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Wednesday, 10 am — 2 pm
Thursday, 10 am — 2 pm
Friday, 10 am — 2 pm

**Volume 14, No. 1
January/February 1983**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since last reporting to you, we have all embarked on a brand new year. I sincerely hope all members will find it to be a very happy one. Also, may I remind you there is now a little less than 5 years before our bicentenary. The year 1988 will also mark the twentieth anniversary of the Fellowship of First Fleeters, which gives us a double reason to celebrate.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter is the first of a series on tapestry, and I earnestly suggest each member read it with our bicentennial tapestry in mind. So much depends on your donations NOW, and how proud you can feel in the future to show people a glorious work of art to which you contributed, hanging in the Mitchell Library in 1988. Please don't leave it all to your Committee — they are a very hardworking group but they can't perform miracles. At the Annual General Meeting, the members voted unanimously to proceed with the tapestry, so it is now up to each and every one to give as much or as little as they are able. Donations already received are listed in this Newsletter.

The idea of saving our copper coins had a disappointing result; only four members have sent in their collections. These averaged about \$20-25 each, and as one who joined in this effort, I commend it to you for this year. Singly, in today's climate, cents are almost useless, but they do mount up. Imagine how much we could have if everyone joined in doing this. All it needs is a container and a little willpower.

Our 1983 Christmas "Get Together" at the NSW Leagues Club, Sydney, was voted an outstanding success, and amongst those gathered it was good to see and meet some new members. During the Christmas period it was my pleasure to attend a party at Richmond Villa, as the guest of the Society of Australian Genealogists. I'm always very happy to join with other groups and have them join us, when possible.

As copy for this Newsletter is needed before Australia Day, a full coverage of our activities will appear in the next edition.

Member Ilma Medlyn and her husband have become Honorary Custodians of Grossman House, Maitland, a National Trust of Aust. property. Ilma extends an invitation to any members visiting Maitland to inspect this property. I personally can assure you it is well worth the time involved.

Mr. Peter Christian is the Lecture Convenor for 1983, and has arranged some excellent speakers for you. Do give him your support and at the same time have an excellent evening (including supper) on the 3rd Wednesday in the month, on the fourth floor of the Assembly Building, with your fellow members. I hope to meet many of you at the February Lecture.

Beryl Lewis

REMINDER

LECTURE NIGHTS — third Wednesday in each month at 7.45 pm sharp in Board Room, 4th floor, Assembly Building — enter by Jamison Street entrance.

THANKSGIVING SERVICE — Thanksgiving on the occasion of the 194th Anniversary of the marriage of William Nash and Maria Haynes at St. Philip's Church on 13th February 1789.

Descendants of William Nash and Maria Haynes are warmly invited to be present at the 10 am service at St. Philip's Church, York Street, Sydney, on Sunday 13th February 1983, and to have a picnic lunch together afterwards.

Contact: Mrs. Joan Rowe (Telephone (02) 46 5423)

DONATION TO LIBRARY

A book has been received from member Thais Mason, "From Chains to Freedom" which is of particular interest to descendants of Edward Garth, Susannah Garth (Gough) and Jacob Bellett. Copies, at \$30.00 each, may be obtained from the author, Thais Mason, 26 Milford St., East Bentleigh, Vic. 3165. We are most grateful for this generous donation to our Library.

— PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS FOR 1983 —

FEBRUARY 16th

Dame Monica Gallagher, D.B.E., State President of The Catholic Women's League of N.S.W., will speak on the subject of "St. Mary's Cathedral".

MARCH 16th

Business Meeting of the Fellowship followed by a Lecture from our Vice-President, Mr. Rod Best, on the subject "Compiling Family History".

APRIL 20th

Mrs. Valerie Ross, family historian of the Everingham family, and one of our members, will speak on "The Everingham Letter Book".

MAY 18th

Mr. John Mortimer, Director of Centennial Park, will be speaking to us on the history of Centennial Park.

JUNE 15th

We have a speaker from the National Trust, Mrs. Estell, to tell us about that body and its work.

JULY 20th

Mr. James Symes, B.A., a member of The Hills Historical Society and an authority on the Castle Hill Rebellion of 1804, will speak to us on that event.

AUGUST 17th

Speaker to be announced at the next issue of the Newsletter.

SEPTEMBER 21st

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OCTOBER 19th

Associate Prof. Kenneth Cable, from the University of Sydney will speak on the subject of "Religion in the Early Colony".

NOVEMBER 16th

SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED.

OBITUARY

Sincere sympathy is extended to our Archivist, Mrs. Joyce Cowell, on the death of her husband, George, on Thursday 20th January, 1983.

George was descended from the First Fleeter, William Tunks, as is Joyce herself.

BICENTENARY TAPESTRY FUND:

Since 1st July 1982, a number of members have made donations to the Bicentenary Fund. The Executive Committee gratefully acknowledges these, but further donations will be necessary to meet the objective.

A. P. Astley
C. A. Bellamy
J. C. Bull
B. J. Bushell
J. H. Broomhead
B. J. Cox
V. Collyer
J. Cross
J. C. Cowell
H. P. Cassidy
R. de Cusack
B. E. Duns
I. A. Donaldson
N. E. Dawson

W. L. Evans
F. J. Everingham
V. T. Everingham
R. B. Gunton
T. Guy
— Huxley
J. V. Hanson
A. M. Holmes
A. Ingham-Myers
M. E. Livingston
W. J. Lamrock
B. Lewis
R. Meredith
D. MacNaught

M. Nicholls
D. M. Oakes
R. Pask
P. D. Robson
N. V. Reynolds
I. M. Riethmuller
A. R. Sherman
L. Stewart
H. Stewart
E. Stephenson
S. M. Strachan
E. M. Vernon
L. Wilkinson
J. Wilkinson
J. L. Westmore
2 Anonymous

The following members donated items to be raffled:

Mrs. T. Hosking, Mrs. S. Everingham, Mr. A. Maunder, Mrs. N. Sansom.

(signed) A. R. Meredith, Treasurer.

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).

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.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT — NOVEMBER 1982

We extend a warm welcome to the following 15 new members and 6 spouse associates (in brackets). First Fleet ancestors' names are shown in heavy type.

Phillip Devine
Wm Douglas/Mary Groves
Joseph Hatton
George Johnston/Esther Abrahams
Henry Kable/Susannah Holmes

Ellen Wainright

— Mr. Clarence R. A. Devine
 — Mr. Roxburgh D. Rowatt
 — Mr. Thomas L. Anderson, Mrs. Jennifer M. Elger
 — Mr. Harold B. W. Smith
 — Mrs. Ann W. T. Nicholas (sp. Mr. Leslie E. Nicholas); Miss Tracey K. I. Nicholas (Jnr); Mr. Athol F. Pye (sp. Mrs. Joan Pye)
 — Mrs. Colleen M. Smeulders (sp. Mr. Antonius H. Smeulders);
 — Master Marcus P. Van Vogt (Jnr);
 — Miss Kylie M. Van Vogt (Jnr); Mr. Peter J. Trew;
 — Miss Melissa A. Trew (Jnr); Miss Georgia K. Trew (Jnr);
 — Miss Rachael E. Trew (Jnr.)

— **Associate spouses** of earlier-listed members:

Mrs. Isobel Lucas, wife of Mr. Alfred Charles Lucas; Mr. Gilbert Clive Arnaboldi, husband of Mrs. Helen Frances Arnaboldi; Mr. W. A. Riedy, husband of Mrs. Hazel Iona Riedy.

Additional First Fleet ancestor(s): Mrs. Margaret J. Mills has added Ann Forbes, William Dring and Margaret Darnell to her previously listed ancestors, Matthew Everingham and Owen Cavanough.

— **Correction:** In the September-October 1982 list of new members, the entry 'W. Tunks — Dr. Stephanie Way' should have read 'Mrs. (Dr.) Stephanie (Way) Fogl'.

Note: As there was no Executive Committee Meeting in January, applicants for membership accepted by the Membership Committee after the end of November 1982 will not receive executive approval until 2nd February 1983 — too late for the inclusion of their names in this Newsletter.)

CALENDAR OF FIRST FLEET EVENTS

Jan. 1787	The plan to establish a colony in NSW announced to the British Parliament.
12 May 1787	The "Sirius" made the order to sail to the First Fleet (M. Barnard Eldershaw 'Phillip of Australia' p.48)
13 May 1787	Departure of the First Fleet — cleared Isle of Wight at 10 am 10 am (M. Barnard Eldershaw 'Phillip of Australia' p.48)
3 June 1787	The First Fleet anchored at Santa Cruz in the Canary Islands (M. Barnard Eldershaw 'Philip of Australia' p.53)
10 June 1787	The First Fleet sailed for Rio de Janiero (M. Barnard Eldershaw 'Philip of Australia' p.56)
26 Jan 1788	First Australia Day
5-6-8 May 1788	"Scarborough", "Charlotte" and "Lady Penrhyn" sailed for China,

BICENTENNIAL PROJECT — TAPESTRY WALLHANGING

Have you made your donation yet? We only have five years before the great day is here — do help and become part of our effort.

Here are a few excerpts from the Handbook of the Victorian Tapestry Workshop, which has been commissioned to weave our tapestry:—

What is a tapestry?

A hand woven work of art depicting an idea or an event. Tapestries are often thought of as murals because of their historic association with 'grand' scale, but they can range from miniature to majestic.

Why commission a tapestry rather than some other kind of work of art?

Tapestry has a quality which is simply not duplicated in any other art form. What all tapestries share is their depth, richness and a warmth that is not found in other mural forms.

Tapestries' lasting qualities are unequalled by all but sculpture.

Where did tapestry begin?

In the cold, severe environments of castles, where their warmth and colour were highly prized. They often told stories of epic events, or simply recorded the times in which they were woven.

Why are tapestries expensive?

We are a non-profit company and our overheads are met by the Victorian Government, which allows our prices to remain competitive with other tapestry workshops around the world. But tapestry is highly labour-intensive and therefore will always be expensive.

Are tapestries good value?

As investment, yes. While it is almost unheard of for commissioned tapestries to be re-sold, they are often insured for many times their original price.

Why weave traditionally?

Because no other method allows such quality in the final image; and because no other method produces tapestries which last so well.

How does the Victorian Workshop differ from others?

We do not reproduce existing designs. Instead we seek to answer specific client needs and that in turn leads to an artist/weaver/client collaboration which is unusually close. Also, we do not produce editions of tapestries. That may be valid for commercial workshops, but is not part of our role of exploring tapestry as an art form.

More next newsletter — Beryl Lewis

BENJAMIN CUSLEY

This article, researched and compiled by Emmie Parkes and Elizabeth Roberts, (descendants of Benjamin Cusley) provided the basis for the talk delivered by Elizabeth Roberts at the unveiling of the plaque on the grave of Benjamin Cusley in St. Matthew's Churchyard on 20th June, 1982.

The First Fleet marine, Benjamin Cusley, had no son to carry on his name, but he had two daughters, Ann and Maria, who had 15 known children between them, producing at least 113 great-grandchildren for Benjamin, bearing the surnames Brown, Cobcroft, Connolly, Dunstan, Everingham, Fleming and Hall. The marriages of his Dunstan grandsons also linked in the Chaseling, Ford, Hudson and Turnbull families.

Benjamin Cusley had dark brown hair, hazel eyes and a sallow complexion. A native of Kettering, the shoe-making centre in the Midlands of England, he qualified as a cordwainer,¹ a maker of ladies' and gentlemen's shoes from fine Spanish leather from Cordova.

Benjamin's birth date varies each time his age is recorded. The army's is c. 1759; all others are earlier except at his second marriage. In 1781 the American War of Independence was in progress when Benjamin joined the Plymouth Division of Marines on April 9th as a private¹, with which Division he came to New Holland as an artificer in Capt. Meredith's Company², sailing from Plymouth on Sunday May 13th, 1787, in the transport "Friendship", a two-masted, square-rigged brig of 276 tons, built at Scarborough in 1784, the third smallest ship in the First Fleet³.

After a voyage of 8 months and the setting up of the settlement in Sydney Cove, Pte. Benjamin Cusley is listed as being employed splitting shingles for 44 days from 17th May to 30th September, 1788².

On July 9th 1791, the "Mary Ann", an old ship of 298 tons built in France in 1772, made the fastest trip to date, for a convict ship — 143 days to Sydney³. Among the 150 female convicts transported was 36-year old Phoebe Penlaric, convicted at Exeter, Devon in Lammas for 7 years.

A relationship developed between Benjamin and Phoebe, and a daughter was born on 2nd September 1792. The child was baptised on December 8 at St. Phillip's, Sydney, as Ann Cusley, daughter of Benjamin Cusley and Phoebe Pendarick.

When the Marine Division returned to England, Benjamin transferred to the NSW Corp on April 7th, 1792 for a period of 5 years¹. As a private, he received £9/2/6 a year, his uniform and rations⁴. With the permission of Capt. William Paterson, Benjamin was married to Phoebe on 31st March 1795 by the Rev. Marsden at St. John's, Parramatta, witnessed by Joseph Cocking and Jane Hugins.

In June 1795 a detachment of 2 subalterns and 60 privates were sent to the Hawkesbury to stop the natives annoying and stealing from the newly-settled farmers, whose numbers had reached 400 persons, spread over 30 miles on either side of the river, since the first 22 grants in April 1794. The Government was afraid these settlers would abandon the most fertile and productive land cultivated since the start of the colony. The soldiers fired upon a raiding party and took prisoner a native man and 4 women, hoping they could show them "that it was not in their interest to harm the settlers and it was better to be friends than enemies and that the Government would not stand the settlers being inhumanly butchered and their labour rendered useless by the natives' depredation with impunity"⁵

It is not known if Benjamin was a member of this detachment. He probably was, accounting for the fact that on August 25th of that year he, with 3 other members of the NSW Corps, James Bannister, Joseph Cocking and Robert Hall, received a joint grant of 150 acres in Mulgrave Place, calling it "Fulham Park". This grant was later cancelled.⁶

Maria Cusley was born on 27th January, 1797 and baptised and registered at St. Philip's, Sydney on 5th April.

Benjamin must have tried his hand at farming when his 5 years' service expired. He received official endorsement of a grant from Governor Hunter on 18th October, 1799 of 200 acres near the future town of Wilberforce, north of John Palmer Esq.'s allotment and bounded on its northern boundary by a swamp which is today called Bushell's Lagoon. This grant was recorded as Cusley Farm, rent 6d. for every 50 acres a year, surveyed and signed by John Shortland and Mathew Flinders⁷.

The heavy rain in the catchment area in 1799 made the Hawkesbury River suddenly rise to 50ft. at the settlement. In all probability Cusley Farm was flooded, which may account for Benjamin re-enlisting in Capt. Johnson's Company for an unlimited period on April 14th, 1800. From the Army pay lists we know Benjamin Cusley was one of about 10 privates under Cpl. George Loder, stationed at Windsor in 1805-6.⁸

An army regulation in September 1808 introduced Regimental Description Books which record Benjamin's origin and colouring. His age was stated to be 49. At the age of 51 on the 25th March, 1810, he transferred to the NSW Veterans' Company attached to the 73rd Regt., in which he served most of the time at Windsor until it was disbanded on the 24th September 1823¹.

Benjamin and Phoebe's daughter, Ann, was married at the early age of 14 and 8 months to an Irishman, George McGinnis, at St. John's, Parramatta on 11th May 1807, witnessed by Catherine and Elias Bishop who, like Benjamin, came as a private with the First Fleet. George McGinnis had been sentenced for life at the age of about 15 in the summer of 1796, at Trim, Meath and transported in the hell ship 'Brittania II' sailing from Cork on December 10th, 1796. In the 1806 muster, George had a ticket of leave and was renting 21 acres of land from Paul Bushell, which he later purchased. He received his official conditional pardon on 23rd April, 1810 from Governor Macquarie.⁹ A year after their marriage, George and Ann presented Benjamin with his first grand-daughter. She was followed by 7 more in the next 14 years.

In 1815 Benjamin's wife, Phoebe, died on November 15th, aged 60, and was buried in the Windsor Cemetery in which the foundations of St. Matthew's Church were laid in 1817.¹⁰

On Boxing Day Benjamin's second daughter, Maria, was married to David Dunstan (born 25/6/1795), the eldest son of David Dunstone (Densham "Atlantic" 1791) and Mary, nee Mullender ("Lady Juliana"). They gave Benjamin 5 grandsons and 2 grand-daughters in 10 years.

Prior to Bigges Report January 1821 on land holdings, Benjamin had sold 100 acres of his grant to Paul Bushell, and 30 acres to John Lions. It appears he sold 80 acres to Matthew Lock and 40 acres to Joshua Rose and also leased to Mr. Rose 30 acres he had purchased from Mr. Palmer.¹¹

Ann McGinnis died on the 11/10/1822, age 30, following the birth of her 8th daughter, and she was buried in a grave next to her mother. Benjamin married again on the 30th August, 1824, Mary Baker, aged 63, a twice-widowed fellow transportee of his first wife, Phoebe, in the "Mary Ann". The marriage was witnessed by George McGinnis, Ann Rose and Robert Cooper. The new Mary Cusley arrived in the colony as Mary Chadderton with a 7 year sentence received at the Lancaster Assizes from 24th March, 1788. Three months after disembarking, she married a convict, William Adams, on 22nd October, 1791, at St. Philip's, Sydney. A daughter, Sarah, was born the following July; her death in 1800 is registered as the first orphan. A second daughter, Elizabeth, was born on 9th August, 1795.

By order of Lt. Francis Grose, William Adams' sentence was absolutely remitted on condition of enlisting in the NSW Corps, which he did on February 10th, 1793.¹² He died on 4th February, 1798, and a third daughter, Kezia, was born six months later on August 20th.

Mary next married Cpl. William Baker on 11th August, 1814. He had joined the NSW Corps in England in March, 1791, as a private. He transferred to the Veterans' Company in 1810, becoming a corporal in 1813, and a sergeant in 1815.¹ Like Benjamin, he was discharged in September, 1823, and died 7 months later on 25th April, 1824. The hard times George McGinnis had experienced caught up with him and he joined his wife, Ann, in her grave at Windsor on 29th September, 1828, aged 48.¹³

Benjamin saw 11 of his grandchildren married before he died on 20th June, 1845, registered as a pensioner. He witnessed the growth of the colony from its start for 57 years, from scrub-covered slopes to scattered towns surrounded by cleared, cultivated paddocks — the dispersion and destruction of the natives from the early settled areas — fortunes made and lost with hard hand labour — man's inhumanity to man and mateship among its victims — floods, fire and drought.

He was laid to rest with Phoebe at St. Matthew's, Windsor, where their headstone stands today for their descendants to see.

References:

1. From Description Books of NSW Corps 102nd, supplied by Historical Studies, Dept. of Defence, Canberra.
2. H.R.A. Series 1, Vol. 1, p.81.
3. C. Bateson "The Convict Ships" 1787 to 1868 (late editions), Reed Sydney (first editions Glasgow Brown Son & Ferguson).
4. Pro 355 4 T1 712 Mitchell Library, Sydney.
5. H.R.A. Series 1, Vol. 1, p.499 and Documentary History of Australia, Vol. 1, Frank Cawley, published by Nelson of Melbourne.
6. Bonwick Transcripts, Box 88, Mitchell Library.
7. AO Reel 773, State Archives, Sydney.
8. Reel PRO 3908, Mitchell Library.
9. Convict Pardons, Society of Genealogists Library.

10. *Early Days of Windsor*, by James Steele, Tyrrells Ltd., Sydney. Reprint published Library of Australian History.
11. Bonwick Transcripts, Box 25, p.5458.
12. Muster and Lists up to 1803, Pro reel 20 M.L. Bonwick Transcripts.
13. Tombstone date, St. Matthew's Register, 1st October, age 53.

An "Old" New Look for Barrack Street

Reprinted by courtesy of Commonwealth Bank, Barrack St., Sydney.

There is very little of Sydney of the 1850s which could still be recognised by a resident of those times, but one building that has retained the external grandeur of days gone by is the Barrack Street branch of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation.

Its historical importance is well recognised as the building is included on the Register of the National Estate by the Australian Heritage Commission and sections are listed by the National Trust of Australia (NSW).

The history of the building dates from 1840 when negotiations were commenced for the acquisition of permanent premises for the Savings Bank of New South Wales, an institution founded eight years earlier under the authority of the Government. The bank which, in 1833 took over the activities of "Campbell's Bank", Australia's pioneer savings bank, had commenced operations at the home of James Chisholm (one of the Trustees) in George Street. The first Manager, George Miller, received an annual salary of £50.

In 1846 legislation was passed authorising the expenditure of £3,000 on building of suitable offices on a block of land in Barrack Lane adjacent to the Barracks Square. The site was acquired from the trustees of St. Philip's Church, in exchange for land owned by the Bank on Church Hill, adjoining the Church of St. Philip, then in the process of being built. On the basis of the present city street layout, Barrack Lane, now Barrack Street, formed the southern perimeter of the Barracks Square while the other approximate boundaries were George Street in the east, Jamison Street in the north and Clarence Street in the west.

Successful tenderers for the erection of the building were Messrs. Jacob Inder and Co. Construction was of Pyrmont sandstone, with a verandah to the street frontage supported by six Doric timber columns. The ground floor was used as a banking chamber, with a carriage drive on the western side leading to stabling and coachmen's quarters at the rear, while the upper floor was occupied as a residence. The Bank then had, in 1850, a building which was the first to be erected in Sydney as a savings bank.

Increasing business necessitated alterations being carried out in 1867. As these were extensive the business of the Bank had to be moved temporarily to Mr J B Rundle's premises on the opposite side of the street.

In 1888 further extensive alterations were effected which resulted in the building assuming its present external appearance. Plans provided for sandstone columns, but the present granite columns, with special ballustrading of marble from the Pyrenees on each of the three floors, were later substituted at an extra cost of £2,633. These columns support overhead balconies and the roof, and in construction are of Greek architecture — the ground, first and second floors being the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian design respectively. When viewing the premises externally, the difference in design can be noticed. The building, probably the only survival of this type of architecture in Sydney, today retains the name of the original owner, which appears in large raised lettering below the second floor parapet, namely, "The Savings Bank of New South Wales, Estd. 1832".

Although several offers were made to amalgamate the 1832 Savings Bank of New South Wales with the Government Savings Bank of NSW, which was founded in 1871, it was not until 1914 that an Act was passed which provided for the transfer of the business from the earlier bank to the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank. Thus after years of extremely valuable service in the early days of Australian history, the Savings Bank of New South Wales was absorbed by a bank better suited by virtue of its constitution to cater for the changing needs of the people.

In 1931 the Commonwealth Savings Bank took over the Government Savings Bank of NSW and became the new owners of the Barrack Street premises.

With the change in ownership the premises were rehabilitated. This involved cleaning of the structure, removal of various ornamentations, and reconditioning the stonework and cedar. After so many years the building had lost its original beauty. In addition, the banking chamber was altered to provide what was then considered to be a modern layout with excellent natural lighting and ventilation.

During these alterations it was found that the contents of the vaults of Barrack Street Branch were of incalculable historical interest, for among the musty, dust-covered, calf-bound volumes, much information about early days in Sydney was gleaned. Handwritten ledgers, letter books and minute books of the Savings Bank of New South Wales were discovered in an excellent state of preservation and from them can be traced the progress of the early savings bank. These items are now in the Commonwealth Savings Bank's archives.

The interior of the building was given a major face-lift in the 1950s, being modernised to meet the fashion of that period.

In planning for the restoration programme just completed it was the Bank's desire that the renovations be in harmony with the 1880s exterior, but nevertheless remain practical. This presented the architects, Messrs Fowell, Mansfield, Jarvis and MacLurcan, with a difficult task in providing for computer terminals and other trappings of modern banking, while still retaining the overall appearance of a banking chamber set back a century in time.

Considerable research has been undertaken, mainly at the State and Mitchell libraries, to ensure that the interior renovations are as authentic to the period as possible. Much use was made of old photographs of the branch and contemporary buildings in designing the counters, tellers' boxes and furniture and, wherever possible, the same type of timber used in the original furnishings, Australian red cedar, was utilised.

The lights have been specially designed to harmonise with the restoration although, of course, gas lighting rather than electric was used 100 years ago.

The ceilings and cornices presented a particular problem. Due to deterioration through age, it was necessary to renew large portions. Firstly, however, they were scraped back to reveal the original stencils of green, burgundy and apricot, and these have been authentically reproduced. The front windows are completely original and many layers of paint had to be removed to allow restoration.

The Commonwealth Banking Corporation is appreciative of the considerable interest shown in the project by customers and members of the community, and we trust that all are well pleased with the renovations.