



FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS NEWSLETTER

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OFFICE ADDRESS:

Room 324, 3rd Floor, Assembly Building, Cnr. Margaret, York & Jamison Streets
Please Note: Enter by Jamison Street at night

OFFICE HOURS:

TUESDAY: 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. WEDNESDAY to FRIDAY: 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

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P.O. Box N283, Grosvenor Street, Sydney, NSW 2000

June/July 1984
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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee was delighted to see so many members at the Parramatta plaque unveiling and picnic on Sunday, 13th May. Approximately one hundred members were present and came from as far afield as Canberra and Orange. Those talks delivered at the gravesides of Hugh Hughes, Jane McManus, Isaac Knight and James Wright will appear in this Newsletter. Our thanks are extended to the Trustees of St. John's Cemetery and particularly to The Rev. Canon R.J. Bomford for officiating.

Afterwards members picnicked in Parramatta Park in commemoration of the sailing of the Fleet on Sunday, 13th May 1787. The Committee hopes that in future years more family groups will utilize the activity and general organization framework provided by the Fellowship in arranging the activity. Our experiences and your comments this year will help in that regard.

Members also attended the Inaugural Foundation Day Lecture of the Friends of the First Government House Site delivered by Professor D.J. Mulvaney in which he stressed the significance of this the foundation site of the nation. Also celebrating a foundation, the foundation of a family, were the Fishburn descendants. On Thursday 24th May a most successful dinner was held and a report of this activity will appear in the next Newsletter.

Respecting coming events, the attention of members is drawn to the details of the Lecture Evenings and the Annual General Meeting elsewhere in the Newsletter. Details of the Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations of St. John the Evangelist at Campbelltown throughout July were reported in the last Newsletter.

Responses are still being received respecting our survey as to 26th January being declared a National Public Holiday. To date all members have unanimously voted in favour of this proposal. Once all are received appropriate representations, in conjunction with other interested bodies, shall be made.

Roderick Best

SUBSCRIPTIONS 1984-1985

At its March meeting the Executive Committee voted unanimously to maintain subscriptions for the next financial year – 1 July 1984 to 30 June 1985 – at the same levels as for 1983-1984 year. These rates for the various categories of membership are as shown on the yellow "Subscriptions 1984-1985" form enclosed. **The annual subscriptions are due and payable on 1 July 1984;** please fill in the form according to the instructions thereon and return it with your remittance (or bring it with you if paying at the F.F.F. office).

New members joining prior to 1 July 1984 will be deemed to be financial to 30 June 1985 by paying a single subscription.

Unless 1984-1985 subscriptions are paid by the end of August, members will not be eligible to vote (by post or at the Annual General Meeting in September) nor will they continue to receive the Newsletter.

About 150 of the members who were financial in 1982-1983 have not yet paid their 1983-1984 subscriptions. To remain financial they must pay the 1983-1984 subscriptions before or with their 1984-1985 subscriptions (see note on form).

• Members who might wish to have spouses or children become new members are required to apply formally by filling in "Application for Membership" forms in duplicate plus a photocopy of full birth certificate for children, or sending a written request plus a photocopy of the marriage certificate for a spouse; do NOT just include their names on the subscription form when renewing member's own subscription.

Nominations for Associate (Relative) Membership must be in the form of a letter to the Secretary from the Member relative giving full details of relationship.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As a consequence of a Motion passed at the 1983 Annual General Meeting members will, for the first time, be able to exercise a postal vote for office-bearers seeking election at the 1984 Annual General Meeting which is to be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 19th September, 1984. To facilitate this arrangement the Executive Committee has determined that the following procedure is to be adopted:

1. Each candidate shall give written notice to the Secretary of his or her intention to stand for election. Such notice is to be signed by the candidate and by the two members nominating and seconding such candidature. The notice is to be accompanied by a statement of no more than 75 words containing such details as are considered relevant for promulgation to members. The nomination and statement are to be received by 1st August, 1984 [Rule 32].
2. Any member desiring to submit any special matter for the consideration of the Annual General Meeting shall also give notice thereof to the Secretary no later than 1st August [Rule 35].
3. Any motion for amending the Fellowship Constitution must also be received by the Secretary no later than 1st August. It should clearly and specifically state the words to be deleted and/or the proposed words to be added [Rules 35, 42].
4. At least one month prior to the Annual General Meeting written notice shall be forwarded to members and shall include -
 - (a) the date, place and time of the meeting;
 - (b) the business to be submitted;
 - (c) the names of the candidates;
 - (d) a statement of personal details of the candidates;
 - (e) a ballot paper [Rule 36].
5. Ballot papers are to be returned in an unmarked sealed envelope. Such envelope is to be placed inside an envelope addressed and sent to -

The Returning Officer, Fellowship of First Fleeters, Room 324, Assembly Building, 44, Margaret Street, SYDNEY

On the back of the addressed envelope is to be the member's name, address and membership number. Non-compliance with any aspect may render the vote informal.

6. The Returning Officer appointed by the Executive Committee for this purpose will record the details of the member and retain the sealed unmarked envelope until such time as the vacation of all offices at the Annual General Meeting. He shall then hand all such envelopes to the Returning Officer appointed by the members in Meeting.

Current Addresses

Do any readers know the current addresses of the following members? If so, please contact Joan Cox at the F.F.F. office.

Mrs. H. Cassidy, 82 Phillip Street, Coburg, Vic. 3058
Mr. T.A. Fishburn, P.O. Box 249, Bathurst, N.S.W. 2795
Mrs. M. Kelly, 1D Waratah Street, North Strathfield, N.S.W. 2137
A.M.T.H. Mark G. Tunks, S134060 Cook Division, HMAS Nirimba, Quakers Hill, 2764

Membership Report - MARCH/APRIL 1984

We extend a warm welcome to the following 22 adults and eight junior members and to three associate (spouse) members (in brackets). First Fleet ancestors' names are shown in heavy type.

Thomas Arndell: Mrs. Mary Barbara Davies; Mrs. Marie Theresa Downs. **James Bradley:** Philip Robert Orton Bradley; Kenneth Frederick Stephens; Kathryn Margaret Stephens (Jnr); Alison Maree Stephens (Jnr); Marion Patricia Stephens (Jnr). **William Douglas - Mary Groves:** Mrs Jean Augusta Napier; Thomas William Keays. **William Eggleton - Mary Dickenson:** Mrs Gwenith Ann Harris; Mrs Rhonda Louise Twomey; Ronald Bruce Eggleton; Scott Anthony Eggleton (Jnr); Nicole Jane Eggleton (Jnr). **Matthew Everingham:** Mrs. **Leonee Rose Mary Cook (sp Warwick Alan Cook);** Bernard Thomas Blain Cook (Jnr); Martin Christopher Blain Cook (Jnr); Nicholas Peter Blain Cook (Jnr). **Ann Forbes + William Donald Ridge:** (sp Mrs Robin Anne Ridge); William Penzer Ridge; Miss Kerry Lee Ridge. **Robert Forrester - Ann Forbes:** Mrs. Sylvia Maud Amett; Richard Amett (Jnr); Wendy Amett (Jnr). **Andrew Fishburn:** Ms Victoria Carrier; Angela Smith (Jnr). **Peter Hibbs:** Robert Newton Makins; (sp Mrs Hazel May Makins). **Hugh Hughes:** Brian Larmer Brennan; Miss Susan Mary Brennan. **Henry Kable - Susannah Holmes:** Adam John Montgomery (Jnr); Lawrence Henry Copping; (sp Mrs. Irene Copping). **James McManus - Jane Poole + James Bradley:** Kyle Christopher Gliddon (Jnr); Fiona Jae Gliddon (Jnr). **William Nash - Maria Haynes:** Miss Anne Maree McAlister. **John Nicholls:** Mrs. Carlene Mary Coulter (sp Leslie Thomas Coulter); Mrs Lillian Emily Pullen; Mrs. Hazel Davidson. **Edward Risby + James Morrisby:** Paul Cardiff; Stephen Cardiff. **Anthony Rope - Elizabeth Pulley:** Allen Robert Helmrich (sp Mrs Julie Catherine Helmrich); Brendan Robert Helmrich (Jnr). **John Small - Mary Parker:** Troy Alfred Menyweather (Jnr). **William Tunks:** Kristin Haid (Jnr); Roxanne Haid (Jnr).

The following have been admitted as "Associate (Relative) Members:

Mrs. Jessie Fishburn, widow of the late No. 1007 William Henry Fishburn; Mrs Myrtle Tunks, mother of No. 1502 Mrs Myrl Skinner; Mrs Eileen Smith, mother of No. 1480 Mrs Anne Damian; Master Simon John Ferris (Jnr) and Miss Jenny Margaret Ferris (Jnr), adopted children of No. 1351 Mrs Beryl J Ferris; Mrs Muriel Margaret Kelly, mother, and Mr. Dennis Robert Kelly, step-father, of No. 1344 Ian Errol Wicks; Mrs Hilda Margaret Beasley, mother of No. 1405 Mrs Marion Esma Batchelor; Mrs Dorothy May V Watt, mother of No. 2534 Mrs Lorraine Thompson.

A press release has been received from the South Australian Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc. Their Index, which commenced in 1081, has now approximately 170,000 entries for families resident in the colony during the first 50 years. This number of entries will include details of approximately one million people. Those interested should contact P.O. Box 13, Marden S.A. 5070.

The Canberra & District Historical Society Inc. and the Heraldry and Genealogy Society of Canberra Inc. will publish a series of biographical registers which will contain details of families who have lived in Canberra and within approximately a 50 km (30 mile) radius of Canberra City. Contact: Register Committee, P.O. Box 488, Manuka A.C.T. 2603.

FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

Patron:	His Excellency the Governor of New South Wales, Air Marshal Sir James Rowland, K.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C.
President:	Roderick Best
Vice-Presidents:	Douglas Oakes, Peter Christian
Secretary:	Anne Campbell
Treasurer:	Len Chalmers
Executive Committee:	Ron Chipps, Alice Clarke, Joyce Cowell, Anne Davison, Mary Hope-Caten, Naida Jackson, Jonathon King, Keith Lehane, Doune MacNaught, Hugh Morgan, Enid Reynolds, Geoffrey Squires.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Archivist:	Joyce Cowell
Assistant Archivist:	Hazel Liebau
Lecture Convenor:	Peter Christian
Minute Secretary:	Enid Reynolds
Newsletter Editor:	Anne Davison
Membership Committee:	Naida Jackson (convenor), Mary Hope-Caten, Len Chalmers, Elizabeth King and Joyce Rixon
Graves Committee:	Douglas Oakes (convenor), Alice Clarke, Enid Reynolds, Doune MacNaught, Keith Lehane
Tasmanian Graves:	Geoffrey Squires
Social Committee:	Anne Campbell (convenor), Alice Clarke, Enid Reynolds, Doune MacNaught, Keith Lehane
Supper And Raffle Convenor:	Mary Bailey
Souvenirs and Badges:	Alice Clarke
Publicity Committee:	Ron Chipps (convenor), Hugh Morgan, Jonathon King
Honorary Solicitors:	Conway Maccallum & Co.

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

WINDCHEATERS	Navy or white	\$15.00 each
T-SHIRTS	Navy or white	\$6.50 each
	<i>(Windcheaters and T-shirts: packaged & postaged \$2.00 extra)</i>	
TEA TOWELS	Linen, 4 designs - Waltzing Matilda, Historical NSW, Early Sydney (3 colours), Historical Sydney, Aust. Settlers, Banksias, Bush Ballads, Flag with Advance Australia Fair.	\$2.50 each
	<i>(Flag)</i>	\$2.50 each
BARBECUE APRONS		\$10.00 each
TIES		\$2.50 each
NOTELETS	With matching envelopes, packet of 10 - Postage 50¢ extra	\$2.50 each
SOUVENIR SPOONS	Sugar Spoons, Fluted Spoons and Cake Forks, Tea Caddy Spoons	\$2.50 each
KEY RINGS	\$2.50 each
PAPER KNIVES	\$2.50 each
CAR STICKERS	\$1.00 each
	<i>(Package and Postage 30¢ to \$1.00 depending on weight)</i>	

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Early FF JOURNALS	(2 editions) Package and Postage 50¢ each - set of 4 in N.S.W. 80¢, interstate 90¢
"COMPILING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY"	\$3.00 (Package and Postage 50¢)
"ARTHUR PHILLIP"	by Thea Stanley Hughes \$4.50 (Package and Postage 50¢)
"THE FIRST FLEETERS"	by Fidlon and Ryan \$4.50 (list of all First Fleeters)
"PIONEERS OF PORTLAND HEAD"	by R.M. Arndell \$19.95 plus postage
"THE FIRST FLEETERS"	by Jonathon King \$19.50 plus postage.

NAME BARS

Name bars may be ordered through F.F. Office. Approx. 3 weeks delay in delivery.

MEMBERS'S NAME AND	ONE First Fleeters' Name	\$3.50
	TWO First Fleeters' Names	\$4.00
	THREE First Fleeters' Names	\$4.50
	FOUR First Fleeters' Names	\$5.00
SPOUSE'S NAME BAR	(OWN name only)	\$3.00
	PLEASE ADD 50¢ for each additional name beyond 4 & 50¢ for postage.	
	State choice of blue or black background (white lettering)	

The organisers have advised us of the following tours:

19th June, Tuesday

JOHN MORRIS EXPLORER TOUR - BALMAIN
AND HUNTERS HILL - departs 9.30 a.m. from
Circular Quay (arrives back approx. 3.30 - 4
p.m.). \$15.00 for all seats. John Morris recently
retired from the National Trust. An opportunity to
enjoy a tour of historically rich areas.

31st July, Tuesday

WINDSOR - learn of and see historical points of
interest.

28th August, Tuesday

WOLLONGONG - tour new areas with a guide.

23rd September, Sunday

CAMDEN - inspect Macarthur's Home. Farm re-
cently refurbished.

21st October, Sunday

BRISBANE WATERS - inspect Kendall Cottage
Museum, and hear about the old area's early his-
tory from experts.

27th November, Tuesday

MACDONALD VALLEY AND WISEMAN'S
FERRY - a special experience to be enjoyed by
everyone.

HUGH HUGHES

by Len Chalmers

In February 1785 at the quarter Sessions at Southwark, London, Hugh Hughes, aged 22 years, and described as a labourer from the Parish of St. Mary Lambeth, was tried and convicted of stealing "90 lbs of lead valued at 10s.0d. belonging to Robt. Altridge and fixed to the dwelling house of Ann Blake widow". He was sentenced to seven years transportation.

The next two years Hugh spent on the hulk "Justinian" at Woolwich on the Thames employed "in raising gravel for masking on Woolwich Shoals, in wheeling the same for the purpose of making considerably higher the surface of all the ground contiguous to the Proof and Practice Butts which they have created and are now repairing, in filling up large ditches, scraping and cleaning cannon, sawing of timber for the laboratory, and in other occasional work in the Warren at Woolwich under the direction of the Board of Ordinances". In May 1787 Hugh was sent aboard the 450-ton transport "Alexander" with 211 other male convicts for the voyage to Botany Bay. Eight months later, on arrival at Port Jackson on 26th January, 1788, he doubtless assisted in the general work of establishing the settlement at Sydney Cove and later he worked at the Government Farm. In November 1789 he was charged with stealing a frame for a wheelbarrow from the Farm and was sentenced to 50 lashes.

It is not known when he was pardoned or when he first went to Parramatta, but it is recorded by Dr. Cobley that, on 16th January 1791 at Rose Hill he married Mary Steward, a 29 year-old convict who had arrived in the Second Fleet in June, 1790. Soon thereafter Hugh Hughes obtained a town lot grant at the north-western corner of the Church and Argyle Streets intersection (immediately south of the St. John's Church land). Here he built a house and a workshop and set himself up as a wheelwright. He is said to have produced here the first wheel (cart or carriage?) made in the Colony. In the 1850's the extension of the railway line westward beyond Parramatta Station caused the southern half of the Hughes land to be resumed. Hugh's wife Mary (Steward) died childless in 1800 aged 38 years. In that same year the ship "Speedy" arrived from England carrying the new Governor, Philip Gidley King with his wife and daughter and about 20 female convicts. One of these convicts was Mary Underhill, aged 24 of Holborn, London, who had been convicted at the Old Bailey in February 1798 for stealing bedding, etc., valued at 27s.6d. from a lodging house at 133 Great Saffron Hill and pawning some of the goods. She was sentenced to seven years transportation. On arrival at Sydney Town she was assigned to Hugh Hughes as a servant. In 1803 Mary gave birth to a son by Hugh, named Hugh (or sometimes Hugh James) and it seems that this was Hugh Snr's only child. No marriage record has been found for Hugh Snr. and Mary Underhill but she is recorded in musters, in the 1828 Census and on a burial certificate as "Mary Hughes". Mary died in 1853 at Argyle Street, Parramatta, and was buried in St. John's churchyard Cemetery but there is now no sign of her grave there. Nothing is really known about Hugh Snr's private or public lives. He did not appear to have been prominent in public affairs but some of his descendants were reported in newspapers from time to time as belonging to "a very well-known Parramatta family". First Fleeter Hugh Hughes died in 1830 aged 66; his burial certificate states that he was buried in St. John's Cemetery on 3rd January, 1830, whereas the date on his headstone is considerably later. His grave is close alongside that of his first wife, Mary Steward. Hugh Hughes left only one child, Hugh Hughes Jnr, who was trained by his father and inherited and carried on the business of wheelwright. Hugh Jnr, however, branched out into other commercial activities, including hotel-keeping (the Golden Lion in Church Street, Parramatta). In July, 1824, he married Elizabeth Ashby, older daughter of Thomas Ashby and his wife, Esther

(both were convicts arriving in 1817, Esther bringing Elizabeth and three sons with her). The Ashbys established a boot-making and saddlery business in Church Street, North Parramatta.

Hugh and Elizabeth had eight children - Mary Ann (Harper), Hugh James, William Thomas Stephen, Henry Benjamin, Elizabeth (Henderson), Alfred Charles, and Emily Sarah (Coates). They all married and had large families, none with less than eight children. Thus Hugh Hughes Snr., although having only one child himself, was grandfather to eight children and great-grandfather to 74. The numbers of later generations of his descendants have not yet been counted; it is pleasing to see a number of them here today to pay homage to one who played an important part in the founding of this Country. We are indeed proud of our pioneer ancestor. We descendants of Hugh Hughes thank the Fellowship of First Fleeters for honouring our First Fleeter ancestor by affixing a plaque to his grave, the Rector of St. John's Church for its dedication and those others present to witness the ceremony.

(Note: I am indebted to Valerie Collyer for the information on Hugh Hughes' trial - Surrey County Council Record Office; and on Mary Underhill's trial - Mitchell Library Q343.1/L 1798/9. Also to Mary Hope-Caten for the record of Hugh Hughes's spell on the hulk at Woolwich - V.R.O. Treasury Board Papers.)

GRAVES COMMITTEE REPORT

Sunday, 13th May, 1984 (Mothers' Day) was celebrated by the Fellowship of First Fleeters as a Family Picnic day in Parramatta Park.

Although it was Mothers' Day, it was also the anniversary of the day in 1787 that the First Fleet left Portsmouth bound for Botany Bay.

Prior to the picnic we again had a plaque unveiling service at St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta for James Wright, Jane McManus, Hugh Hughes, and Isaac Knight. Canon Bomford from St. John's Church, Parramatta conducted the dedication service.

Mr. John Wilson came all the way from Canberra to give a speech on the history of his ancestor James Wright.

Mrs. Gretta Lucas read the history of her First Fleeter ancestor Jane (Poole) McManus.

Our Treasurer Len Chalmers, a descendant of Hugh Hughes told us of the life of his ancestor.

We do not appear to have a descendant of Isaac Knight, so I read out the history of this First Fleeter obtained from our records.

Our thanks go to the many people who attended this service, especially to Bob Hope-Caten who attached the plaques to the tombstones on the previous Sunday.

After the plaque dedication service we returned to Parramatta Park, but unfortunately got lost in the crowd of other groups who also decided to have a picnic in the Park.

We are still seeking information on other First Fleeters' graves. Please ring the office on 29 8007 if you can help us in this regard.

Mrs. Joyce Cowell, our Archivist, is currently visiting Europe. Whilst she is there she will represent the Fellowship in a service at Broadwater Parish Church, Worthing, where a plaque will be dedicated to Surgeon White, the first Surgeon-General of N.S.W. Surgeon White came to Sydney on the First Fleet, and subsequently returned to England.

Douglas Oakes
Parramatta, 13.5.84.

JAMES WRIGHT

by John Wilson

James Wright, baker, store keeper, publican and farmer, was born in 1792, probably in London. At the age of 21 he was charged on three counts of highway robbery in the parish of Greenwich, tried in Maidstone at the Kent Summer Assizes of 1783, found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. Fortunately for James, his sentence was commuted to seven years transportation to Africa. However, he was not sent to Africa but remained in prison for 3 1/2 years before being embarked at Portsmouth on the convict ship "Scarborough", along with 207 fellow prisoners for transport to New South Wales. On Sunday, 13th May, 1787, the "Scarborough" sailed from Spithead with the First Fleet. On arrival at Sydney, James Wright was employed as a baker to Governor Phillip, a position he held until 1791 when he was appointed Government Baker at Parramatta. His services in this regard must have been entirely satisfactory for he continued to serve in this capacity for the next 17 years. In addition to his bread-baking activities, James Wright kept a provisions store and also had a small mixed farm with horses, goats and hogs. He grew wheat, barley, fruit and vegetables and employed two men to assist with the work. In February, 1811, James received a spirit licence and was known to have kept an hotel at Parramatta in 1814. In 1820, Governor Macquarie granted Wright 60 acres of land at Duck River on the Parramatta Road. By 1823 he had cleared 15 acres of the grant and had 12 of those under cultivation. He had also erected a substantial dwelling on the property for his wife and family. Following an illness lasting five months, James Wright died on 15th March, 1825, and was buried at St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta.

James Wright married Letitia Holland who had arrived in the colony on the "Mary Ann" in 1791. They had four children, three of whom survived to adulthood. The eldest, George, born in 1794, married Mary Tarlington in 1815 and became a solicitor's clerk at Parramatta. Jane, the elder daughter, born in 1797, married Peter Louis Berni, a surveyor from Sydney, in 1827. Their younger daughter, Shepherdess, born in 1799, married a Parramatta farmer, John Agland, in 1820.

There is irony in the fact that James, who was sent to Australia for robbing an English baronet, was himself the victim of numerous robberies after he had established a comfortable lifestyle for himself in the colony. One of the thefts was surprisingly and unexpectedly solved. James' silver watch was stolen and, although advertised, some seven months later the watch had still not been recovered. One morning a customer went into his shop for a loaf of bread. When he complained of the delay, James asked him what time it was. The man took out his watch to answer the question and James in "perfect astonishment recognised his property". The customer claimed he had purchased the watch, a detail later sorted out by the judiciary. The descendants of James Wright are today found in most parts of Australia and as far afield as England and America. His three Agland grandsons were pioneers of the Orange district and operated a dray service between Parramatta and Orange. It would be true to say that most Aglands living in Australia today can claim descent from James Wright. One of his more notable descendants is John Bromwich, Davis Cup tennis player and winner of numerous tennis titles between 1938 and 1950.

A Philip Geeves Memorial Trust has been established. All donations received will be used to establish a Scholarship to ensure that this great Australian historian's research into our heritage will continue in his name. Contact: G.P.O. Box 1345, Sydney 2001 - Frances Pollen.

ISAAC KNIGHT

by Douglas Oakes

Isaac Knight was born in 1749. He came to Australia with the First Fleet leaving as a Marine Sergeant on the "Alexander" having been attached to Captain Campbell's Company. On the trip out he was demoted to a Corporal for a misdemeanour. In 1789 he searched unsuccessfully for two missing Marines from a shooting party near Rouse Hill. In 1790, Isaac Knight accompanied Captain Tench, Dawes and Morgan with a party on an expedition from Prospect Hill and discovered the Nepean River. For his part Isaac Knight was restored to the rank of Sergeant. In 1791, Sergeant Knight accompanied Captain Tench, Dawes and Morgan with a party on an expedition from Prospect Hill and discovered the Nepean River. For his part Isaac Knight was restored to the rank of Sergeant. In 1791 Sergeant Knight accompanied Captain Tench, Lieutenant Dawes and a Private Marine on a trip to ascertain whether Richmond Hill lay on the Hawkesbury River or the Nepean River. They met a friendly native "Deenora" who accompanied them along the river in his canoe. For his co-operation he gave Deenora a hatchet. The excursion proved that the Nepean and Hawkesbury were one river. Captain Tench gave the name of Knight Hill to one of the highest mountains in the area in appreciation of Sergeant Knight's faithful services.

Isaac Knight married Elizabeth Marks at the turn of the century and they had three boys, Daniel, John and Isaac. By 1806 Isaac Knight had over one hundred acres at Bankstown, with a number of convicts to work the farm. In 1819 he was listed as an Auctioneer and Land Holder at Liverpool. Isaac Knight died 11th April, 1842, in his ninety-third year at Macquarie Groves. Both Isaac Knight and his wife Elizabeth are buried at St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta.

JANE McMANUS

by Gretta Lucas

It is with pleasure that I tell you today about my forebear Jane McManus, and I thank all those concerned with the venture for the opportunity. Jane came to Port Jackson on the "Charlotte", being then Jane Poole. She had been charged at the Somerset Summer Assizes, held at Wells, in August, 1786, with stealing a silver watch and other goods of the value of two pounds fifteen shillings. She was sentenced to be hanged, but was reprieved and so was transported. She went to Norfolk Island in January 1790, travelling on the "Supply", and I suspect that she had her daughter Margaret while on board this ship. James McManus came out as a Marine private in Captain Tench's company. On October 26th, 1791, he sailed to Norfolk Island on the "Atlantic", one of twenty-nine Marine settlers. But James did not last long as a settler and left the island in September 1792 accompanied by Jane and young Margaret. He returned to being a soldier in the N.S.W. Corps. In May 1797 he was granted 65 acres at Mulgrave Place but died within a year and was buried on April 15th 1798. James' history was a sad one; he was unable to cope with the incredible hardships of those early days. It was Jane who was the survivor. She had a daughter Sarah in 1793 but lost her after only a few months, then a son James in 1794, followed by my great, great grandfather John in 1797. In March 1800, after James' death, Jane was granted 160 acres by Gov. Hunter with the special proviso that it was to be held in trust for the children and not to be disposed of without the Governor's consent. This farm was on the Hawkesbury River near Richmond. Probably because of the floods Jane lived in a house on the south side of George

RYLSTONE RAILWAY CENTENARY

Street in Parramatta, from about 1805. In 1820 she gave up this house to the Government after signing an agreement promising her another allotment and house. In 1824 she was still waiting for some action from the government regarding this house and land. Some things never change. On her death in 1826, Jane bequeathed to her "three dear children James, John and Margaret, share and share alike". She also left John "a mare called *Betty*", Margaret "a mare called *Gypsy*" and a filly and foal to her grand-daughter Harriet (Margaret's daughter). Horses in those days were valuable assets. The elder son, James, was married in 1814 just 19 years old, and moved on subsequently to the Bathurst district. John married in 1823 and is listed in the 1828 Census as a wheelwright in the Parramatta district with 50 acres all cleared and cultivated (his share of the original grant) and owning 1 horse (the faithful *Betty*?). He and his family lived and worked all their lives in the Parramatta district, and when John died in 1873 he was still described as a wheelwright. He and his Susanna had ten children, only four of whom survived to middle age. They, and their children are buried here, nearby.

Jane has proved herself a survivor even today. Her tombstone is here to be marked by us. James, on the other hand, was buried in the old cemetery where Sydney Square now stands, so all trace of his burial place is gone.

Today is Mother's Day and I remember and thank this mother Jane McManus who gave my family a good start in this country in spite of appalling difficulties.

LECTURES FOR 1984

June 20

Mr. Mark Carey, teacher of English and History at Mitchell High School, will speak on "**Computers and History**". This should prove an interesting evening to Fellowship members as Mark will be bringing a computer and demonstrating the use of a data based program on First Fleeters.

July 18

Mrs. Thea Rowe: "**More on the Battys**". Much interest was shown after Thea's lecture in 1983, so she has kindly consented to present results of further research.

August 15

A Pot Pourri Evening - three or four members will present a "Mini History" on one of their ancestors.

September 19

Annual General Meeting
- venue to be advised.

October 17

Mrs. Val Ross

a member of the Fellowship and historian, will speak on a subject to be advised at a later date.

November 21

A request has been made by a few members to find a speaker on the **Greycliffe disaster** which occurred in July 1927, off Watson's Bay. A paper will be prepared and read on that subject at this meeting.

Heritage Weekend in Rylstone was the occasion to celebrate the Railway Centenary. The S.R.A. obliged by despatching an XPT, but not the old steam train as desired by the Rylstone Historical Society.

In 1880, after surveys and consultations as to the best route for the branch line from Wallerawang to Mudgee, tenders were called for the construction. The line to Rylstone was opened in June 1884 and the line to Mudgee three months later, at a cost of a little more than one and a quarter million dollars. Both Henry Lawson and his father were employed in the building of Rylstone Railway Station.

The opening of the line in 1884 coincided with the official status of Rylstone, from a village to a town, being gazetted. According to Railway Archives, Rylstone is named after a sleepy little Yorkshire village of that name, in Wharfedale. The explorer and botanist, Allan Cunningham, camped on the banks of the Cudgegong River, not far from where the town is situated. Early grants of land in that area were made by Governor Macquarie, in the early 1820's, to William Cox, on the north side, and to Richard Fitzgerald (the convict who "missed the First Fleet") on the south side of the Cudgegong River. James Bloodworth Jnr. acquired land by 1840.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the Rylstone Railway Centenary Dinner, which attracted 400 guests, many of whom had returned after a long absence to join in the festivities. Among these were a number of descendants of First Fleeters - Anthony Rope and Elizabeth Pulley, James Bloodworth, Sarah Bellamy and James Lee.

The great success of the weekend was due to the efforts of the President, Mr. Bill Staff, and members of the Rylstone Historical Society.

Ula Clarke

"Sea Pie"

Mrs. Kath Greenhalgh of Toowoomba Qld sends this interesting anecdote, which appeared in the Toowoomba Chronicle, in a column called "Town Topics".

Stephen and Bradley Greenhalgh of Vunalama, Acland, are eighth generation white Australians. Their 4 first cousins, the Whitty children of Gooloogong in the Lachlan Valley of N.S.W., are a 9th generation.

Mrs. Greenhalgh tells us that her husband's progenitor, Anthony Rope, celebrated his marriage to Elizabeth Pulley with a "sea pie" made from goat's meat. It was fresh, a change from the dried, tough meat of the time, and the main course in the marriage feast.

But some of the guests talked about it too much, with the result that Anthony Rope and a couple of mates were charged with having stolen and used the meat of the goat which was the property of one Lieut. George Johnston.

They claimed in their defence that the goat had been already dead - slain by "wild animals" - but being still "perfectly sweet" they had used it for the feast. They were acquitted.

Now, the point is that this Lieut. Johnston was the great-great-grandfather of Mrs. Kathleen Greenhalgh (nee Smith). It remains a family joke in the Acland family that young Bradley and Stephen are descendants not only of the owner of that hapless goat, but also of the eaters of it!

A proposed draft for Formation Charter and Guide Lines for the Wagga & District Family History Society, the purpose of which is to research and record genealogical information in the Wagga district. Contact: P.O. Box 307, Wagga N.S.W. 2650.