

Joan Ross,  
Hon. Editor,  
F.F.F. Newsletter,  
G.P.O. Box 4441,  
SYDNEY. 2001.

Vol. 9 No. 1  
February 1978

### From the President

Another Australia Day has come and gone, and what a varied one it was!

On 26th January, the actual day, a group in costume were the guests of the City Council at the Flag Raising Ceremony in Macquarie Place at noon. This, as usual, was most impressive, with a fly past of F111's and Mirages, plus the Army Ceremonial and the typical Australian music provided by the military band. At night I attended, on behalf of the Fellowship, the Lady Mayoress' Ball at the Sydney Town Hall, which was well attended notwithstanding the heat and the absence of air-conditioning!

Then, on Saturday, our Dinner at the Wentworth Hotel was a great success, voted one of the best and friendliest yet by many who attended. It was good to have Federal, State and Civic representation, and also to have with us Mr Magee from the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority and Mrs Margaret Green from Portsmouth, England.

Sunday was a tragedy -- Mrs Bailey and Mrs Jackson had worked so hard mounting a wonderful exhibition at The Rocks, only to have the Rocks Day cancelled because of torrential rain! I attended the Garrison Church Pioneer Service and Mrs Lola Wilkinson represented us at St Patrick's.

On Monday morning a large group in costume again attended Government House and Mrs Colleen Bernath (Matthew Everingham) presented the usual scroll, and we were entertained to refreshments afterwards. Then on to The Rocks where our Exhibition was able to open for a few hours and hundreds of people passed through.

I extend very sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way over the Australia Day weekend.

We must now settle back into routine. The Lectures this year will be held on the second Wednesday each month, and the Executive meeting on the third Wednesday.

Our next project is that of placing plaques on First Fleeters graves in St John's Cemetery, Parramatta, on Sunday 12th March 1978. Donations towards these plaques, which cost approximately \$20 each, from families concerned will be gratefully received. The following are the graves to be marked:-

John Herbert  
David Kilpack  
Augustus Alt

John Palmer  
Thomas Eccles  
William Elliott

Isaac Knight  
Deborah Herbert

Do come along and make this day a success.

Any member who has information regarding First Fleeter graves at Windsor, Ebenezer and Wilberforce are asked to advise the Committee, as we hope these will be the next cemeteries to be marked.

Towards the end of last year Mrs M. Raven resigned as Hon. Secretary

(Continued on Page 2)

### From the President (Continued)

owing to ill health and Mrs Enid Reynolds was appointed Secretary pro tem. Our thanks and best wishes go to Mrs Raven, and also a warm welcome is extended to Mrs Reynolds.

Beryl Lewis.

### Graves Committee Report -- St John's Cemetery

Several weeks ago I was invited to inspect the St John's Cemetery, Parramatta, by Mr Les Wickham, the chairman of the Cemetery Trust. The purpose of the visit was to decide the exact placing of the plaques on the tombstones during the ceremony on 12th March next. Mr Wickham was pleased to know that the Fellowship was undertaking this important task, and we were able to fix all positions for the plaques, with the exception of John Herbert, whose tombstone was not in sufficiently good condition for a plaque to be placed.

However, Mr Wickham agreed that if sufficient donations could be made by any interested persons, he would have the restoration work carried out to enable a plaque to be placed. This work would cost in the vicinity of \$250, and we request that members please forward any donation, no matter how large or small, for this very worthy project.

I would like any member able to do so, to visit this historic cemetery and observe first-hand the marvellous work that has already been carried out, and is still being carried out; but funds are far from adequate to complete the job. Still, with public support, further work will be done in an orderly manner, which will reflect great credit on the untiring efforts of a few stalwarts.

Cheques should be made payable to the "St John's Cemetery Trust" and forwarded to the Fellowship of First Fleeters.

Eric Blair.

### Membership Committee

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Fellowship:-

Mrs Glenda Arnold, Engadine. (Dr Thomas Arndell)  
Lindsay Raven, Bexley. (Dr Thomas Arndell)  
Mrs Jeanette Howitt, Miss Victoria Hewitt, Timothy Hewitt, Armidale.  
(William Tunks)  
Mrs Elaine Snowball, Glenn Snowball, Miss Kerrie Snowball, Panania.  
(Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes)  
Mrs Anne Campbell, Wollstonecraft. (Lieut. John Shortland)  
Stephen Montgomery, Allawah. (Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes)

We wish to thank very warmly all those who participated in our Exhibition at The Rocks on Monday 30th January, particularly mentioning all who helped on the previous Saturday setting things in place, likewise the ones who helped dismantle everything on the Monday.

We specially thank Mrs Joyce Cowell for preparing and having printed the most attractive pamphlets which we handed out to describe our tableaux.

Our two artists deserve special mention -- Mrs Sally Kalina, who sang and played her guitar to the great delight of everyone, and Mr Keith Thompson, who attracted an interested crowd as he sketched colourful scenes of the early days.

Thanks are due to all those who loaned various articles to add atmosphere to the tableaux. These all helped to make it the success we feel it was, and we hope everyone enjoyed it all as much as we did.

Last but by no means least we thank Thea Rowe for professional advice and for her generous supply of costumes.

Naida Jackson. Mary Bailey.

### 1978 Lecture Programme

Here is the list of speakers and their subjects for 1978 (Lectures are held on the second Wednesday of each month, in the 4th Floor Board Room of the Assembly Building, York Street, Sydney, entered by the Jamison Street entrance):-

February. Mr Keith Thompson (children's author and First Fleeter), "Sketching for Children Around the Birdsville Track".

March. Mr Harold Hort (Supervisor of Music in N.S.W. for the A.B.C.) will speak on "Music of the Early Colony".

April. Halcyon and Vaughan Evans will speak about "A Steerage Passage to the Antipodes in the 1850's".

May. Mr Len Werman (Lecturer for Masonic Lodges). His Lecture is titled "Up and Down the City Road" -- about early George Street.

June. Mrs Valmai Phillips (author of "Botany Bay Sketch Book" and "Watsons Bay Sketch Book") will speak about "The Greycliffe Disaster of 1927".

July. Mr Keith Johnson (co-author of "Cadman's Cottage Book") will speak about "Tracing Family History".

August. Mr Maurice Sullivan (from the Sydney Opera House) will lecture on "Theatre in Sydney 1789 onwards".

September. Mrs Beatrice Bradley (history teacher of P.L.C. Armidale and First Fleeter) will speak on the Third Fleet settler Richard Fitzgerald and his family of enterprising men, who settled in New South Wales.

October will be a special lecture on Governor Phillip for his birthday, which falls on the Lecture Night. The speaker will be from the Royal Australian Historical Society.

November. Dr Peter Reynolds (Lecturer on Architecture for the University of New South Wales). His lecture is called "Convicts, Soldiers, Architects; the Originators of our Official Architecture".

Sally Kalina.

### Argyle Annual Celebrations

One of the big days in the Fellowship's calendar, the Argyle Annual Celebrations at The Rocks, will be held this year on Saturday 15th April.

The Fellowship will once again have a stall there, located about opposite the Garrison Church and near the Village Green. Proceeds from the stall help both our own finances and charities in The Rocks area.

We again appeal to members to donate anything saleable: white elephant goods, jams, pickles, china, books, etc. Preferably not cakes, as too many stalls stock cakes.

Anyone donating goods before the actual day of the Celebrations are asked to leave such goods, if it is convenient to do so, at the home of Dick and Margaret Markwell at 81 Baringa Road, Northbridge, rather than at the Fellowship's office.

Helpers to assist on the stall on the day, if only for a few hours, will be most welcome.

To add colour to the occasion, members are asked to come along in period costume.

It's a good day out, with plenty to see and do, and a chance to meet old friends. So please do come along and be in it!

### Address at Government House

Here is the address given by Mrs Colleen Bernath at the presentation of the scroll at Government House on Monday 30th January:-

Matthew James Everingham was born in 1769, and was employed as a servant by

### Address at Government House (Continued)

an attorney of the Middle Temple. At the age of 15 he was convicted of falsely pretending that he owned two law books, which he sold, as he was "in great distress" at the time. He was actually sentenced to transportation to America, but because of the War of Independence spent three years approximately of his seven years sentence in England.

He was transported by the Scarborough and was 19 years of age when he arrived with the First Fleet in New South Wales and was employed by Assistant Commissary Zachariah Clark. He married in March 1791 Elizabeth Rymes, a convict girl who arrived with the Second Fleet.

In 1791, when his sentence expired, he received one of the first land grants in Australia, which was 50 acres at the Ponds at Rydalmere. By 1802 he had five children and was one of the four original grantees still owning his land, but it was unsuitable for farming.

Accordingly Governor King removed him to Portland Head, now Sackville Reach on the Hawkesbury River, to another grant of 50 acres. In 1804 his home and farm buildings were burned by natives, and he and his wife and servant were speared but not seriously by the natives.

In 1816 he acquired 130 acres at Richmond Hill, and became a District Constable. A year later he was drowned while investigating activities aboard a rum boat on Christmas Day 1817.

Matthew Everingham was survived by his wife, five sons and four daughters. His career was not spectacular, but over a long period he discharged his duties faithfully, and worked steadily as a pioneering settler. He lies buried at St John's, Wilberforce.

His tombstone tells about the struggles of the early settlers: "Farwell vain world, I have had enough of thee, and am careless of what thou canst say of me. Thy smiles I court not, nor thy frowns I fear. Beneath this turf, my head lies quiet here".

### Re-enactment of First Fleet Voyage

As most Fleeters will be aware, it is proposed to stage, in 1987-88, an actual re-enactment of the voyage of the First Fleet, from Old Portsmouth to Botany Bay. Members and friends interested in taking part in the voyage should contact Mr Jonathon King at Melbourne University. Mr King made an official announcement of the project at the Fellowship's annual dinner on the Australia Day weekend, and also recently through the media. Further details will appear in subsequent Newsletters.

### Mills Family Reunion

A family gathering of descendants of Charles Frederick Mills (in turn descended from Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne) will be held in the beautiful Fitzroy Gardens, Melbourne, on Sunday 19th February. For further information, contact Mrs A. McDonald, 16 Madeleine Street, Doncaster, Victoria 3108.

### Held-over Material

Unfortunately, for space reasons, two interesting items intended to be included in this Newsletter have had to be held over.

One is the address given by Mr Arthur C. Maunder at the unveiling of the plaque at the grave of Frederick Meredith in St Luke's Cemetery, Liverpool, on 14th August, 1977.

The other is the account by B. Garth of First Fleeter ancestors Edward and Susan Garth.

If possible, these will be included in the March Newsletter.

### Coming Events

Feb. 8 -- Mr Keith Thompson lecture, "Sketching for Children Around the Birdsville Track".

Mar. 8 -- Lecture by Mr Harold Hort, "Music of the Early Colony".

Mar. 12 -- Placing of plaques on First Fleeters graves in St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta.

Apr. 15 -- Argyle Annual Celebrations at The Rocks.