and first grandchild for Alec (#6143) and Carmen Lockart.

**ERIN MAY MAGUIRE** 7 April 1993, F.F. James Sheers/Mary Smith. First child for Steven and Jo-anne and a second granddaughter for Ron (#5749) and Zona Maguire.

## OBITUARIES

Deepest sympathy is offered to the family of the following:

**ERIC JAMES (Jim) MACLEAN** (#2571) F.F. Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes. Jim was an enthusiastic worker and supporter of the Fellowship, actively engaged with the Executive Committee. Our sympathy to Nada and family.

## REMINDER

**SUNDAY EXCURSION,  
13 JUNE**

**TOBRUK SHEEP STATION  
TOUR**

Coach departures:

Shop 2, Overseas Terminal,  
Circular Quay West, 9.00am

Chatswood Railway Station,  
West Side, 9.30am

North Ryde, outside Ramada Hotel,  
Epping Road, 10.00am

An enjoyable day assured on a  
working sheep station.

\$28.00 adults. \$15.00 children up  
to 16 years. Including coach, lunch  
and entrance fees.

Please send all cheques or money  
orders to Fellowship of First  
Fleeters, 105 Cathedral Street,  
Woolloomooloo 2011, by 4 June.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

**SUNDAY, 8 AUGUST**

**INSPECTION OF JUSTICE  
AND POLICE MUSEUM**

8 Phillip Street, Sydney (near  
Circular Quay)

Meet outside Museum at 1.45pm.

Built in 1853-6. The complex set of  
buildings that form the Justice and  
Police Museum has had a colourful  
architectural and social history; a  
continuous association with the law  
and with the turbulent world of  
Quayside Sydney.

\$5.00 Adults.

\$3.00 Concession and children.

Ring F.F.F. Office for Bookings.  
360 3788 or 360 3988.

**SUNDAY, 10 OCTOBER**

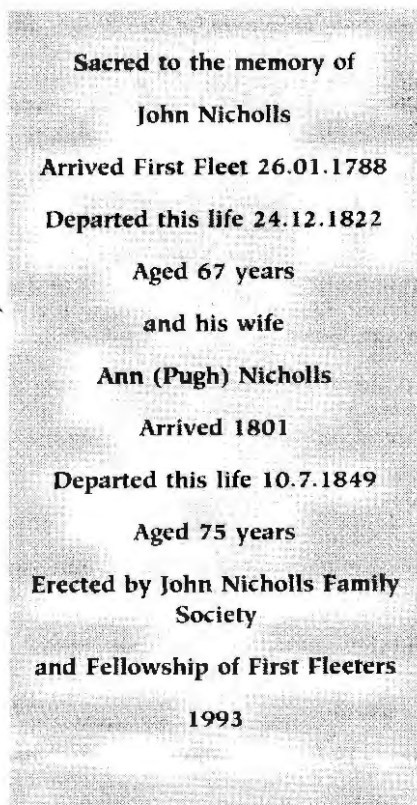
**TOUR OF BARE ISLAND, LA  
PEROUSE, ABORIGINAL  
AND FRENCH MUSEUMS**

Full-day excursion, details next  
issue. Ring Naida Jackson or  
Joy Pankhurst at the F.F.F. Office.

## FIRST FLEETER JOHN NICHOLLS

The John Nicholls Family Society has received permission to install a memorial to First Fleeter John Nicholls and his wife, Ann Pugh, at the Botany Memorial Park, Botany.

The memorial plaque will read as follows:



The dedication service is scheduled for Sunday, 22 August 1993, commencing at 2.00pm and the Family Society would be happy to welcome as many of the Fellowship who can possibly make it. Any descendant or interested party who would like to make a donation to this project please ring Barbara Coleman on (02) 4492494, she would love to hear from you.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters has donated \$250.00 towards this project from its Government grant to assist in graves restoration and takes this opportunity to congratulate Barbara Coleman and her committee on their achievement.

Any other family society or association who would like to consider the erection of a memorial to its First Fleeter ancestor in the ground where the ancestor is buried and would like to be considered for a contribution from the Fellowship's grant, please give a call to Doug Oakes on (02) 4282806.

## PHANTOM GARDENER

### Elizabeth Rope's Grave, Castlereagh Cemetery.

Recently, Naida Jackson, Mary Hope-Caten and I attended a meeting at Emu Plains called by the Friends of Castlereagh Cemetery. During the meeting Stonemason Gordon Brown showed us a photo of the restored tombstone of Elizabeth Rope at Castlereagh Cemetery.

As Mary Hope-Caten is a descendant of Elizabeth Rope, after the meeting we visited the cemetery. We found the burial site and discovered that not only had Elizabeth Rope's tombstone been restored but the gravesite had been cleared and vases of flowers placed next to the tombstones of Elizabeth Rope and two other members of the Rope - Pulley family, next to each other. We have since discovered that a visitor from Victoria, Mr John Ward of Fawkner, has to be congratulated for transforming the surrounds into a pleasing background to the tombstone. John is a fifth generation descendant of Elizabeth Pulley and Anthony Rope.



The Friends of Castlereagh Cemetery, with help from Penrith City Council and the Nepean District Historical Society, are endeavouring to find ways of restoring the headstones and the cemetery in general.

Our records show that at least six First Fleeters are buried at Castlereagh Cemetery. They are:

Elizabeth Pulley - died 9 August 1837

Anthony Rope - died 20 April 1843

Thomas Stretch - died 3 April 1819

Charlotte Springmore - died 24 June 1822

Maria Nash - died 13 November 1844

Samuel Wheeler - died 13 June 1837

Any person who may be able to help the committee please contact Barry or June Bullivant on (02) 6376282 or (02) 6310216. They would like to hear from you.

**DOUG OAKES,**  
Plaques Convener

## WYALONG CENTENARY 1994

Mr John Jamieson Eggleston (F.F.F. #4245) of 487 Mowbray Road, Lane Cove, NSW 2066, is seeking members of the Fellowship and/or residents of the Lachlan district who are connected with or have knowledge of the following families and properties:

Atkins and Jamison, the Pinnacle, 1852

W. Weiss, Nobbys Lagoon, 1857

W. Jamison, Bland, 1858

Atkins and Jamison, West Bland Plains, 1860

W. Atkins, Back Creek, 1860

W. Jamieson, Youngee Plains, 1861

W. Atkins, Youngara Creek, 1863

T. and J. Atkins, Cowal, 1864

James Marsden, Billabong, 1865

Mary Annette Jamieson (nee Dower), Nobbys Lagoon, 1865

Mary Annette Jamieson, Back Creek, 1873

T. and J. Atkins, Cowal North, 1873

W. C. Wentworth descendants' properties

John Griffith, marine, descendants' properties

Please contact the member above for the exchange of family heritage gossip.



# SILVER JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

**A** highly successful evening to celebrate the twenty-fifth year of fruitful activity by the Fellowship of First Fleeters was held at Parliament House on Wednesday, 31 March.

The following is the address given by our President at the dinner to celebrate the Silver Jubilee.

May I take this opportunity on your behalf to thank our host, the Honourable Stephen Mutch, M.L.C., descendant of Edward Whitton, First Fleeter, for allowing us the use of Parliament House Reception Room this evening. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be here, with my fellow members, in the precincts of the mother of Australian Parliaments, where a number of descendants of First Fleeters have served their fellow citizens on all sides of politics.

On the 29th March 1968, amid much favourable media attention, a meeting was convened at the AMP Theatre, Circular Quay, to assess interest in forming a body of those descendants of First Fleeters, to be called the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Subsequently a committee was formed at a meeting at 21 Phillip Street on the 24th April 1969. John Lavett, F.F. James Squires, was elected Inaugural President.

We are delighted to have with us this evening Mrs Joan Ross, F.F. John Hatton, membership No.13, who was present at that meeting and elected to the Foundation Committee.

Joan is certainly an honoured guest tonight – she has laboured in the interests of our Fellowship for all of those 25 years. In 1978 she was awarded a well-deserved honorary life membership.

We also have with us Doug Oakes, F.F. John Small, one of our Vice-Presidents. Doug joined the Founding Committee in September 1969 and has been involved over the years as Plaques Committee Convener.

Other distinguished members sharing this celebration with us include former Vice-President Roy Kable, Amy Peacock, Nell Sansom, Joy Wallman, a

former Treasurer, Ula Clarke, Mary Bailey and Dot Williams.

Reading between the lines of minutes in our archives, one comes to an obvious conclusion that the first three years of the Fellowship's life were indeed, to say the least, extremely stormy!

Regardless of obvious early problems, membership rose steadily to 1,000 by 1975. Today we have processed just over 6,200 members and we all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to those who have led this Fellowship since its inauguration.

These include: John Lavett, 1st President; Frank Everingham, 2nd President; Fred Daniell, 3rd President; Edgar Kable, 4th President; Beryl Lewis, 5th President; Rod Best, 6th President, and our immediate past 8th President James Donohoe.

It was during Beryl's record term of office as President that our plaque cere-

But what of the future? We still face those who would denigrate the role that our first white settlers played in the formation of the early days of our nation.

During my first term of President, especially in our bicentennial year, the Fellowship naturally was, to a degree, in the centre of media attention. Various questions were asked –

1) Could I, as President, produce a present-day convict actually descended from a First Fleet convict?

2) What did the Fellowship of First Fleeters think of aboriginal land rights? On this occasion I felt I was really "set-up." The venue was a breakfast session, relayed by a British TV station to the United Kingdom. I found that I was seated between two aboriginal activists!

3) The winds of change were blowing in 1988 and I was asked on two or three occasions what did my organisation think of the future of the monarchy in Australia – no comment.

My plea to you, as descendants of our first settlers, is that you all keep before you the premise "that as descendants of First Fleeters the circumstances which unite us as Australians far, far, outweigh those which divide us."

Our First Fleet forebears planted a seed within us all. As Dr Craig Smee has stated "that seed of the native born soon acquired a distinct character – a character with characteristics such as self-reliance,

initiative and a sense of fair play."

Our message is, that our forebears, both bonded and free, were the first in this nation to be hewers of wood, drawers of water and were the first to place stone upon stone.

We inherit a thin red line of kinship which binds us all together. This thin red line transcends race, colour, creed and politics. Yes, in the future, we, all of us, must do our utmost, come what may, do our utmost to avoid the fracturing of our Fellowship's unity.

May we all look forward to the future years ahead.

**ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR**

**‘ We inherit a thin red line of kinship which binds us all together. This thin red line transcends race, colour, creed and politics. Yes, in the future, we, all of us, must do our utmost, come what may, do our utmost to avoid the fracturing of our Fellowship's unity. ’**

monies were devised and commenced. In 18 years we have identified and suitably commemorated the final resting place of 71 First Fleeters.

I have spoken at some length of the past – the present speaks for itself – what President could be blessed with a better team? We have an Executive consisting of keen, hard workers with expertise in various fields – we also have a team of office and computer helpers who give much time and effort at First Fleet House during weekdays – some even give time on weekends.

During the past three years, despite the recession, we have continued to reduce considerably our debt on First Fleet House.

*In responding to the President's speech, Mrs Joan Ross [Number 13 on the membership list] said:*

Thank you Mr President for your kind and complimentary remarks, and I would like to thank Peter and the Fellowship for the great honour given to me tonight. It was an unexpected gesture, and I am highly honoured.

Over the years I have been associated with various organisations and committees – most recently with one of the committees formed to organise the Ryde Bicentenary and with the committee which organised the Bellona Muster – but I can honestly say that no organisation that I have been connected with has given me as much pleasure and satisfaction as has the Fellowship.

In the Fellowship I have made many friends and have met many remarkable and interesting people, and I have been proud to be with the Fellowship from its inception.

Mr John Lavett, our first President, was a man of vision and courage, and succeeded in making the Fellowship a viable organisation recognised by all at a time when so many sceptics were sure we would never succeed. All our Presidents, committee members and all other workers have made a tremendous effort, and have made the Fellowship the strong, cohesive body it is today.

Tonight we are celebrating 25 years, and I think that speaks for itself. I am confident that the Fellowship will continue to gather strength in the years ahead.

On a personal note, over the years I have been an inaugural member appointed to the first committee, I have been the secretary, the editor of the Newsletter and an office worker, and now work on the dispatch of the Newsletter.

While the Fellowship has honoured me for my contribution, I feel that the Fellowship has given me more than I have given it.

Accordingly, Ladies and Gentlemen, I ask you to charge your glasses, rise and drink a toast to the Fellowship.

To the Fellowship!!

## ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

When there is so much discussion currently on republican and monarchical topics, as well as an apparent inability to quote the words of our National Anthem, it seems appropriate to reprint Advance Australia Fair!

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are young and free,  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

Beneath our radiant Southern Cross  
We'll toil with hearts and hands;  
To make this Commonwealth of ours  
Renowned of all the lands;  
For those who've come across the seas  
We've boundless plains to share;  
With courage let us all combine  
To Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are young and free,  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

# OBITUARY [1899] "TOBY" RYAN

## AGED 82 YEARS

Full of years and honour, if lacking in this world's goods, has passed away an old Sydney identity, a sterling Australian native - untravelled - James Tobin Ryan, at the good round age of 82 years.

"Toby," the name he was universally known by, was born at South Creek, near Penrith, the precise spot known as "Bird's Eye Corner," on January 4th, 1818, Lachlan Macquarie being Governor. Born in humble life, Mr Ryan achieved success as the architect of his own fortunes, and at one time was very wealthy. In the good old colonial days, when a squatter was a squatter, and not the worried representative of some rack-renting financial institution, Mr Ryan was owner of many broad acres and lord of large herds.

In the roaring golden fifties, when cattle were bringing fabulous prices, Mr Ryan

held on the Macquarie River, among other properties, the stations known as Mumblebone, Buttabone, and Maryinbone, three "bones" of which "Toby" had some fine pickings. In those roaring fifties Mr Ryan built a grand mansion on the Nepean River, at the Emu Crossing which was named Emu Hall, where he dispensed hospitality such as only squatters and sporting men of the good old breed knew how to dispense.

The writer had the pleasure of being a guest at Emu Hall in the good old days, and can vouch for its good cheer. As a sporting man, Mr Ryan was well-known as a straight-goer, his colours being in evidence at the principal country meetings, his sideboard at Emu Hall holding many trophies of the turf. For many years Mr Ryan represented The Nepean in Parliament. When, through

drougths and reduced prices in cattle, evil times came upon Mr Ryan, and Emu all was abandoned, "Toby" became landlord of the Crown Hotel, George-street, Brickfield-hill; but a man of such hospitable nature was not likely to make a second fortune as a publican.

A few years ago Mr Ryan essayed authorship, and published a book of reminiscences. As the production, unaided, of a man of slender education, the book is a wonder. In its publication the author was not assisted even by the necessary proofreader. The book is interesting as being the production of an old colonist with a well-stored memory. The remains of Mr Ryan were interred in the family vault in the little cemetery at Emu Plains on Thursday. Mr Ryan has left a widow and children, and numerous grandchildren.

## SARAH MORE THAN A MATCH

Sarah Cox was the daughter of Francis Cox, a black and white smith, and was the sister of Maria Cox who married George Bloodworth, son of James Bloodworth and Sarah Bellamy.

Sarah was the first Australian woman to sue for breach of promise. She was an attractive girl who earned her living in the millinery establishment of Mrs Foster in Castlereagh Street.

The respondent was a Captain Payne who plied a ship between Sydney and Hobart. He was a friend of Mrs Foster and when visiting her Payne's amorous eye lighted on Sarah and so he courted her with a view to matrimony.

Sarah's one fault was she had no money. He made many promises to Sarah, but the only one he kept was to leave the sea. He then set up as a small brewer and soap maker and courted Sarah between 1821-1825.

Payne considered his prospects would



be better served when he met and married the widow of a wealthy brewer, Mrs Laverton. Sarah accepted that, and even the fact that Payne and his wife taunted her. However, when he cast aspersions on Sarah's good morals, it was too much, and finally she decided to take action.

She engaged a bright young lawyer, W. C. Wentworth, to plead her case in an

action for a breach of promise. Payne chose another bright lawyer, Wardell. Payne persuaded a man by the name of Armstrong to steal love letters from Sarah and then made statements that she had always intended to marry a Mr Suttor. Under cross-examination, Armstrong broke down and revealed the truth.

Payne tried to prove he was wealthy, but Wentworth proved that he was penniless and mortgaged to the hilt, and had reached desperation point. Payne was found guilty of the grossest breach of promise. The verdict, damages 100 pounds.

Sarah was full of admiration for the young lawyer and a friendship developed. Four years later, in 1829, the couple were married. Wentworth took his bride to Vacluse House and the happy couple had two sons and six daughters. Sarah became one of the leading ladies in Sydney society.

- Alice Clarke

# WHY DESTROY OUR CENSUS RECORDS?

By Colin Healey, editor *The Cedar Log*

Australia conducts a population census every five years. The next is due in 1996. Planning is already underway.

Such a census is a very expensive affair. When it is concluded, the Statistician extracts the information his clients (both Government and private enterprise) have indicated that they will need, and publishes that information in a manner which prevents identification of the data with individuals or particular corporations. HE THEN DESTROYS ALL INDIVIDUAL RETURNS. He is required to do this by statute – a statute created by his political masters, OUR political representatives – upon his advice.

In the destruction of census returns we, or more particularly our descendants, are deprived of a valuable research resource. You will all have experienced the value of the U.K. census records in identifying past generations of your family and in obtaining an insight into their living circumstances. Medical sleuths are able to use those same census records to trace the path of genetically transmitted conditions. Social historians find them irreplaceable in researching the changes, mores and expectations over time. Of course the U.K. census records cannot normally be accessed until a century after they are collected. This is an annoyance to those who would like to use them, but one we have learnt to accept in the interests of personal privacy.

Why then, after spending so much of our money on collecting information, does the Statistician recommend the destruction of the returns and the loss of all that unextracted information? He argues that he can only collect the information in the first place by assuring people that identifying information will not be used and will not be kept. In a defence of the present policy, in a contribution to the Sydney Morning Herald of 4 May 1992 (replying to an editorial of 27 April; see also the

editorial of 17 April 1993 in the same newspaper) the Statistician concludes: "We remain firm in the view that an absolute guarantee of confidentiality, and action to ensure that information provided in confidence cannot be

are your taxation returns (again, limited access to certain Commissions of Inquiry only). In general these records contain more sensitive information than does a census return, yet we trust our Government to keep them confidential.

Surely census return information could be kept equally confidential, and be seen by the public to be so, without the need for its destruction.

It is not as if we would have to break new ground here. The United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Sweden, and New Zealand are examples of Western democracies which retain their census records under conditions of confidentiality for periods of from 70 to 100 years. There is no suggestion that these countries have any problems with gathering accurate census information as a result. Why does the Statistician think that we would not accept a similar arrangement in Australia? It cannot be from experience since it has never been tested here, nor offered publicly as an alternative to the present system.

Of course the populace will opt for destruction if it is offered as the only way to avoid invasion of privacy. If it was generally realised that so much of our money was being wasted, and so much relating to our history and heritage was being lost, by

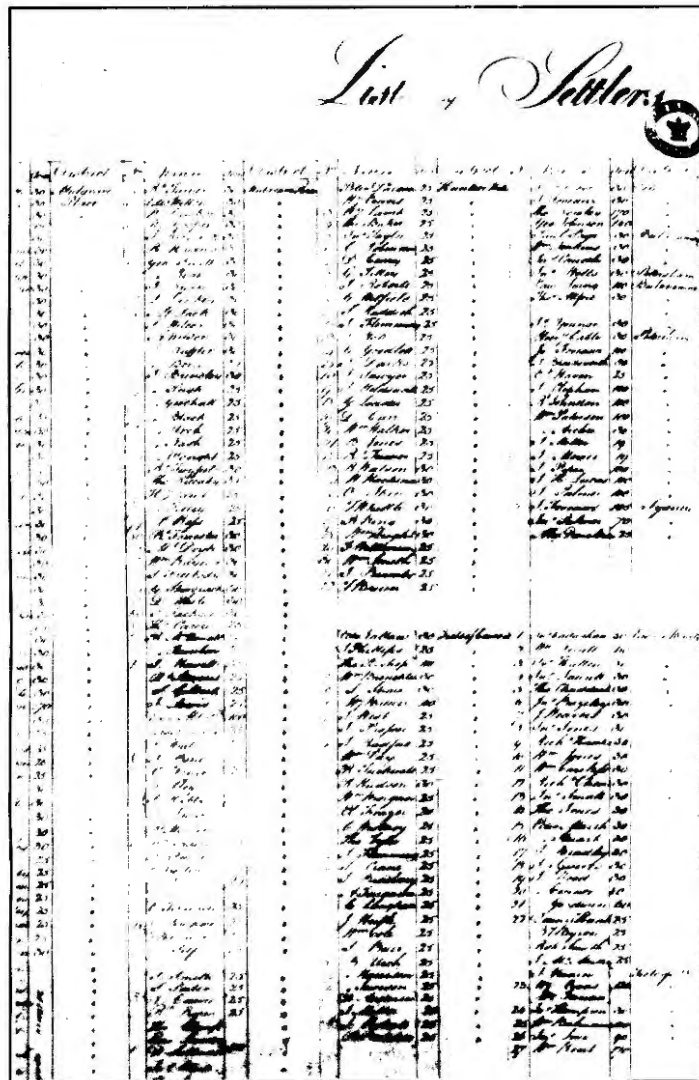
misused in the future, is fundamental to the conduct of an effective census." Most people would agree with that sentiment, and indeed almost the whole of the Statistician's defence is based on the support of confidentiality evidenced by political decisions over an extended period. What can, and must, be argued is that destruction of the records is not the only way to ensure acceptable levels of confidentiality.

There are many other records retained by arms of Government under strictures of confidentiality, either absolute or for a stated time, in which the public has confidence. When was the last leak of embargoed Cabinet papers? Then there

the unnecessary destruction of census returns, I believe the Australian public would willingly support a policy of preserving these vital records for posterity given suitable Government guarantees as to the maintenance of privacy, as are given with other sensitive records.

Please take the time to point out this dreadful and unnecessary waste to your parliamentary representative, and ask others to do the same. Let us have letters to the newspapers, letters to the Statistician, letters to the politicians.

Let us MAKE our Government do what WE want!



# REMINISCENCES OF ERNEST HUXLEY, HORSEMAN

**T**his is the final chapter in the racing life of one Ernest Huxley, a foremost exponent of the art of equine control for the delight of the racing fraternity around the turn of the century.

Horse racing was, and is, a large part of the social structure of Australia and it is hoped that the series has been of interest to the members.

Ernest Huxley was the great-grandson of First Fleeter Ann Forbes and Thomas Huxley.

Ernest continues:

## SLUGGISH HORSES

There are horses which must be ridden in the old full-length style. They are usually the sluggish, strong pullers, of loafing type, and must be ridden hard from the jump out. That being so the longer the leg the better. Pinprick spurs are necessary.

Such a type of horse was Donation, a "slug" on whom I won the V.R.C. Handicap, beating the Australian Cup winner Portsea by a head. I had to ride him all the way, 14 furlongs at my top.

Hereunder I give my impressions of a jockey's education. A most important essential is a firm seat, combined with a perfect balance, as it is by this means, in unison with the legs, that a rider should be able to feel everything that is going on underneath him, thus enabling the rider to harmonise his own movements with those of the horse. The possession of "balance" can only be attained through constant practice in the saddle, aided by riding without stirrups. The value of good hands is difficult to over-estimate. Firstly, they direct and co-ordinate the movements of the combined mass of man and horse. Secondly, by means of the reins they regulate and dispose of the power created by the legs: Thirdly, they control the horse's forehead, head, neck and shoulders and lastly they are capable of resisting or yielding at will.

## POINTS FOR RIDERS

A very light and delicate use of the reins should be observed, combined with a strong, though intermittent pressure of the legs. Spurs are merely used as an emergency help to the legs, and should not be used until the leg has failed to achieve its object. The whip may be brought into action if the horse does not obey the leg, and if used two or three strokes, applied behind the saddle,

would be sufficient. In my day, I can picture in my mind's eye many a horse returning to scales, after contesting every inch of hard fought race, with his sides spurred so deeply and aggravated by the strokes of the whalebone whip, that the blood flowed freely. Such torture to these animals would not be tolerated for one minute at the present time.

It will thus be noted that the three principal studies to be cultivated by a successful jockey are: (1) good hands (2) perfect balance (3) use of the leg. Added to which, patience, judgment of pace, and the science of making a winning run at the right moment would constitute an "ideal horseman". It was not Tod Sloan's seat on his mount that made him so successful. It was his great judgment of pace that was primarily responsible for his success.

## A JOCKEY'S LIFE

Now to continue my reminiscences. Many patrons of the turf have wrong impressions that a jockey's life is one of pleasure, principally spent in riding many winners and drawing substantial sums in consequence. Up to a point that is correct, but my life when a jockey was a combination of hard work and solid study, together with long walks to get weight off, or spend some hours wasting in the Turkish baths. My worst tax was when I took off 21 lbs in four days to ride Coil in the V.A.T.C. Oakleigh Plate, after which I fainted six times, and again in the train. On reaching Caulfield, I met Mr W. Bailey (owner of Coil) who commented upon my colour. I told him what I had done, and which I would do again as I thought Coil was well-nigh unbeatable.

He then invited me to have a piece of chicken in the refreshment room, and to tell Mr Skinner what I had told him. Mr Bailey also informed me that Mr James Wilson, the owner of Newhaven, considered his horse a good thing. Another owner James Redfean, considered his mare Maluma as a "moral certainty". To these remarks I replied, "Well, Mr Bailey, don't think I fainted six times for nothing. Wherever they are I will be in front of them at the winning post". I duly won by half a head from Maluma, with Newhaven third.

On returning to scale I informed Tom Payten, when dismounting in the enclosure, that Maluma would win the V.R.C. Newmarket Handicap, which she did, and also the Bourke Handicap. I also voiced the opinion that Newhaven (third) would win the Victoria Derby

and Melbourne Cup, which was also a correct forecast.

## WELL-REMEMBERED VICTORY

One victory well engraved in my memory is where I had to survive a protest, the only case in my whole career. That was at Warwick Farm, where I rode Samuel Fielder's horse Famous, beating Lord Cardigan who afterwards won the Melbourne and Sydney Cups. My mount was thoroughly wound up, and, being a free goer, I allowed him to stride along. Four furlongs from home I had, roughly, a lead of about three lengths. Lord Cardigan, coming fast, a few yards from the judge's box, I was almost caught by him, and both horses being tired, he rolled over on me. I got the worst of the bump, but I was awarded the race by half a head.

On returning to scale "Cracker" Cornwell, grandson of old Albert Cornwell, entered a protest against Famous being declared the winner. We had to go before the committee, the chairman being Mr E.E.A. Oatley. I stated my case, which was to deny the charge of interference. I was kept in suspense until after the last race, when the protest was dismissed. In my time there was a false rail at Warwick Farm, situated about 220 yards from home, thus giving the horses at the rear of the field a chance to get through and prove their worth. One case uppermost in my mind was that of Mr (afterwards Sir) Adrian Knox's imported horse Mimer, whom I rode to victory in the Warwick Farm Handicap. There were, I fancy, nine runners.

My only chance, I considered, was to have a dash for this false rail. Luck favoured me. I got through, and snatched first place by half a head. The other starters (eight) finished almost in line. Sir Adrian Knox and his brother-in-law, Mr Colin C. Stephen, were so pleased with my success that a telegram was immediately dispatched to Tom Payten, who was in Melbourne with his horses! It read: "Sending Huxley over on Monday to ride our horses".

I duly arrived at headquarters. My first mount was on Elvo, owned by Mr Stephen, and she won. On the same day I took off 12lb between 9 and 12 o'clock in the morning to ride Koopan, owned by Mr Agar Wynne, in the Loch Plate. After a most sensational finish, I lost by a short head to Emir, ridden by Bob Lewis.

The End