



PRICE: 50c p.a.

Registered By Australia Post Publication No. NBH 1271

Postal Address:- Box N283 Grosvenor Street, Sydney 2000  
Phone No. 29-8007

**OFFICE ADDRESS:**

Room 312, 3rd Floor  
Assembly Building  
Cnr. Margaret, York & Jamison Streets  
Please Note: Enter by Jamison Street

**OFFICE HOURS:**

Tuesday, 10 am-4 pm  
Wednesday, 10 am-2 pm  
Thursday, 10 am-2 pm  
Friday, 10 am-2 pm

**Volume 13 No. 5**  
**October/November, 1982**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT:**

It was good to see so many members at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 15th September, 1982. With members from all walks of life, it is helpful and interesting to hear the different points of views expressed. The venue was excellent, we were unable to use our usual room owing to the Presbyterian Conference and I sincerely thank Mr. Douglas Oakes for arranging an alternate location. All officers and the Executive Committee, as a result of the ballot, were re-elected. We welcome Mr. Peter Christian to the Executive Committee, and at the same time thank Miss Ula Clarke for her past help. Miss Clarke has retired for health reasons.

Regarding our Bicentenary Tapestry, now that the Executive's plans have been approved by the members, we must really settle down to raising the necessary money. I commend to you, where possible, to make your donation **NOW**, for by investing this money it will accrue quite an amount of interest during the years leading up to 1988. If, for some reason, you can't do this, please support the various fund raising ventures arranged by your Committee. The artist is working on designs right now and we hope it won't be too long before we have his first suggestions. Your Executive Committee is working on a couple of fund raising ideas, which hopefully we can outline to you in the very near future.

On Sunday, 29th August, it was a pleasure to attend a reception at Richmond Villa to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Society of Australian Genealogists. I'm sure we all wish them well as they embark on the next fifty years leading to their Centenary.

I also attended the Ward Havard Lecture at Liverpool on Saturday, 14th August. This Lecture maintained the high standard of previous years and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

As our membership increases we are in need of help on "Newsletter day". This involves one day's work each two months, basically to collate and fold the Newsletter and put them in envelopes ready for posting. All have to be sorted into postcode, but we are hopeful that this can now be done in advance. If you can help please ring me on 709-8974. We have a happy, friendly day and you would be made very welcome.

Assistance is also needed to man the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. Please ring me as above - (709-8974).

It is good to have Misses Alice and Ula Clarke back after an extended visit to the United Kingdom and as we say "welcome back" to them, we say "bon voyage" to Mrs. Olive O'Reilly who has left for the same destination. These ladies are all helpers each week in our office.

Christmas is approaching very quickly, so as you compile your gift list, don't forget our items - T. Shirts, Tea Towels, Souvenir Spoons, Cake Forks, Letter Openers and Key Rings - they make excellent gifts and you help swell our funds.

How are your "Cents Savings" progressing? We don't really miss these small copper coins but they certainly mount up and its quite interesting to watch a bottle filling.

I hope to see as many as possible at the forthcoming events listed elsewhere in this Newsletter.

**BERYL LEWIS**



**ROBERT FORRESTER**

*Prepared and Read by Rev. B. Marsh*

Late on the afternoon of Saturday, 26th January, 1788 "Sirius" and the other First Fleet ships sailed up the Harbour to join "Supply" at Sydney Cove. Looking out from some vantage point on "Scarborough" was ROBERT FORRESTER. What might he have been thinking about at that moment? He might have been thinking about his family back in England. We know nothing of that family. He might have been thinking about that night back on 29th April, 1783 when he and Richard McDale had stolen six guineas from Simon Hughes in a London boarding-house. He might have been thinking about his trial at the Old Bailey at the sessions which commenced on 30th April, 1783 before Mr Justice Nares and the second Middlesex Jury. He might have been thinking about his conviction and the death sentence which followed. He might have been chuckling to himself over His Majesty's gracious pardon on condition that he was transported to America. He might have been wondering what happened to bring him to New South Wales instead. He might have been thinking with some bitterness about the time he had spent between 1783 and 1787 at Newgate Prison or on one of the hulks. He might have been thinking about some of the events of the previous eight months of the journey from England of just about fifteen thousand miles. He might of course have been thinking just about the very great beauty of the Harbour which he was seeing for the first time.

Then he might not have been thinking about any of these things. Maybe from his vantage point on "Scarborough" he could see some of the female convicts aboard "Lady Penrhyn" or "Prince of Wales" and was

(Continued next page)

(Continued from Page One)

wondering what it would be like to be near a woman again. Like it was for most of the convicts, women might not have been very far from ROBERT FORRESTER's mind and I guess that he wanted one for himself. And have one for himself he did on 19th October, 1791 when the Reverend Richard Johnson married him and Mary Frost who had arrived aboard "Neptune" of the Second Fleet. They went off almost immediately to Norfolk Island aboard "Atlantic" and they arrived there on 2nd November, 1791. ROBERT FORRESTER received a grant of ten acres of land on Norfolk Island and became a settler there on 6th December, 1791.

However ROBERT FORRESTER seems not to have had a liking for either Norfolk Island or Mary his wife because he left them both on 9th March, 1793 aboard "Kitty" and returned to Port Jackson. He met Bella Ramsay soon after his return. She had come to New South Wales on 9th July, 1791 aboard "Mary Ann" and met and married James Manning a First Fleet marine on 10th June, 1792 at Parramatta the Reverend Richard Johnson requiring "special permission". Bella seems to have had as much affection for James as Robert did for Mary. But for Robert and Bella it was different. They seem to have gotten on very well. They had at least seven and probably eight children: Elizabeth in 1794 (she married James Chapman and died young and childless); Margaret in 1795 (she married Richard Ridge and had eleven children); John in 1797 (he married firstly Margaret Norman, secondly Hannah Beasley (nee Needham), and thirdly Sarah Mortley (nee Piper), but had no children); Henry in 1799 (he married firstly Lucy Upton and secondly Maria Roberts and had three children, one of whom only survived to adulthood); Robert in or about 1801 (he married firstly Susannah Hammond and secondly Ellen Nixon and had eleven children); William in or about 1803 (he married firstly Maria Carroll and secondly Sarah Jane Blanchard (nee Bootle) and had three children); Ann in or about 1804 (she married Charles Martin and had twelve children); and Isabella Jane in or about 1805 (she married firstly Thomas Lovell and secondly Charles Daley and had at least eight children).

And so today there are descendants of ROBERT FORRESTER and Bella Ramsay through their sons Henry Robert and William and their daughters Margaret Ridge, Ann Martin and Jane Lovell (later Daley). We do not fully comprehend I believe that none of us who are ROBERT FORRESTER's descendants would have ever existed (let alone be present here today) if in those wild and woolly days of the Colony's beginning ROBERT FORRESTER and Bella Ramsay having breached the law of man in faraway London and Carlisle and having arrived in New South Wales as man's reward for those breaches had not then breached the law of God so it seems right here in Windsor. and produced the children who produced the children who produced the children and so on whose children we are.

And if ROBERT FORRESTER is at all uneasy because we have dug up the past or at least its records and that we know all this about him and more then we say just two things this day. We are glad that he and Bella Ramsay were able to keep the promises that the Reverend Richard Johnson heard them make in Sydney and at Parramatta not wholly, but at least partly. They were not able to have and to hold until death did them part according to God's holy ordinance the spouses to whom they made the promises and it is to God that they will have to answer for that. But we are glad that they were able to be with each other for better for worse for richer for poorer in sickness and in health in days when it was unusually difficult for the doing of those sort of things and we thank them for that.

We hope that you will forgive us then if we reach out over the years in an attempt to get to know you a little better.

Windsor, N.S.W., 20th June, 1982

## A NAVAL? OCCASION

The committee of the Agricultural Society at the NSW South Coast town of Albion Park announced that the 1923 Annual Show would be opened by Admiral Sir Dudley de Chair, Governor of NSW; he would come by car from the Vice Regal country retreat at Sutton Forest after first picking up his son Somerset from Tudor House school at the tablelands town of Moss Vale, thence descending to the coast via Macquarie Pass.

It was also requested of Lt. Colonel Theo Grey, in command of the local troop of the 21st Australian Light Horse, that he provide a mounted escort to meet the Governor and accompany him to the Showground.

The day arrived and in accordance with an operational order which could well have served as a pattern for Monty's set-up for the battle of El Alamein a half troop moved out to a position near the foot of Macquarie Pass and seven miles from the showground; horses and accoutrements gleaming and emu feather hat plumes waving in the breeze.

With a timing which would have done credit to a fleet manoeuvre the Admiral's barge, in the shape of a Rolls Royce, hove in sight on the dot and slowly cruised towards us as we waited in two inwards facing ranks on either side of the road.

On disembarking Sir Dudley was met by and exchanged courtesies with Colonel Grey and then proceeded to inspect the cavalry sitting at attention with swords at the salute— we were classified as a sabre troop— while young de Chair raced about under the horses' chins madly clicking a box camera.

With formalities completed the Governor re-embarked and set sail for the township at reduced speed to allow the escort to keep pace at the trot. This caused the estimated time of arrival to slip back and nearing his destination he ordered an increase in speed to such an extent that the cavalcade hit the main street at full gallop in a cloud of dust.

A battle cruiser with a flanking escort of destroyers could not have made a more impressive high speed approach to an anchorage.

In retrospect the event was unique — a British Admiral and State Governor being greeted on a dusty country road by an escort of Australian Light Horse which included in its numbers two descendants of the former unofficial NSW Governor Major George Johnston, at the foot of a mountain pass named after another famous colonial Governor, Major-General Lachlan Macquarie.

B. E. WESTON  
8-7-1982

## NOVEMBER LECTURE NIGHT

November Lecture Night is now to be held on 24th and not 17th as listed.

Mr. Best — Guest Speaker.

## TRIBUTE TO A FIRST FLEETER

Prepared and read by Mr. L. Cross on the occasion of Plaque fixing on his ancestor John Cross's grave.

"Madam President, The President of Hawkesbury Shire Council, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I'm proud to have the privilege of speaking here today on this historic occasion on behalf of the Cross descendants and other first fleeters. We haven't a great deal of time, so I will start by passing on the inscription on the tombstone, which says -

"Sacred to the memory of John Cross who departed this life on the 25th day of December, 1824 in the 69th year of his life. Also Mary, the wife of John Cross who departed this life on the 13th day of December, 1827 in the 59th year of age. Also Sarah - December 1829. Also Elizabeth, Mary Ann and Charlotte - the infant branch of the family. Also Elizabeth 1844 and William 1845."

John was born in Wiltshire in 1757 and was convicted in 1785 of stealing a sheep worth 20 shillings and was sentenced to death which was commuted by Lord Sydney to 7 years transportation. John was kept either in jail or the Hulks for 2 years before sailing with the First Fleet aboard the Alexander. A few years after arriving in Sydney, John met Mary Davidson who arrived on the Lady Juliana in 1790. In their life together they had 9 children and lived in Sydney, Parramatta and the Hawkesbury where they farmed John's land at a rent of 3/- a year. After 2 years John and Mary were self-sufficient and employing help. Here they survived floods and hostile natives. John's son, David, built the Victoria Inn, which still stands at Cross Park at Wiseman's Ferry and also ran the ferry for a time. As I've mentioned John and Mary had a large family and these children married into such well known families as the Cobcrofts, Cavanoughs, Herps, Douglas, Stallards, Doughertys etc. So you can see while we are here to pay tribute to John, his descendants are numerous in the land he and other First Fleeters played no small part in making the nation it is today. I would like to thank the Committee of the Fellowship for organising the purchase and placing of these Plaques.

Mr. Shire President, here is the grave of John Cross, who arrived aboard the First Fleet, 26th January, 1788. Thank you."

## RAFFLE

Associate member Mrs. Sybil Everingham has made and donated a beautiful sterling silver brooch in the form of a Flannel Flower. Tickets 50¢ each or 5 for \$2 are available from our Office or by writing to Box N283, Grosvenor Street, 2000. Proceeds to Bicentenary Fund.

## LETTER OF THANKS

Dear Mrs. Lewis,

I was the lucky winner of the twopenny piece raffle and would like to thank the organisers for giving me the opportunity to compete.

Congratulations to you and your committee for the good work you all do. It is appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Eleanor Benson (Mrs. L.S.)

Annangrove 2154

## AUSTRALIAN BIOGRAPHICAL & GENEALOGICAL RECORD

P.O. BOX 795, NORTH SYDNEY N.S.W. 2060

After some years of planning and the past nine months establishing an administrative network, we are now in a position to announce publicly the Australian Biographical and Genealogical Record as a research and publishing project to mark Australia's Bicentennial in 1988. The published work will form a major reference source for biographical and historical studies throughout Australia.

Registration Forms are available from the above address.

The project has been registered as a non-profit, independent research organisation.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY

ALL WELCOME - Wednesday, 8th December - 6 p.m. - \$10 a head.

To be held at the N.S.W. LEAGUES CLUB, 165 Phillip Street, City. This dinner will be in the form of a buffet dinner and we ask members to please have bookings and money in to the office address by 8th November, 1982.

Please mark envelope for Mrs. Beryl Lewis.

## NAME BARS

Name bars are available from Mrs. Thelma Guy, Lot 14, Wallgrove Road, Horsley Park 2164, at the following rates:

Member's NAME AND ONE First Fleeter's Name	.....	\$3.00 each
TWO " "	.....	\$3.50 each
THREE " "	.....	\$4.00 each
FOUR " "	.....	\$4.50 each
FIVE " "	.....	\$5.50 each

On blue or black background, PLEASE ADD 50¢ for packing and postage.

Members who have not paid their 1982/83 subscription are now unfinancial and this may be the last Newsletter to be sent to them.

For those who may have overlooked payment it is not too late by acting now to avoid being deleted from the mailing list

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT – AUGUST, 1982

*We extend a warm welcome to the following 31 new members and 7 spouse associates (in brackets):*

T.Arndell – Mrs Audrey HUXLEY T.Arndell + W.Dring/A.Forbes – Mr Alan McGILL; (sp. Mrs Valerie McGill); Miss Justine McGILL (Jnr); Miss Fiona McGILL (Jnr) J.Bloodworth/S.Bellamy – Miss Pamela BROWN W.Broughton – Richard David LEWIS (Jnr) P.Devine – Mrs Helen ARNABOLDI John Gowen – Mr Ronald ASHCROFT Hugh Hughes – Mr Peter LANGFORD N.Lucas/O.Gascoigne – Mrs Marion ARNOTT; (sp. Mr George Arnett); Mr Dennis ARNOTT; Miss Sandra ARNOTT; Miss Jennifer ARNOTT F. Meredith – Miss Nicole POLLOCK (Jnr) E.Moyle(Miles) – Mr Ernest VERNON A.Rope/E.Pulley – Mr Anthony SHARP W.Roberts – Mr Ross COWAN-LUNN; (sp. Mrs Cowan-Lunn) J.Shiers/M.Smith – Mr Trevor HUXLEY; (sp. Mrs Jill Huxley); Graeme Richard HUXLEY (Jnr); J.Small/M.Parker – Mr Russell BLACKWELL; (sp. Mrs Karen Blackwell); Mrs Dallas BLACKWELL J. Squire – Mr Charles WEBSTER; Mrs Miriam BIRD; Ian Alexander BIRD (Jnr) W.Tunks – Mrs Joyce ADAMS; (sp. Mr Hector Adams); Christopher Leslie HICKS (Jnr); Miss Maryanne HICKS (Jnr) W.Tunks + T.Spencer/M.Phillips – Mrs Jean WESTMORE; Dr Bruce WESTMORE; Mr Ian WESTMORE E.Wainwright – Mr Leonard REID; (sp. Mrs Elizabeth Reid)

## JOHN MERRITT

Presented by Douglas Oakes

JOHN MERRITT was born in 1743.

On the 24th March 1784 at Gloucester, he was charged with breaking and entering and stealing four pieces of printed cotton to the value of five pounds, two pieces of printed linen to the value of fourty shillings and one cotton handkerchief to the value of two shillings. For this offence he was sentenced to 14 years transportation to Australia.

John Merritt came to Australia in the First Fleet on the "Alexander".

On the 31st March, 1791 John Merritt was sentenced to receive 25 lashes for selling a pair of shoes to Anthony Rope alleged to have been stolen from John Beasley. The theft was never proven.

On the 23rd December, 1792 he married Ann Taylor who had come out in the Third Fleet on the "Mary Ann" in July, 1791. Ann Taylor who came from Middlesex had been sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing.

On the 8th January, 1794 he was granted 50 acres in the district of Prospect.

By 1806 John Merritt had over 105 acres at Caddai on the Hawkesbury and was grazing over 230 sheep.

On the 7th May, 1812 John Merritt, aged 69 years died and was buried at St. Matthew's, Windsor.

## THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE FROM THE F.F.F. OFFICE

**T. SHIRTS** (navy with gold emblem) – most sizes (packaged and post \$1 extra) ..... \$6.50 each.

**Tea Towels** – linen 4 designs - old Sydney, modern Sydney,

Australian birds, Australian wildflowers ..... \$2.50 each

**NOTELETS** with matching envelopes, packet of 10 - Postage 50¢ extra ..... \$2.00 each

**SOUVENIR TEASPOONS** Sugar Spoons, Fluted Spoons, and Cake Forks,

Tea Caddie Spoons, Key Rings ..... \$2.50 each

**PAPER KNIFE** ..... \$2.85 each

**CAR STICKERS** ..... \$0.50 each

(Package and Post of each of above 80¢ each)

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

**Journals** (4 Editions) 50¢ each plus postage – set of 4 in N.S.W. 80¢, interstate 90¢.

**First Fleet Book** \$4.50 – (50¢ pack and post).

**Compiling your Family History** – \$3.00 (50¢ pack and post).

**First Fleet Lists** – \$2.00 (50¢ pack and post).

**They Came by Road** – By Viv Kable (special interest to Kable family) – \$5.00 (50¢ pack and post).

## EXCURSION

We regret to advise that the proposed visit to Fort Denison has had to be cancelled.