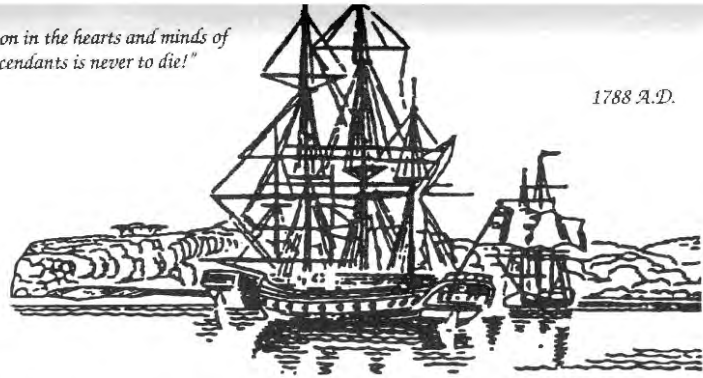


Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"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

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PATRON: His Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels, AC, Governor of New South Wales
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MARCH/APRIL 1997 VOLUME 28 NO. 2

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year is the bicentenary of the discovery of Newcastle and the Hunter River by Lieut. John Shortland, First Fleeter. There will be a plaque ceremony undertaken by the Newcastle City Council on 9 September next. The proposed memorial is of 'Colliers Point 1820' now the site of Fort Scratchley. In conjunction with the Hunter River Chapter of the Fellowship, we are seeking permission to place a commemorative plaque on the John Shortland Memorial Fountain near Newcastle Town Hall. Plaque Convenor and Vice-President Doug Oakes is liaising with chapter president Ray Meredith in this proposed Fellowship venture later in the year, on a date to be advised. The A.G.M. of the Fellowship will be held in Newcastle in recognition of this important city's bicentenary.

At the February Executive meeting new member Robert Ellis (F.F. Edward Garth - Susannah Gough) was elected as an Executive member of the Fellowship. We look forward to Bob's involvement, as we do need new young blood to steer the Fellowship's course into the next century. Are there any further nominees within the membership?

Members will be sorry to hear of the death of Stan Bartlett (F.F. John Gowan). For a number of years Stan held the fort here, at First Fleet House, with me, each Monday. He involved himself in pretty well all of our social gatherings. I first came in contact with Stan in his role of

Chief Returning Officer for the Federal electorate of St George in the early '70s. Some time in 1988 he discovered his heritage as a First fleeter and gave much of his time and effort to the Fellowship. Our sincere condolences to his son, Terry.

On Wednesday 5 March last I chaired the Annual Meeting of the Week-Day Fellowship and remained to hear the most interesting talk given by our Vice-Patron Commodore Paul Kable on his research in the U.K. into the lives of his forebears Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes.

It was a pleasure meeting Jim and Mary Kell and Robert Colls at F.F. House in March. Mary and Robert are descendants of Benjamin Cusley F.F. and Ellen Fraser F.F. Both are keen First Fleeters and members of our Northern Rivers Chapter.

On Sunday 9 March last, we held a 'Meet the President' afternoon at First Fleet House. Some eight or nine new members of the Fellowship attended. Personal 'thank you' to Beverley Naughton who provided refreshments and to those members of the Executive and friends who helped with the afternoon's proceedings. To those new (and 'old') members who were not able to be present, there will be similar functions held at First Fleet House on **Sunday, 13 July**, and **Sunday, 14 September** next. Would you please

make a note in your diary and R.S.V.P. a week beforehand.

Appreciation is due to the Northern Rivers Chapter for the donation of \$100.00 to our Buy-a-Brick Appeal. I have personally responded to Secretary Lionel Phelps with a message of gratitude from the parent body.

Lionel informed me that the Northern Rivers Chapter will attempt to form a chapter in the Grafton area on 13 April. Unfortunately, I don't think this issue will be received by members before that date, but in this Newsletter there are contact phone numbers for members in the Grafton area who may be interested.

As a note of interest, our First Fleet, and for that matter later convict arrivals, take us into many genealogical heritage trails. I happened to mention to His Excellency the Governor at our Australia Day luncheon that I was intrigued and eager to find out more about the Sephardi Jews and Jewesses who were transported. My great-great-great-grandmother was Sarah Lyons, a Jewess who arrived on the Second Fleet. He kindly lent me a book on the Sephardim of Australia and New Zealand. During the diaspora the Sephardi Jews moved from Israel across the North African continent into Spain and Portugal. During the Spanish Inquisition they dispersed to Holland and England. Among First Fleeters, Sephardim

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

(continued from page 1)

was represented by at least eight members. Esther Abrahams and John Harris being among them. It is of interest that a descendant of John Harris was Richard Gardiner Casey who became Governor-General of Australia, and a descendant of Esther Abrahams was our late member, and Governor, Sir David Martin. My Sarah's claim to fame (other than being called by the Rev. Samuel Marsden 'that Jewish concubine living at the back of Parramatta') was that, in marrying First Fleeter William Tunks, her grandson was a member of the Legislative Assembly of NSW and Mayor of St Leonards for many years. Many of us in the Fellowship have knowingly or unknowingly a rich heritage going back to the first century A.D.

In Fellowship
Peter



BIRTHS

A warm welcome for the following New First Fleeters:

EMMA SOPHIA BRADLEY (F.F. Charles Peat - Ann Mullens). 12 December 1996. Second child for Mark and Lynne, second grandchild for John and Jeanette (#4406). Eighth generation.

ADAM JOSEPH DAVIS F.F. Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes). 21 February 1997. Son of Greg and Helen (#383) Davis, grandchild of Jeffrey Wilkinson (#377) and great-grandchild of Lola Wilkinson.

TONI LEE KILDEY (F.F. Anthony Rope - Elizabeth Pulley). 23 January 1997. Third grandchild for Paul and Roslyn (#5957) Kildey, N.Q. Fourth great-grandchild for Mrs Stella Minter (#5825). Tenth generation.

MICHAEL JAMES KNIGHT (F.F. Jane Langley - Thomas Chipp). 16 December 1996. Third child of Stuart and Karen. Brother to Jessica and Alissa.

JENNIFER ELIZABETH LAQUA (F.F. John Small - Mary Parker). 11 July 1995. Daughter of Raimond and Nancy (nee Bridgeman). granddaughter for Al and Judith (#3351) Bridgeman.

LAURA ELIZABETH MURPHY (F.F. William Tyrrell). 22 February 1997. First child for Glenda and Andrew, first grandchild for Jean and Terry Mortimer (#6409). Eighth generation.

LUCY GRACE SELBY-THOMPSON (F.F. Anne Forbes + William Hubbard), 12 February 1997. A daughter to Janet Selby and Peter Thompson, a granddaughter to Phyllis Selby and the late Keith Selby.

EMILY PAIGE TAKAMAA (F.F. Thomas Acres), 16 November 1996 at Penrith. A daughter for Roslyn and Mikael. A granddaughter for Val (#5810) and Fred Burden. Ninth generation.

JACK EDWARD TICKNER (F.F. John Cross), 28 September 1992. A son to Robert and Jodey (nee Hutchings) and a brother to Jade. A grandson to Leonard (#2437) Murray. Seventh generation

ANDREW DAVID WEISBACK (F.F. Elizabeth Pulley - Anthony Rope), 28 December 1996. Second child for Vanessa and David Weisback, a brother for Owen Eric Weisback, grandchild for Eric and Helen (#249) Ryan.

ELIZABETH KATE WILKINSON (F.F. Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes), 5 July 1996. Daughter of Christopher (#384) and Kate Wilkinson, grandchild of Jeffrey Wilkinson (#377) and great-grandchild of Lola Wilkinson.

BENJAMIN JOHN WILKINSON (F.F. Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes), 24 September 1996. Son of Paul (#385) and Catherine Wilkinson, grandchild of Jeffrey Wilkinson (#377) and great-grandchild of Lola Wilkinson.



DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is offered to the families of the following:

STANLEY BARTLETT (#5271), died 25 February 1997. Father of Terry Bartlett (#5268). Descendant of F.F. John Gowen.

WILLIAM (Bill) J. LAMROCK (#1123), passed away 3 January 1997. Sadly missed by wife, Sue, son Michael, daughter Melissa, granddaughter Jessica. Descendant of F.F. James Bloodworth, Sarah Bellamy, James Lee.

MURIEL LARDEN (#1056), of West Ryde, on 2 August 1996. Descendant of F.F. Eleanor Fraser.

NANCY LAMBERT SMALL (#2006), passed away 11 December 1996. Loved sister of Beatrice Small and Helen Rundell. Descendant of F.F. John and Mary Small.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

for period 16 January to 26 February 1997

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - seven adults.

THOMAS CHIPP - JANE LANGLEY: Mr Peter Arrol McInnes.

JOHN CROSS: Mr Les Beuzeville; Mrs Lorraine Mirriam Burt.

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM + PETER HIBBS: Mr Desmond Frank Simmonds.

JAMES RUSE: Mr Mark David Percival.

JOHN SMALL - MARY PARKER: Ms Mary Ellen Beals.

JOSEPH TUZO: Mrs Allison Beryl Howlett.

DATES TO REMEMBER FOR '97

MAY

Mon 5 Annual holiday trip! Off to Dubbo.

JUNE

Sun 15 Coach Day to historic Windsor, Wilberforce, etc. Barbecue lunch then on to Sydney International Regatta Centre, Penrith Lakes. All inclusive \$29.

JULY

Wed 2 Soup and Damper Day - First Fleet House.

AUGUST

Sun 10 Tour of Elizabeth Bay House.

SEPTEMBER

Wed 3 Fort Denison.

OCTOBER

Sun 19 Coach trip to Canberra. Stay overnight. Stephen Mutch will show us over Parliament House on Monday, 20 October.

NOVEMBER

Wed 5 The Edge, Katoomba.

DECEMBER

Christmas social - date to be advised.

*Tree Dedication
&
Plaque Unveiling*

**Our Family Day for 1997
FREDERICK MEREDITH DESCENDANTS GROUP**

In cooperation with Liverpool Regional Museum Heritage Week

Special displays and entertainment

**SUNDAY 27 APRIL 1997
10.00am to 3.30pm**

Plaque unveiling 1.30pm to 2.00pm

Wide variety of quality gift stalls

- ✦ *Demonstrations and entertainment* ✦ *Traditional children's games*
✦ *Sausage sizzle* ✦ *Heritage crafts* ✦ *Devonshire Teas*

For more information phone:

RAY MEREDITH (049) 431246

NEV BRYCE (02) 9772 3329

LIVERPOOL REGIONAL MUSEUM

Nr Cnr Hume Highway & Congressional Drive,
Liverpool

**NSW Association of Family History Societies
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

hosted by

Newcastle Family History Society Inc.

✦ **'A Journey of Discovery'** ✦

24 - 25 - 26 OCTOBER 1997

MAYFIELD EX-SERVICES CLUB, Hanbury Street, MAYFIELD

SPEAKERS ON OUR JOURNEY

Cynthia Hunter, Hunter Valley Historian - *'John Crowe Memorial Address'*

Ed Tonks - *War Memorials in France and Belgium*

Bruce Tyrrell - *Vigneron Families*

Dr Ionathon Silberberg - *Genetics in Family History*

Keith Johnson - *Irish Research*

Fiona Burn - *Discovering Records in the Australian Archives*

Graham Aubrey - *Celtic Studies*

Hunter Photo Bank - *Over 50,000 photos on the Database*

Researching Other Races - *Panel Presentation on Chinese, Indian, Pacific Islanders and Koori Research*

Bookstalls, Displays and Demonstrations

ACCOMMODATION

Due to an International Sporting Event being held in Newcastle on this weekend, accommodation will be at a premium. So please book early to avoid disappointment. Newcastle Tourism Ltd are holding allotments on behalf of the Conference. Bookings can be made by contacting Cathy on either Free Call 1800 654 558 or Fax 049 296 732.

Further details may be obtained from the Conference Secretary, Newcastle Family History Society Inc., PO Box 189, ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289.

**FIRST FLEETERS
and FRIENDS**

Centred on Dubbo
Palms Motor Inn, Dubbo

**MONDAY, 5 MAY: ALL ABOARD
THE COACH TO DUBBO.**

Coach will leave Eddy Avenue,
Central Station, at 9.00am on
Monday, 5 May, and return on
Saturday, 10 May, arriving about
5.00pm.

New Negotiated Price is \$420 all
inclusive. Please pay by 10 April

For more information, ring First
Fleet House: (02) 9360 3788.

Late, late, too late News

A Meeting to consider forming a
Chapter of the Fellowship to serve
descendants of First Fleeters living
on the north coast.

WHEN

Sunday, 13 April 1997 at 1.00pm

WHERE

Community Village, Coffs Harbour

INQUIRIES

Lionel Phelps (066) 242363

Bill Hunt (066) 212152

Rod Davis (066) 802768

DAY TOUR

Sunday 15 June

To visit historic Windsor -
Wilberforce - Richmond!

And Much, Much More.

After a Barbecue Lunch it is on to
Penrith Lakes Olympic setting,

The Sydney International Rowing
Centre.

(Visualise yourself being cox
of the winning Australian Eights
Olympic Team.)

All inclusive cost is a reasonable
\$29.00

Coach departs Central 8.30am.
There will be a pickup at Lane Cove.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL TO OFFICE
(02) 9360 3788. BE EARLY!**

DAYTIME FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING

The meeting was held at First Fleet House on Wednesday, 5 March.

On opening the meeting, the convenor paid tribute to late member Stan Bartlett who passed away on Tuesday, 25 February. Until recently Stan had been a very active helper in manning the office on Mondays and always an eager participant in Fellowship activities. Stan was a descendant of First Fleeter John Gowan.

Phyllis Selby in her presentation of the Activities Report mentioned the successful trip to Macksville when more than 30 people enjoyed a week in the Macksville area. Other events which proved satisfying to the members who attended included the Soup and Damper luncheon which packed the 'House' in July 1996; the visit to the 2000 Olympic venue at Homebush, described by the president of the International Olympic Committee as the greatest swimming complex he had ever seen; the visit to HMAS Kuttabul, which needed two trips to satisfy demand. Mention was also made of the walks around the Strathfield and Hunters Hill areas conducted by Beverley Naughton and high praise for the organisation of the Christmas and Australia Day Luncheons.

In passing, Phyllis mentioned that Weekday Functions were being planned for a day at Fort Denison and one to view 'The Edge,' at Katoomba. Joy Pankhurst was presently involved in organising journeys to Canberra and the Hunter Valley.

The Financial Report prepared by Treasurer Joyce Rixon showed that a net profit had been made from the functions after all expenses had been met. Donations of \$221.90 were made to the Fellowship for the purchasing of books for the library and computer programs. A donation of \$100 is to be made to the Australian Colonial Marine Re-enactment Group for their participation in the Australia Day Luncheon ceremonial.

Despite the inclement weather the Group formed a Guard of Honour within the colonnade of the building to welcome His

Excellency the Governor of New South Wales and Mrs. Samuels.

The President of the Fellowship, Peter Christian, who was in attendance, as was Ray Meredith, convenor of the Newcastle Chapter, was asked to conduct the election of officers for the Daytime Committee for 1997 which resulted in:

Convenor: Douglas Oakes

Secretary: Anne Davison

Treasurer: Joyce Rixon

Weekday Functions: Phyllis Selby

Weekend Functions: Joy Pankhurst

In welcoming Joy Pankhurst to the Committee, the convenor explained that because of family commitments Beverley Naughton would not be able to organise weekend functions; Joy Pankhurst volunteered to cover these functions. Bev will still conduct the Christmas Dinner and the 1998 Australia Day Dinner.

After lunch Vice-Patron Commodore Paul Kable R.A.N. gave a talk on his First Fleeters Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes.

Paul Kable had with him at the Daytime Fellowship meeting copies of many newsletters and a priceless letter of the time relating to and mentioning the Keable family and has promised to collate his material and submit a story for publication in the future.

Alan Wild, another descendant of Henry Kable, presented to Paul a copy of 'Where First Fleeters Lie' on behalf of the meeting in appreciation of his talk.

DOUGLAS OAKES
Convenor



HENRY CABELL/CABEL/KABEL/KEABLE (1766-1846)

Vice-Patron Commodore Paul Kable R.A.N. while stationed in England was able to do some research on First Fleeter Henry Kable's family history.

The records show he was convicted on 14 March 1783 as Henry Cabell and was buried in St Matthew's Church Cemetery, Windsor, as Henry Kable, in 1846.

Henry was sentenced to death at Thetford, Norfolk, with his father, Henry, both of Mendham, Suffolk, and Abraham Carman of Laxfield, Suffolk, for breaking into a house where they stripped it of every movable object.

Henry senior and Abraham Carman were hanged on 5 April 1783. Henry junior was reprieved to transportation for seven years and was taken to the Castle of Norwich where he remained until taken to the hulk Dunkirk to await transportation.

In the Castle of Norwich young Henry fell in love with fellow inmate Susannah Holmes who bore him a son Henry Holmes/Kable. Susannah Holmes had been sentenced to death at Thetford on 19 March 1784 for the theft of a quantity of clothing and other items at Thwilton in November 1783. The sentence was commuted to 14 years transportation.

Henry and Susannah with little Henry (jun.) were eventually given permission to travel together to Botany Bay aboard Friendship but Susannah and Henry (jun.) were transferred to Charlotte at the Cape of Good Hope and Cable remained on Friendship. They married at Sydney Cove on 10 February 1788 each signing the register with a cross.

Paul Kable was able to visit many places associated with both Henry and Susannah and collect copies of

documents relating to their trials and appeals to have their death sentences commuted to transportation.

Susannah was the daughter of Joshua Holmes and Eunice Brooks and was born in 1764 at Surlingham, Norfolk. She is buried at St Matthew's, Windsor having passed away 8 November 1825 age given as 63 years.

Henry was born to Henry Keable and Diana Fuller in 1764. Henry Keable and Diana Fuller were married at Lanfield, Suffolk, in 1762 and had nine children. Keables had arrived in Kent with the Saxons about 1400.

Paul and his wife, Ann, stayed at Laxfield to be imbued with the atmosphere of the place where the Keables had lived. It is said that many of the places have hardly changed in appearance since that time.

Who Were ?

ALICE HARMSWORTH/STANFIELD

Alice journeyed to Sydney Cove with the First Fleet on board Prince of Wales as the wife of marine Thomas Harmsworth, they were accompanied by two children, Ann and Thomas.

Thomas Harmsworth died in Sydney on 30 April 1788.

Alice then befriended Corporal Daniel Stanfield who had arrived on Sirius. Daniel Stanfield and Alice Harmsworth married on 15 October 1791 and had five children.

After spending some time on Norfolk Island they eventually settled in Tasmania.

Daniel died 4 February 1826 and Alice 8 October 1830 and both were buried in St David's Cemetery, Hobart.

The tombstone of Daniel was made part of the Memorial Wall when the cemetery was restored. The tombstone of Alice was never found.

In 1988 the Fellowship of First Fleeters had a memorial plaque attached beside Daniel's tombstone and plaques were also placed at the tombstones of two other First Fleeters, Jacob Bellett and George Guest. These tombstones also formed part of the Memorial Wall.

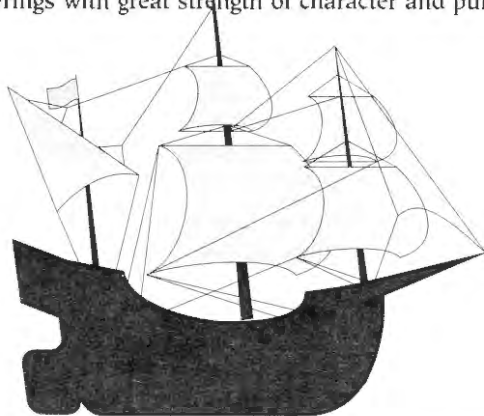
In 1995 the Tasmanian First Settlers Association had a plaque attached on the Memorial Wall next to Daniel Stanfield's headstone, for Alice Stanfield. The plaque reads:

ALICE STANFIELD 1754-1830

Wife of Daniel Stanfield of Green Point

A First Fleeter and courageous wife and mother

As a Founder of our nation she bore trials and sufferings with great strength of character and purpose



EDWARD MILES/MOYLE (1761-1838)

Edward Miles (indicted as Moyle) was sentenced to seven years transportation and after serving time in the hulk Dunkirk arrived with the First Fleet aboard Scarborough.

He had, with John Rowe, been sentenced at Launceston, Cornwall, on 19 March 1785 for the theft of two cloth coats and other goods from a dwelling house.

He was disembarked at Port Jackson as Edward Miles recorded as 'tolerably decent and orderly.' On 6 February 1790 was accused of stealing vegetables from the garden of Captain George Johnston but was acquitted through lack of evidence. On 31 October 1803, Edward Miles married Susannah Smith, a convict, who had arrived on Glutton in 1803, they had four daughters. Susannah, born 21 July 1804, who married a Simon Freebody and had nine children; Martha born February 1807, married William Bridle on 31 June 1823 and bore 10 children; Elizabeth, born 3 March 1810, married a William Alderson and had five children; another daughter whose name and details are unknown is believed to have married a person named Stedman.

Edward Miles had land grants at both Prospect and Macquarie fields. He died 19 August 1838 and is buried at St Matthew's, Windsor.

Susannah Miles died 4 December 1838 and is buried with her husband. A grandson, Edward Alderson, who was only 10 days old when he died 1840 is also buried with them.

In 1982 the Fellowship of first Fleeters had a memorial plaque attached to the tombstone identifying Edward Miles as a First Fleeter.

The late Wai Lewis in 1970 presented to the Concord Heritage Society a very spectacular family tree of Martha and William Bridle, with a total of 636 branches representing descendants born since 1823 until 1970.

The society would welcome any visitations from descendants of Edward and Susannah Miles to see this family tree and all other memorabilia it has on exhibition. It would particularly like to hear from any descendant of Martha and William Bridle who could help update the tree.

The Concord Heritage Museum is located at 5 Wellbank Street, Concord, and is open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from 2.00pm till 5.00pm. By ringing the secretary, Lois Michel, on 9744 8528, arrangements can be made to open for special occasions.

JOHN SHORTLAND

Family

John Shortland of Miranda has responded to the article in the November/December issue of the Newsletter concerning First Fleeters buried overseas, giving information of his First Fleeter John Shortland.

The records show that three members of the Shortland family came out on the First Fleet.

Captain John Shortland (sen.), 1739-1803, R.N. and transport agent, sailed originally on Fishburn and then transferred to Alexander at Capetown. He left the settlement in July 1788



carrying despatches from Governor Phillip to Lord Sydney, as well as letters from the French explorer LaPerouse for the French Ambassador, arriving back in England on 29 May 1789. John Shortland died in Lille, France, on 16 January 1803.

His two sons, John Shortland (1769-1810) and Thomas George Shortland (1771-1827), also came out with the First Fleet.

Thomas George Shortland entered the Navy as a midshipman in 1785. In 1786 his father had him transferred to Alexander as a second mate and on which he arrived in this country with the First Fleet. Returning to England shortly afterwards, he served with distinction in the British Navy. He died on 23 November 1827 and is buried in St Andrew Parish Church, Half Way Tree, Kingston, Jamaica.

John Shortland (jun.) joined as a midshipman in 1781, serving in Canadian and West Indies waters. He came to this country as a second mate on Friendship. He was transferred to Sirius in September and had risen to the rank of master's mate by November 1789. John Shortland (jun.) returned to England in 1791 and then came back to Australia in 1795 as a first lieutenant with Captain Hunter when Hunter returned to become Governor.

In 1797 he journeyed north in a whaleboat to chase some runaway convicts and discovered the Hunter River. His crew spent the night of 9 September ashore and accidentally found coal which eventually led to the establishment of the coal industry in this area and to the development of the beautiful City of Newcastle.

John Shortland returned to England and in 1804 he was appointed commander of HMS Trompeuse and later captain of the captured French frigate Junon. In 1809 the French retook Junon killing 20 and wounding over 40 including Captain John Shortland. He died on 21 January 1810 and is buried at Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, West Indies.

In 1926 The Australasian Society of Patriots erected a plaque commemorating the landing of Lieutenant John Shortland on the banks of the Hunter River.

In the September of 1897, to mark the centenary of the discovery of the area by Shortland, the local council erected a drinking fountain on the Newcastle waterfront. The foundation stone was laid by the Hon. J. N. Bunker, MP and Colonial Secretary in the New South Wales Government. The Mayor of Newcastle at the time was David Miller, a well-known businessman. The fountain has since been removed to a small park in Reids Lane.

We are seeking permission to erect a memorial plaque on the side of the fountain in memory of Lieutenant Shortland. Hopefully for dedication in 1997 as part of a contribution to the Newcastle Bicentenary Celebrations.

The 1997 Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship of First Fleeters will be held in Newcastle on the day we hope to dedicate this memorial plaque.

In an attic, cellar or packing case somewhere, probably in England, lies an undiscovered document that one day will prove to be a world first – a convict account of the First Fleet's colonisation of Australia in 1788.

That is the cherished hope – and belief – of historians.

The 750 convicts on the First Fleet must have written something about the beginnings of white settlement, they say, but not a single letter or journal is known to have survived.

Mr Brunton's optimism about the existence of other manuscripts is supported by the fact that so many have come to light in recent years.

Mary Reiby's one-page letter only became available ten years ago. The Library paid \$27,000 for it.

In 1995 the Library bought the diary of an American seaman on the First Fleet, Jacob Nagle, who was one of the most interesting and colourful of the First Fleeters.

Not a decade has passed since the discovery of midshipman Newton Fowell's 13 letters to his father. They were found in the attic of a home in England that once belonged to the Fowell family.

They were the 'most sensational find of historical material for over 50 years,' Mr Brunton said, and they cost the Library \$276,000.

The Library's nine First Fleet journals include Lieutenant William Bradley's first-hand account of the wreck of Sirius at Norfolk Island in 1790.

CONVICT 'TREASURE' MUST EXIST

say Historians

Even the other half of the Fleet, officers and seamen who also numbered around 750, produced only 11 journals known to exist.

Two are in England, and nine in the State Library of New South Wales.

One goes on public display in Sydney this month as part of an exhibition which includes William Bligh's HMS Bounty logbook and Joseph Banks's Endeavour journal.

'Somewhere hidden away there must be more material,' said the Library's curator of manuscripts, Paul Brunton. 'I always live in hope.'

'The most sensational thing might come up for auction next week.'

'England is the most likely place, but a number of Americans were on the First Fleet, and America has not yet been surveyed as Britain has.'

'In all the world, there are no writings from any convict until 1792, but we know earlier letters were written.'

'It's an extraordinary mystery that not a single one has survived.'

The first known convict letter, four years after Governor Arthur Phillip founded the Colony, was written by 15-year-old Mary Reiby (Royal Admiral 1792), who went on to become a wealthy businesswoman.

**'TO US IT IS THE
GREAT FOUNDATION
VOYAGE, THE
STARTING OF
WHITE AUSTRALIA.
BUT TO THEM IT
WAS NOT MUCH
OUT OF THE BAG...'**

When Governor Phillip left the Fleet at Botany Bay to find a more suitable site for the settlement, Jacob Nagle was one of the sailors who rowed Phillip and his officers from Botany Bay to Port Jackson in January 1788. Phillip is alleged to have said in observing a fish caught by Nagle: ... 'Recollect,' said Phillip, 'that you are the first white man that ever caught a fish in Sidney (sic) Cove where the town is to be built.'

Surgeon Arthur Bowes-Smyth's journal includes the first illustration of an emu, one of which the new arrivals shot and ate, finding its meat similar to beefsteak.

Just as surprising as the lack of surviving manuscripts is the reason why officers and sailors were less than prolific correspondents.

'None of them really considered this voyage to be anything extraordinary,' said Mr Brunton.

'To us it is the great foundation voyage, the starting of white Australia. But to them it was not much out of the bag.'

'Many were only there for promotion or money, and would rather have been elsewhere.'

'They just did not think it was important enough to write up.'

'Even Phillip does not appear to have written a journal, other than his official letters and despatches to England. It certainly has not survived.'

Unless, of course, it rests somewhere in a dusty English attic.

***The Possessed exhibition runs from 4 March – 29 June at the State Library in Sydney.**

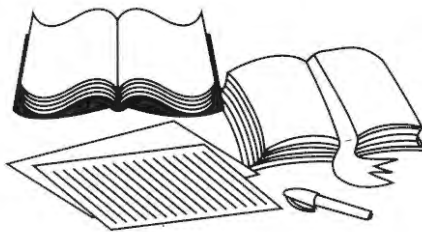
BOOK REVIEW

'AFTER NELL', *Descendants of Ellen Frazer, First Fleeter*, by Dr Clare Stapleton Concord

This is a well-documented volume of some 95 pages of the families of Ellen Frazer (Register - Redchester) FF and William Frazer FF together with descendants of Ellen and William Morgan (Second Fleet).

The author's first paragraph states 'Ellen Frazer's experience spanned the whole convict era. Transported in 1788 on the First Fleet she lived until 18 November 1840, the very day that the last convict ship to New South Wales moved slowly to anchor in Sydney Harbour. Over her long life she saw fragile beginnings of the Colony, the turmoil of its adolescence, and the emergence of a strong colonial community heading for self-government. It is tempting to read into her life modern attitudes and feelings, but to be honest with her we must look back to her time and place if we hope to have some understanding of her experience.'

The first four chapters detail the struggles of Ellen and her children in the Colony, descendants of whom married into First Fleet families (Meredith and Eggleton). Ellen, we are told, was the first European woman to hold land in her own name in Australia, having received 20 acres of land at Concord on 20 February 1794.



Ellen, at the age of 83 years, was buried at St Luke's Cemetery, Liverpool.

The Fellowship is indebted to Dr Clare Concord, who, incidentally, resides in the United States, for the donation of this important statement of our nation's struggle from its early beginnings. The author dedicates her work with these words:

'Dedicated to the women and men who came to Australia long, long ago and the women and men who came to Australia not so long ago.'

Dr Concord has also donated a second volume 'After Fred: Descendants of Frederick Meredith - First Fleeter.'

This book lists, in the main, the known descendants of Ellen's granddaughter Sarah Morgan and Charles Henry Meredith.

Again our thanks to Clare for her particularly valuable donation to our archives. Her intense pride in the heritage of First Fleet descendants is an example to all in the Fellowship.

PETER CHRISTIAN

INVITATION

TO THE 1997 FAMILY REUNION PICNIC

And to Celebrate the Publication of

The Tarr Family History

Sunday, 27 April 1997

Commencing 10.00am to 4.00pm

George Kendall Reserve, Ermington, Sydney

(Reference Gregory's map 142 K4)

Barbecue and toilet facilities available

Bring your own picnic basket with food and drinks and enjoy the company of cousins you have not met since childhood and others you have yet to meet.

SOUP & DAMPER DAY

Wednesday, 2 July

Timed to Commence at 11.30am

Lunch provided - \$3.00

Speaker:

Sister Kathleen O'Callaghan

Topic:

'Women in the Female Factory'

Please ring office (02) 9360 3788 if attending.

All Members and Friends Welcome.

ALL DESCENDANTS

of

MICHAEL MURPHY

(Marine, Private)

and

HANNAH (ANN) MURPHY,

nee WILLIAMS (Convict)

are invited to a

REUNION

at

WARRNAMBOOL, VICTORIA

SATURDAY, 26 APRIL 1997

A Get-together, Bring your own lunch. Dinner at night.

Numbers required so please contact:

WA:

Nancy Pearce 09 331 3141

Qld:

Gayle Thomsett 076 911 394

NSW:

Dallas or Jean Lace 02 9533 4593

Vic:

Janet Dunstan 050 372 734

Vic:

Beryl Stephens 055 723 633

Vic:

Peggy Sargeant 03 9870 8040

Vic:

Miriam Marshall 051 442 139
(after 6pm)

Or write

REUNION

PO BOX 71

Ringwood East

VICTORIA 3135



BUY-A-BRICK FUND

A. and J. Forrester; Mrs B. Hooke; Hilton M. Peck; Estate late B. E. Weston.