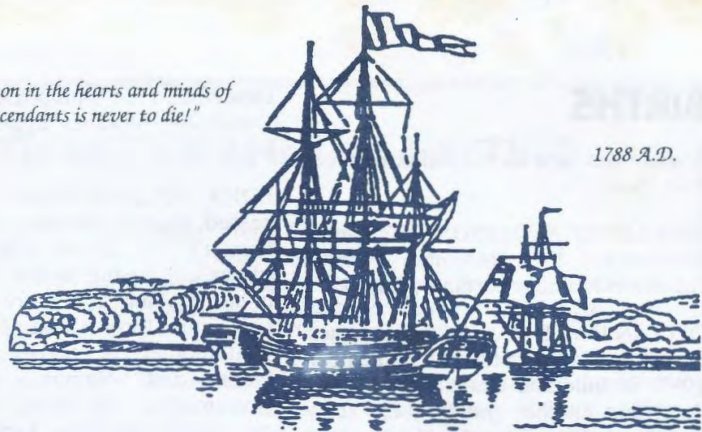


Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"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

PRICE 50¢ Registered by Australia Post Publication No. NBH 1271

PATRON: His Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels, AC, Governor of New South Wales

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JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1998 VOLUME 29 NO. 1

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Fellowship luncheon on the occasion of the 210th anniversary of our foundation was indeed a proud celebration for 100 members and friends. It was a privilege again to welcome our Patron, His Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels AC Governor of New South Wales, and his charming wife. Members of the Australian Colonial Marine Enactment formed a guard of honour and fired a volley in honour of the occasion. Later, His Excellency presented an honorary life membership badge to Mrs Kathleen Lenthall, No. 1736, FF Ellen Redchester. It was a proud moment for Kathleen, now in her 102nd year and appearing every bit of at least 20 years younger!!

To renew old acquaintances and meet Fellowship members was a distinct pleasure for me personally. Two former residents were in attendance, Mrs Beryl Lewis with her spouse associate Howard and Rod Best with his wife Louise. Some family associations had large contingents, notably those from the Small/Parker, the Tuzo, Kable/Holmes, Fishburn, Rope/Pulley and a few of us from William Tunks. In a letter to me, congratulating the Fellowship on a successful day, Beryl Lewis remarked that it was a pity that we did not have full representation of the 200 or so First Fleeters from which membership is derived. We had a representative from the Northern Rivers Chapter, Margaret Hardwick, and some members with Garnet Dredge from the newly formed North Coast Chapter.

I would like to thank Beverly Naughton for the organising of the day.

We offer congratulations to two of our members for receiving Australia Day Honours. Dot Johnson, who usually helps out in the office on Tuesdays, received an OAM for her efforts for 'women's bowls, Fellowship of First Fleeters, and Sutherland Shire Historical Society.'

Life member Warwick Wilkinson received an AM for his efforts and long association with the profession of pharmacy.

On Sunday, 25 January last, the Pioneer Service at the Garrison Church was slightly dampened by inclement weather but none the less there were many descendants of our early pioneers to give thanks, to remember their struggles, to be quietly proud of our heritage, to take stock of our present and to gather spiritual strength for the future. I have an official invitation to join with the descendants of the Pioneer of Wollongong Charles Throsby Smith at their family reunion on 1 March next at Wollongong. Sarah Broughton, his first wife, was the daughter of William Broughton First Fleeter. Details for the day phone John Higman (02) 9679 1471.

Joy and myself were among the official guests at the State reception at Darling Harbour on Australia Day, representing the Fellowship.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs Bonita Mabo whose husband Eddie Mabo was instrumental in the granting of a decision of the High Court in respect to Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islanders' land rights. I had an interesting discussion. She told me that her forebears were 'blackbirded' to Australia from the Pacific islands last century. I was able to draw a parallel with

regard to First Fleeters, who were unwillingly sent as prisoners to an unknown continent. Likewise their marine guards were jettisoned into an equally hostile environment. Within the fellowship we have some members sharing a dual heritage, black and white. We both agreed that the taking over of radical thought on both sides was a danger and to be avoided at all costs. Surely as we move to the next millennium we should all come to a fair and equitable consensus

My diary seems to be filling up for the first half of 1998. Both Joy and I will be in Tasmania for a week from 20 March next. I think that in early April I should be appearing at a North coast Chapter meeting and later that month I have a speaking engagement with the Ashfield View Club.

Finally, heartfelt thoughts to Janey Ross, FF John Hatton, daughter of David and Katherine Ross and granddaughter of Joan Ross, No.12 and life member, and Keith her husband.

Jane is but four years of age and has Wilms Tumour which is a form of kidney cancer, and has endured five months of intensive chemotherapy, plus two operations. Very many people of all religious creeds have been praying for her and I assure Joan and Keith that they and Janey are very much in our thoughts.

For over 18 years Keith has been helping with the dispatch of our Newsletter and, if my memory serves me well, Joan, many years ago, was the Newsletter editor.

In Fellowship, **PETER**

BIRTHS

A warm welcome for the following New First Fleeters:

JOEL LEWIS ANDERSON (F.F. Robert Forrester), 15 December 1997. Grandson to Paula Bosman (#4663).

DECLAN JAMES MAGUIRE (F.F. James Sheers - Mary Smith), 22 September 1997. To Julie and Grant a brother for Kate, and another grandson for Zona and Ron (#5749) Maguire.

HUNTER ROBERT DOUGLASS MURRAY (F.F. John Cross), 22 September 1997. A son to Neil and Nereda (nee Puffett); a grandson to Leonard (#2437) and Lola Murray; Robert and Wendy Puffett. Seventh generation.

LEONIE JOY WHYMAN (F.F. Anthony Rope - Elizabeth Pulley). First child of Jacquelyn and Daniel, second grandchild for David and Pamela (#5897) Potter, fifth great-grandchild of Stella Minter (#5825). Tenth generation.

DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is offered to the families of the following:

FRANK ALFRED DIVINE (#1720), on 15 August 1997, at Warwick, Queensland. Loving husband of Jess, father of eight children and loved grandfather of twelve grandchildren.

Descendant of Philip Divine, Mary Dickenson, William Eggleton, Robert Forrester.

EDNA ADILLAH LAWSON (#1354), passed away 7 January 1998, late of Hunter's Hill. Loved wife of Darrell (deceased), loving mother and mother-in-law of Pam and Barry Quick, and Lois and Terry Cook. Much loved grandmother of Stephen, Graham, Fiona and Nathan, and great-grandmother of Samantha. Proud descendant of Jane Langley, Philip Shewing and Henrietta.

RICHARD GIBSON NICHOLSON (#5882), passed away October 1997, of East Denistone. Loved husband of Christina. Descendant of Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne.

ALEX M.H. RIDDLER, 18 April 1997, loved husband of Laurel (#2393 - FF John Ryan), loved father of Jen and Eric (#2686).

SHIRLEY JOAN RIGBY, passed away 11 September 1997 at Canberra Hospital, interred Gungahlin Cemetery. Loved spouse of Arnold Rigby (#4511 - FF Rope - Pulley).

JUDITH M. RITCHIE (#1178), passed away 8 October 1997, of Parkhill Road, Kew, Victoria. Descendant of Nathaniel Lucas - Olivia Gascoigne.

PHILIP MORGAN WOODWARD (the Hon. Justice), 10 November 1997, spouse of Pauline (#2758 - FF William Tunks).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

for period 26 November 1997 to 13 January 1998

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period - four adults, two juniors, two spouse associates. JOHN CROSS: Mr Darrell Vincent Cross (sp. Mrs Dianne Joyce Cross).

JANE LANGLEY - PHILIP SCRIVEN + HENRIETTA SCRIVEN: Mr Tristan John Smith (jun.); Mr Zac Emerson Waller-Ford (jun.).

SAMUEL PIGGOTT: Mr Gordon Arthur Dengate (sp. Mrs Dorothy J. Dengate).

WILLIAM SALTMARSH: Mrs Carole Ann Powell.

THOMAS SPENCER - MARY PHILLIPS: Mr Robert Maxwell Shadlow.



ST PHILIP'S, CHURCH HILL

St Philip's Church in York Street, Sydney, is the oldest Parish Church in Australia, held a service on 1 February 1998 to commemorate the first Christian service held in the Colony of New South Wales.

The service honoured the memory of the Reverend Richard Johnson who arrived in the First Fleet.

The first church, known as Phillip Church, was built at the intersection of Bligh and Hunter Streets in 1788. This church was burnt down and in 1798 was rebuilt in Lang Park and dedicated to St Philip. This being the bicentenary of the laying of the foundation stone.

St Philip's was finally placed on its present site in 1848 making this the sesquicentennial celebration of the laying of the cornerstone of this fine Edmund Blakett church.

The bible and prayer book used by the Reverend Richard Johnson during the voyage of the First Fleet and at the first service in New South Wales was on display. Another exhibit of importance was the silver communion service given to the new Colony in 1803 by King George III.

PIONEER OF WOLLONGONG

REUNION NOTICE

CHARLES THROSBY SMITH 1798-1876

The descendants of Charles Throsby Smith are invited to inquire about the Reunion which will be early 1998, his two-hundredth birthday.

An interesting program is being arranged for the Reunion, special medallions, a new book, and a commemorative plaque.

Some of the descendants of Charles Throsby Smith and his first wife Sarah Broughton, and his second wife Isabella Stewart, are: Cole, Elderton, Minter, Hewlitt, Monaghan, Keyse, Turner, Beale, Rutherford, Cockerill, Osborne, Jamieson, Towns, Pratt, Jeffries, Burbury, Minslow, Maidment, Barnes, Monks, Hughes, Peardon, Skipp, Simpson, Cooper, Hennessey, Hutchinson, McAlister.

For information please contact
C. T. SMITH REUNION COMMITTEE,

c/-44 Nelson Road, Nelson NSW 2765.

Phone inquiries: John Higman 02 9679 1471

DAYTIME AUXILIARY COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING

The Daytime Auxiliary Committee's annual general meeting will be held on Wednesday, 4 March 1998, at First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo.

The meeting will begin at 11.00am with the presentation of the annual report and financial statement and then be followed by the election of the committee for the next twelve months.

The retiring committee for 1997-1998 is:

Convenor	Douglas Oakes
Secretary	Anne Davison
Treasurer	Joyce Rixon
Weekday Functions	Phyllis Selby
Weekend Functions	Joy Pankhurst

Patricia Skehan, Public Relations Officer for the Concord Heritage Society and the Concord Heritage Museum will afterwards address the meeting on the Dame Edith Walker Estate.

The Dame Edith Walker Estate is now occupied by Concord General Hospital and the Dame Edith Hospital. Although a number of the buildings has been demolished there is still part of the estate remaining including the main residence known as Yaralla.

Mrs Skehan has made an intensive study of the history of this estate as well as the family history of Dame Edith Walker. We will be entertained by tales of Dame Edith's parties which were the 'talk of the town', and a social must for all who wanted to be seen at the right places and 'to mix with the right people.'

Please join with us on the fourth and bring your sandwiches. Lunches can be purchased at the nearby shops. Tea and coffee will be provided.

DOUGLAS OAKES
Convenor

NORTH COAST CHAPTER

The Fellowship of First Fleeters is very pleased to report the formation of the North Coast Chapter.

The formation of this chapter was sponsored by the Northern Rivers Chapter and our thanks go to it for its support and help.

Forty enthusiastic members and spouse members were in attendance for the first meeting. The meeting appointed the following committee:

President	Mary Kell
Vice-President	Tony Condliffe
Hon. Secretary	Robyn Condliffe
Hon. Treasurer	Jean Taylor
Archives Officer	Anne Smidt
Publicity Officer	Karen Baff
Publicity Committee	Judy Naughton, Jeanette Williamson

The aims and objects of this chapter are as follows:

- 1) To support the aims and objects of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.
- 2) To promote membership of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.
- 3) To provide information on the Fellowship of First Fleeters and to promote interest among descendants in the community.
- 4) To assist with education on family research and encourage sharing of information.
- 5) To participate in social activities.

Meetings will be held on the first Sunday of the month at Boambee Beach Reserve; to commence at 11.30 for lunch and to socialise before the meeting commences at 1.00pm.

Guest speakers are to be invited to these meetings.

The Fellowship wishes the new chapter every success in its future endeavours to promote its aims and objectivess.

HUNTER VALLEY CHAPTER 1997 ANNUAL MEETING

In the company of Joyce Cowell and John Shortland I attended as the representative of the Executive Committee the annual general meeting of the Hunter Valley Chapter, held in the Joy Cummings Hall, Newcastle. The committee elected for the next twelve months is as follows:

Convenor	Ray Meredith
Hon. Secretary	Pat Sherriff

Hon. Treasurer	Dorothy Johns
Publicity Officer	June Mackie

A special 'thank you' was extended to the retiring secretary Verne Mackie for his unstinting service to the chapter over many years and the Fellowship wishes the new committee a rewarding future.

DOUGLAS OAKES, Vice-President

Australia Day Luncheon

Another very successful Australia Day luncheon was held Saturday, 24 January 1998. The venue was again The Refectory, Holme Building, Sydney University.

Ninety-six members and friends gathered in rather ominous looking weather to welcome his Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels AC Governor of New South Wales, Patron of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, and Mrs Samuels.

After being greeted by our President, Mr Peter Christian, and Mrs Christian, his Excellency inspected the Guard of Honour from the Australian Colonial Marine Enactment, who then fired a salute to the Governor.

Junior members Miriam and Evan Thomas presented to Mrs Samuels a posy of Australian flowers.

After being greeted by the Executive Committee, his Excellency and Mrs Samuels were introduced to the assembled guests by the President.

At the conclusion of lunch, Ron Maguire gave the Loyal toast. His Excellency then gave his address to which Vice-President Rod Best responded on behalf of the Fellowship.

Mrs Kath Lenthall, who recently celebrated her 102nd birthday, was presented to the Governor who expressed great pleasure in presenting a Life Membership medallion of the First Fleet Fellowship. Kath is a descendant of First Fleeter Eleanor Fraser/Redchester. Mrs Lenthall was accompanied to the luncheon by her daughter, Mrs Rosemary Spence.

The formal part of the day was concluded by the President addressing the Day We Celebrate after which all joined in singing Advance Australia Fair, accompanied by Louise Baur on the piano.





Patron Paints Picture - Past, Present, Future

His Excellency the Honourable Gordon Samuels AC Governor of New South Wales in his address at the Australia Day luncheon of the Fellowship of First Fleeters said:

President and Mrs Christian, members of the Executive Committee, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great pleasure for me as your Patron, and for my wife, to be here with you to participate in this annual celebration.

The day the First Fleeters celebrate not only marks the beginning of European settlement in this ancient continent, but also the commencement of a familial link which traverses the whole history of modern Australia.

But it might be said, of course, that the familial or genealogical connection is essentially neutral - that is to say, the fact of descent does not of itself attract either praise or criticism.

When we look back to the original First Fleeters we do so with pride in the deeds and achievements which they and their descendants - our ancestors - achieved, and the determination, perseverance and courage which enabled them to establish this nation from what can be regarded only as inauspicious beginnings.

So it is pride in so many aspects of our history which lends a character, meaning and virtue to the existence of the family link.



The question of history, and, in particular, some aspects of Australian history, have been the subject of recent discussion and controversy. I would think that it is beyond doubt that our own history is no different from the history of other nations, which does not

consist only of glory and triumph but includes episodes of a different kind. In our case the cultural dislocation, and in some cases, brutal treatment of our indigenous peoples are matters for deep regret, which we must acknowledge.



The original First Fleeters were builders, although perhaps at the time they might not have appreciated exactly how productive their role would be. They brought with them laws and conventions which govern us still, and which have established the framework within which we have been able to construct our modern community. Those attitudes have fostered the creation of the generally tolerant, fair and compassionate society which we can now enjoy. I think the contemporary First Fleeters can follow the productive traditions of their ancestors by continuing to lend their support to the current phase of community building which looks to ensuring the continuation and development of the

equitable and culturally diverse society which has become the worthy product of our country's origins. Those whose ancestors faced the rigours of an inhospitable environment should be the first to extend a welcome to newcomers to the society which their ancestors, and they themselves, have created.

May I offer you all, and the Fellowship of First Fleeters, warm wishes for the New Year and for the vigorous continuation of the work of the Fellowship in honouring our pioneers.



THE DAY WE CELEBRATE

The President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Mr Peter Christian, in the toast 'The Day We Celebrate' said: Your Excellency, Mrs Samuels, my fellow members – friends.

Once again it is a privilege and honour to propose this toast – 'The Day We Celebrate.'

One hundred and ten years ago almost to the day a nation was founded. In 1819 W.C Wentworth in his description of the Colony wrote, 'If a judgement were formed of this island from the general aspect of the country, bordering the sea, it would be pronounced one of the most barren spots on the face of the globe.'

Yet, our forebears, both bonded and free, were jettisoned into this new land, abandoned by their native country, and left to their own resources. Little did they realise as the psalmist said 'For he brought them out of darkness, and out of the shadow of death: and break their bonds in sunder.'

Two centuries later, some of the descendants of those whose bonds were broken asunder and took up a new life, gather together in fellowship giving thanks that a nation was born on that day. Indeed, at the dawn of a new millennium, we have inherited a legacy far exceeding the hopes and aspirations of any one of the majority of our forebears who came out of darkness, out of the shadow of death and found a new beginning.

The editorial of the first edition of 'The Sydney Herald' dated Monday, 18 April 1831, said: 'To the youth of the Colony in particular, we shall devote much of our attention. They are a generous race, the staple of the Colony, possessing a superior knowledge of the country and the capabilities of their native soil it gives us much pleasure that by the fostering care of his Excellency the Governor, land has been given off to them with great liberality – this measure will be fraught with the best of consequences.'

As an aside with regard to this quotation, if your Excellency had the same power many of us may lean on you today for a slice or two of the State!!

The editorial was geared not only to descendants of later arrivals post-1788 but to the second and third generations of First Fleeters. We know that land grants had been given to our first

arrivals and the first generations, the currency lads and lasses had taken up the challenge and indeed prospered. Many First Fleeters and their families were instrumental in laying down the foundation of our nation – let us never forget it!

Now I put it to you all: what does the future hold? Whatever the outcome – monarchy or republic – we as descendants remain loyal to our native land. This is intrinsically our heritage. Those values which unite us far, far outweigh anything which may tend to divide the Fellowship. We are native born fourth, fifth or sixth generation, and whatsoever our fellow Australians decide we will carry the flame which our first ancestors lit. We are entrenched in our native land – Advance Australia Fair.

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOUR

The clock/radio on the bedside table comes to life with the 6.00am news bulletin, nothing remarkable to note, but in the following interview the senses were alerted. The interviewer seemed to say the name Dot Johnson. Alert!



The ABC was talking with a number of recipients of Australia Day Honours, people who had been recognised as having made a contribution to a better way of living for Australians. Then the softly spoken tones of Olive Dorothy Johnson (our Dot) demurely answering the questions asked about her award.

Dot Johnson OAM, but as described in 'The Sydney Morning Herald' list of those Awarded the Medal (OAM) of the Order in the General Division: 'Mrs Olive Dorothy Johnson, Gymea in NSW, lawn bowls and to the community, through the Fellowship of First Fleeters and the Sutherland Shire Historical Society.'



AUSTRALIAN PIONEERS CELEBRATION AND PROCESSION

The annual Australian Pioneers Celebration service and processions were held at the Garrison Church, The Rocks, on Sunday, 25 January 1998.

Numerous family associations with a First Fleeter as an ancestor were present; some had banners and joined in the two processions.

The first procession went down the church aisle to have the flags and banners placed on the altar. The second procession, which completed the church service, went from the church down Argyle Street, first to Governor William Bligh statue in First Fleet Park and then to the Argyle Stairway to lay flowers at the Fellowship of First Fleeters commemorative plaque for those who came out in the First Fleet. The processions were led by Scottish piper Bill Campbell OAM and the Australian Colonial Marine Enactment group.

The function was filmed by the Alison Braund Pilot Productions for a documentary on convict history in Australia, for American and British television. A number of participants were interviewed on camera for the documentary.

The Garrison Church has requested that mention be made that the 1999 service is to be held at 10.30am on Sunday, 24 January 1999.



Governor of New South Wales

The oldest office in this country would have to be that of Governor of New South Wales. Starting first with Arthur Phillip in 1788, who had the title Governor in Chief and Captain General, his domain included all the land on the east coast of Australia, including Tasmania and New Zealand. Thirty six men have been appointed to this position up to and including the current Governor, The Hon Gordon Samuels, AC. Ten were Governors whilst New South Wales was a British colony.

On 20 January 1855 Sir William Denison was appointed Governor of New South Wales when it became a self-governing colony.

On 1 January 1901 the incumbent Governor The Rt Hon William Lygon, Earl Beauchamp was reappointed when New South Wales became a state of the Commonwealth of Australia.

There have been numerous Lieutenant Governors and/or Administrators who held office during change of appointments or when the then current Governor was on holidays or overseas. An Administrator for Australia is also appointed when the Governor General is similarly unavailable.

Government House, Sydney was first occupied in 1845 by the ninth Governor, Sir George Gipps and remained the residence of the incumbent Governor until the retirement of Rear Admiral Peter Sinclair, AC on 29 February 1996.

When The Hon Gordon Samuels, AC took office as from 1 May 1996 the government of New South Wales decided to downgrade the use of Government House. The former Chief Secretary's office on the corner of Macquarie and Bridge Streets, Sydney subsequently became the Governor's office. This building was first occupied by Sir Henry Parkes in 1891. Sir Henry Parkes was five times Prime Minister of the Colony of New South Wales, as well as Colonial Secretary of New South Wales before Federation in 1901.

It should be pointed out that following Federation the colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and Western Australia became States of the Commonwealth of Australia. Each respective State's existing Prime Minister then assumed the title of Premier and the leader of the new federal government became Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Chief Secretary's Building, now occupied by the Governor of New South Wales and his staff, is one of the most significant historical and architectural landmarks in the city of Sydney. Together with neighbouring Lands Department, Education Department and Treasury buildings, they form an important part of the city's streetscape.

Original plans for the building were drawn up by Colonial Architect James Barnett in 1869, but work did not commence until 1873. The building is Italianate in style, using three Roman orders of architecture to maximise effect. Above the entrance in Macquarie Street is the royal coat of arms.

Many of the paintings, sculpture, furniture and decorative arts found in the building are part of a unique collection acquired by Sir Henry Parkes. There are also many award-winning items from the Sydney International Exhibition held in the Garden Palace in 1879.



'MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THIS'

How often does one put something somewhere and in a short space of time forget its existence. Possibly for most of us this records one of those occasions.

On 24 September 1989, a number of members on fairly short notice attended the unveiling of a memorial to the First Fleet at Cook Park, Brighton-le-Sands A magnificent spot with sweeping views of Botany Bay and indeed, a most fitting site for any First Fleet memorial.

The monument itself consists of a pair of sails with the engraving of the names of the eleven ships and the route which the Fleet took from Portsmouth, the creation of sculptor Victor Cusack in 1988. The plinth underneath is of brass, upon which is engraved the names of all known First Fleeters garnered from the archives of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

The dedication was performed by the then Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Justice of New South Wales the Honourable Mr Justice Gleeson AO.

The President and Executive were later entertained by the Mayor of Rockdale, S. J. Holroyd, and Rockdale Council at a special Morning Tea where the President spoke about our revered ancestors.

How easy to forget!

ALL DESCENDANTS

of

THOMAS CHIPP

(Marine Private)

and

JANE LANGLEY

(Convict)

are invited to a reunion at

BALLARAT, VICTORIA.

Friday, 10 April 1998 to

Monday, 13 April 1998

(Easter Weekend)

The reunion will be of particular interest to the descendants of Thomas Thompson (grandson of Jane and Thomas Chipp) who was the only known descendant to travel to Victoria c1853 and settle in the Beaufort district.

Thomas married Mary Ann Tuckett 1849 at Cooma NSW and their children were Harriett, Alice m. Day, Mary Ann, Eliza m. McCracken, Thomas m. Hancock, George m. Stevens, William, James, Emma, and Richard Henry.

Contact is sought with any descendants of the above children.

A history has been collated and produced in book form and will be available at the reunion. An interesting program is being arranged for the reunion.

For information please contact;

Joan Schoch, 8 Lake Street,
Avondale Hts 3034.
(03) 9337 6005

Margaret Teasdale
(03) 9801 2515