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Hon. Editor,
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From the President

In contrast to last month's Report, this one, of necessity, starts on a very sad note.

It is with great regret that I report on the sudden death of our Foundation Executive Member, immediate past President and Honorary Life Member Mr Edgar Eable on 18th April. Quite a number of Members attended the graveside service at Field of Mars Lawn Cemetery, and I felt very privileged to be asked to present an oration on behalf of the Fellowship. My sincere sympathy is extended to his widow, Nancy, and family.

I also express sympathy to one of our most ardent workers, Mrs Lola Wilkinson, on the death of her husband, Harry. We hope she will be able to be back on deck again very soon.

Also our very able Treasurer, Mr Ray Meredith, is in hospital after suffering a heart attack. We wish him a very speedy recovery.

Our next activity is the inspection of the State Library (behind the scenes) on Saturday 28th May at 2 pm sharp. A few tickets are still available for those interested, by contacting me.

Also, as a result of requests from various Members, a bus picnic has been arranged to visit and inspect historic homes and buildings in Parramatta. This will be on Sunday 26th June, leaving outside our Office in York Street at 9.45 am and returning at approximately 4.30 pm. Cost is \$3-50, plus admission to the properties where applicable.

On this picnic we intend to inspect Old Government House in the morning session, lunch in Parramatta Park, and during the afternoon visit Harbledon Cottage, Lancer Barracks, Experiment Farm, Lennox Bridge and St John's Church. Please get your tickets early.

My heartfelt thanks go to all who worked so hard on Argyle Day. To Margaret Markwell and her helpers on the Stall, Colleen Bernath and her helpers on the Float, and the men, including Associates, who helped with erecting and subsequently dismantling the tent. Also thanks to Mrs Mary Thompson, who looked after the enquiry table. The day was a wonderful financial success.

Our Lecture on Wednesday evening 4th May was really fascinating, and it was good to see so many present. This Lecture was given by Mr Vaughan Evans on old guns of Sydney.

I look forward to seeing many Members at the State Library on the 28th.

Beryl Lewis.

Cbituary

The death has also occurred of Mr Russell Davis, of Vacluse, a member of the Fellowship (First Fleeter Thomas Jamison).

Edgar Kable

The death occurred suddenly on 18th April of Mr Edgar Kable, Foundation Executive Member, immediate past President and Honorary Life Member of the Fellowship. He was born in the Central Western township of Parkes in 1920, and would have turned 57 in July.

Edgar Kable was appointed to the Committee at the Fellowship's inaugural meeting in 1968, and was later made the convenor of the Fleet Committee when all the Fleet Committees were amalgamated. He was later made a Vice-President of the Executive Committee, and following the death of our former President, Mr Frederick Daniell, in February 1973 he was appointed President.

Because of ill health he did not stand for re-election as President at the 1975 Annual General Meeting, but remained on the Executive Committee until his death. In 1975 he was granted Honorary Life Membership.

While the Fellowship played a large part in Edgar Kable's life, he was actively associated with several other community organisations. He was Secretary and on the Grand Council of the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society, he was a well-placed member of the Masonic Lodge, and he was associated with the Returned Services League. He served five years in the Australian Army in World War II, with the 2nd/6th Armoured Regiment in Darwin, Western Australia and New Guinea.

He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and their three children, Joy, Peter and Leslie.

Edgar Kable was a great ambassador for the Fellowship, and regularly spoke in schools about its aims and activities. During his Presidency the Fellowship expanded and went ahead.

He often said he had had great pleasure out of his association with the Fellowship, and he and his wife made many friends from it. Everyone sadly regrets his passing.

Accident to Prosper Kable

On his way to Edgar Kable's funeral, his brother Prosper was badly injured in a car accident, and is in Gosford Hospital with multiple breaks. His wife was slightly injured. We wish Prosper Kable a speedy recovery.

Stall on Argyle Day

Our stall at The Rocks gets better each year, thanks to the hard work of those members who make the stall possible. Donations came from as far away as Mt Garbier in South Australia.

A special thank-you to this member and to Colleen Bernath, who organised the Float once more, to Des Jurd for transport, Dick Markwell for tent and tables, to the members and associates who helped all day and gave so many items for sale, and to others who made cash donations.

Members, don't forget to keep all your unwanted bits and pieces of china, glass, etc., for next year -- it's amazing what one can sell!

It was a great day, beautiful weather and lots of fun. See you all next year.

Margaret Markwell.

Request for Material

Members are reminded that contributions submitted for inclusion in the F.F.F. Newsletter are always welcome. This includes articles of varying length on family or historical matters, or, just as important, "personal jottings".

Membership Committee

The following new members have been welcomed into the Fellowship:-

Mrs Elaine R. Colliss, 8 Addison Road, Manly. 2095.
Mr Samuel E. Terrill, 9 Trosser St., Dunbury, N.H. 6230.
Mr Bruce M. Pratt, 94 Mitre Street, Lathurst. 2795.
Mr Malcolm C. Sproule, 12 Furness Street, Lathurst. 2795.
Mrs Lorraine E. Liddy, 8 Bernard Cres., Dundoora, Victoria. 3083.
Mr Frederick M. Pratt, 231 Wakaden Street, Griffith. 2680.

Addresses Wanted

Newsletters addressed to the following members at the following addresses have been returned from the Dead Letter Office:-

Miss I. Brackin, 71 Lincoln Street, Stannore. 2045.
Mrs Jennifer Hamilton, 11 Flauront Avenue, Lane Cove. 2066.
Mr R. J. Wearne, 39 Avon Street, Leichhardt, Q. 4305.
Miss Marsha Swenson, 12A Stanford Hall, Oak Lane, Totts Point. 2011.
Mrs F. Wonderley, 7 Kaloomba Street, South Tamworth. 2340.

It would be appreciated if anyone knowing these members' correct addresses could please notify the Secretary c/- G.F.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001.

First Australasian Congress on Genealogy and Heraldry

This was not just a "name-gatherers'" assembly, as the title might imply, but the gathering of a wide cross-section of people interested in history.

Held in Melbourne over the Easter period, it is hoped to be the forerunner of similar seminars, and that the next may be located in Sydney. If it is, it will attract many First Fleeters because it offered a veritable feast of knowledge and the opportunity to make many contacts, social and otherwise. And, though the venue was the Old Melbourne, attendance at the Congress was not expensive.

Distinguished overseas genealogists from the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, New Zealand and all Australian States were there. They gave talks, answered questions and offered help freely, as did Archivists and Librarians from the major research libraries throughout Australia, such as the National Library, the Latrobe and the Mitchell.

Speakers included Professor Geoffrey Blainey and Dr Niel Gunson, but there were others less eminent and equally interesting -- amateur specialists on many subjects. The following is just a sampling of the topics: The Convict System, Migration of Free Settlers, Pre-1828 Research, Heraldry, Census Records, Military Records, Probate, Families with Irish Roots, Land Selection and Publishing Your Family History. One unusual lecture dealt with the visit of a Confederate Navy vessel the Shenandoah to Melbourne during the American Civil War.

The Society of Latter Day Saints presented a film on their giant genealogical project in Utah, and - great news for everyone - a Computer File Index has been prepared which will enable one to search alphabetically for an ancestor in England, provided one knows the county. This will become available in Australia

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in due course, to be viewed on a microfilm reader at branch libraries of the L.S.C.

The programme was intensive, beginning at 10 in the morning and ending at 10 at night. It actually began for Cherie Cumming and myself when we boarded the Southern Aurora on the Thursday night and met Keith Johnson, Malcolm Sainty, Stephen Mansdown and Tony and Robyn Slattery from our own Riley Street Society of Australian Genealogists. It was pleasant to renew acquaintance with people like Mr Clancy from the Methodist Historical Society, Gavin Cashman from the Hyde and Catholic Historical Societies, Miss Garling from the 1788s and to meet people like Grahame Thom from the Canberra group.

Most enjoyable was a cosy drink in Benjamin's Cellar with Arthur Ingham Myers from Toowoomba. Arthur, who is a Kable, a Foundation Member of the Fellowship and was first President of the Queensland Division, kept the First Fleet flag flying by giving a talk on Family Co-operation, something for which the Kables are renowned. He described the way in which the 180th Anniversary Reunion of the Kable Family, held in Sydney in 1968, was organised.

We First Fleeters were prevailed upon to have a Fellowship table on the second-last day, upon which we were inundated with enquiries. At this time we also met Mrs Rhonda McClune, of Camberwell (Vic.), a prospective member through Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne.

Cherie went on to Tasmania to do research on Ellen Wainwright, her First Fleeter, who was among those to be taken off Norfolk Island and re-settled at New Norfolk; and it is hoped we hear more of this later on.

John and I drove home via Ballarat (Sovereign Hill and Eureka Stockade), Hanging Rock, where the Picnic was held, Beechworth, Kiandra and Braidwood, an unusual route but highly recommended to those wishing to get off the beaten track.

Val Ross.

A Strange Coincidence

(Continuing Hilda Waller's account of a coincidence in a recent visit of hers to Norfolk Island and her First Fleet ancestor Nathaniel Lucas's association with that island. Here Hilda Waller quotes some parts of a letter written by Nathaniel Lucas to his father from Norfolk Island and dated 20th October 1796. These extracts are designed to show his style of writing):

"I had the unspeakable misfortune to lose twin baby girls, by an accident which could it be presented in a proper manner would awaken the most tender feelings and melt the hardest heart into sympathy." (A pine tree fell on his wife and children). He continues: "O father, I am not able to express the poignant grief I felt on this, my loss".

He describes the island, its produce, crops, etc., in great detail.

Recently my sister and I visited the Mitchell Library, and though we had previously obtained a photostat copy of the first page of the letter, the second page was indecipherable. However, we were allowed to view the letter. By sheer accident as we were turning the page light from a nearby window shone through the page and to our delight illuminated it, and we were able to read every word.

On this page Nathaniel writes: "The Crown, under the direction of Lieutenant King, ordered me to construct a water mill and a windmill on my Estate for the Government". (He was granted 75 acres).

(To be Continued)

Coming Events

1st June: Lecture by David Neil on the Great Northern Road and Wisemans Ferry.

28th May: Inspection of State Library of New South Wales.

26th June: Bus picnic to Parramatta (inspection of historic homes).