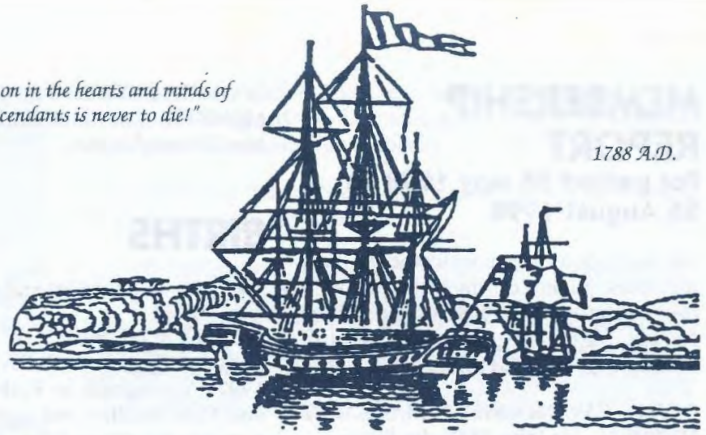


Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"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
OFFICE ADDRESS: First Fleet House, 105 Cathedral Street Woolloomooloo NSW 2011 **PHONE:** (02) 9360 3788, 9360 3988
JULY/AUGUST 1998 VOLUME 29 NO. 4

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the North Coast Chapter early August. Some thirty members and friends gathered together in fellowship, and appreciation is due to Chapter secretary Robyn Condliffe and her husband, Tony, for their hospitality over the weekend.

Robyn is ably supported by President Mary Kell. Mary to my surprise is a cousin, albeit several times removed, of my wife Joy, on the Clout-Sturt line from Tumut, NSW – a small world.

Late August five new members were welcomed to an afternoon at First Fleet House. I was agreeably surprised to welcome new member Viva Brown and her family. Viva, a descendant of First Fleeter James Bradley was a neighbour of Joy and myself at Kingsgrove when our respective children were in primary school – again a small world.

Would members please note that Sunday, 20 September next, is set down as a welcome for them at First Fleet House at 2.00pm. Both new and 'old' members are welcome. Please RSVP by 12 September. We would like to meet you.

In July we held a successful plaque ceremony at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta, to honour F.F. John Martin. It was an honour to gather in fellowship with his, and descendants of John and all F.F. Both were convicts, both

were of Jamaican/West Indian ancestry, and both were pioneers of our nation in the true sense of the word. Their descendants have indeed made their contribution to the pioneering history of our nation.

I have had much pleasure in writing a personal letter of appreciation to those members who have made a generous donation to the F.F.F. Buy-a-Brick Fund, together with sentiments of appreciation for the efforts of the Executive and volunteers put into the day-to-day running of the Fellowship. Our Vice-Patron Commodore Paul Kable deserves special mention and may I add that I really appreciated the kind thoughts of Ailsa Moen, Syd Ballard, Sybil Yabsley and Jean Westmore to name only a few.

Doreen Rouse (F.F. Matthew Everingham) this year has published yet another book on the pioneering days of the Hawkesbury River. 'No Magic Lost' published 1997 and 'The Ribbon' published 1998 have both been donated by Doreen to our library. I was thrilled to receive a personal copy of 'The Ribbon' suitably inscribed. Thank you Doreen!

I have recently spoken to the Rose Bay Probus Club and the Combined Eastern Area Catholic Women's League. Both

were well attended and extremely receptive to the message of our First Fleet arrivals. There were over 100 present at Rose Bay and some 30 members at the Catholic Women's League meeting. At this latter meeting I was delighted to renew fellowship with life-member Betty Wilkinson (Sr Margaret Mary). It was also a delight to meet a Tunks cousin and a descendant of Matthew Everingham.

I have two more speaking engagements for this year and look forward to the relating of the success story of our forebears.

In Fellowship
PETER

WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER

**IS SET DOWN AS A
WELCOME FOR THEM AT
FIRST FLEET HOUSE
AT 2.00PM.**

**BOTH NEW AND 'OLD'
MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.**

**PLEASE RSVP BY
12 SEPTEMBER
IF POSSIBLE**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO
MEET YOU**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For period 28 May 1998 to 26 August 1998

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period – twenty-one adults, eight juniors, two spouse associates, and one spouse associate of an earlier member.

OWEN CAVANOUGH – MARGARET DARNELL: Mr John Malcolm Bates.

JAMES BLOODWORTH – SARAH BELLAMY: Mrs Sandra Dawn Tolliday.

JOHN CROSS: Mr Angus Johnathan Bruce Mead (jun.).

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM: Mrs Yvonne Fay Hayes.

MATTHEW EVERINGHAM + PETER HIBBS: Mr John Herbert Thomas.

ANN FORBES: Miss Elena Louise Roberts (jun.); Miss Sarah Jane Roberts (jun.).

ROBERT FORRESTER: Mrs Alison Laurie Catlin.

NATHANIEL LUCAS – OLIVIA GASCOIGNE: Mr Brian David Johnston; Cmdr David L. Johnston (RAN); Mrs Robyn Maria Hill; Miss Kerry Jane Johnston; Miss Eleanor Alice Johnston (jun.); Mr Aidan Charles Johnston (jun.).

JOHN MARTIN + JOHN RANDALL + RICHARD PARTRIDGE – MARY GREENWOOD: Mr Geoffrey Lyall Scott.

FREDERICK MEREDITH: Mrs Pauline Ruth Duignan.

RICHARD MORGAN: Miss Heather Elizabeth McCubben.

SAMUEL PIGGOTT: Miss Emily Kate Lighazzolo (jun.).

WILLIAM ROBERTS: Mr John Michael Minehan; Mr David Geoffrey Benjamin Bailey; Miss Claire Emily Howard (jun.).

ANTHONY ROPE – ELIZABETH PULLEY: Mrs Glenda Joy Burrows; Mrs Valerie Patricia Urquhart; Mrs Julie Ann Steep; Mr Keith Bernard Clarke.

JOHN SHORTLAND: Mr Colin Francis Boyce.

ROBERT WILLIAMS: Miss Emma Louise Butler (jun.).

JAMES WRIGHT: Mr John Morris Wilson.

JOSEPH WRIGHT: Mr Donald Wellham (sp. Mrs Pamela Joan Wellham).

SPOUSE ASSOCIATE OF EARLIER MEMBER: Rev John Butler for #5117 Mrs Dorothy Butler.

BIRTHS

Welcome to an additional First Fleeter:

AMELIA ROSE BRADLEY (F.F. Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley), 17 October 1997. A daughter to Kathleen (#6281) and Paul Bradley and a granddaughter to Helen (#249) and Eric Ryan.

DANIELLA LOUISE BURT (F.F. John Cross) born 15 July 1997, first child to Timothy and Louise, second granddaughter for Lorraine Burt (#6583).

JACOB KANE MILSOP (F.F. Robert Forrester), 10 June 1998. Brother to WADE TY MILSOP born 21 July 1996. Grandsons to Carolyn Badger (#4747) and great-grandsons to the late Lester Alderson (#3206). Ninth generation.

BIANCA ROSE MURPHY (F.F. William Tyrrell), 7 July 1998. Second child for Glenda and Andrew, a sister for Laura, second grandchild for Jean and Terry Mortimer (#6409). Eighth generation.

EMILY JADE SCHEVENHOVEN (F.F. John Herbert and Deborah Ellam), born 11 April 1998, second daughter to Todd and Annette Schevenhoven, second granddaughter to Bob and Glenda Burns (#6211) and 13th great-grandchild to Leonie and the late Bill Herbert.

ZACHARY MIKAEL TAKAMAA (F.F. Thomas Acres), 6 August 1998. Son for Roslyn and Mikael. Grandson for Valma Burden (#5810). Ninth generation.

DEATHS

Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of the following:

NORMA JOCELYN DILLON (#3564), died 25 March 1998. Descendant of First Fleeter John Summers.

LESLIE BEUZEVILLE (#6581) of Belmont North, passed away 20 January 1998. Husband of Joan. Descendant First Fleeter John Cross.

PHIL HANSON (#1693) passed away 6 May 1998, a proud First Fleeter. Father of Renai (#2016), brother of Joy (#1694). Descendant of Joseph Hatton.

NITA McDONALD (#2416), 16 July 1998. Late of Narwee. Descendant Peter Kable and Susannah Holmes.

HARRY RILEY (#5557) of Millet Street, Hurstville. Descendant First Fleeters James Williams + William Tyrrell.

SOUP AND DAMPER DAY

The Fellowship of First Fleeters' ever-popular annual 'Soup and Damper Day' was held at First Fleet House on Wednesday, 8 July 1998. About forty members and friends were in attendance for the meeting and to listen to this year's Guest Speaker, Maureen Goldston-Morris, a well-known historian from the Ladies Pioneer Club and many other societies, speak on Captain Arthur Phillip.

Maureen's knowledge of her topic is formidable and we learned many aspects of Phillip's life which were new to us. He was a strong opponent of slavery, and this earned him many enemies among the Whigs in power at that time in England. He served in the Portuguese Navy with distinction.

Maureen, when a young student in England, met Anthony Eden who to her he believed Arthur Phillip was the greatest Englishman of his time. Arthur Phillip suffered a stroke after he retired, and he fell from his bedroom window and died. Some think he may have been pushed!

Doug Oakes and Eric Sansom, stalwarts of the Soup and Damper Days, competed for the most spectacular event of the day. Doug on his way to the meeting fell and broke a finger and went to Sydney Hospital to have it treated. Eric not to be outdone after leaving fell and cut his head on the footpath. He also attended Sydney Hospital. Fortunately neither was seriously hurt.

Phil Selby

NORTH COAST CHAPTER, FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

VENUES AND DATES FOR 1998

11 October: Boambee Bay Reserve.

6 December: Tony and Robyn Condliffe, 13 McGregor Close, Bayldon. Phone (02) 6653 3615.

Turn into Linden Avenue from Toormina Road and McGregor Close is the third street on the right. Go to the very end of the close and you will find No 13.

All meetings start at 11.30am.

If you require transport to any venue please contact Secretary, Robi Condliffe, phone (02) 6653 3615.

AUSTRALIA DAY LUNCHEON

SATURDAY, 23 JANUARY 1999

The luncheon will be held in "Cello's" at the Masonic Club (Castlereagh Inn), 169-171 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. "Cello's" is the heritage restaurant on the fourth floor.

Beverley Naughton has again volunteered to organise the luncheon for the Fellowship and has arranged a wonderful cost-structure of \$35 per head, a remarkable reduction on last year.

If you wish an early booking please ring First Fleet House on (02) 9360 3788, preferably with the following information if available:

- (i) Numbers coming.
- (ii) First Fleeter ancestor.
- (iii) Name of party you wish to be seated with.

Please note the event, date and venue in your diary. Further details will appear in future Newsletters.

We will be contacting convenors of family associations for possible group bookings. However, if you haven't a family association, please make a booking as we will endeavour to seat people with fellow First Fleeter descendants and/or with mutual friends.

Information is that parking near the NSW Masonic Club on a Saturday is not a problem. Discounted parking is available for anyone who wishes to avail themselves of it in the Piccadilly Parking Station, a few doors down from the Club. Take the ticket from the barrier device and take it to reception in the Club foyer and pay \$10 and they will exchange for a voucher to give the attendant of the parking station on leaving.

DOUGLAS OAKES
Convenor Daytime Auxiliary Committee

BRISBANE WATER CRUISE

Sunday, 18 October

The day begins with a pleasant drive to the Central Coast and Gosford where we board the Lady Kendall for a scenic cruise on the beautiful Brisbane Water. The Lady Kendall is rich in history being the oldest working boat in Australia. It started its life as a sailing ship plying Bass Strait before being converted to a ferry and remains undefeated in the Sydney Ferry Boat Race. We are given an excellent commentary by the skipper, Alan Draper, as we cruise through the many bays and inlets of this picturesque waterway. Our two and a half hour cruise takes us past Woy Woy, St Huberts Island, Hardys Bay, Pretty Beach and Ettalong to the edge of Broken Bay, this is a unique area where the waters of Pittwater - Hawkesbury River and Brisbane Water converge on Broken Bay and the Tasman.



The cruise offers constantly changing scenery from the unspoilt nature reserves, pelican breeding grounds and oyster leases, to waterfront mansions.

Following our cruise we head to the coast and Terrigal Beach where we will have lunch at the Haven, as its name implies provides safe anchorage for Terrigal's fishing fleet and the local co-op has the freshest of fish and chips or if you wish bring a picnic lunch. After lunch we have time to visit one of the Central Coast's many attractions or we can simply take in more of the stunning coastal scenery.

Cost per person is a paltry \$31, including cruise, morning tea and luxury coach travel.

Departs Central 8.30am, Cremorne 8.10am and maybe stop on Pacific Highway.

Please phone the Office on 9360 3788 or 9360 3988 or send money and bookings to FFF Office.

HIBBS FAMILY REUNION

Notice to all interested descendants of First Fleeter Peter Kenny Hibbs of Sirius.

On 13 September 1998, commencing at 9.00am, a reunion will take place at the Spencer Community Hall, Wisemans Ferry Road, 1km past the Spencer Public School, going towards Wisemans Ferry

Tea, coffee and hot water will be provided.

Please bring along your own picnic lunch, folding tables, chairs, rugs, cushions, etc, plus any photographs or documentation relating to your descent from Peter Hibbs and his Second Fleet wife Mary Pardoe. It will be appreciated and put on display at the reunion.

In the event of rain, the hall is available to shelter in.

Let's make this the biggest gathering of Hibbs descendants, ever!

1998 marks the 210th year of the landing of the First Fleet and for us is a cause for celebration.

If you have any questions please telephone Betty Warn (02) 4294 2735; Elaine Young (02) 9874 6272; Elgine Kelly (02) 9587 0697; Roy Cox 0418 270 263.

Come and bring your family ...

THE MORE THE MERRIER.

ADVANCE NOTICE

First Fleeters Flee to Eden – A Natural Paradise

16 May – 22 May 1999

NEXT YEAR THE HOLIDAY HAVEN WILL BE EDEN UNDER THE CARE OF HOSTS IRENE AND ALLAN OF THE COACHMAN'S REST MOTOR INN.

Day 1

OUR HOLIDAY BEGINS

Join your luxury coach at the pick-up point for the journey south, down the Princes Highway, to the beautiful far South Coast of NSW. You will be impressed at the exceptional comfort of your modern and well-maintained roadliner. Morning tea at a selected destination, then on to Mollymook where lunch will be at the Golf Club overlooking the beautiful Mollymook beach.

We then continue the trip down south, through places such as Ulladulla, Bateman's Bay, Moruya, Narooma and Bega. Then on to our destination – a natural paradise, Eden. The Coachman's Rest Motor Inn is situated on the Princes Highway opposite Eden's Golf and Bowls Club. The club welcomes visitors and is a pleasant evening stroll after dinner. Evening meals will be served in the motel's Lamplighter Restaurant.

Day 2

WELCOME TO THE BEAUTIFUL SAPPHIRE COAST

Awake to the wonderful sound of the bird life and a delicious cooked breakfast at 8.00am in the restaurant. At 9.30am the coach will leave the motel for a day's outing of local interest. First down to Snug Cove and have a look at some of Eden's fishing fleet which is one of the biggest in NSW and has often been the major supplier to the Sydney market. Then it is morning tea time. Eden's history is steeped in the tradition of the sea, and undoubtedly the most colourful era was that of the shore-based whaling, which extended from 1828 to 1930, so next we visit Eden's Killer Whale Museum, where you can view the skeleton of the most famous of the killer whales, Old Tom. The skeleton is the only one on display in the southern hemisphere. In addition to the extensive whaling items, the museum houses a vast array of exhibits depicting the fishing and timber industries on which the town has depended in more recent times. A barbecue lunch at the lookout adjoining Rotary Barbecue Park, with a magnificent view of Twofold Bay. While lunch is being prepared you can stroll across to the Seamen's Memorial Wall, a unique memorial wall on which plaques have been attached carrying the names of seafarers, fishermen and others who through tragedy have been lost out of Eden. After lunch we travel through Eden for an inspection and tour of the woodchip mill, Boyd's Tower, Boydtown and the Seahorse Inn. We return to Eden for some free time strolling around the shops or a walk along the beach before returning to the motel for some relaxation, and to freshen up for dinner.

Day 3

BEGA, BERMAGUI AND TILBA TILBA

After breakfast we travel to Bermagui, the town made famous by its cheeses, to visit the cheese factory on the banks of the Bega River. We will view the cheese-making operation first hand and watch a documentary on the art of cheese-making. While you are visiting the Bega Cooperative, you are invited to taste their extensive range of cheeses made daily and available for purchase, together with a range of gifts and souvenirs. Next we have morning tea while you enjoy the tranquillity and the unique surroundings of the Bega valley, the real secret behind the taste of their famous dairy products. From here we travel to Cobargo and across to the beautiful fishing village of Bermagui, the game-fishing capital of NSW. After lunch at the Bermagui Country Club we travel on to the historic village of Tilba Tilba, founded in 1894 and virtually unchanged since 1904. It lies in the fertile shadow of Mount Dromedary. Alluvial and reef gold was discovered on Mount Dromedary in the late 1800s and led to the goldmining boom of the early 1900s. The mountain is now a flora reserve. Here we take a step back in time and browse through the arts and crafts shops along the main street. Next we visit Foxglove Spire Gardens. This 100-year-old cottage is surrounded by an extensive garden with many fragrant paths leading to romantic rose-covered arbours and secluded flower-filled areas. The woodlands create a shady haven to rest in while the pond at the bottom of the garden adds to the peace and tranquillity. Then back to the Coachman's Rest to freshen up for dinner.

Day 4

EXPLORE THE WILDERNESS

This will be a day to remember; don't forget your camera! After a breakfast we board our roadliner and head for the wilderness area. We cross over the State border into Victoria and travel to Mallacoota Inlet, where we board the magnificent 50-passenger MV Discovery for a leisurely trip through the Mallacoota Lakes and the Genoa River, and the upper reaches of the beautiful and isolated Wallagaruga River. Here you will find the real and often hidden beauty of this area, the mountain peaks, rain forests, natural flora and fauna, and some of Australia's most fascinating waterways. While cruising you can watch the Sea Eagles being fed and enjoy a commentary by our Captain Neal, who is a third generation of the area. Cruising aboard Discovery is a pleasant experience. A barbecue lunch and morning and afternoon tea is provided. Some say feeding the Sea Eagle alone is worth the trip. No need to fear the boat trip as yo

hardly know you are moving, no sea sickness, calm water, wheel chair access. It is a magnificent trip even on a rainy day. This is the only way you can see this wonderful area. After we arrive back at Mallacoota and disembark, we board our roadliner and return into NSW and back to the Coachman's Rest.

Day 5

LEISURE DAY

After breakfast we visit Eden Shells where we can see the biggest range of shells and souvenirs on the Sapphire Coast. Next we travel to Merimbula where we have morning tea then a wander around the shops. At midday we head for the Merimbula RSL Club for lunch. At 1.00pm we board our coach and tour out to Tura Beach Estate for a look at the housing and some lovely views. Then we visit the Kiosk where you can enjoy a drink, icecream or purchase a souvenir or some of the famous Sapphire Coast oysters to take home with you. You

can also watch their video showing the history of oyster farming and the life cycle of oysters. Once back on the coach we head out to Pambula Beach then to Pambula. Browse around Toad Hall, a showcase for local arts and craft, country gifts and memorabilia, also the Old Bank Gallery opposite the post office which features traditional and contemporary works from some of the region's leading artists. Then we board our coach for the return trip to our motel for a rest until dinner-time, or a stroll over to the golf club.

Day 6

TRIP HOME

This morning, after a hearty breakfast, you say farewell to Irene and Allan and the staff at the Coachman's Rest and begin a relaxed journey home. Lunch will be at Nowra, before settling down for the final leg of the journey through Kiama and Wollongong, arriving back at the point of your departure on Day One at around 5.30pm.



JOHN MARTIN, FIRST FLEETER

DEDICATION SERVICE AT ST JOHN'S CEMETERY, PARRAMATTA

The day started with a family gathering at Parramatta Park for descendants of First Fleeters John Martin and John Randall. John Martin having married Mary Randall, daughter of John Randall.

Daphne Hazell a descendant of both Fleeters organised the gathering by making numerous phone calls and newspaper articles. Daphne was rewarded by the large number in attendance.



Dot Martin of Grafton had done extensive research into the family tree of John and Mary Martin and those attending were handed a thirty-four page detail of the family tree of those pioneers as well as their eleven children. The researchers were kept busy collecting details of names not on the list for future publication.

Irene Myles, 88 years of age, fourth generation descendant of Frederick Martin, seventh child of John and Mary Martin, was the eldest descendant in attendance closely followed by Dorothy Maff (85). Dorothy is a fifth generation descendant of John and Mary Martin's third child, Frances.

The dedication service held in the afternoon at St John's Cemetery, Parramatta, was also well attended, and the President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, Mr Peter Christian, in his welcome congratulated Daphne Hazell on her efforts in organising the family gathering and in the assistance she gave in the arranging of the dedication service for the installation of a memorial plaque for John Martin on the tombstone for Mary Martin and their daughter, Hannah.

Judith Dunn, president of the Parramatta Historical Society, gave details of famous people also buried at St John's Cemetery as well of the 64 First Fleeters recorded as buried in this cemetery.

John Martin, a fifth generation descendant of John Martin, read the eulogy for his famous ancestor.

Councillor John Haines, Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta, then spoke and in doing so congratulated both the Fellowship and Daphne Hazell for organising the services. He stated that the people of Parramatta are proud of their history and the association they

have with First Fleeters. The Lord Mayor concluded by removing the Queen Anne flag draped over the tombstone thus revealing the memorial plaque to John Martin.

The Rev. Peter Kemp, Rector of St John's Cathedral, Parramatta, gave the dedication prayer, and the Rev. John Butler of St Matthew's, Windsor, then gave the benediction.

The service was concluded by a parade and a three-shot salute by the Australian Colonial Marine Enactment Group. This group is made up of volunteers in army uniforms of the time when John Martin lived. The long arms they use are of the same period.

After the service Councillor Haines was shown the other tombstones of First Fleeters in St John's Cemetery to which identifying plaques are attached. This was the eightieth tombstone in memory of First Fleeters to which plaques have been attached since the project was started in 1976.

DOUGLAS OAKES
Convenor Plaques Committee

NASH FAMILY REUNION

SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 1998

at the

WREN GROUND, NURRAGINGY, DOONSIDE

Phone contact Olivia Hope, 9831 2279

The Ghost Town of Joadja Creek

Once again Joy Pankhurst organised a day's outing in June that drew only praise and caused no heartburn. This was the bus trip to Joadja.

At the stipulated time of 8.30am the bus, with some northside early birds, arrived to pick up the bulk of travellers at Central. That is all except the proverbial wanderer who eventually turns up like a bad penny, who got lost trying to get to Central. A remarkable traveller is our D.O.

In the care of our driver par excellence, John, who is a fount of information of anywhere we go, we arrived at Berrima to spend the morning wandering with oohs and aahs around this town of history. The place is so well kept that you can readily visualise yourself living in the past, the feeling was assisted by a Cobb & Co.-style coach driving around the streets. All the stone-built shops and houses of a time long-gone added to the atmosphere.

After lunch it was a pleasant trip to our destination, Joadja Creek, in the general direction of Mittagong. Surely the area must be one of the most attractive in our State, and so close to Sydney.

habits and customs which, from local newspaper accounts, were often thought strange.

The valley developed in a period when wool, gold and other primary industries sustained the growing Australian economy; secondary industry was still in its infancy.

The Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral company, incorporated in 1878, was possibly the largest and richest of Australia's pioneering industrial enterprises; its kerosene, candles and other products supplied the Australian market with goods that earlier had been imported.

The company introduced large-scale production methods in the late 1870s, solving transport problems by building its own narrow-gauge railway to the town of Mittagong, thirty kilometres away. A self-supporting village was established by this unique Scottish community. The company provided housing, a school, established orchards, dairies and shops.

The 1890s, a time of strikes and industrial discontent throughout Australia, were difficult years for the Joadja Creek settlement. The North American oil

What can we learn from the derelict buildings and fading photographs? What kind of people lived there? How did they survive the hardships inherent in mining? How innovative were their manufacturing techniques?

In 1988 a comprehensive history of Joadja Creek was written with widespread interest shown around the world. Extensively illustrated over 175 pages, it described the workings of the Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company and the Scottish families who settled in this remote valley during the 1870s.

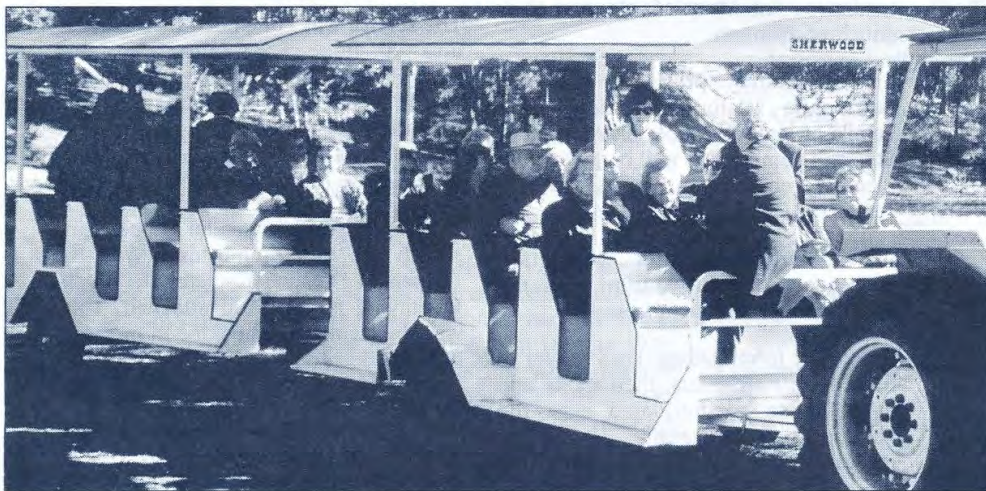
Following the success of the written history, a 35 minute video was released in December 1986. It covers the past as well as activities up to the Open Weekend held in 1996, when 11,000 people visited the valley. Research of this unique village and its industry is far from finished. Because it was a private enterprise it has been difficult to trace much of its history. If you are able to furnish any information, no matter how little you have to share, please get in touch with Joadja's historian and researcher, Leonie Knapman, 59 Regent Street, Mittagong, 2575 NSW Australia.

Because of heritage restrictions, motorists are not permitted to bring their cars to the Joadja site. Because of these protection orders, Joadja ghost town tours have been organised and depart Wednesday to Sunday from Mittagong and Berrima.

Tour No. 1 leaves the visit information centre, Mittagong, at 10.00am, includes Berrima Court House tour on way to Joadja. Cost to adults \$25.00, conc. \$19.50, child \$9.00. Tour No. 2 leaves Berrima Court House at 11.00am for Joadja tour. Cost to adults \$22.00, conc. \$17.00, child \$7.00. Tours include * morning tea, * guided tour of Joadja ghost town, * all age groups catered for on people movers.

Bookings and information through Visitor Information Centre 1300 657 559; Berrima Court House (02) 4877 1505.

You can, of course, organise your own coach tour for school, senior citizens or specialist groups. For details contact Joadja Conservation Office, Phone: (02) 4861 6680; facsimile: (02) 4861 6609.



In the last decades of the nineteenth century, Joadja Creek, an isolated town in a valley in the Southern Highlands of New South Wales, flourished on the coal and shale products it mined and manufactured for local and overseas use.

Families were enlisted from the mining areas of Scotland and transported straight to the wilds of Joadja Creek by horse and bullock team. Down through the years they retained their Scottish

companies had, by then, made big inroads into the Australian market, introducing cheaper kerosene which gave greater volumes of gas and better illumination. The final blow came in 1904 when the Federal Government removed the duty on imported kerosene, tipping the balance against the local product in favour of the cheaper overseas import.

Today, when the valley is almost deserted, Joadja Creek still fascinates.

GREEN HILLS BURIAL GROUND, WINDSOR

The Executive Committee has accepted an invitation from the Hawkesbury Historical Society to have a First Fleeter commemorative plaque attached to the plinth built in the old burial ground on South Creek, Windsor. The area has now been officially named 'Green Hills Burial Ground.'

The plaque will be headed with the Fellowship's badge and then the following wording:

THIS PLAQUE IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
THOSE WHO CAME TO THIS COUNTRY WITH CAPTAIN
ARTHUR PHILLIP IN THE FIRST FLEET IN 1788 AND
WHO ARE BURIED IN OR NEAR THIS PLACE.
FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS
1999.

Throughout the country in 1988, as a bicentennial project, the Fellowship had nineteen of this type of plaque installed in memory of First Fleeters buried at or nearby to places to which there is no tombstone or records of the actual burial site.

The first known burial at the Green Hills Burial Ground was in April 1806 and the last known burial was in 1834.

As you drive north along Windsor Road past McGraths Hill you arrive at Fitzroy Bridge. Looking left as you cross the bridge there is paddock with a plinth in the middle, this is the site of the burial ground. The area can be visited by parking in an area just off to the left as you leave the bridge, behind the Jolly Frog Hotel.

In June 1997 a number of us joined with descendants of people buried in or nearby to witness the blessing of this burial site as well as the dedication of the plinth installed by the Hawkesbury Historical Society. President Peter Christian was extended the honour of raising the Queen Anne flag draped over the plinth, as part of the service.

The dedication service for the attachment of our commemorative plaque to the plinth will be held Sunday, 7 March 1999, to celebrate the 193rd anniversary of the first burial in this area.

Mollie Gillen in 'The Founders of Australia' named over thirty First Fleeters being buried in the Windsor area. The Hawkesbury Historical Society tells us that the members and local residents are proud of the fact that their area was settled by people who came out in the First Fleet.

The cemetery was established before Governor Lachlan Macquarie designed the five Macquarie Towns of Windsor, Pitt Town, Richmond and Wilberforce in 1810.

The details and time of the dedication service will be reported in a later issue of the Newsletter.

JOHN AND MARY SMALL DESCENDANTS ASSOCIATION

The Small Family Association is making plans for its twenty-eighth family reunion at St Anne's Memorial Hall, Church Street, Ryde, in the morning of Sunday, 11 October 1998. The Thanksgiving Service will be held in the afternoon at the historic St Anne's Church commencing at 2.30. The function commences with an exhibition of family memorabilia on the walls of the hall at 10.30am. This will be followed by the annual meeting and a catered luncheon.

Beverley Earnshaw, from the Hyde Park Barracks Museum, will be guest speaker after lunch at the reunion.

The association is still seeking new family names and any alterations for the records. A revised update book is scheduled for the annual reunion in 2001.

The Hyde Park Barracks Museum has invited the Small Family Association to participate with it in a convict genealogy exhibition at the museum. The exhibition will commence mid-1999 and will be on display during the Olympics. The museum is in Queen's Square, Macquarie Street, Sydney.

There will be three convict families featured. One from New South Wales, one from Tasmania and one from Western Australia.

The Small Family Association has submitted an application to the Australian National Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour, for the inclusion of the names of First Fleeters John Small and Mary Parker on the Welcome Wall at Darling Harbour.

The wall extends 100 metres along the northern boundary of the National Maritime Museum and faces the water and the Pyrmont Bay ferry terminal. The first names on the wall will be unveiled during the Sea Change Olympic Art Festival in September 1998. New names will be added each Australia Day, culminating on 26 January 2001.

Any inquiries on the reunion can be made to the secretary, Douglas Oakes, on 9428 2806.

DOUGLAS OAKES, Convenor Plaques Committee

Some people of the First Fleet

Peter Christian, President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, gave a series of talks recently over Radio 2CBA FM about the history of the First Fleet and the people who arrived on that Fleet 1788 and the unique organisation known as the Fellowship of First Fleeters. This is part II in the series. Part I appeared in the previous issue.



will now talk to you about some of the people who arrived on the First Fleet and their descendants.

As I have said earlier there were some 775 convicts and 247 marines plus crews of the ships which brought the total arrivals to 1373 souls who arrived at Port Jackson on 26 January 1788. There are many success stories amongst

those who were convicts. It seems to be the fashion in this day and age to be politically correct as opposed to being historically correct. Let me give you some examples:

- 1) Governor Phillip and his hoard of Georgian louts invaded the shores of Botany Bay.
- 2) The convicts of the First Fleet didn't amount to much nor contributed anything of value to the Colony.

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3) We must be careful to play down the part of the first European arrivals for fear of upsetting some members of the community.

What utter rubbish!

History is founded on facts and the history of European settlement of our nation is well and truly documented.

What of some of the people of the First Fleet.

For Parts III and IV of the series I'll endeavour to give you an insight into the lives of some, where does one begin – O yes, possibly with an undistinguished person who unwittingly gave to this nation a most distinguished person.

Edward Miles – convicted in March 1785 for stealing clothing and other goods – sentence seven years transportation. Having served his time he received several grants of land at Prospect and later at Minto. He married Susannah Smith, a convict, in 1803 and had an issue of four daughters. As a landowner he wasn't successful – but whilst he found no brilliant career in the Colony, he did found a family and among his descendants was one Stella Maria Miles Franklin.



Next is a sad, very sad story of Eleanor (McCabe) Magee who was 22 years of age when convicted in 1785 for, and I quote 'Feloniously assaulting John Harris on 1/5/1785 and putting him in corporeal fear and danger of his life AND feloniously taking from him, against his will, coins to the value of 3/3.' At her trial at Old Bailey, Eleanor was one of four women who attacked the prosecutor and almost tore him to pieces. The upshot of all of this was seven years transportation. Poor Eleanor couldn't take a trick. On the voyage aboard the Lady Penrhyn she gave birth to a still-born child. In 1788 she married fellow convict Charles Williams alias Magee. For a while they did well in the Colony settling on a grant of land near Rose Hill. On 18 January 1793 Eleanor was drowned together with her infant child. She, her husband and another woman had taken a small boat to Sydney and on returning the boat capsized near Breakfast Point. A combination of overloading of the boat and the imbibing of alcohol by the occupants caused this catastrophe. Charles Magee managed to escape unharmed and for a number of years he was to be seen sitting by the side of Eleanor's grave with a bottle of rum in hand, actually drinking one glass and pouring another on her grave declaring how well she loved the grog during her life. A sad story. No hallowed ground contains the mortal remains of Eleanor Magee but she is interred in the grounds of a factory – that of James Hardie & Co. near Rose Hill Racecourse on the banks of the Parramatta River.

This is one of the earliest graves of First Fleeters still in existence and is protected by a preservation order. It has been restored and the James Hardie Co. has a large plaque attached to the tombstone which reads as follows:

'In this grave lies the remains of Eleanor Magee and her infant child who were drowned in the Parramatta River January 1793. The grave is one of the oldest in this continent.'

In February 1982 the Fellowship of First Fleeters placed a plaque on Eleanor's grave denoting her as a First Fleeter. Vice-President Rod Best gave the eulogy and concluded with these words – 'It is not for us to pass judgement on the character of these people, nor the way in which they lived or died. We realise that they were victims of the primitive places and times in which they lived. We pay homage to a sad lady and child and the contribution they made in the establishment of this wonderful country of ours.'

Lieutenant George Johnston – much has been written about this military man. By 1790 he was a Captain in the marine corps later transferring to the New South Wales Corps. He helped to put down the Castle Hill rebellion in 1804. In 1808 he overthrew Governor Bligh and for his sins was court marshalled and cashiered in London. Despite all of this the Colonial Office paid for his return voyage to NSW in 1813. In 1814 he married his de facto wife of 25 years, First Fleeter Jewess convict Esther Abrahams. He received grants of land at Annandale, Cabramatta and Lake Macquarie. He died in 1823 and was buried on his Annandale estate. Later, on subdivision of his estate, his coffin was re-interred in the family vault in Waverley Cemetery.

Esther who rose from a convicted thief to First Lady of the Colony, albeit for only a short period, died in 1846 leaving quite a large estate.

One hundred and eighty years after George Johnston forcibly entered Government House and arrested Governor Bligh, his descendant Rear-Admiral Sir David Martin became Governor of New South Wales.

Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes – Henry was convicted with his father and sentenced to death at Thetford Assizes on 14 March 1783 for stealing. Henry was let off with a seven-year sentence – due to his age (19 years), his father and another accomplice were hanged. For nearly three years Henry was incarcerated in Norwich Castle during which time he met and fell in love with convict Susannah. A son was born within the walls of the castle early in 1786. Both Henry and Susannah were sentenced to transportation and the story of their plight softened the heart of the authorities who ensured that the young couple travelled together on the transport Friendship with Henry junior.

Upon arrival at Sydney Cove, Henry was appointed overseer to some convicts and later became Chief Constable. He and Susannah were married on 10 February by the Chaplain of the Colony the Rev. Richard Johnson, both signing the register with a mark. In July the first civil law suit in NSW was filed by convict Henry against the Master of the transport Alexander suing for the loss of a parcel of goods presented to the pair before sailing from England. Judgement was given in Henry's favour and the Court awarded 15 pound compensation.

Perhaps Henry and Susannah, both illiterate, both convicted felons realised that here in this new unknown continent a fresh start could be made. Indeed, that 15 pound, a princely sum in those days, was used to start the first free enterpris in this country. Henry entered into partnership with Simeon Lord and James Underwood in a ship building business which proved extremely profitable.

Henry died at Windsor on 16 March 1846 aged 82 years, whilst Susannah had predeceased him on 8 November 1820 aged 62 years. They had 11 children. The daughters all marrying into well-known pioneering families.

Plaques were placed on the graves of Henry and Susannah by the Fellowship of First Fleeters at St. Matthew's, Windsor, in June 1982.

Henry junior died in May 1852 aged 66 years and was buried in the churchyard at The Oaks near Camden. On Sunday 24 November 1985 this quiet little churchyard was the scene of most unusual activity. The BBC was there to film the unveiling of a First Fleeter plaque placed by the Fellowship of First Fleeters. The church was packed with Kable descendants. The TV presenters were quite taken with this unique ceremony.

(To be continued.)