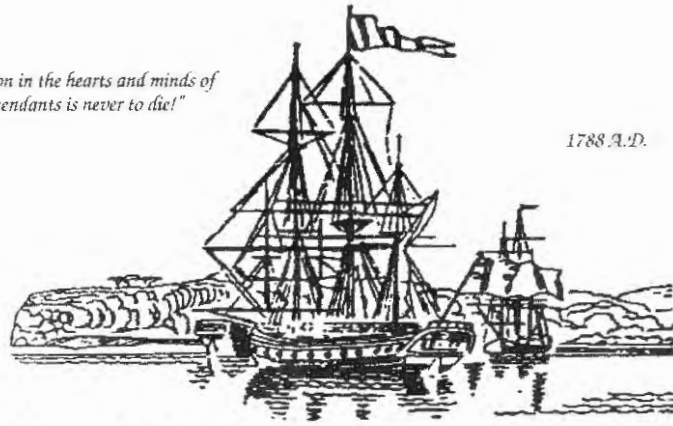


Fellowship of First Fleeters

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

1788 A.D.



N E W S L E T T E R

JOURNAL OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS INC. NSW 1988

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

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1994 VOLUME 25 NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OVER 70 members and friends celebrated Australia Day at the Fellowship luncheon. We were pleased to welcome Dr Rosemary Annable, President of the Australian Historical Society, as our guest of honour. Appreciation is due to Vice-President Alice Clarke in organising this event

Early November it was a pleasure to enjoy fellowship with members of our Northern Rivers Chapter at Lismore. My personal thanks to Lionel and Lenore Phelps for their hospitality overnight at Richmond Hill and to Bill Hunt, President of the Chapter, for the part he played in guiding me around Lismore.

A number of members attended the Heritage Service at the Garrison Church on Sunday, 23 January. Vice-President Doug Oakes, on behalf of the Small Family, read the First Lesson and representing the Fellowship, I read the Second Lesson. We all joined a procession of flags and family banners to the "Bonds of Friendship" sculpture at Circular Quay where a Commemoration of Pioneers took place and posies of flowers were placed on the plinth.

Former President Rod Best returned from a trip to the United Kingdom with his wife Louise, with the news that he had located the grave of Surgeon George Worgan at Liskeard in Cornwall. One of First Fleeter George Worgan's claims to fame was that he brought a piano with him on Sirius!

A number of members enjoyed a reception recently at the Sydney Jewish

Museum. Descendants of First Fleeter Esther Abrahams and Second Fleeter Sarah Lyons were among those who were given a guided tour of the museum. Later this year the Activities Committee of the Fellowship is organising a tour of the museum which is well worth a visit. We thank the museum authorities, particularly Curator Marcelle Jacobs, for their kind hospitality.

Our proposed chart of a list of First Fleeters is taking shape. Joyce Cowell hopes the project will be completed this year.

Ioy and I were guests at the State reception for Australia Day at Darling Harbour on the evening of 26 January. Apart from the one incident, which I must say was most frightening and completely un-Australian, a happy time was had by all.

The Executive looks forward to a rewarding year and I commend to you the activities of the Daytime Fellowship.

In Fellowship,
Peter

JEWISH MUSEUM INSPECTION

Sunday 10 April, 1994

Join us in an interesting
guided tour of the
Sydney Jewish Museum

— a Museum of Australian Jewish
History from the First Fleet to
the Holocaust.

Cnr of Darlinghurst Road and
Burton Street Darlinghurst

Please meet outside Museum
at 12.45pm
for conducted tour to
commence at 1.00pm.

Cost: \$6.00 adult, \$3.00
pensioner/child concession

Refreshments available at
cafeteria if required.

Please phone office on
360 3788 or 360 3988
for bookings.

The Sydney-Portsmouth Sister City Committee in association with the Parramatta Lantern Club is sponsoring "A Parade of Fashions - by Jenny's Boutique" in the gardens of Government House, Sydney.

It will be in the presence of His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales and Mrs Sinclair.

The event will take place on Thursday, 14 April 1944, at 11.30am, and the cost of admission will be \$30. Luncheon will be served. The beneficiary of this function will be the Deaf and Blind Children's Centre, North Rocks.

R.S.V.P. 31 March 1944 applying direct to Mrs B. Hardy-Nisbett, JP, Treasurer, The Astor, 123 Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000. Phone 221 3941.

DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP

Here we are in 1994, but I must cast my mind back a few weeks to early December to tell you about our Christmas luncheon. Although we were booked at the same hotel, we were in a different area, the roof-top room this time, and it proved to be very popular with our members. We had many requests to return there, so subsequently, a booking has already been confirmed for 7 December 1994.

The winner of the lucky door prize was Mrs Ruth Hughes, with Mrs Betty Beard drawing the winning number. Our thanks go to Mrs Garran of Canberra for the donation of a copy of her late husband's book on the start of the wool industry in Australia, and the Macarthur connection.

In regard to the five-day excursion in September, would readers please disregard the destination of Medlow Bath. This area did come up in preliminary discussions, but on consideration was decided against. It is now proposed to have a Snowy Mountains Holiday from Monday 12 September to Saturday 17 September. The cost looks likely to be \$325pp, inclusive. Fuller details will be published next Newsletter.

Our meeting in March is our Annual General Meeting, when this year's committee will be elected. A guest speaker has been arranged; Marie Jenner from the State Library has expertise in the restoration of old photos and documents, and she has asked that we bring objects for appraisal.

Members are asked to bring their lunch, and hot drinks will be provided. We will have our meeting first, then lunch, before we settle down to listen to our speaker, then enjoy afternoon tea. A \$2.00 donation would be appreciated.

We hope to see you then.

DATE: Thursday, 3 March

TIME: 11.10am

PLACE: First Fleet House

BERNICE SMART

ROPE - PULLEY DESCENDANTS

Mr B. P. (Bunny) Sloan (F.F. #6215) is the convenor of a steering committee to revive the Rope-Pulley Family Association.

Interested descendants please ring Mr Sloan (02) 953 7881.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR PERIOD 29 JULY TO 25 AUGUST 1993

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - four adults and three junior.

JACOB BELLETT + EDWARD GARTH - SUSANNAH GOLIGH + MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: Mr Graham Randall Wilson, Mr Matthew James Wilson (jun.).

JOHN - HANNAH BARRISFORD: Mrs Beryl Estelle Wattleworth.

ANDREW FISHBURN: Mr Shane Robert Laufer (jun.).

PETER HIBBS: Mrs Cecily Anne Humphry.

NATHANIEL LUCAS - OLIVIA GASCOIGNE: Mrs Sheila Joan Stevenson.

WILLIAM TUNKS + THOMAS SPENCER - MARY PHILLIPS: Mr Oliver James McPherson-Smith (jun.).

FOR PERIOD 24 NOVEMBER 1993 TO 12 JANUARY 1994

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - six adults, one junior, one spouse associate.

THOMAS ACRES: Mrs Robyn Lorraine Phipson.

ELIZABETH COLE: Mrs Rachel Hewson Loosemore.

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: Miss Chloe Emma Haworth (jun.).

JOHN HERBERT: Mr Glenn Leslie Torrents.

FREDERICK MEREDITH: Mr Phillip John Chapman.

WILLIAM NASH + MARIA HAYNES: Mr Victor Chapman Giles (sp. Mrs Dulcie Juanita Giles).

ANTHONY ROPE + ELIZABETH PULLEY: Mrs Beatrice Offner.

QUEENSLAND TO HOST WORLD-CLASS CONGRESS ON GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY IN 1994

Genealogists and Family Historians will gather in Brisbane, Queensland, from 7 to 10 July 1994 for the 7th Australian Congress on Genealogy and Family History. This is the first time an event of this nature has been held in Queensland and member societies from all points of the State are determined to make it a great learning experience for all who attend.

Expert speakers have been booked from Britain, Ireland, Europe the United States of America and all Australian States, in a diverse program of more than 50 seminars over four days.

The theme, "Blending the Cultures," has been integrated in the composition of this program which features a wide range of topics. Also planned are Interest Group Meetings, Panel sessions, seminars, "How-to" lessons, one-name meetings and professional assistance. Registrants will want to return again and again to the displays by Genealogical and Family History Societies, Booksellers, etc.

Winter in Queensland, join the pre- and post-Congress tours scheduled, and above all, enjoy the friendly hospitality of your hosts and fellowship with other researchers from far and near.

For further information please write to: Congress Convenor - Congress '94

PO Box 40
South Brisbane
Queensland Australia 4101

TO OUR JUNIOR MEMBERS

The next issue of Junior Newsletter will be in early April.

Urgently needed are your items, what you did in the holidays and more stories about your First Fleeters. We do trust that you were all safe from the terrible bushfires. Yes, you can write about the fires.

- Alice Clarke, Junior Newsletter Editor

The Day We Celebrate

If my memory serves me correctly this should be the seventh occasion that I have proposed this toast and, referring back to those speeches one finds that there is a repetitive theme - that is, that we as First Fleeters are continually defending the historical fact that it was one of the most successful undertakings in the establishment of a nation from a virtually untouched virgin land.



Two First Fleeters celebrating Australia Day

This year I shall not apologise for, perhaps, being repetitive, nor for introducing to the Fellowship my personal thoughts in regard to our Aboriginal Australians.

It is widely recognised that historic facts and remembrances were officially suppressed in 1988. Aboriginal people, a majority of whom I would venture to say, share with a larger majority of white fellow Australians European descent; were and still are encouraged to be entirely selective in regard to

their ancestry, and thus ignore joint heritage. Yes - joint heritage with a number of First Fleet families!

Who among us here today would deny any part of our heritage. Should I personally blot out the fact that one of my forebears was Jewish? We should not and I feel sure that all descendants of First Fleeters and, yes, those who followed, would not deny his or her heritage.

I commend to you all the publishers' note in Mollie Gillen's book "Founders of Australia."

Apropos to the aboriginality of some Australians, joint publishers Malcolm Sainty and Keith Johnson write - "The Bicentennial Authority, and by association the Federal Government, through a misguided philosophy and an apparent identity crisis, bungled the best opportunity in a century to encourage the Australian population as a whole to embrace the culture and history to which they could all relate and a resultant feeling of unity which this country so badly needs for the future."

We, as First Fleeters, do not have an identity crisis but there are those in the mainstream of Australian culture who have a cringe mentality about the beginnings of white settlement in this land. We must keep on refuting their argument with fact.

Of all of the many publications of First Fleeters families published over the past decade, the foreword of one such volume stands out - "Our aim has been to pass on to descendants not simply the facts of their heredity, but some conception of what kind of people their ancestors were and what sort of lives they led. Such knowledge may help us to understand better the people we have become and even what we could contemplate for our future."

Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the toast -

"The Day We Celebrate, Advance Australia Fair!"



Australia Day Celebrations

PIONEER SERVICE AT THE GARRISON CHURCH

Historic Holy Trinity Church at Millers Point was the venue for a Pioneer Service on 23 January, the Sunday before Australia Day.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters, together with the Small Family Association, the Tunks Family Association, the 1788-1820 Association, and the Jane Langley Family Association, attended the 10.30am Service at the Garrison Church.

Participating in the Church Service, Mr Douglas Oakes, representing the Small Family Association, read the First Lesson and the President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Mr Peter Christian, read the Second Lesson.

The Fellowship's banner, with other flags and banners, was paraded down the church aisle and after the service paraded along Argyle Street, first to the William Bligh statue in First Fleeter Park and then to the "Links" at Circular Quay.

At each of these stops the Reverend Brian Seers, Rector of the Garrison Church, held a Memorial Service.

SURGEON GEORGE BOUCHIER WORGAN, 1757-1838

Past President Roderick Best and wife Louise have just returned from an exciting holiday which included a trip to Cornwall, England, where their explorations led them to Liskeard and St. Martin's Parish Church. Here they made the discovery of the grave and tombstone of George Bouchier Worgan, a surgeon on Sirius in the First Fleet. Nearby was the grave of his wife Mary (nee Lawry) Worgan.

Worgan returned to England on 4 May 1792 after his Sirius service of five and a half years. He continued in the Navy until 1800, when he retired in poor health. He married Mary Lawry on 23 May 1793 and by November 1803 had had four children. At the given age of 80, he died of apoplexy and was buried at Liskeard.

On a cast bronze plaque at First Fleeter Park, Circular Quay, is a quotation of Worgan which reads: "Thus equipped, each ship like another Noah's Ark, away we steered for Botany Bay."

The Fellowship is writing to the Rector of St. Martin's for permission to have a memorial plaque identifying George Bouchier Worgan as a First Fleeter supplied and attached to his tombstone.

DOUGLAS OAKES,
Plaques Convenor

FRIENDLY ISLANDS - *Hard to leave*



Sydney, Friday 26th October 1804 - The arrival on Tuesday from Toongataboo, one of the Friendly Islands, which she left on 5 instance, of the American ship Union, which left here on 29 August for China, caused some consternation.

The Gazette's senior reporter was aghast at the melancholy tale that was unwoven by a young woman, named Elizabeth Morey, the mate of the Union, and others on board, in their depositions sworn before a Court consisting of George Johnston and John Harris.

DEPOSITION respecting The loss of the American ship Duke of Portland.

Elizabeth Morey, being sworn, says that she left the Cape of Good Hope with Mr Laved Mellon, captain of the American ship Duke of Portland, bound for Lima; that on or about 1 June 1802 the ship touched at an island in the Pacific Ocean, called Toongataboo; That Captain Mellon received a message from a white man, named Doyle, then residing on the island (and who this deponent afterwards learnt had got there from some vessel that had been cast away on another island, and the captain and crew killed); that the chief wished him, Captain Mellon, to send one of his boats mann'd to assist him repelling some invaders that had landed from another island; that a boat was sent armed, with eight men and the second mate (Mr Anderson); who, after he had performed the duty allotted to him, returned on board in the evening: That previous to Mr Anderson's return on board, Mr Gibson, the chief mate, with a boat mann'd with four men, went on shore for the purpose of bringing the former boat's crew on board; which he did, and both boats came together. That soon after the return of the boats on board, the Chief of that part of the island, named Ducava, came on board to return the captain thanks for the assistance he had received, stopped on board the ship all night, and on the morning following went on shore: that the night after the Chief sent word on board for two boats to be sent on shore for refreshments the next morning; that the captain ordered the mate not to do so; but the following morning, before the captain was up, the mate had sent them both mann'd and armed, with the second mate: That about two hours afterwards the small boat returned, with

two boys in her, accompanied by several canoes and natives, with yams, and the white man Doyle; that after unloading her she was again sent to shore with the two boys, and the natives, with the white man Doyle, before mentioned, remained on board. That shortly afterwards the natives, with the said Doyle, took an opportunity of surrounding the captain, chief mate, and sailors then on board, seven in number, and killed them all except two boys, this deponent, and a black woman, her servant; and threw the dead bodies overboard. That this deponent, seeing the massacre, attempted to jump overboard, but was prevented by the white man, Doyle, who told her not to be frightened, for she should not be hurt: that she was sent soon after on shore in one of the native canoes, and given to the Chief's wife: that this deponent, after she had got on shore learnt from the boys, five in number that were left alive, with a white man of diminutive stature, that the whole of the ship's company that were on shore had been killed, except themselves: That the ship, after the deponent's departure, was kept by Doyle; that the Chief himself went off to get her unloaded for three successive days; but not being able to accomplish the unloading of the ship, he ordered the five remaining white persons to go on board to render assistance in landing her cargo, which consisted chiefly of bales of calico, and different piece goods; which they accomplished in six days following: that all the sails were unbent and landed, except two; That after the cargo was so landed, the four white boys and man took an opportunity of driving the natives overboard, killing Doyle, cutting the cables, and standing out to sea with the ship; and that what further became of the vessel the deponent cannot say.

DEPOSITIONS respecting The Ship Union, of America.

Daniel Wright, chief mate of the ship Union of New York being sworn, says that on or about 29 August 1804 he sailed in the said ship from the harbour of Port Jackson under the command of Captain Pendleton, having taken on board Mr John Boston, whom this deponent understood to be Supercargo; that they touched at Norfolk Island, and from thence proceeded for the island of Toongataboo, one of the Friendly Islands, where they arrived on or about 30 September; that soon after they came to anchor a number of canoes visited

them, but left them at sunset: That on the following morning they came off in great numbers, among whom was a Malay that spoke broken English, who informed them they could get plenty of wood, water, and refreshments there, and was very urgent for the ship's boats to be sent on shore; that one of the ship's boats was accordingly hoisted out, mann'd with six men, four muskets, and two cutlasses: in which boat the captain and Mr Boston went; that soon after the departure of the boat from the ship, the natives became very troublesome from their numbers on board and round the vessel; that this deponent stationed all his remaining hands about the ship to prevent their coming on board; but they still succeeded in getting up, contrary to his wish, to the number of 30, who this deponent observed had passed a number of clubs in the ship's channels, ready to be handed in; and from his observations he had no doubt but that they meant to take the ship: That the Chief frequently urged this deponent to let more men come on board, which he positively refused, telling him, that he should be obliged to turn out those who were already on board, which he did, the greater part without any resistance or much trouble: that the Chief did not seem in anywise dissatisfied with this proceeding, but remained on board some time after, to eat and drink with this deponent: that he shortly after took leave of the ship, and was accompanied by the whole of the canoes along-side; that immediately after the departure of the natives from the vessel this deponent hoisted the colours of the ship, and fired a gun, to put those on shore upon their guard, from his observation of the conduct of those that were on board; but soon after, taking up the spy glass and looking towards the shore, he perceived the ship's boat on the beach lying broadside on, in the hands of the natives, and a number of natives about her; that this might have been between one and two o'clock, the boat having been gone about four hours: That this deponent then put the ship in the best order he could, expecting an attack from the natives - but no canoe came off that night: that the next morning two canoes came within hail, but would not come on board; and from several gestures which they made, the people on board wanted this deponent to fire on them, having construed those gestures to that of the boat's crew being murdered, also wishing him much to get the ship under way, and leave the place immediately - but which this deponent would not allow of: that no further intercourse passed that day.

That the day following several canoes came within hail, in one of which this

deponent discovered the Malay, who asked this deponent to come on shore, for that the captain and Mr Boston wished him; that he endeavoured to get the Malay along-side, but could not prevail on him to do so though he promised to accompany him: the Malay then went on shore again. The same afternoon he came off again, accompanied by several canoes, in one of which the deponent observed a European woman who spoke to them in English, as did also the Malay, inviting him on shore; but by particular signs from the white woman, when unnoticed by the natives, she forbid them to comply with the request: That finding they could not prevail in getting another boat from the ship, they took their departure, and nothing further occurred that day.

The next morning, being the third after the boat in which the captain and Mr Boston had gone on shore, several canoes again came off, in one of which was the white woman and in the other the Malay, repeating the former request; that the deponent endeavoured to get him (the Malay) along-side by offering presents for the Chief, but without effect: that the white woman stood up in the head of one of the canoes, cried out that those on shore were murdered by the natives, and then leaping into the water, swam towards the ship, the men on board presenting their muskets, and thereby deterring the natives from picking her up, by which means she reached the vessel, and was taken on board: that the said woman informed the deponent, that the captain and the boat's crew had been murdered on shore; upon which information he ordered the natives to be fired on, and saw two fall in one of the canoes; that he immediately directed the cables might be cut, and putting out to sea, shaped his course for Port Jackson, where he arrived in 19 days without accident.

The deponent further states, that when getting under way, and sheeting home his top-gallant sails, he heard two muskets fired on shore, but cannot take upon himself to say what produced this circumstance, further than that the white woman informed him that the Chief had told her it should be done, to induce him (the deponent) to believe the people were alive and well on shore.

Elizabeth Morey being sworn; says that she lived with the Chief's wife on the Island of Toongataboo, and that on or about 30 September, she understood a ship had arrived at the island - she then residing at the opposite side thereof; that one of the natives had come over for the purpose of bringing the Malay, who was known by the name of Charley,

to go on board her; that three days after the vessel's arrival she was sent for by the Chief, to converse with one of the white boys that had come on shore, from whom she learnt the ship's name, that she was from New York, and that the captain and several of her people were on shore; that the Chief desired her to go off to the vessel, and endeavour to get some more of her boats on shore; that she went off in a canoe as she was ordered, accompanied by the Malay, with five other canoes, and did as she was directed, being afraid to so otherwise; but from the conversation she had overheard among the natives previous to her going off, she was satisfied that the greater part of those who had gone on shore were murdered; but being assiduously watched by the Malay (Charley), she could not communicate her information to the officers on board the ship except by signs which she had used, unconscious at the time whether they were regarded by them or not; that she again went on shore, and told the Chief what she had done.

That upon the morning following she was again sent for by the Malay, who informed her that she was again to go off to the ship to repeat her former message, and endeavour to get on shore some of her people: That she went off accordingly, accompanied by four canoes, in one of which was Charley the Malay; and on coming near the ship, she stood up in the head of the canoe in which she was, she called to the people on board, informing them that their comrades were all murdered by the natives on shore, then jumped overboard and swam towards the ship, calling to the people to fire on them in the canoes, which they afterwards did; that she heard the two muskets fired on shore, which she knew was done by order of the Chief, as he had told her he would do so before she left the shore, to induce the boats the more readily to leave the ship, from an idea the Europeans were on shore, firing for a boat.

Thomas Derdon, a seaman, being sworn, says, that he left Norfolk Island in the Union, with Captain Pendleton; that he touched on the Island of Toongataboo; and corroborates in every part the depositions given by Mr Wright, the Chief Officer, and that part of Elizabeth Morey's evidence respecting the natives having murdered the people from the ship; But adds, that when the natives were turned out of the ship by Mr Wright, they went on shore apparently in a violent passion.

Gilbert Grant, a sailor on board the Union, corroborates the above in every particular.

THE DAWNING AWARENESS

THE following editorial was printed in our journal over 20 years ago and is as pertinent today as it was then and loses nothing by reprinting in the Australia Day edition.

On the first Sunday in February 1788 the Reverend Richard Johnson, Chaplain to the Fleet, and First Chaplain to the Colony of New South Wales, conducted Divine Service under a great tree in the presence of troops and convicts. The shade of this tree was to be the permanent place of worship for some time to come.

"What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me? I will take the Cup of Salvation and call upon the name of the Lord." (Psalm 116 verses 12 and 13 - the Rev. Richard Johnson's text at the first Service.)

This "great tree" as near as can be determined stood where Hunter and Castlereagh Streets intersect. It is now called Richard Johnson Square. Those present would have seen as they walked up from the shores of Sydney Cove the ships of the First Fleet at anchor in the bay. At this great tree behind them and to their left they may have seen small boats where Martin Place now stands. This stream of fresh water they soon called the Tank Stream.

The subsequent history of many who heard Richard Johnson on that first Sunday in February 1788 establishes beyond doubt that they did indeed give thanks. His text, as we look back, seems to contain both a prophecy and a vision. In retrospect it seems also to contain a warning to those of us, and it may well be all of us, who accept without thought or thanks the many benefits we now enjoy.

The long hard voyage was behind them, they must have looked with longing through the trees at the ships that had brought them here so far from loved ones and familiar surroundings. With anguish they knew that the ships would return without them.

"Their first dwellings were constructed of posts driven into the ground, and poles fastened to these by ropes made of twisted withes, thus making the framework. Into this were woven twigs and bark, and small branches, and then plastered up with mud. Fancy a little town of a thousand inhabitants thus situated, and you can have the only true

picture of our great city in embryo. What a jolly time our ancestors had of it 100 years ago all through the months of autumn and winter. They were all lords and ladies. Rulers and ruled lived pretty much after the same fashion. The same style of architecture prevailed. They walked on the same pavement of sandstone, and drank from the same 'little tank' stream. They looked out on the same lovely harbour and sky. They listened to the same notes of music from the feathered tribes, whose gorgeous plumage is a reflection of the universal loveliness that reigns. They went to the same church, which consisted of a clump of figtrees, and worshipped the same God without a thought or dread of collection boxes or pew rent bills. The only distinction that seemed to mark the superiority of one class above the other was the quality and quantity of their rum." (Centennial History of NSW, W. Frederic Morrison, M.A., M.D.)

They were never to know what would be the results of what in a few months rapidly became an individual and collective struggle for survival, marked by unparalleled callousness and brutality.

The lives of the 1,373 people who are believed to have come ashore intensified into the sordidness that has, sadly, come to be regarded as the major interest of historians in every decade since the Pioneers of the First Fleet came ashore in Sydney Cove.

That it was real, degrading and brutal was beyond argument. This way of life, however, did not provide the foundation on which this nation has been built.

There were men and women of great heart who could and did give thanks. They expressed their thanks in enduring memorials that are forever a testament to their belief and their faith.

Not all are known to those of us of today. There were amongst those who raised their Church on the Hawkesbury in 1809 some of the Pioneers of the First Fleet. They called it Ebenezer. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

The sordidness, the brutality and the callousness have long disappeared. The survivors, their children and grandchildren created our heritage.

There are Australians today bearing the names of those who built at Ebenezer

still attending Divine Service in the church of their ancestors. Many descendants attend the annual pilgrimage to this historic place.

In every generation since January 1788, there have been descendants of the Pioneers of the First Fleet who, taking heart from the courage and determination of their ancestors, created a way of life for themselves both near and far away from the birthplace of their nation.

Throughout the nineteenth century those who came seeking a better life became Australians, such was the power and influence of those who founded the nation and our tradition.

There will be Australians, and great Australians in the future, whose parents have come to this country in the last decade and they will become part of our heritage.

Beyond the duties of their position in life they will be concerned with the future and the welfare of their nation and their country. Such concern may be traced to those who gave thanks in the earliest days of our nation.

There is every sign that we are becoming aware that the bounty of nature which we have enjoyed for so long is not infinite. There is more than a dawning awareness that greed and avariciousness masquerading as progress and development may yet dispossess us of what our ancestors struggled to preserve.

The similarity of the first decades of our history and now is quite apparent. The struggle differs only in that now it is on a vast scale with enormous riches, if they be such, for the plunderers and depredators within our own nation and those within other countries.

In the first decades the greedy and the plunderers had only the redcoats to enforce their will. We must recognise and understand that the minds of men, women and children must now be won and they will be part of the prize.

In understanding the lives of our ancestors we will have the awareness to find the course and the way to preserve our heritage. To hand to our posterity what was perhaps something fleetingly perceived and felt by at least some of those who gave thanks on that Sunday in February 1788.

"The survivors, their children and grandchildren created our heritage."

PRESERVE YOUR PRECIOUS PAST

H

ave photographs saved from the Sydney bush-fires really been saved?

In Australia's recent devastating fires, it was frequently commented that the first thing people grabbed to save, were their family photographs. Photographs are our memories in hard copy. They are treasured and we endeavour to save them for future generations. However, thought needs to be given to the correct preservation of old photos if we are to remember the past and pass on the memories to future generations. Similarly, thought needs to be given to the kind of photos we are taking now and what type of processing we undertake in order for today's photos to survive for the future.

We are one of the most photographed generations yet, unless we act to preserve our photographs, they may be only fleetingly saved. Early photographic images, such as Daguerreotypes, because they are usually encased and are metallic, are one of the more stable types of photographs and are often in good condition today. That cannot be

said of our current plasticised paper colour photographs, too often stored in albums which are insidiously destroying them. Without proper preservation action they will not survive for future generations to enjoy.

What steps can you take to ensure your photos and other valued documents endure?

Two business ventures of the State Library of New South Wales, the Image Library and Conservation Access can help. The Image Library provides a quality image search service and a wide range of professional photographic services, specialising in the reproduction and visual enhancement of historical collections of photographs and fine art works. Conservation Access provides advice and treatments for the conservation of items made from paper (including photographs, documents and letters), and training in preservation strategies.

Profit from their know-how. An informative talk will be given by the managers of the two business services at 2pm on Thursday 3 March 1994, at the

Daytime Fellowship meeting. Maree Jenner will talk about the need to have your photographs and documents copied on to archival film and paper. Marion Roubos-Bennett will talk about measures you can take to ensure images, documents and memorabilia from your collections are preserved.

If you value your photographic and paper-based memories; if you are a First Fleeters memorabilia collector or a family or professional photographer, this information filled afternoon is for you. You will learn why photographs and documents deteriorate, how to ensure photographs last longer, how to identify early photographic forms, and about care and storage of photos and documents. You will learn how the State Library's images, perhaps of one of your predecessors, can be searched, copyright cleared and photographically reproduced.

Can't make it to the afternoon and need to know more

Phone Marion Roubos-Bennett on (02) 230 1676 or Maree Jenner on (02) 230 1482.



A recent First Fleeters outing on the Harbour

A MATTER OF IDENTITY

Elizabeth Thomas's first husband was William Connolly from the Alexander. In March 1790 the couple were transferred to Norfolk Island. In October 1793 William Connolly departed the island while Elizabeth remained to begin living with Thomas Hill.

But which Thomas Hill was Elizabeth Thomas's second husband and the father of her daughter, Mary Thomas, who was born on 29 November 1794.

There were two Thomas Hills on the First Fleet, three if James Tennihil, who used the name Thomas Hill as an alias when charged in February 1788 for stealing bread, is included:

- Thomas Hill, Old Bailey, July 1784, 7 years, Scarborough;
- Thomas Hill, Dorchester, March 1783, 7 years, Friendship;
- James Tennihil, Old Bailey, January 1784, 7 years, Friendship.

A Thomas Hill was on Norfolk Island as early as 5 February 1791 when a report was compiled listing Thomas Hill, Francis Fowkes and Ann Martin as receiving a nine-month-old sow due to farrow in October of that year. (Ref. AJCP reel 4, CO.201/9.) This event has also been noted by Mollie Gillen in her book, *The Founders of Australia*, in her biography of Ann Martin.

Also on the same reference CO.201/9 is an account dated 1 July 1791 of ground cleared by convicts which includes both William Connolly and Thomas Hill as each having cleared one acre of their 16-acre blocks.

On 26 August 1791 Thomas Hill, Francis Fowkes and Ann Martin again shared a nine-month-old sow, purchased for 12 pounds from John Anscott:

These dates indicate this Thomas Hill to be one of the First Fleet Hills. It should be noted that Francis Fowkes and Ann Martin arrived on Norfolk Island by Supply on 11 November 1789. Therefore to be part of this group it is reasonable to believe that Thomas Hill arrived at the same time. If so James Tennihil, alias Thomas Hill, can be eliminated as he was a witness at a court-martial on 14 November 1789 and in April 1790 he arrived back at Port Jackson from a fishing trip to Botany Bay to find his home robbed by William Chaaf.

Identification confusion is compounded by a Norfolk Island victualling report

1792-95 which has a Thomas Hill arriving Norfolk Island on board Atlantic on 4 November 1791. In her book Mollie Gillen also notes this event and states that "Hill had arrived on the island by Atlantic in November 1791. Whether he was the First Fleeter or Third Fleeter of that name has not been established."

James Hugh Donohoe in his book, *Norfolk Island 1788-1813 The People and Their Families*, claims it was Thomas Hill from the Second Fleet Neptune who arrived on the island on 4 November 1791.

Four Thomas Hills were on the Second and Third Fleets.

- 1) Thomas Hill, Taunton, March 1788, 7 years, Neptune. According to Michael Flynn's book, *The Second Fleet*, this man died at sea before reaching Sydney Cove.
- 2) Thomas Hill, Gloucester, July 1790, life, William and Ann.
- 3) Thomas Hill, Northumberland, July 1790, 7 years, Britannia.
- 4) Thomas Hill, Surrey, February 1789, 7 years, HMS Gorgon.

According to C. J. Smee's book, *Families of the Third Fleet*, the latter two Thomas Hills died at sea in August 1791.

Other than these two publications no other record of these deaths has been located.

However, according to AJCP reel 57, CO.207/1, *Alphabetical List of Convicts 1788-1825*, the following men are listed including numeral references as shown below:

- Hill Thos. Dorchester, March 1783
7 years 12.17
- Hill Thos. Taunton, March 1788 7
years 18.20
- Hill Thos. Gloucester, July 1790 life
114.20
- Hill Thos. Northumberland, July 1790
7 years 134.33
- Hill Thos. Surrey, February 1789
7 years 146.10.193.17

What do the numerical references mean? Do they mean the three convicts may have survived? James Tennihil and Thomas Hill (Old Bailey, July 1784, 7 years) were not listed. A Thomas Hill was buried at Parramatta on 20 February 1792. Could this man have been the Old Bailey Thomas Hill, not listed above?

Francis Fowkes left Norfolk Island on

Queen November 1791 for trial on a charge of fomenting conspiracy. Six witnesses were included. Could the earlier Thomas Hill have been one of those witnesses? Because, although having cleared an acre of ground by 1 July 1791, he is not listed in any later report as having sold grain to Government Stores, unlike William Connolly and others with cleared land who sold sufficient maize throughout 1792-93 to afford passages from the island.

From this tenuous evidence it would appear that the early Thomas Hill departed after August 1791 and was replaced from Atlantic on 4 November 1791. On 26 October 1793 William Connolly departed the island on Sugar Cane for Bengal.

A report dated 16 June 1794 listed Elizabeth Thomas as a free, married woman, with one child, dependent for her livelihood on convict Thomas Hill.

On 19 February 1796 this Thomas Hill departs Norfolk Island on Reliance for Port Jackson, presumably being time expired between 16 June 1794 and 19 February 1796.

The two Thomas Hills on the First Fleet were each sentenced to seven years from 1784. They should have been free men by 1791 or, given Governor Phillip's lack of information about the trial details of the convicts, at the latest 1792-93.

Yet in June 1794, Elizabeth's Thomas Hill is still listed as a convict, which indicates that he may have been the Thomas Hill from Gloucester, but the fact that he was a lifer means his departure from the island on Reliance for Port Jackson was not due to being time expired.

If any of the Second or Third Fleet Hills were incorrectly reported as dying en route then the expiry date for only two of them match Thomas Hill's departure date of 19 February 1796: Thomas Hill, Taunton, March 1798, 7 years, expiry March 1785; Thomas Hill, Surrey, 18 February 1789, 7 years, expiry 18 February 1796.

Not one of the Thomas Hills of the First, Second or Third Fleets are recorded in the musters of 1801-02, 1805-06 or 1811. Somewhere in the records there is a clue to this problem.

I would be interested in the views of other members.

JOHN HARVEY (#6260)