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F.F.F. Newsletter,
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From the President

I am pleased to report to you that our Hon. Treasurer, Mr Ray Meredith, is home from hospital. He will have a lengthy convalescence, but we all hope to see him back with us before too long. We certainly do miss him. I also extend thanks to Mr Eric Blair, who willingly filled the breach.

Last Saturday, 28th May, a party of our Members were privileged to inspect that section of the State Library which is not open to the public. Those who missed out certainly missed a treat!

I commend to you a bus trip, which has been organised, at Members' request, to Parramatta. While this is close to Sydney there is so much of historic interest to see there, I don't know how we'll fit it all in the day! The date -- Sunday 26th June. The time -- 9.30 am from York Street outside our Office. The cost -- \$3-50 each, plus inspection fees where applicable. For bookings telephone 709 8974.

The grave project at Liverpool is progressing slowly, and it is hoped to hold the ceremony early in August.

It is good to welcome back our Hon. Secretary, Mrs Marge Raven, looking tanned and well after a trip to America. Thanks go to Mrs Colleen Bernath, who acted in her stead, and very capably, too.

The Lecture for June was very interesting indeed, and we learned a great deal on the Great North Road. It was a freezing night, but quite a few stalwarts turned out.

Hope to see many Members and friends on the trip to Parramatta.

Beryl Lewis.

Archives

The Fellowship is now anxious to set up a permanent Archives so that, in years to come, the First Fleeters will be the one source of information concerning all men and women who were on board those eleven ships which departed from England in 1787 or who were taken on to those ships in transit. We put the emphasis, of course, on those who remained in Australia or who left their children when they returned to England.

The Archives will consist of

- (1) Information already submitted by Members.
- (2) Material which we hope you will be handing in to Archives.
- (3) Information to be gained from the Mitchell Library and State Archives.

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Archives (Continued)

Information which we would like to have from you:

- (1) Copies or originals of Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates of First Fleeters, their children and grandchildren. We would still welcome information about later generations.
(Registrar General's Office or T. D. Hutch Files)
- (2) Copies of the original deeds concerning land grants to those people. These may be obtained from the Lands Titles Office, which adjoins the Registrar General's Office. Xerox copies may be purchased for a nominal fee.
- (3) Xerox copies obtained from the Lands Department, Bridge Street, of maps showing exact location of grants. Nominal fee. In fact it is hoped that some of our male Members or Associate Members will later help on the question of maps. It is such an important aspect, and men can turn a map into a work of art.
- (4) Copies of wills from the Probate Office, Mena House, Macquarie Street, nearly opposite Sydney Hospital. These sometimes give information which is not available from other sources. As an example, the will of First Fleeter James Squire gives information showing that his first two children were not registered as such in church documents. The cost of copies of wills could be high, but there are facilities for copying by hand.
- (5) Extracts from newspapers showing births, marriages and deaths and obituaries, or articles which appeared at the time of the occurrence. For instance, the "Sydney Gazette" has a wealth of information. Many Municipal Libraries have copies of some of these "Gazettes" in book form and may be borrowed.

Important Factor to Archives:

When information has been obtained and you send it to us, please make a note on it regarding its source. An article written at the time of the occurrence is very important, but an article written 50 years later often doesn't "bridge the generation gap." The stories change. By adopting these standards we have a great chance of finding out what is definite proof, and the Fellowship Archives will become invaluable to many people. All the information which you send in will be carefully filed, and the cards will show how it can be obtained, quickly and easily.

The Mitchell Library Tells a Story -- About Our Ancestors:

There is still so much to be revealed concerning the early families of Australia, and it is always to the Mitchell Library we go. Last century people didn't think in headlines, and so often we find an important piece of information which is written in a staid, matter-of-fact way and can often be overlooked. We don't want to overlook this type of material. When an Archives team is formed, it should be possible to tap other sources.

Archives Team:

Without a group of Members or Associate Members, the Archives will not eventuate. So we ask those who are interested in the earliest years of Australia's settlement if they would volunteer to help in this project. Even those who have never done any research would find it quite simple to help with the carding and transcribing from original manuscripts. You may naturally want to know more about the way this can be done before volunteering, so please ring me (Mrs Mary Thompson) on 969 2084, or write to "Archives," Fellowship of First Fleeters, G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001.

What We Can Do for the Mitchell Library:

To those of you who have in your possession photographs taken
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Archives (Continued)

before 1900, showing scenes of old farmhouses, old towns, old furniture, old farming equipment, etc. -- these may have no personal interest for you but they could be of great interest to the Mitchell Library. The Librarian, Miss Mourot, says that photographs of people are not needed, but the types listed above certainly are. So if you are about to throw away what could be a gem for the Library, please get in touch with Membership Committee (43 4075 or 982 8014) or Archives (969 2084).

Mary Thompson.

Editor's Note: It is felt that this article by Mary Thompson on the establishment of Archives is so important that Members (if they do not already do so) should keep this particular issue of the Newsletter as a constant reminder of the need for Archives material.

Membership Committee

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members:--

Kenneth Arthur Pratt, Griffith, N.S.W. (William Broughton)
David Alan Patrick, Camden, N.S.W. (Thomas Acres)
William K. Jollie, Hornsby Heights. (Anthony Rope/Elizabeth Pulley)
Brett Jollie and Miss Melinda Jollie (as above).
Mrs Juanita Anderson, Cowra, N.S.W. (Joseph Hatton)

Would Members please make sure that any Junior Members have filled in the necessary application forms to receive their Certificates and Membership Numbers.

Anyone wishing to make any inquiries relative to the Membership Committee should telephone any of the following: Mrs Beryl Lewis (709 8974); Mrs Mary Bailey (43 4075); Mrs Naida Jackson (982 8014); Mrs Margaret Markwell (95 5571); Mrs Joan Ross (80 2953).

Naida Jackson. Mary Bailey.

Graves Committee

The Graves Committee is proceeding with the placing of plaques on First Fleeter tombstones. Arrangements are well in hand with the appropriate authority to carry out this work at the Liverpool Memorial Cemetery, and we now make an official appeal for donations from descendants of the following:

William Broughton
Frederick Meredith
Eleanor Frazer
Nathaniel Lucas

The cost to be met will be approximately \$20 each, and any donation will be appreciated.

Final arrangements will be advised as soon as possible.

Eric Blair.

Expression of Thanks

Mrs Lola Wilkinson wishes to thank all those Members who expressed their sympathy and condolence in many ways following the death of her husband, Harry.

Historical Exhibition

Calling all descendants of Frederick Meredith!! It is regretted that to date no Member has come forward with material suitable to include in the Exhibition which is mounted each year at The Rocks. It is desirable that a contribution be made to this Exhibition, and any Member willing to assist in this regard is requested to contact Eric Blair, c/- the Fellowship of First Fleeters, and an effort will be made to convene a meeting.

Great North Road

It is hoped to arrange a picnic day later in the year to inspect the Great North Road near Wisemans Ferry, which was the subject of our very interesting June Lecture. The lecturer, Mr David Neil, has offered his services as guide and mentor for the day. More information in later Newsletters.

Overseas Trip for Editor of Newsletter

Editor's Note: I shall be leaving on 2nd July for a 10-week overseas trip to the British Isles and Scandinavia. During my absence the two Newsletters to be published in that time will be edited by my husband. Would contributors please make sure that items for publication be at the Fellowship's Office no later than midday (12 noon!) on the second Friday of the month! I hope to report on my trip in some subsequent Newsletter.

A Strange Coincidence

(Continuing Hilda Waller's account of a coincidence in a recent visit of hers to Norfolk Island and in her First Fleet ancestor Nathaniel Lucas' association with the island. In earlier extracts Hilda Waller described the beautiful scene to be viewed from the apartment where she had stayed on the island, then found that a letter of Nathaniel's in the Mitchell Library described exactly the same scene):

And so that beautiful panorama which I looked upon 180 years later had been the Estate of my great-great-great-grandfather! It was very thrilling.

Well, in the course of time, when back in Sydney, one of Nathaniel's sons married Sarah Squire (the daughter of First Fleeter James Squire). Their son, another Nathaniel Lucas, witnessed the wedding of his granddaughter (my mother). The original wedding certificate, which I possess, bears his signature as a witness. I can recall that when I was a very small child he visited us, then a very old man with white hair, a beard and sparkling blue eyes. My mother loved her grandfather very much. He lived to the ripe old age of 87 and died in 1915, a year or so after that visit.

Now to the coincidence of the mills (a water mill and a windmill on Norfolk Island) and my father's connection with them:

Of all the people in Sydney in 1903, and by that time Sydney was a bustling, populous place, whom should my mother (remember she had a Lucas mother) meet and marry but James Greenland Dawe, my father. He had been born on Norfolk Island -- his birth is recorded in the Pitcairn Register. His father, my grandfather, a master miller in England, had been sent with two other men, one a schoolmaster, by the British Government to help the Pitcairners settle on Norfolk Island after they had been evacuated from Pitcairn Island.

(To be Continued)

Coming Events

26th June: Bus trip to Parramatta (see President's Report, Page 1).

6th July: Lecture Night, Dr Peter Reynolds on Balmain.
