

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

Office address:

Room 312        3rd Floor  
Assembly Building  
Corner Margaret, York &  
Jamison Sts -- enter by Jamison St

Vol. 12        No. 3  
April 1981

From the President

The main event during March was Heritage Week, the first to be held in New South Wales. The Fellowship office was open every day and we had a constant stream of visitors, many seeking information for family research, family trees, or hopefully looking for a First Fleet ancestor. On the Friday, about 50 schoolgirls from Macarthur Girls High, Parramatta, were brought in by their teacher and Mr Len Chalmers rose to the occasion and gave them a talk on the First Fleet, which was much appreciated by all. On Sunday 29th, as a finale to the week, a Fair was held on Observatory Hill and a small group of Committee members held a stall. This was very successful, resulting in a welcome addition to our Bicentenary Fund. I thank those members who joined me on that day.

On Sunday 15th I attended, as your representative, the Church of St Philip, Church Hill, Sydney, on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the Consecration and the Cowper Commemoration Service in the distinguished presence of His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Air Marshal Sir James Rowland, and Lady Rowland. The service was very well attended, and as always the choir was glorious. I always deem it an honour and pleasure to attend St Philip's.

It was a particular honour on the evening of Wednesday 18th March to be the guest of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Rowland at Government House, Sydney. It was a beautiful evening and the gardens were at their magnificent best. Unfortunately, as a result I missed the Lecture by Mrs Thea Hosking, of which I have heard glowing reports.

During March I was a Guest Speaker at Double Bay View Club and Riverwood ~~Rotary~~ Rotary Club.

Festivities will be held in historic Berrima from 27th-31st May to celebrate its Sesquicentenary. The old Court House and Museum will be open, a Town Crier will be in attendance, a Vintage Car Rally will terminate at Berrima, and in the park there will be a market day and demonstrations of spinning, pottery making, etc. If sufficient members are interested, your committee will organise a bus picnic on the Saturday or Sunday (Sunday is the actual Anniversary). Please inform the President or Secretary.

Month members were given the opportunity to submit articles or photos to be printed in the Newsletter. I'm sure most families

have at least one budding author and a greater number of queries. Articles pertaining to early Australian history and particularly family history will be considered for publication. Do share your knowledge with other members.

Beryl Lewis.

### Membership Report

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters:

NAME	SUBURB	ANCESTOR(S)	MEMBERSHIP TYPE
Mr Donald T. Allen	Balmain	John Nichols	Full
Miss Monica H. Allen	Balmain	John Nichols	Junior
Mr Maxwell R. Crago	Terrey Hills	John Nichols	Full
Master Joseph F. Dwyer	Kirrawee	William Eggleton-	
		Mary Dickenson	Junior
Miss Rosemary F. Dwyer	Kirrawee	(As above)	Junior
Mrs Heather E. Farlow	Castle Hill	John Small-	
		Mary Parker	Full
Mrs Joan M. McLennan	Revesby	James Ruse	Full
Mrs Jillian C. Palmer	Wagga Wagga	John Palmer	Full
Mr Colin P. Palmer	Wagga Wagga	John Palmer	Full
Mr Bryan J. Patfield	Northbridge	John Small-	
		Mary Parker	Full
Mr Anthony B. Purnell	Hurstville	John Nichols	Full
Miss Miranda M. Purnell	Hurstville	John Nichols	Junior
Miss Emma S. C. Purnell	Hurstville	John Nichols	Junior
Mrs Wilga G. Wilson	Shoal Bay	Frederick Meredith	Full
<hr/>			
Mrs Valda H. Allen	Balmain	----	Associate (Spouse)
Mr Arthur E. Farlow	Castle Hill	----	Associate (Spouse)
Mrs Kaye Purnell	Hurstville	----	Associate (Spouse)

Mrs Jennifer Cox (West Ryde) and Mr Peter Southwell (Pacific Palms) should have been shown in the March Newsletter membership list as "Associate (Friend)".

A list of those who have been accepted as "Associate Spouses" during the period from July 1980 to February 1981 will be included in next month's Newsletter.

Membership Committee.

### March Lecture Evening

The March Lecture Evening was a successful one, with our very popular speaker Mrs Thea Rowe (Hosking). The topic for the lecture, "Songs They Sang", and what a fascinating subject this was, dealing with the origins of songs, nursery rhymes and the current music of the 18th Century.

The lecture began with the early 1700's when music played an important part in English society. Music and musicians were everywhere. It was the age of the ballad opera, with many popular songs: "Pills to Purge Melancholy", "Beggar's Opera" and many old tunes with new lyrics. Comic song came into its own, and pleasure gardens

were built with statues and arcades to achieve a theatrical illusion. Later in the 1700's the First Fleeters would have sung these songs: "Tom Bowling", "Sally in our Alley", "Roast Beef of Old England", "The Girl I Left Behind Me", "Oh, Dear, What Can the Matter Be?" and many more.

Sea shanties often wove a story about the press gang, with poetic justice as a beautiful lady produced gold to claim her love. Some songs could be an alert or warning for the convicts. Later, the British ballad lyrics were often changed to suit Australian conditions.

Some English melodies date back to the Druids, while nursery rhymes were not so innocent or harmless. These rhymes were dynamite, as they were accurate descriptions of controversial events that happened in their day, and savage critics of the Government wrote many of them.

"Little Jack Horner" is a good example. King Henry VIII's steward found valuable deeds of land hidden in a pie. He gave the deeds to the King, who rewarded him with a knightship, the "plum" being the title, the "good boy" the steward. "Little Miss Muffet" was Mary Queen of Scots, the spider John Knox.

The first function of music, especially folk music, is to produce a feeling of security for the listener by voicing the particular quality of a land and the life of its people. To a traveller a line from a familiar song may bring back all the familiar emotions of home, as it must have for our early settlers. For music is a magical summing-up of the patterns of family, of love, conflict and of work which give a community its special feel, and which shape the personalities of its members.

Folksongs call a native back to his roots, and the lecture gave us insight into music, musicians and the people who sang the songs.

Thank you, Mrs Rowe, for a magical evening.

Sally Kalina.

#### For Descendants of Philip Devine

(From Mrs Betty Tunks, Port Lincoln, S.A.)

Edward Devine, son of First Fleeter Philip Devine, married Rosetta Pearson, who was the daughter of Thomas Pearson and Sarah Eggleton.

Sarah Eggleton, born on Christmas Day 1788, was the first child of two First Fleeters, William Eggleton ("Alexander") and Mary Dickenson ("Lady Penrhyn"), who were married on 17th February 1788.

Therefore all those who claim descent from Philip Devine through his son Edward can actually claim three First Fleeters.

#### Grave of Thomas Spencer

Mrs Betty Tunks (Philip Devine), of Port Lincoln, S.A., on a recent visit located the grave of Thomas Spencer in St Peters Church of England Cemetery at Richmond, and wondered whether members of the Spencer family knew this. The inscription on the grave reads:

Thos. SPENCER  
who came to this Colony  
in the First Fleet a Marine  
and departed this life  
Feb. 5 1821  
aged 61 yrs.

### From the Dead Letter Office

Newsletters to the following members have been returned from the Dead Letter Office. Does anyone know the present addresses of these members?:

Patrick J. Sullivan,  
97 Tempe Street,  
Greenacre 2190.

Mrs C.H.P. Perkins,  
10 Mango Street,  
Maroochydore, Q. 4558.

Mrs Dell Taylor,  
21 Perth Street,  
Toowoomba, Q. 4350.

Mrs A.E. Dusting,  
6/10 Robert Street,  
Telopea 2117.

Mrs H. Jakobsson,  
9 Wattle Avenue,  
Macquarie Fields 2564.

### Women's Pioneer Society Colonial Ball

The Fellowship have decided to lend support to the Women's Pioneer Society Colonial Ball. We will be having a debutante to represent us, and hope to have a table of members.

Date: Friday 5th June 1981.  
Venue: Home Building, Sydney University.  
Time: 7 pm for 8 pm.  
Price: \$25 each.  
Dress: Formal or Period.

The Naval Support Band will be in attendance and the debutantes will be partnered by Naval men.

### Help Wanted

The Executive Committee is anxious to have our office open on extra days each week, particularly for accessibility to the Library books and to spread the load of the Membership Committee. Anyone who can spare a few hours each week, on Wednesday or Thursday, are requested to ring the President on 709-8974. Those familiar with research or prepared to learn will be particularly welcome and will find the time spent very rewarding.

### Bookcase

Does any member have a bookcase for which they have no further use? As our library is expanding we urgently need more storage. Phone Mrs Lewis on 709-8974 or Mrs Campbell on 437-6656.

### Fellowship's Postal Address

As has been mentioned in the Newsletter before, would members please note that our box number is 4441 (triple four one) G.P.O. Sydney. Complaints have been received from a box holder with a similar number, who has been receiving our mail wrongly addressed.

### Two Books Now Available

The Fellowship now has available copies of "The Mills Brothers of Port Fairy" (\$4-20 posted) and "They Came by a Road" (\$5-50 posted). For brief details about each book, see Page 4 of the March Newsletter.

### Publications and Souvenirs Available

Journals (4 editions only), 50c each plus 40c postage. Four sets, postage 80c in NSW, 90c interstate. First Fleet Book, \$4-50 (posted, \$5). Compiling Your Family History, \$3 (postage 50c). First Fleet Lists, \$2 each (50c postage). Teaspoons, sugar spoons, cake forks, \$2 each. Teacaddy spoons, key rings, \$2-50 each. Car stickers, 75c each.

Coming Event: Apr. 15, Lecture on the architect Edmund Blacket.

\*\*\*\*\*