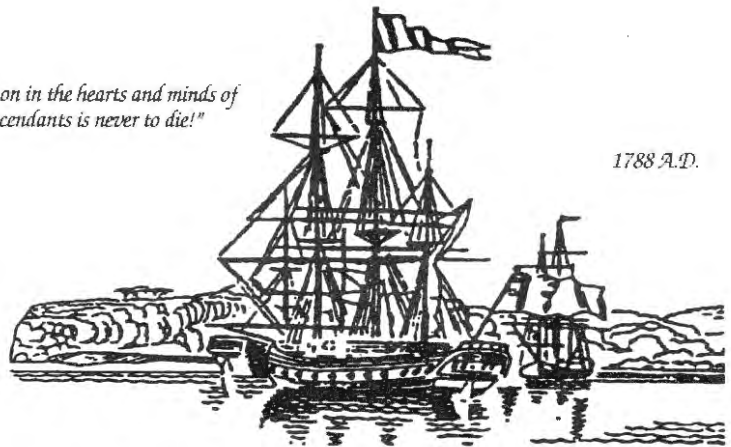


# Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"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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**JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1996 VOLUME 27 NO. 1**

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I must really thank Vice-President Doug Oakes for stepping into the breach from November last through to January. I had not been feeling the best when I asked Doug to represent the Fellowship in my place at the Tunks Annual Picnic. On that day I accompanied my wife, Joy, to the Everingham celebration of a bicentennial walk to commemorate a near crossing of the Blue Mountains by Matthew Everingham in 1795.

Some time within that week I suffered a coronary, luckily without any serious long-term effects, and save for another three days in hospital in January I am still with you!

From the last Newsletter, the A.G.M. of the Fellowship occurred in November. We still are in desperate need not only of help in the office, but of any member in the Sydney area willing to be co-opted on to the Executive Committee. I will be appealing to new members in this vein – surely the processing of an average of 100 new members per year should ensure a bright and viable future for our Fellowship?

The Executive has set three dates in 1996 for a 'Meet the President' afternoon: **Sunday, 17 March; Sunday, 21 July; Sunday, 22 September.** We shall look forward to meeting old and new members from 2.30pm on any of those days. Please RSVP to the office.

I was privileged to speak and spread the word about our organisation and our First Fleet descendants to the Beecroft Ladies' Probus Club and to the Baptist

Retirement Village, Marsfield, recently. At Beecroft it was a pleasure to meet member Frances Laughton, F.F. Henry Kable/Susannah Holmes, the daughter of Vivian Kable who wrote 'They Came by Road' – a saga of the opening of the Great Western Road to Orange.

Australia Day 1996 – not really an official celebration of the founding of this nation. There was no procession as of last year of various facets of Australiana including First Fleeters. Both the Governor and the Premier gave good speeches, both referring to our heritage. Nothing was said about a change of date for Australia Day but I can assure you this will come later!

I was able to speak with our Governor-elect, Mr Justice Gordon Samuels, at the State reception on the evening of Australia Day. Naturally I gave an almighty plug for the F.F.F., intimating that former Governors had seen fit to be our Patron!!

I was saddened by the loss of two of our members recently each of whom had been President of their respective Chapters. More is said in this issue of their endeavours for the Fellowship, but I remember both for their intense pride in being a descendant of a First Fleeter, and also the input that both Pat Gilmour, of the Canberra Chapter and former Executive member, and John Bone, of the Hunter Valley Chapter, put into the Fellowship as a whole.

My offside on a Monday, Stan Bartlett, has been laid low for the past few months, so much so, that after five or six

years of dedicated weekly appearance at First Fleet House, he feels that for the moment he has to take leave.

On your behalf I wrote to his Excellency Rear-Admiral Peter Sinclair thanking both he and his wife for the sterling effort in serving the people of New South Wales for the past six years. Both the letter I sent and his Excellency's kind reply will be in the next Newsletter with, I hope, news of our next Patron.

The Fellowship's Australia Day Dinner at the University of Sydney Union went off extremely well. Dr Grace Karskens, our Guest of Honour, spoke on the recent archaeological dig at the Rocks. Our Vice Patron, Commodore Paul Kable, and his wife Ann were most welcome guests. Thanks to Executive member Beverly Naughton for the organisation of this event.



May I once again make a plea for the future of the Fellowship? If you feel you can give a few hours each week or that you feel that you could serve on the Executive,

please give me a call on 863063. For the past 28 years the Fellowship has gone from strength to strength on voluntary help – will you help us into the future?

**In Fellowship, Peter**

## THE DAY WE CELEBRATE

(Speech by President Peter Christian at Luncheon, 27.1 96)

During his period in Office, Sir Paul Hasluck, a former Governor-General of the Commonwealth, made this comment in an Australia Day speech: 'Our history has been an obstacle race. The first settlers met adversity in fire, flood and drought. THEY ENDURED.'

They endured – out of adversity, not only of fire, flood and drought but as prisoners in a hostile environment they endured. From adversity came success. This has been the story of countless numbers of First Fleeters and we indeed honour them here today.

It is with sadness that we see more and more people, influential and otherwise, advocating a move away from celebrating Australia Day on 26 January each year. We all realise that today, as Australians, we live in a time of change. Old and, to some, very precious values are being questioned – whatever the future holds I know that the Fellowship of First Fleeters will follow the will of a

majority of our fellow Australians. *But for us a change of date for Australia Day should not be negotiable.*

So on this 208th Anniversary of the arrival of our forebears in this land, let us remember them and toast

**'The Day We Celebrate'  
Advance Australia Fair.**

## AUSTRALIA DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATION 1996

The Fellowship participated in two Anniversary Day weekend celebrations this year. First, our Australia Day luncheon on Saturday, 27 January, at the Holme and Sutherland Room, Sydney University Union, and then the Anniversary Day Church Service on Sunday, 28 January, at the Garrison Church, The Rocks, Sydney.

Sixty-five people attended the luncheon. President Peter Christian in welcoming everybody made particular reference to our Vice Patron, Commodore Paul Kable, RAN, and his wife, Ann, who had recently returned from service in England.

as the best in the world was open for inspection and the behind-the-scenes workings were most impressive.

The ABC television and radio complex in Ultimo was our host on 17 October, and on 6 December the Christmas lunch was successfully held in a function room of the Renaissance Hotel, Circular Quay. The guest speaker was Mr Len Werman a well-known 'tale teller' and raconteur. His talk was entitled 'Up and Down the City Road,' being short stories of George Street and its inhabitants in the early days of the Colony. In his story telling Len gave mention of First Fleeters George Johnston and John Harris as well as other well-known early settlers. During the luncheon we were also entertained by the Renaissance Hotel Choir who sang a number of ever-popular Christmas carols.

My thanks go to the social secretary, Phyllis Selby, minute secretary, Anne Davison, and treasurer Ioyce Rixon, for their efforts over the past 12 months.

Please come to the meeting with your sandwiches and ideas for functions in 1996 and 1997. Tea, coffee, milk and sugar will be supplied.

**DOUGLAS OAKES,  
Convener Daytime Fellowship  
Committee**

The guest speaker, Dr Grace Karskens, spoke on her research for her book to be called 'The Rocks and Sydney 1788-1830,' and to be published by the Melbourne University Press about November 1996. The anecdotal history of the people and times ensured an attentive audience.

A number of First Fleeters attended the Garrison Church Anniversary Service with members of family groups and other historical societies. The Fellowship was included in the procession into the church bearing its banner as were the family groups with their banners.

After the Church Service we journeyed with our banners, first, to William Bligh statue at Circular Quay, then to Governor Phillip's statue, then on to the Links, for short commemorative services.

The 26 January 1997 falls on a Sunday and the Garrison Church will be having its anniversary service at 10.30am and would like us to participate. This means we can have our celebration on Saturday, 25 January 1997, as a luncheon or dinner in the evening. Please let us have some views on this as soon as possible so that plans and invitations may be organised.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**PERIOD 24 AUGUST TO 27 SEPTEMBER 1995**

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period – 14 adults, five juniors, five spouse associates.

THOMAS ACRES: Mr James Pinnock (sp. Mrs Bridgette Rosemarie Pinnock); Miss Molly Rose Pinnock (jun.).

THOMAS CHIPP – IANE LANGLEY: Mr Peter Gerard Lawless.

BENJAMIN CUSLEY: Mr Luke Michael McCosker (jun.).

JOHN NICHOLLS: Mrs Carol Irene Green; Mr Wayne Andrew Green; Mr Colin Stephen Green; Mr Neil Charles Brown; Mr Phillip Brown; Mrs Audrey Margaret Smith (sp. Mr Kenneth Smith); Mr Lawrence Kenneth Smith (sp. Mrs Kerrie Marie Smith); Mr Julian Deville Smith; Miss Alexandra Deville Smith (jun.); Mrs Vicki Lynnette Owers (sp. Mr Graeme W. Owers); Mr Matthew Scott Owers (jun.); Miss Amanda Louise Owers (jun.); Mr Benjamin Jason Owers.

ANTHONY ROPE – ELIZABETH PULLEY: Mrs Robyn Smith (sp. Mr Denis Richard Smith).

THOMAS WILLIAMS: Mr Mark Roydon Williams.

## DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Daytime Fellowship will be held Wednesday, 6 March, in First Fleet House at 11.00am.

The Daytime Fellowship Committee organises functions during weekdays for members and their friends to participate in and enjoy fellowship activities. Six functions were organised over the last 12 months.

Twenty-six members and friends enjoyed a six-day tour of southern New South Wales and northern Victoria, staying at the 103-year-old Culcairn Hotel, from 7 to 13 May 1995.

The annual soup and damper day was held on Wednesday, 5 July, in First Fleet House.

The Glebe Walk was conducted on Sunday, 13 August, by the well-known historian and author Robert Irving. And very well attended.

A visit to the Homebush Olympic site for the 2000 Olympics took place on 6 September. The aquatic centre described

# First Fleeters to Tour Again! – An Annual Holiday

Monday, 6 May to Sunday, 12 May 1996

centred on the Mid Coast Motor Inn, Macksville

## Price \$405 p.p.

(\$50 deposit with booking by 14 February, balance 1 April.)

Please send Pensioner Travel Voucher or Senior Card No. with deposit to Fellowship of First Fleeters, First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo 2011. Phone (02) 360 3788 or (02) 360 3988.

THE XPT LEAVES CENTRAL AT 11.00AM.

A package tour at the Mid Coast Motor Inn includes:

- ❖ Accommodation on a twin-share basis in air-conditioned unit with direct dial phones, colour TVs, refrigerators and all the features you would expect at a first-class establishment.
- ❖ Meals served in the 'Poplars' licensed restaurant. Guests enjoy hot breakfasts and three-course evening meals.
- ❖ Full use of all motel facilities including guest lounge, laundry, swimming pool and barbecue.
- ❖ Tours are by Luxury Coach.

(The Mid Coast Motor Inn reserves the right to alter the tour content without notice due to road, weather or for any other reason.)

## TOUR 1

The day begins with a journey through the Macleay Valley to Strutt's Pottery at Temagog. Here we can view the studio and workshop while enjoying our morning tea in the serenity of the Valley. We then head towards 'Mesopotamia Lodge' Deer Stud. The proprietors of the deer farm will take us for a tour around the farm, where we can also hand-feed and touch the deer. We will be given a short talk on deer farming in the '90s as well as seeing all the other nursery farm animals. We finish up our visit at the deer farm with a scrumptious sit-down lunch. Then off to visit South West Rocks and Trial Bay Jail. We travel through the pretty village of Gladstone along the south side of the Macleay River to Smokey Cape Lighthouse. Unfortunately we cannot enter the lighthouse, but a short walk up to the light tower will reveal breathtaking views of this coastal environment. Moving on we will visit the historic

ruins of Trial Bay Jail. This location has also been used in a number of Australian and international television productions. We then go on to visit the pretty beachside town of South West Rocks and its surrounds before returning back to the motel.

## TOUR 2

A lovely day tour which commences by travelling north to Urunga then turning to meander through the Bellinger Valley with its lush farms. We witness the many historic features of Bellinger which create an enjoyable antiquity for the morning browse. While we start making our way up the wonderful Dorrigo Mountain we pause for a while for morning tea at the Newell Falls before pushing on to the plateau. Passing through some beautiful rainforest and mountain scenery, we eventually come to Griffith Mountain Top Lookout which has spectacular rainforest views. On to Dorrigo for a complimentary lunch before we take a step back in time when we go and see the old Dorrigo Steam Railway Museum, then on to Dangar Falls. We finally end up at the Rainforest Centre, where we go out on to the Scenic Skywalk which extends high above the National Park's tree canopy. We rejoin our coach and head on back down to Bellinger to the Old Butter Factory, the home of the wonderful Windsong chimes, which also offers many interesting leather and craft shops.

## TOUR 4

Today we explore the Nambucca Valley and as we make our way north we visit the township of Nambucca Heads. There is one place where you are welcome to leave your mark in Nambucca and that is on the Vee Wall. The Vee Wall is a breakwater where many a person has written his name. We then ride on out for a visit to the 'Verandah Post' town of Bowraville with its renowned Folk Museum. Bowraville was chosen for the setting of a movie called 'The Umbrella Woman,' starring Bryan Brown, Rachel Ward and Sam Neill. The museum is a treasure house of interesting odds and ends. Morning tea is spent in the museum after which we board the coach and head for a big barbecue lunch, including a 'hearty steak and sausage' with plentiful amounts of delicious salads, all served to you on a plate, as well as live entertainment at the 'Pub With No Beer' of Slim Dusty fame. The time is passed

away with the local 'Bush Band' playing a few tunes on their guitars and banjos. Our day ends with a journey back to Macksville, where you have the option of staying in town to explore Macksville and making your own way back to the motel (which is a seven-minute walk, or ring the motel to be picked up) or stay on the coach back to the motel to rest up for the afternoon. The choice is yours, but if unsure ask the driver.

## TOUR 4

We travel north-west of Coffs Harbour up the beautiful mountain countryside to visit Georges Goldmine, to learn of the joys and disappointments of goldmining. The mine is a relic of the goldrush era. We are shown an old stamper battery crushing ore. We are taken into the mine to get a first-hand feel of the conditions the miners had to work in to earn their living. Afterwards a barbecue lunch is supplied. Coming back down the mountain, we make our way through Coramba and head up to the Green Pastures Gallery which houses a unique display of Australian wildflower jewellery. There is a huge range of earrings, bracelets, etc, which has been crafted by Wolfgang at the gallery from pewter which has been plated with quality silver or 24ct gold.

## TOUR 5

Today we visit Kiwi Down Under, a lush tropical organic fruit farm. We finish our visit with a morning tea fit for a king. Heading northward, we drive into Coffs Harbour taking in the scenery before pulling up at the Palm Centre. Some 'shopping time' has been allocated so now is the time to pick up souvenirs and gifts to take back home. After filling our shopping bags with goodies we head north for our Dessert, at Carabana, where, as we walk through the door to commence a tour, we are given a sample of a delicious alternative to chocolate, called Carob. Upon departing we take in a tour of the town including the 'Jetty' area and some of the now famous resorts.

## FAREWELL TO MACKSVILLE

Up bright and early, we enjoy our breakfast before being transported to the station to catch our chariot home.

THE XPT LEAVES MACKSVILLE AT 8.48AM ARRIVES CENTRAL 4.30PM.



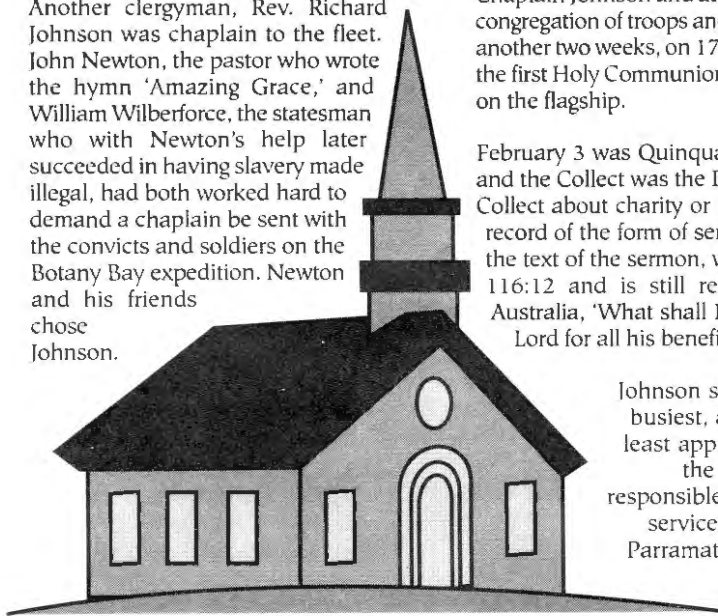
# THE CHURCH IN THE FIRST SETTLEMENT – RICHARD JOHNSON

Rev. Canon Robert Hardwick (#6203)

*(Talk given on 24 September 1995 to a meeting of Fellowship of First Fleeters, Northern Rivers Chapter, held at the home of Mr and Mrs McDonald, 269 Richmond Hill Road, Richmond Hill, Lismore district NSW.)*

On Sunday, 13 May 1787, early in the morning, a fleet of 11 ships weighed anchor in Portsmouth Harbour and sailed for the open sea. On board were 211 troops, their dependants and about 730 convicts, all bound for the new penal colony in Sydney Cove. It is said that, on shore, one clergyman went down on his knees to ask God's forgiveness and protection on them all. Otherwise, no one noticed their departure.

Another clergyman, Rev. Richard Johnson was chaplain to the fleet. John Newton, the pastor who wrote the hymn 'Amazing Grace,' and William Wilberforce, the statesman who with Newton's help later succeeded in having slavery made illegal, had both worked hard to demand a chaplain be sent with the convicts and soldiers on the Botany Bay expedition. Newton and his friends chose Johnson.



Richard Johnson, Chaplain to the expedition and first settlement, which landed in Australia on 26 January 1788, lived from 1753 to 1827. He was educated at Magdalene College, Oxford, then famous for its 'Methodist style' evangelistic teaching. He was a product of the Evangelical Awakening, linked with people like Whitfield and John Wesley.

The evangelical Rev. Henry Venn wrote to his daughter in 1786: 'I received a letter from dear Mr Thornton, saying that he, last Sunday, introduced Mr Johnson to two hundred and fifty of his future congregation, aboard the hulk at Woolwich. Through the influence of Mr Wilberforce with Mr Pitt, he is appointed Chaplain to Botany Bay, with a salary of 150 pounds per annum. I trust he will prove a blessing to these lost creatures!'

To celebrate Johnson's departure, Newton wrote:

'Go bear the Saviour's name in lands unknown,  
Tell the Southern World His wondrous grace;  
An energy divine thy words shall own,  
And draw their untaught hearts to seek His face.'<sup>1</sup>

The first Governor of the territory of New South Wales, Captain Arthur Phillip, was not a particularly religious man, nor did he regard religion as having any particular importance in the life of the Colony. In fact, on the first Sunday, 27 January, the day after they landed at Port Jackson, no Church Service was held, and it was one week later, on 3 February 1788 in the open air, that the first Christian service in Australia was held, conducted by Chaplain Johnson and attended by a large congregation of troops and convicts. It was another two weeks, on 17 February, before the first Holy Communion was celebrated, on the flagship.

February 3 was Quinquagesima Sunday, and the Collect was the B.C.P. form of the Collect about charity or love. There is no record of the form of service, but only of the text of the sermon, which was Psalm 116:12 and is still relevant to us in Australia, 'What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?'

Johnson soon became the busiest, and perhaps the least appreciated, man in the Colony. He was responsible for all religious services at Sydney and Parramatta, all marriages and funerals, and was made Civil

Magistrate. Something of his problems can be seen in what he wrote in March 1792: 'Upon the arrival of Juliana in June 1790 His Excellency told me that 400 acres were to be measured out as church ground. This was measured out at that time, but to this day he has not been able to let me have any help to cultivate it, neither has there been so much as a tree fallen upon it. I cannot suppose Government meant for me to use axe or spade myself, but this I have done day after day, otherwise, bad as my situation is, it would have been still worse. I mention this circumstance, being aware that the sound of 400 acres will appear great. But what, sir, are 400 or 4000 acres full of large green trees, unless some convicts be allowed to cultivate it?'

'I did not come out here as an overseer or

as a farmer. I have other things more, much more important, to attend to. My duty as a clergyman fully takes up all my time ... I have to perform divine service at three different places, viz, at Sydney, Parramatta, and a settlement about three miles to the westward of Parramatta, and never a one of these three places is there to this day any place of worship erected, nor so much as talked of. The last time I preached at Sydney was in the open air. On the 11th instant we could not have service at all because of the rain. Next Sunday, if the weather will permit, we shall assemble in an old boathouse close by the waterside the sides and ends quite open. I declare to you, it is a place unfit or safe for a stable or a cowhouse, and I declare further, owing to the violent pain I this moment, and have all this day felt in my temples, say I dread Sunday coming, aware of the danger and the consequences I have to expect. By the grace of God, however, I am resolved to go on in the discharge of my duty till I can hold out no longer, and then I must give up and leave this miserable people to spend their Sabbaths in a manner wholly like heathens ...

'I go up to Parramatta as usual once a fortnight – the distance by water about 14 miles. Generally go up on the Saturday – sometimes four, five, six hours upon the water. On Sunday morning early I now ride up to the new settlement; preach in the open air about 7 o'clock to about 600 convicts; at ten and four in the afternoon I preach at Parramatta. I fear, however, I shall not be able to continue this much longer, especially as the winter is now approaching, unless some places be erected for the purpose.

'Besides my public duty I have to visit the sick, which at present both at Sydney and at Parramatta are a great many; numbers dying every day. Last month about 60 died, and I fear before this expires there will be again near the same number.'<sup>2</sup>

It was not until six years after their arrival, in 1794, that Johnson was able to build a wattle and daub church at his own expense; it is a comment on the religious attitudes of the age.

Governor Phillip was in his way a humane, enlightened man, but he and his officers were very secular in outlook. Exceptions were Dawes and the second Governor, Hunter, who, Manning Clark says, shared the convictions and aspirations of the chaplain. The officers had faith in commonsense, and were against religious enthusiasm. They accepted the Protestant religion like Tom Jones for its contribution to higher

civilisation and its emancipating priestcraft, but were discretely silent about the 39 articles.

Also, the formal instructions given to Phillip in 1786 by Lord Sydney the Home Secretary were not religiously inclined: they did not require more than a formal observance of religion. Sydney first details the ships, the location (Botany Bay), then security measures, then accountancy and administration, maintaining good relations with the natives, then close general remarks about justice and religion – Phillip is ‘by all proper methods’ to ‘enforce a due observance of religion and good order ...’ and to ‘take such steps for the due celebration of public worship as circumstances will permit.’

One crime was profanation of the Lord’s Day. The Book of Common Prayer was to be read each Sunday and holy day, and the Blessed Sacrament was to be observed.

Governor Hunter was later to describe Johnson as ‘just, pious and inoffensive.’ He was 35 when he arrived, and quite new to the ministry, having only recently been ordained. As an ‘evangelical’ he was regarded with suspicion by many as an ‘enthusiast’ (this was a particular term used at the time for those inclining to Methodism, which was still within the Church of England at that stage, although about to become a separate Church). The administrators would be suspicious of him, and he was not likely to impress the convicts. He had conducted shipboard services on the way out, and he was very conscious that he was not an effective preacher. He came out under the control of the military establishment. He did not attract many worshippers. Phillip tried to assist: he ordered that people must go to church or have their rations cut; this built up resentment, and the order had to be repeated.

The first church of wattle and daub Johnson built, as I said, at his own expense, and with the aid of convict servants (the actual cost was £67/12/11½). If you go up to the corner of Hunter and Bligh Streets in Sydney, in what is now called Richard Johnson Square, you will see a monument marking the site of that first church.

It took him years to get any of his money back. The convicts eventually burnt it down, in 1798. Governor Hunter ordered them to rebuild it and work overtime on the Sabbath to do so:

this would not help the convicts’ sympathy for what it symbolised.

Johnson was conscious of his limitations, and he appealed for assistance from England. He also composed pamphlets, urging people to read the Bible and observe Sabbaths. His appeal to England was answered with Bibles and with tracts on swearing, lying, fornication and stealing.

Other Anglican chaplains did come to the infant Colony, but their work was hampered in many ways – the NSW Corps in 1791 brought out their own chaplain Rev. James Bain, but he was mostly at Norfolk Island and New Zealand, and returned to England in 1794.

Then in 1794 Rev. Samuel Marsden arrived. Marsden, it is thought, was unsure of himself and socially insecure,

**‘Johnson soon became the busiest, and perhaps the least appreciated, man in the Colony. He was responsible for all religious services at Sydney and Parramatta, all marriages and funerals, and was made Civil Magistrate.’**

and so he compensated heavily by being aggressive. He was often in New Zealand, where he founded Christianity in Nelson for the Church Missionary Society, and made trips back to England. He was based in Parramatta, and was the only substantial reinforcement who ever came to Johnson. Johnson remained as Senior Chaplain until his return to England in 1800, and Marsden was then Senior Chaplain until the arrival of Archdeacon (later Bishop) Broughton in 1829.

In 1800 Governor Hunter released from the convict ranks Rev. Henry Fulton, an Irish Anglican priest, who had been transported because of alleged involvement in conspiracies. He was given chaplaincy duties along the Hawkesbury River and on Norfolk Island. When Marsden was back in

England from 1807 to 1810, Fulton was the only clergyman left in the Colony. Bligh was the Governor then, but his regime was cut short when he was deposed by the NSW Corps in 1808, and Fulton was sacked by the Corps as a Bligh sympathiser. For two years then, until Marsden’s return, there was no recognised chaplain; although the NSW Corps did try to secure the services of a non-Anglican London Missionary Society minister who happened to be in Port Jackson from time to time.

So from 1788 to 1810, a period of 22 years, if we ignore Bain, there were three official chaplains – for eight years one only, for 12 years two, for two years none; while convicts and officials grew by thousands – from 1,024 in 1788 to 10,452 in 1810.

The work of the chaplains was hampered in many ways. Phillip was relatively indifferent, although Governor Hunter was more sympathetic. But two of the officers, Grose and Paterson, who were in charge after Phillip left until Hunter’s arrival, cared even less.

On one occasion Johnson was prevented from attending two condemned men before their execution. In a letter to Hunter in 1798 after his arrival, Johnson complained that after Phillip had left he was ordered to take one only Sunday service at six in the morning, and they only allowed him a bare three quarters of an hour to take the service before they beat the drum to relieve the guard and the soldiers would leave, sometimes in the middle of a sermon. He goes on to state that ‘almost all common morality and decency was banished from the Colony.’

‘Seeing,’ he wrote to Hunter, ‘such gross immoralities, depredation, drunkenness, riots, and even murders, daily committed, seeing them still becoming more open and flagrant, and seeing no steps taken to put a check or stop to such shameful and horrid proceedings, I could not forbear complaining and remonstrating against them. But all such complaints and remonstrances answered no other end than to add to the insults and pointed opposition I had already experienced in the performance of my public duty, and to oppress me the more in my domestic concerns.’<sup>3</sup>

Later Governors were sympathetic, but all treated the chaplains as subordinate officers, paid by them like warders or officers. Even worship was used to read the publication of the administration’s



notices and regulations for the next week; and at one stage Marsden rebelled strongly against this.

Also, the population became widely scattered as well as numerous. It was a full day's trip from Sydney to Parramatta, another day's trip to the Hawkesbury. Then there was the challenge of the aboriginal inhabitants in New Holland and New Zealand, which appealed to Marsden, who was a missionary at heart. There was too much to do with too few to do it; they were too dispersed to be fruitful anywhere.

The chaplains could hardly support themselves, but they were given farm allotments to sustain their families, and were assigned convicts: so they were identified with the landowning class. Johnson complained that he was a moral policeman, an adjunct to the penal authorities, 'to be aligned with guards, the magistrate and the hangman.'

Marsden described himself as gardener, farmer, magistrate and minister. There was confusion of his roles for the convicts. His association with the magistracy rankled most.

Henry Fulton was a good magistrate, but he was resented by his social betters as he was a freed convict. But there was little

choice for the Governors. Marsden had a reputation for great severity, although severity was the norm, not the exception.

It may be that his landowning interests outweighed his pastor's interests. For better or ill, Marsden set his own image on the first permanent Australian settlement.

The British Government had given no thought to any other than Anglican clergymen. But I should mention that the greatest single group were the Irish Catholics, who were between a quarter and a third of the population – particularly among the convicts – and yet for 32 years no Roman Catholic priest received official recognition. There is quite an interesting story in itself. Then there were the non-Roman Catholic dissenters, such as the Scots free settlers along the Hawkesbury in 1802, who were Presbyterian, and who were ministered to at Ebenezer by visiting London Missionary Society missionaries.

Those early ministers of all Communion were far from perfect, but they ministered under great difficulties in a new and unknown land, far removed from the land they had left. They came to serve God in the name of Christ.

<sup>1</sup> John Tully, 'A tribute to Colony's first clergymen,' in 'Daily News,' Murwillumbah, 26 January 1984.

<sup>2</sup> Jean Woolmington, Ed., Religion in Early Australia, Cassell, Stanmore, NSW, 1976, pp. 7-8.

'An army officer, Captain Tench, said Johnson was "the best farmer in the Colony"; he is credited with planting the first citrus oranges, limes and lemons, having brought the seeds from Rio; he befriended the aborigines, and was hostage to them while Beenelong visited the Governor; his first child, a daughter, was given the Aboriginal name "Milbah".' – Tully, op. cit.

<sup>3</sup> Woolmington, op. cit., p. 9.

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## EDWARD GOODIN DEDICATION SERVICE

On Sunday, 14 January, a dedication service for the memorial plaque for First Fleeter Edward Goodin took place. It was attended by a large gathering of spectators mostly descendants of Edward Goodin and his wife, Ann (Thomas) Goodin. Edward and Ann Goodin are buried at St. Anne's Church Cemetery, Ryde, with other members of their family.

President Peter Christian started proceedings by welcoming all those in attendance, especially the other speakers Councillor Jim Hull, Mayor of the City of Ryde, and Kevin Shaw, President of the Ryde and District Historical Society.

Former President of the Fellowship James Donohoe, a descendant of Edward Goodin, then gave the eulogy of his famous ancestor. This was followed by Kevin Shaw giving a very interesting resume of the history of St. Anne's Church and details of the prominent people buried in its cemetery.

Mayor Hull in raising the Queen Ann flag draped over the tombstone and memorial plaque congratulated the Fellowship on its project. The Rector of St. Anne's, the Reverend Patrick Collins, then concluded the service with a dedication prayer.

Jim Hull in his speech had stated that although Edward Goodin and his family had been prominent in the area there was no street or location in the City of Ryde named in their honour. Jim Donohoe after the service explained to Councillor Hull that Edward Goodin was generally known as Goodwin, the

name under which he was sentenced. Goodwin Street, West Ryde, which goes through the family estate, was named in their honour.

Edward Goodin, born in 1765, was sentenced in the Old Bailey on 21 April 1784 to seven years transportation for the theft of two pieces of woollen cloth. He arrived in this country on board Scarborough.

On 27 December 1790 Edward Goodin married Ann Thomas who had arrived on Lady Juliana with the Second Fleet.

A special 'thank you' must be extended to the St. Anne's Cemetery Trust, in finding the Goodin families' three tombstones among a pile of stones and reinstating them together on their original site, and to the St. Anne's Parish Council, for their efforts and cooperation in this project.

This memorial is the 85th plaque we have been able to have attached to First Fleeters' tombstones since this project of seeking the burial sites of these Founders of our country.





## HAPPENINGS with Laurel and Brenda



Hi Folks

Well here we are once again starting a fresh year, like so many of you no doubt, vowing to loose those few extra inches which seem to creep on throughout

the Christmas cheer. Since our last column we have several happenings to report, the Christmas luncheon held at the Renaissance Hotel was a pleasant day, guest speaker Mr Len Werman gave an interesting and enjoyable talk on the early Streets of Sydney.

### AUSTRALIA DAY

That glorious day of our Ancestors arrival, one which we are so truly proud, alas, has come and gone so quickly once again.

January 26 this year was celebrated for the first time since the Bicentenary on the harbour by yours truly, we had such a magic day. Our private boat departed Point Piper Mariner at 10 o'clock and after a sight-seeing excursion around Sydney's foreshores we anchored off Clifton Gardens where we delighted in morning tea whilst waiting for the beginning of the ferry race, the sound of the cannon was heard and within no time at all the ferries came powering up the harbour followed by an entourage of small vessels, white caps appeared as the bow of the boats glided through the waters. All of a sudden we were swept along in the excitement, every imaginable object that could float was making its way through the rough turbulence towards the Harbour Bridge and the finish of the race.

Next came the Tall Ships, this produced all the same thrills and chills as the ferry race, but of course much more picturesque with the tall ships all under sail, a sight that will be etched in our memories for a long time. We then made our way across the heads and moored at Little Manly Cove. Whilst lunch was prepared our attention was diverted to the skies as the RAAF Red Arrows turned on a tremendous display of flying skills weaving and diving through the vibrant blue skies above us.

About 4.30 we weighed anchor and began our trip back to Rose Bay where

we all participated in dressing our boat for the FLAGS AFLOAT PARADE. The vessel was decked with colourful flags from the bow to the fly bridge and clusters of balloons tied to as many positions as possible. The crew and all on board were decked out in colonial outfits which attracted much attention,

The flags afloat, a spectacular and colourful event for both participants and onlookers, concluded at the entrance to Cockle Bay. A huge jazz concert was staged for the boating participants. At evening's end we were entertained with a brilliant display of fireworks preceded with the farewell of his excellency Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair our retiring Governor.

Over 800 boats sounded their horns as the Governor sailed through the flotilla on his last official engagement. A most memorable Australia Day 96 was enjoyed by us.

### SATURDAY THE 27TH

The annual luncheon of the day we celebrate our ancestors arrival was this year held at Sydney University in the Holme building and was represented by many of our First Fleet descendants. The guest speaker was Dr. Grace Karskens PhD who spoke on writing the 'History of the Rocks: Convict Community', a book will be published in November, also we were honoured with the presence of a special First Fleet descendant Commodore Paul Kable and his charming wife, Anne. The Commodore, the Fellowship's Vice Patron has just returned after serving the last three years in London to take up a posting in Canberra as Director General Force Development (Sea).

Welcome Home, Commodore and Mrs Kable.

On the 30 January along with Joy Cordeiro, Kath Smith, Nell Sansom and undoubtedly many other First Fleet descendants we marched from the gates of Government House up Macquarie Street to Parliament House in Protest over the decision of the Premier to down-grade the position of the Governor and our heritage. To all who have the same sentiments which we displayed, we urge you to constantly keep the pressure on the Government by writing to the newspapers, your local MPs, phoning talk-back radio with your opinions and objections to the manner in which this Government is chipping away at our heritage.

Before ending our column this month

we would like to say a big hello to Stan Bartlett, Hi! Stan, we have missed your cheery presence throughout the last couple of months, at the many functions you normally attend. (For many years Stan has been a solid worker at First Fleet House on Mondays).



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

PERIOD 23 NOVEMBER 1995 TO 10 JANUARY 1996

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - seven adults, four juniors, one spouse associate.

THOMAS CHIPP - JANE LANGLEY: Mr Colin Adrian Lawless.

ANDREW FISHBURN: Miss Fiona Leigh Edwards.

ELLENOR FRASER: Mrs Thelma Lillian Collins; Mrs Vickie Irene Peters; Mr Raymond Victor Morgan (sp. Mrs Elaine Morgan).

JOSHUA PECK: Mrs Wendy Jane Dennis.

ANTHONY ROPE - ELIZABETH PUILLEY: Mrs Robyn Helen Rogers.

WILLIAM WALL: Mr James Fergusson White (jun.); Miss Elizabeth Jane White (jun.); Mr David Paul White (jun.); Mr Grant Andrew Parkhurst (jun.).

## BIRTH NOTICES

A warm welcome to the following New First Fleeter:

SARAH WILMA JEAN LEGGE (F.F. James Squire/Edward Goodin), 2 July 1995. Fourth child of James and Rachel (#196) Legge, fourth grandchild of Loch and Wilma (#195) Townsend, and eighth grandchild of Rex and Elizabeth Legge. Sarah was baptised at Christ Church Gosford Anglican, Parish of Gosford, on Advent Sunday, 3 December 1995.





## FRANCES HANNAH CLEMENT DEDICATION SERVICE

Inclement weather on Sunday, 21 January, did not mar the dedication service of a memorial plaque attached to the headstone of First Fleeter Frances Hannah Clement. She is buried in the historic St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta.

The service was held in conjunction with the Arndell Family Association which was having a family reunion gathering at nearby Parramatta Park.

The President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Mr Peter Christian, welcomed those in attendance, making specific reference to the research done by Mrs Marj Raven into the history of Frances Hannah Clement.

The eulogy was given by the President of the Arndell Family Association, the Reverend Seton Arndell, and in his opening remarks the Reverend Arndell said: 'On behalf of the Association, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Mrs Marj Raven for her tireless efforts over the last 11 years to discover the truth about Frances Hannah Clements and bring it to the attention of both our Association and the Fellowship of First Fleeters. I would also like to express our thanks to the Fellowship for recognising Frances Hannah as a First Fleeter and for affixing a plaque to her grave.'

In delivering the eulogy he went on to explain: Frances Hannah Clement was born to Elizabeth Burleigh on Lady Penrhyn as the First Fleet travelled toward Sydney Cove. Elizabeth Burleigh was being transported for seven years for having stolen 14 handkerchiefs from a London shop. The father of Hannah was John Clement a seaman on board Lady Penrhyn.

Frances Hannah grew up at Parramatta, where her mother entered into a relationship with Thomas Arndell, the Medical Superintendent. On 10 July 1790 Thomas and Elizabeth had a son who was christened William Burleigh at St. John's, Parramatta, on 5 September 1790. Unfortunately William lived only 19 months, and Frances lost her little brother. They



are buried here together in the same grave, for Frances Hannah outlived William by less than eight years.

In concluding his speech, the Rev. Arndell thanked the Anglican Bishop of Parramatta, the Reverend Brian King, for being with us at this dedication service. The Bishop then responded and raised the Queen Ann flag draped over the tombstone and the attached plaque. After raising the flag Bishop King finished with a moving dedication service.

It is understood the Arndell Family Association is giving consideration to plans to have the tombstone restored and a plaque installed at its foot with the wording on the tombstone duplicated.

## OBITUARY

**JUNE PATRICIA (Pat) GILMOUR** (#3497) died in Canberra on 7 November 1995, from cancer.

The funeral service was held at the Presbyterian Church of St Andrew, in Forrest, Canberra, on Friday, 10 November 1995.

Mr Laurie Copping from the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Mr Michael Murphy, a colleague of Pat from Aboriginal Hostels, and Pat's son Jeffrey Anthony, all paid tribute.

Pat was elected to the Executive of the Fellowship of First Fleeters in 1986 and in 1987 formed the Canberra Chapter of the Fellowship and became its first President.

The following eulogy was given by Laurie Copping (#2641): 'When I first became involved with the Fellowship of First Fleeters here in Canberra, I well remember Pat telling me that she knew that her great-grandmother was an irritable old black lady and that other relatives were dark skinned. At the time I was impressed by how immensely proud Pat was of this fact.

'When Pat asked about this she was always told that she was descended from an Island Princess. As a matter of interest her father was an ardent Scottish Presbyterian, which probably made her determined to research her background. With Colin's [her husband] help and that of the Genealogy Society they discovered that her ancestor was John Martin, an American

Negro, who arrived in the First Fleet, as a convict on the transport Alexander.

'On the same vessel was John Randall, a West Indian convict. In the new Colony they became firm friends and both prospered. In later years Martin married Randall's daughter, Mary.

'With these facts established, Pat joined the Fellowship of First Fleeters with the firm intention of breaking down barriers. At her first meeting of the Sydney chapter she was elected to the Executive in 1986. She immediately set to work to establish a local chapter here in Canberra. A meeting at the Griffen Centre in July 1987 elected her as President. Her enthusiasm and hard work helped to recruit new members. Her splendid knowledge of meeting conduct, together with her warm understanding and help extended to new members, encouraged many. Pat worked unceasingly to assist new members and for all the activities of the Chapter, many of which she initiated.

'Pat Gilmour did indeed break down the barriers, and I know that all First Fleeters will sadly miss her friendship and be proud to have known her.'

At the conclusion of the service her coffin was carried from the church by her Aboriginal colleagues. She was later cremated at a private ceremony.