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Please address all correspondence to the Fellowship of First Fleeters,
G.P.O. Box 4441, Sydney 2001.

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From the President

It is with great regret I open this Report with the news of the death of our Vice-Patron Mr Dudley Oakes on 17th April 1979. He was also a Foundation Executive Member and an Honorary Life Member.

Dudley was loved and respected by all who knew him and will be sadly missed. Quite a number of Members attended his Funeral Service at Northern Suburbs Crematorium. On behalf of all Members I extend sincere sympathy to his son Douglas (immediate past Vice-President) and the other Members of his family.

Over Easter it was my privilege to attend, as your delegate, the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations. This time it was held at The Rocks, in Sydney, and two days of hard work ensued. I was again elected Councillor (the only one from N.S.W.), and I feel this is a compliment to the Fellowship.

On Friday 20th April I addressed the Narrabeen View Club at Collaroy. Approximately 80 ladies were in attendance, so you can see an ever-increasing number are hearing of the Fellowship.

Following the April lecture by Dr Bergman, Members attended an inspection of the Great Synagogue on Sunday 22nd April. The building is fascinating, and I'm sure all who went along learnt a great deal, as I certainly did.

Thursday 26th April saw Vice-President Mr Roy Kable and I at Government House. His Excellency the Governor received us and entertained us at morning tea. This recognition is truly appreciated.

I felt honoured to attend the Official Opening of the State Archives Office by the Premier, the Hon. N. K. Wran, on Friday 27th April. This building is a wonderful addition to Sydney and extremely well equipped. All Members will be pleased to know that after June "Readers Tickets" will no longer be necessary — everyone will have access to records in the Archives Office.

Beryl Lewis.

Eulogy for the Late Dudley Oakes

(Eulogy read at the Funeral Service for Dudley Oakes by the President of the Fellowship, Mrs Beryl Lewis):

Dudley Oakes was a Foundation Executive Member of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, with Membership No. 7. Over the years he endeared himself to all who came in contact with him. In 1971 he became our Vice-Patron and received the Fellowship's highest honour, that of Honorary Life Membership, an honour very well deserved and of which he was justifiably proud.

He had a great love of his Country, of its History, and of his Family. At heart he was a true family man and was rightly proud of his ancestry and the fact that he was a "First Fleeter".

Dudley was a true Australian, a good citizen and a very good friend, and beneath it all a very humble man. Men of his calibre are very

Eulogy for Dudley Oakes (Continued)

rare jewels in this troubled world, and today the Fellowship of First Fleeters' crown of life is missing a very precious jewel.

He will be sadly missed, and to Douglas and the rest of the Family I extend the sympathy of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and remind them of our motto, "To live on in the hearts and minds of descendants is never to die". Dudley is gone, but his memory certainly will live on.

Membership Committee

We are pleased to welcome the following new Members:

Barry R. Steele, Miss Rhonda Steele, Gregory R. Steele, of Engadine, children of Mrs J. Steele. (William Tunks)

Mr Stephen W. Weaver, Manly. (William Broughton, John Herbert and Deborah Ellam)

Mrs Phyllis Hodgson, Indooroopilly, Queensland. (Lieut. Thomas Davey)

Mrs Ilma D. Medlyn, Oakville. (Robert Forrester and Anne Forbes)

Two of the above "First Fleeters" are new to membership of the Fellowship -- Lieut. Thomas Davey and Robert Forrester.

Naida Jackson, Mary Bailey.

April Lecture Evening

The subject of the April Lecture Night was "The Tale of Australia's First Rabbi: Joseph Marcus, 1767-1828". The lecturer was Dr George Bergman, from the Jewish Historical Society.

Dr Bergman told the story of Joseph Marcus, beginning the story at Botany Cemetery, with the finding of an old and worn gravestone with the inscription "Into His Hands I Command My Spirit". This stone was found in the late 'fifties in the Jewish section of Botany Cemetery. The inscription was somewhat unusual for one on a Jewish gravestone, and Dr Bergman began to piece the missing facts together surrounding this stone bearing the name Joseph Marcus, who was to become our first Rabbi.

Joseph Marcus was born on 24th March 1767 in Germany. He was a student at the Jewish College in Poland, and later moved to London. Obviously very poor, like many people of the age, he fell into hard times, and in 1791 was sentenced to death for breaking and entering, allegedly stealing silverware valued at £9 5s. His sentence was later changed to seven years' hard labour in Australia.

Marcus spent some time on Norfolk Island, and returned to the mainland in 1805. He became a farmer, and rented a farm in the Georges River area, but his days there were hard for him and his family. Constantly threatened by the Aborigines, they lived in fear, and life was a hard struggle most of the time.

Later Marcus became a friend of the Rev. William Cowper, who held one of the most senior posts of the Church in the colony. Both men, highly educated, had many a theological discussion, and, both agreeing to disagree, remained true friends. Marcus became the Rabbi for our early colony, and later trained other men for the important position.

He was a brilliant scholar and a good man, and on reading the inscription on his gravestone one wonders if it was due to the influence of his friend William Cowper.

We thank Dr Bergman for his interesting lecture, and hope to meet him again in the near future.

Next lecture will be on 20th June, and will be on Bare Island.

Sally Kalina.

The Late Mrs Juanita Anderson

The death occurred in hospital at Cowra on 10th May of Mrs Juanita Anderson (Joseph Hatton), at the age of 76. A Member of the Fellowship, Mrs Anderson married into one of the pioneering families of the Cowra district, and was a lifelong resident of the area. She was the mother of 11 children, seven sons and four daughters, all of whom are married and several of whom still live in or near Cowra.

Mrs Anderson was very well respected in Cowra, and will be sadly missed by all her immediate family and other relatives and friends. (Mrs Anderson's husband, the late Mr Tom Anderson, died two years ago).

Spring School in New England

A course on the History of European Settlement of New England will be one of the courses in this year's Residential Course Spring School in New England, to be held at the University of New England, Armidale, from 1st-8th September.

Lecture Sessions for "The History of European Settlement" will be from 10.05 am to 11 am on 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th September. The course will give an account of the settlement of New England -- the discoverers, the trials of the pioneer settlers, the goldrushes, the squatters versus the free selectors, the problems of transport, the personalities, the pubs, the role of officialdom, the growth of industries and towns, the changing patterns.

As part of the course there will be excursions to towns, country properties, fine homes, woolsheds and folk museums in easy distance of Armidale, which will illustrate and expand the content of the lectures.

Tutor will be Mrs Jillian Oppenheimer, Research Assistant, Department of History, University of New England.

Other courses will include The Aborigines in New England, Farming in New England, Mining in New England and New England Sketchbook (for artists).

Enrolment fees: \$160 (residential), \$90 (non-residential). Closing date for enrolment: Monday 13th August. Enrolment forms and further information from the Department of Continuing Education, University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W. 2351.

Woronora Dan Get-together, Visit to Norfolk Island

On Good Friday 51 descendants and their families of Nathaniel Lucas and Olivia Gascoigne celebrated a get-together at Woronora Dan. It proved to be a most wonderful and exciting day, what with swapping information and meeting different ones for the first time. Attending the gathering were 4th-generation and 8th-generation descendants, with some people travelling from as far afield as West Wyalong and Broken Hill.

As it was such a success we decided to form a committee, consisting of eight descendants, to organise future get-togethers and to publish a book to coincide with the bicentenary in 1988.

On Easter Saturday I left for an eight-day holiday to Norfolk Island. I hasten to add that it was too short a stay, as I had a most wonderful time.

The island itself is so beautiful and the people so friendly. My mother's cousin, Ivy Hockley, and her husband Allan are at present managing the Hotel Paradise, where I stayed. When I informed Ivy of her history and her link with Norfolk she was so excited that she told everyone, including the editor of the island's newspaper "The Norfolk Islander", who in turn wrote an article about it entitled "An Unexpected Link with Norfolk".

Most of the population on Norfolk are descendants of the Pitcairners, and the islanders I met were very interested in learning of the island's early history.

Rhonda Kroehnert.

Early Encounters Between Europeans and Aborigines in N.S.W.

(Continuing Ena Harper's papers on the subject, reprinted by kind permission of Ashfield Historical Society and Ena Harper. At the end of the previous instalment Ena Harper was about to discuss the language of the Aborigines in general)

In his book Professor A. P. Elkin gives a detailed account of Aboriginal linguistics, but we can only deal with some major points:

1. The Aboriginal language seems to have no clear links with any that is known. (A. A. Abbie: "The Original Australians")
2. There were at least 633 Aboriginal languages in Australia. (D. A. Capell: "Linguistic Study of Australia")
3. The languages differed widely in structure and in vocabulary.
4. The general principles of these languages are basically of the same stock all over the continent.
5. They are marked by (a) precision, (b) brevity of expression, (c) an emphasis on concreteness, (d) an endeavour to express in one word or in as few as possible a complete picture of a situation.

Professor Elkin also makes this comment:

6. The languages belong to their own cultural world, and the words, phrases and methods of expression derive their meaning from it. The corollary is that knowledge of the language and an understanding of thought, belief and custom must proceed together.

Bearing all these facts in mind, it is no wonder that Tupia, the man from Tahiti, was just as unsuccessful as the Englishmen in speaking to the Aborigines of Botany Bay.

But what is more significant is that the Aborigines failed to respond to sign language. I can only emphasise that they refused a request made in the name of common humanity -- the common need for water -- because that water and the land through which it flowed was sacred to them and to them only.

When they failed to communicate by speech or sign, Cook took the next step. He tried to tempt them with the delights of civilisation, the fruits of the tree of knowledge, just as the serpent tempted Eve.

"We then threw them some nails, beads &c which they took up and seemed not ill pleased in so much that they beckoned to us to come ashore".

Cook was quite wrong. They did not accept the presents, and so another channel of communication was closed.

What was the result? Cook took the third step. Force was used. He displayed his superior weaponry and proved that in this respect his society was indeed more advanced.

"I fired a musket between the two. One of them took up a stone and threw at us, which caused my firing a second musket loaded with small shot. Although some of the shot struck the man, yet it had no other effect than to make him lay hold of a shield or target to defend himself. Immediately after this we landed. We had no sooner done this than they threw two darts at us. This obliged me to fire a third shot soon after which they both made off".

So ended the first encounter between Europeans and Aborigines in New South Wales.

After they landed the Aborigines made it plain to the invaders that the products of an advanced society were valueless to them. This seems to tie in with their lack of interest in the Endeavour.

(To Be Continued)

Change of Address

Members who change their address are requested to notify the Fellowship as soon as possible, so that the Newsletter mailing list can be kept up to date. Can anyone please help with the current address of Mrs Alma E. Disting and Miss A. J. Disting, formerly of Epping?