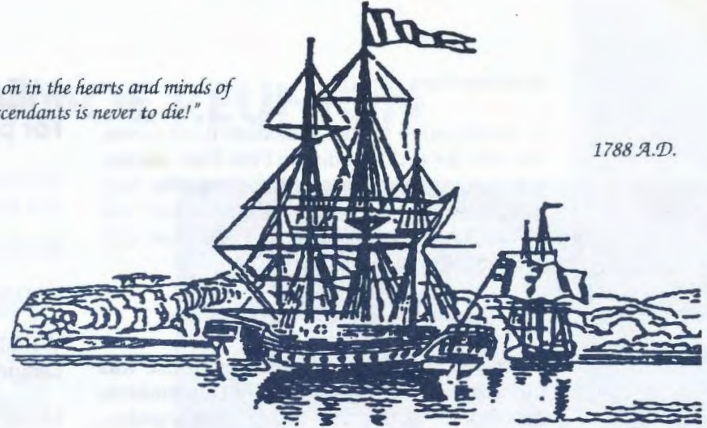


Fellowship of First Fleeters

*"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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SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1998 VOLUME 29 NO. 5

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Congratulations are in order to Lionel Phelps (F.F. William Roberts and Kezia Brown) on his election to the office of Chancellor of the University of the Southern Cross, located in the Northern Rivers area of New South Wales. Lionel, an extremely active member of the Northern Rivers Chapter, has played an important role in the education profession in N.S.W. for many years and we wish him well in his new role as Chancellor.

.....

The Northern Rivers Chapter has been active of late in the seeking of new members through the local press. Quite a bit of publicity has been generated by this important public relations exercise. Keep up the good work.

.....

After many, many years of devoted service our Archivist, Joyce Powell (F.F. William Tunks), has decided it is time to step down. At its last meeting, the Board of Directors accepted her resignation with great regret and placed on record appreciation of the years of service Joyce has freely given to the Fellowship.

Her successor will be announced in the next Newsletter.

.....

From time to time gremlins do creep into the system and it behoves me to apologise to all descendants of Henry Kable for giving him the name of 'Peter Kable' in our last Newsletter. It occurred in the obituary notice of Nita McDonald.

The notice should have read: 'Nita McDonald (#2416) 16 July 1998, late of Narwee. Descendant of Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes.'

For a number of years Nita, a retired schoolteacher, helped in the office of the

Fellowship - her brother Edgar Kable was for a time President of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. I wish to thank Nita's sister Isabel Thost (#2429) for bringing this slip to my notice.

.....

Brian Garth (#901) sent a letter of appreciation to the Executive to celebrate twenty-five years of membership together with mementos of his recent trip to Bath and Bathampton, in the form of laminated photos plus historical background. Naturally Arthur Phillip figures to the fore in both. Both are worthy of framing - thank you, Brian, from all at First Fleet House.

.....

There will be a number of celebrations in Sydney around 11 October next to commemorate the 260th year of the birth of Arthur Phillip. His memorial in Bath Abbey endorses the sentiments of not only all First Fleeters but of Australians as a whole - 'To his indomitable courage, prophetic vision, forbearance, faith, inspiration and wisdom was due the success of the first settlement in Australia at Sydney, 26 January 1788.'

Says it all doesn't it!!

.....

You will have received with this Newsletter the annual report of the Fellowship. The Annual General Meeting will be held at First Fleet House on Sunday, 1 November next at 2.00pm.

I do appeal for not only new blood on the Executive, but for voluntary help for the day-to-day running of First Fleet House. We are getting desperate, do contact me on a Monday 'am' at First Fleet House or Phone 9868 3063 if you feel you can help.



(Continued overleaf)

(Continued from page 1)

A thank you to former President Beryl Lewis, not only for the donation to First Fleet House, but noting that the coming Australia Day luncheon not only is a good venue but well priced. Look forward to seeing you there ALL MEMBERS.

On 27 September last First Fleet House was the venue of the Tunks Family Descendants Association soup and damper get-together. As a Tunks descendant I was pleased to welcome my cousins wearing two hats. John Daniell, President of the T.D.A., is the son of our third president, Fred Daniell of blessed memory.

We were all saddened by the sudden passing of Cynthia Thompson, wife of executive member Cec, F.F. Frederick Meredith. Cynthia had been a wonderful backstop and soulmate to Cec and I join with all members in expressing our deepest sympathy and loving thoughts to the family.

"To live in the thoughts and minds of descendants is never to die"

In Fellowship
PETER

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For period 27 August to 22 September 1998

We extend a warm welcome to new members joined during this period – eight adults.

BENJAMIN CUSLEY: Mr Kenneth William Smith.

EDWARD MILES: Mrs Karen Leigh O'Brien.

WILLIAM NASH – MARIA HAYNES: Mrs Dorothy Ailsa Langford.

JAMES SQUIRE – MARY SPENCER + THOMAS SMITH – ANN COLPITTS + JOHN NICHOLS: Mr Colin John Griffiths.

DANIEL STANFIELD – ALICE HARMSWORTH + JACOB BELLETT + EDWARD KIMBERLEY + JAMES MORRISBY: Miss Carole Louise Chipman; Ms Robyn Lesleigh Chipman.

THOMAS WILLIAMS: Mrs Gwenyth Margaret Baker; Mr Lindsay Vernon Williams.

BIRTHS

Welcome to an additional First Fleeter:

KATY ANNE BAKER (F.F. Matthew Everingham) born 20 July 1998 at Manly N.S.W., to Megan Baker (#2944) nee Greentree.

SAMANTHA LOUISE CHRISTIAN (F.F. William Tunks + Matthew Everingham), 16 September, to Matthew and Sarah. Ninth grandchild to Peter and Joy.

THOMAS WILLIAMS RESERVE

Yasmin Williams (#6295), with Lord Mayor John Hains OAM of Parramatta, on the occasion of the official naming of the Thomas Williams Reserve on 8 August 1998. The reserve is located where Sorrell Lane meets Pennant Hills Road, North Parramatta.

Thomas Williams was a prominent Parramatta businessman and undertaker and a great-grandson of First Fleeter Thomas Williams who arrived on Friendship in 1788.

Thomas Williams will be included in the book 'Men of Parramatta' soon to be published by the Parramatta and District Historical Society.



INFORMATION WANTED: First Fleeters William Douglas and Mary Groves

Val Knapman, of 37 Lake View Park, Waimarie Street, Bargara Qld 4670, is inquiring about descendants of First Fleeters William Douglas and Mary Groves, particularly the line through their daughter Elizabeth, through her son Richard who married Johanna Sheehy and their family who lived at St Albans.

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.

BLOODWORTH - LEE FIRST FLEET FAMILIES

Bloodworth, Lee family gathering and AGM

ON SUNDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 1998, AT 2.00PM

**Unit 2, 182 Longueville Road, Lane Cove, 2066
(just through the shopping centre)**

Hostesses: Ula and Alice Clarke, tel. 9428 4530

Update on Family History

Refreshments

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, Robin Condliffe, phone (02) 6653 3615.

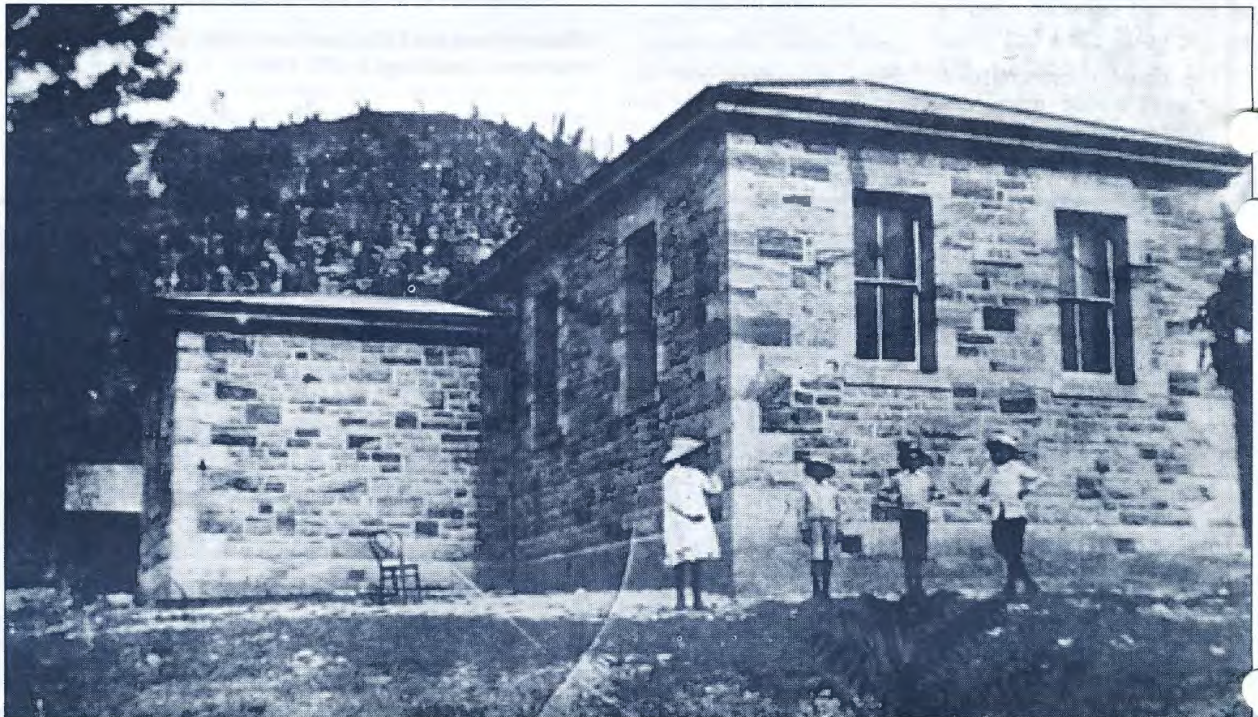
More Ghosts of Foggia Creek

The Australian Kerosene Oil and Mineral Company, incorporated in 1878, established a self-supporting village with a unique Scottish community. The company provided housing, a school, established orchards, dairies and shops.

Of course, as well as rules for the students, there were binding rules for the teachers.

RULES FOR TEACHERS – 1872

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, trim the wicks and clean chimneys.
2. Each morning teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they attend church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teachers may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or any other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so that he will not become a burden society.
8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labour faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty-five pence per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.



Successful Tour of Sydney Airport

A bus load of members and friends went on a tour of the Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport on a glorious day for visiting on Wednesday, 2 September 1998.

We joined the tour bus at Sydney Central Railway Station and after journeying along the back streets of Redfern and Rosebery to avoid the city traffic and road construction we reached Sydney Airport.

We were first taken through the international airport and although most of us had been there a number of times it was nice to be shown by an expert the proper layout of the place. With over \$800 million dollars being spent on the airport for long-term expansion and more efficient operation, the lecture by the guide was most invaluable and interesting to hear and digest. The tour guide boasted that the airport improvements will be able to handle nearly twice the anticipated requirements for the 2000 Olympics.

With the completion of the new rail link, expansion of the parking facilities and increasing all the passenger and cargo handling facilities, we could see why they can make this boast. We left the international and journeyed to the domestic airport.

We were required to go through the strict checking station on foot and pick up the tour bus at the other side of the airport and as we were travelling from outside the airport into the actual airport itself the guide emphasised that for security and safety reasons under no circumstances were we now allowed to leave the bus until the next part of the trip was over.

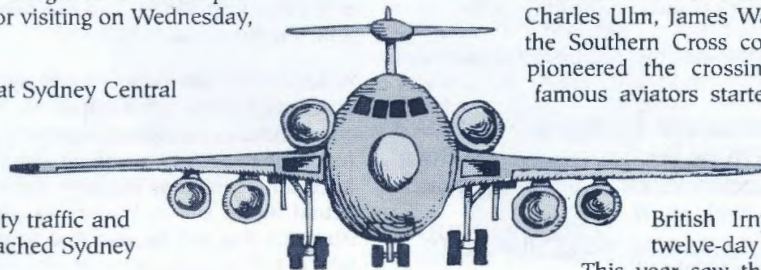
The guide then took us on one of the most interesting tours ever. We saw the 747 and other large aircraft being prepared for take-off, being overhauled for both major and normal maintenance. We saw aircraft from practically every country in the world. Nearly fifty international airlines operate schedules from Sydney Airport.

We travelled along the outskirts of the runways into Botany Bay and were able to stop and watch aircraft land and depart at close range.

Sydney Airport actually began in 1919 when aviation enthusiast W. B. Love chose the cowpastes at Mascot as the site to establish an aircraft manufacturing plant.

On 20 January 1920 the site was declared an official aerodrome. In 1924 the first hanger was built and regular services began between Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. In

1928 Bert Hinkler completed his solo flight from England to Australia and then with Charles Kingsford Smith, Charles Ulm, James Warner and Harry Lyons in the Southern Cross completed the flight which pioneered the crossing of the Pacific. These famous aviators started the original Australian National Airways in 1930.



In 1934 Qantas with British Imperial Airways started a twelve-day airmail flight to London.

This year saw the fitting of radio into an aircraft.

In 1935 Sir Charles Kingsford Smith was lost flying near Burma and in 1938 the airport was named Kingsford Smith Aerodrome.

In 1940 a second airport was built at Bankstown and Mascot was extensively expanded.

In 1948 a ten-year development program was launched. This included extra runways and the diversion of the Cooks River.

In 1947 international airways started to come to Sydney and in 1952 Sydney Airport carried more traffic than other airport in the world outside of the United States.

In 1953 the airport was officially renamed Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport.

In 1963 the north-south runway was extended into Botany Bay.

In 1970 Queen Elizabeth officially opened the new international terminal.

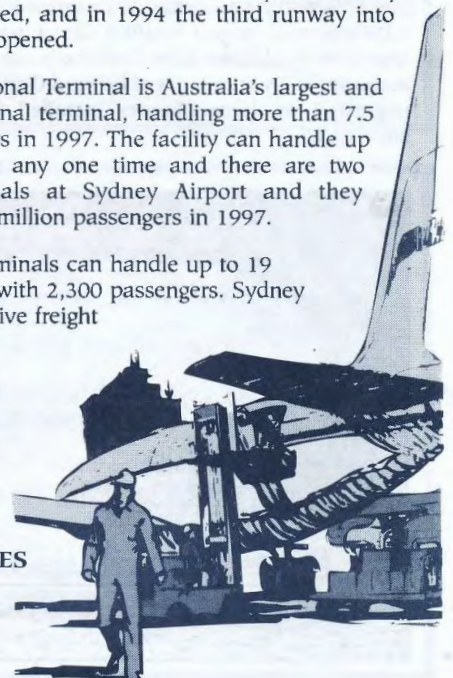
In 1972 the second extension of the runway into Botany Bay was completed, and in 1994 the third runway into Botany Bay was opened.

Sydney International Terminal is Australia's largest and busiest international terminal, handling more than 7.5 million passengers in 1997. The facility can handle up to 24 aircraft at any one time and there are two domestic terminals at Sydney Airport and they handled over 13 million passengers in 1997.

The domestic terminals can handle up to 19 aircraft per hour with 2,300 passengers. Sydney Airport also has five freight terminals.

Our thanks go to Phyllis Selby for organising this interesting tour.

DOUGLAS OAKES
Convenor.



COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE, ST JOHN'S CEMETERY, PARRAMATTA

The St John's Cemetery Trust has given the Fellowship permission to install a commemorative plaque at the cemetery in memory of all First Fleeters buried there.

The plaque will be installed on the gate pillar at the O'Connell Street entrance to the cemetery. This plaque will complement in size and shape the Trust's plaque on the other pillar.

The plaque will be headed with the Fellowship's badge and will read as follows;

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 WERE BURIED IN
THIS PLACE
FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS
1998

Mollie Gillen in her book 'The Founders of Australia' identifies over sixty-four First Fleeters buried at St John's Cemetery. This is the largest known number buried in any one place.

The Fellowship has only been able to locate the burial sites of sixteen First Fleeters and to which we have been able to attach a memorial plaque.

A dedication service has been programmed for Sunday, 29 November 1998, at 3.00pm. A number of distinguished guests have been invited to participate in the service. We are requesting as many members who know that their First Fleet ancestor is buried at St John's, particularly those of whom no actual burial site is known, to join us at this service. An Australia flag will be attached to the sixteen tombstones to which a memorial plaque is attached.

ST DAVID'S PARK, HOBART, PLAQUES DEDICATION SERVICE

The Fellowship of First Fleeters has accepted an invitation by the Hobart Town (1804) First Settlers Association to participate in a dedication service for plaques on the memorial wall at St David's Park, Hobart, on Saturday, 14 November 1998.

The plaques are for First Fleeters Edward Garth and Susannah (Gough) Garth, Alice (Harmsworth) Stanfield and John Griffiths.

The plaque for Edward and Susannah Garth is placed near the remains of the tombstone of their son William Garth. The plaque for Alice Stanfield is placed next to the tombstone and plaque of her husband First Fleeter Daniel Stanfield and the plaque for John Griffiths is near the tombstone of this First Fleeter.

The Fellowship had a plaque installed for Daniel Stanfield as a bicentennial project in 1988. The First Settlers Association found the tombstone John Griffiths in the wall and advised us accordingly. Descendants of Edward Garth and Alice Stanfield requested we have plaques installed for their First Fleet ancestors.

The association has informed us that a number of their members are descendants of these First Fleeters and they anticipate a large attendance to be there on the day.

Edward Garth (1763-1823), a convict, arrived on Scarborough. He was sent to Norfolk Island where he met Susannah Gough, they were married in 1795. They acquired land on Norfolk Island and in 1793 Edward Garth was elected a member of the Norfolk Island Settlers Association. In 1807 they sailed for Van Diemen's Land and lived on lands at Clarence Plains and Queensborough.

Susannah Gough (1763-1841), a convict, started her journey to this country on Friendship and at Rio was transferred to Charlotte, being described by Ralph Clark as 'one of the six very best women we have in the ship.' She was sent to Norfolk Island and shortly after arriving met her husband to be, Edward Garth. Susannah died in Van Diemen's Land 24 June 1841.

Alice Harmsworth (1758-1830) came to this country with her husband Thomas, a marine private, and their two children on Prince of Wales. Thomas Harmsworth died 30 April 1788. Alice then met and married First Fleeter Dan. Stanfield on 15 October 1791. They then went to Norfolk Island and settled on the land at Cascade Streams. In 1808 they moved to Van Diemen's Land to acquire land at Clarence Plains, Melville and Lennox. She died in on 8 October 1830.

John Griffiths (1758-1821), marine private, arrived on Friendship. He was sent to Norfolk Island and there met Jane Thompson. They returned to Port Jackson in 1796 and settled at Mulgrave Place where he worked as a sawyer and as dairyman. Jane died in 1813. John Griffiths married Bridget Ann Holland 1 February 1819. He died 5 May 1844 while visiting his daughter's family in Hobart, Tasmania.

DOUGLAS OAKES
Convenor Plaques Committee



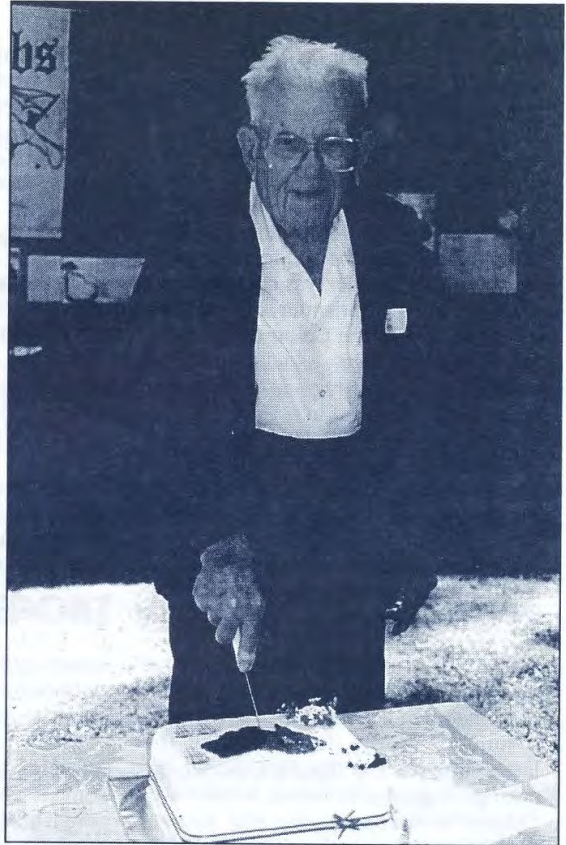
HIBBS – PARDOE REUNION

Betty Warn, a very proud member of The Fellowship of First Fleeters and one of the 9,000 descendants of Peter Hibbs and Mary Pardoe, writes:

A very successful family reunion was held on 13 September at the Spencer Community Hall. The reunion was for the descendants of First Fleet sailor Peter Hibbs and his Second Fleet wife, Mary Pardoe.

The weather was delightful, a perfect spring day and descendants came from near and far to enjoy the day.

Many metres of family charts had been printed and laminated by Roy Cox. These were pegged around the fence surrounding the hall. Allan Maunder arrived with a collection of Hibbs memorabilia in the form of a large poster. Combined with many other small



Frank O'Grady cuts cake

Roy Cox and Betty Warn with new banner



charts it made a very interesting display. Included in the display was the Hibbs banner. Hand-painted in black on cream calico this banner was presented to the Hibbs Family by Lindy Carrall of Kurri Kurri. Lindy also supplied a beautifully decorated reunion day cake. Frank O'Grady, a charming 96-year-old family member, cut the cake with great style.

Lots of information and photos were exchanged on the day. The Hibbs Tree is steadily growing with an estimated 9,000 descendants from a humble First Fleet sailor and his convict wife.

The reunion is held on the second Sunday in September every year at Spencer Community Hall. For details please phone (02) 4294 7235 or (02) 9631 0206.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

Some more about people

Part III of Series of talks given over radio 2CBA-FM by the President, Peter Christian.

John Palmer arrived in the Colony as Purser aboard Sirius. It is interesting that during the American War of Independence Palmer was captured and spent time as a prisoner of war. His grants of land in the Colony were quite considerable and included the Woolloomooloo Farm – on part of this land today stands First Fleet House, headquarters of the Fellowship of First Fleeters. He died in September 1833 and is buried in St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta.

St. John's cemetery contains the last resting place of at least eleven other known First Fleeters.

William Tunks – Whilst there is a large monument at St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta, indicating the burial vault of a number of the Tunks family, the last resting place of this First Fleeter, my great-great-great-grandfather, is unknown. Originally interred in the Old Sydney Burial Ground, now the site of the Town Hall, his remains could have been moved to the old Sandhills Cemetery, now the site of Central Railway Station. However, William Tunks did found a large dynasty. He married a Second Fleeter, Jewish convict Sarah Lyons, whilst he was on marine duty at Norfolk Island. His eldest son was an innkeeper and timber merchant in Parramatta, whilst his grandson, William, held office in the State Legislature and was Mayor of St. Leonards for many years. The memory of William Tunks, marine, Sirius, and Sarah Lyons, convict Second Fleet, and their descendants are well and truly kept alive by the Tunks Family Association.

Matthew James Everingham was only a lad of 15 years when he stood in the dock of the Old Bailey accused of stealing law books, the property of his employers. The value was ten shillings and for this he was sentenced to seven years. Matthew was literate and did not seem to fit into the pattern of his contemporaries in the Colony. He married Second Fleet convict Elizabeth Rymes and they settled first at the Ponds, now situated on the hill behind the suburb of Ermington, and later at a grant of 50 acres at Sackville Reach. Between the years 1791 and 1814 Elizabeth bore 11 children. Matthew prospered and met an untimely death at the age of 48 years on Christmas Day 1817 whilst on duty as District Constable.

The Everingham family name is now known far and wide throughout this land and personally I feel quite proud that through myself and my wife, my children and grandchildren are descendants of both William Tunks, marine Sirius, and Matthew Everingham, convict Scarborough.

St. Anne's churchyard, Ryde, holds the remains of a number of First Fleeters in addition to other pioneers of this area.

John Small, Richard Hatton, Richard Hawkes, James Bradley and Edward Goodin to name a few.

Time unfortunately only permits me to dwell on the misfortunes and later fortunes of John Small and his wife Mary Parker.

John was convicted of highway robbery in 1785, sentenced to death, later commuted to seven years transportation. He met Mary Parker, a convict, and married her 12 October 1788. In 1794 they settled on a grant of 30 acres in the Ryde district. In 1808 some twenty years after his arrival as a convict, he was sworn in as a Constable, in which capacity he served for some 17 years. He died at the age of 88 in 1850 a well-respected citizen in a community amongst whom he had served so well in his new found way of life. He and Mary had brought up seven children, some descendants of whom became famous within the nation.

Frederick Meredith from Denham, England, arrived in Scarborough as a steward. He opted to stay in the Colony obviously aware of the opportunities which may lay in store for him. After a few affairs of the heart and I might add a few children later, Frederick settled down with convict Sarah Mason in 1811 with whom he had already three children. He received a grant of 60 acres at Liberty Plains and later a further 60 acres on the Liverpool Road at Bankstown. Then another grant at Punchbowl of 120 acres. He was certainly an entrepreneur. He died in June 1836 aged 55 years and some of his descendants still own and reside on his original grant at Bankstown. On a rock face on Garden Island in Sydney Harbour one may see carved FM1788. This carving has been attributed to Frederick Meredith.

James Ruse's name stands out as the first successful farmer in the Colony. James was sentenced to death in 1782 for breaking and entering – commuted to seven years transportation, he arrived on Scarborough. He was given a land

grant in 1791, the first in the Colony and in 1793 was able to sell 600 bushels of maize to the Commissary. For the next 20 years his time was taken up buying and selling land, yet by 1834 at the age of 75, he was far from being a rich man. Why he did not capitalise on his obvious talents as a farmer, and why he constantly sold up and moved are questions to which answers have yet to be found or indeed will ever be found. He died at Campbelltown on 5 September 1837. Some say by his efforts at farming and the example to others he was instrumental in saving the infant colony from starvation.

In a bush cemetery at Castlereagh, where the Hawkesbury River becomes the Nepean, lie the remains of many pioneers of the Penrith-Richmond area. Two First Fleeters are buried here Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley. Elizabeth was convicted and sentenced to death, later reprieved and given seven years transportation for what could you believe – the theft of two cheeses, four pieces of bacon, several 1/2 pints of butter, quarter stone of raisins, 1/2 stone of flour and two rolls of worsted. At the age of 26 Elizabeth was embarked on Friendship unwittingly for a new beginning in life. She met and married in the Colony, one, Anthony Rope, convict on 19 May 1788. In their early years at Port Jackson they seemed to be in and out of trouble. However, by 1828 they had a family of eight children, most married, and had settled on 11 acres of land living close to the outer suburb of Sydney, known as Ropes Creek.

One of the more recent families to prove descent of a First Fleeter was that of Robert Williams. Sentenced to death for horse stealing, his sentence was commuted to seven years transportation. He was 23 years of age and reported to be tolerably decent and orderly. He received a grant near Richmond in 1806 and when he died in 1811 was the first First Fleeter to be buried in St. Peter's Cemetery, Richmond.

In 1995 a Fellowship plaque was unveiled to the memory of Robert. The descendants of this First Fleeter have indeed ensured that his memory will live on as a pioneer of our nation. My good friend Canon Jim Payne MBE, former Dean of Perth and National Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, as a descendant of Robert Williams was the catalyst in having this First Fleeter recognised as such by the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

(To be concluded.)