



Fellowship of First Fleeters Hunter Valley Chapter

"To live on in the hearts and minds of Descendants is never to die."

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At our meetings at this time of year we always remember a special birthday on October 11th – that is of course Arthur Phillip's birthday! President Jane cut the celebration cake which we all enjoyed later on with lunch.

The **Guest Speaker** today was our member, and new Secretary, Kerry Neinert who introduced us to her First Fleet ancestors.

Kerry's First Fleeters were **John Parker** and **Mary Small**. We had been looking forward to hearing all about these two First Fleeters as their descendants form the largest First Fleet family in Australia numbering 25,200.



Kerry is a descendant of John & Mary's 3rd child, then of their 5th child, of their eldest child, of their eldest child and of their eldest child – her official number according to the Henry System of cataloguing is 1395-111. It was also a pleasure to welcome some other descendants of John Parker and Mary Small to our meeting today.

From left: Bill Hepp, Janine Forewood, our members Jenny Cridland and Kerry Neinert, Mervyn & Narelle Walsh & Pamela Lindus.

Mary Small was born in 1758 in Chelsea, Greater London. Not a lot is recorded of her early life but she worked at a Mrs. Hickman's Boarding House in Coptic Street London before working for a time as a Prison Nurse. When she returned to work at Mrs. Hickman's House she was accused of stealing and subsequently sentenced to transportation aboard the *Lady Penryn*. On arriving at Sydney Cove she was working in a hospital tent where she met First Fleeter John Parker.

John Parker was born November 30th, 1861 in Birmingham, Warwickshire. At aged 19 he became a bit maker and then joined the 33rd Company of the Plymouth Division of the Marine Corps at Birmingham on 16 April, 1781. When discharged from the Navy two years later John Small had no income and had little chance of finding employment in overcrowded London.

In 1875, in company with 3 others, John was charged with Highway Robbery and sentenced to transportation for 7 years. He was held in a hulk on the Thames, the Dunkirk Prison Ship, for two years before boarding the *Charlotte* for the long sea voyage to New South Wales.

On arrival in Port Jackson he was employed in the laboratory tent where he met Mary Small. They were married by Reverend Richard Johnson in Port Jackson, under the *great tree* on the 12th October, 1788. John was unfortunately removed from work in the hospital tent when he, and a number of others, were found drunk on hospital wine. Otherwise he was apparently trustworthy and had a gentlemanly manner as he became Captain Phillip's personal servant. The newly married couple lived in a hut at Parramatta before John received his Land Grant at Eastern Farms in 1794. He had 30 acres of land, all cleared, 20 acres of which was cultivated. In 1825 John also received a pension after 17 years as District Constable for Kissing Point.

John & Mary were married for 36 years. They had 7 children. There was a history of multiple births in their family over the generations - apparently 120 sets of twins, one set of quintuplets and one family having 7 children in 13 months!

In 1824 Mary drowned in a well at Ryde, aged 65. John lived a further 25 years until aged 88 and is possibly the longest living male First Fleeter. He is buried at St. Anne's cemetery, Ryde.

This summary of Kerry's presentation, which not only gave us the outline of the history of her First Fleet ancestors but provided us once again with more of the interesting twists and turns in the stories of our First Fleeters!

Outing 12th September 2016

First Fleet House

Our Opal cards got a thorough workout today as we travelled to Sydney by train to Central Station then on to St. James Station before a pleasant walk in the spring sunshine to First fleet House in Cathedral Street, Woolloomooloo.



President Jon Fearon and his wife Karys (Chapter Liaison Officer) warmly welcomed us and I'm sure we all appreciated the delicious morning tea that had been prepared and was waiting for us in the *Sirius Room* (where we were reminded that all **serious** business takes place). John gave us a brief history and a tour of the building which is owned by the Fellowship and stands on a portion of the land once owned by First Fleeter John Palmer, the ancestor of Past President Ian Palmer

Modern technology is gradually being adopted, such as creating family trees for each First Fleeter that is represented by descendants, as well as a total index of all articles in the Founders magazines. There was time after the tour to quickly browse through the Library (*Borrowdale*) before our group went their different ways in the wilds of the big city before returning home.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Happy Birthday to Arthur Phillip for the month of October. Arthur Phillip would have been 278 years old on the 11th October. Also we continue to welcome in the 10th Anniversary Year for the re-formed FFF HVC and celebrate throughout the forthcoming year this milestone!

The start of this year's celebrations fittingly commences with the member's decision that the Chapter's Australia Day celebrations, which have been postponed over the past two years following the difficulty in obtaining suitable outdoor space,, will now take the form of a BBQ to be held at the Adamstown Hall on the 30th January. On this day, we propose theme dress of Australiana choice and the day will include activities of Australiana Trivia, FF related memorabilia displays and shared Aussie Yarns from members' personal archives.

As well a presentation to the library will be made of a compilation of the chapter's 10 years of Newsletters. These have recorded the chapter's activities during this time and have been capably produced since 2008 by Judy Aubin. The Newsletter's production has been professionally augmented by the web records and website of Phil Aubin. Thank you to both Phil and Judy.

Also an Honour Roll naming members and committee positions will be made. Included in this component will be the stories that cover the lives of FF ancestors of most of the chapter's members past and present. We will also acknowledge the several "original" members who still, keep the chapter moving along and the Fellowship of First Fleeters alive in the Hunter.

Another meaningful activity for the 10th Anniversary celebrations being developed by Vice President Barbara Gow is a FFF-HVC For Schools Program". This programme will be made available for and offered to Hunter schools and will supplement, in a lived way, the component of the curriculum which focuses on early modern Australian History and its First Fleeters. This activity is well progressed at this point of time and will put into action the FFF motto "to live on in the hearts and minds of descendants is never to die".

To supplement these activities a future program of Hunter based speakers and outings has also been planned for the next year. Any members, especially those who aren't able to regularly attend meetings but would like to participate but need transport please contact the Secretary Kerry Neinert, or President Jane on 49676332 or any other member of the committee.

A warm welcome and congratulations to all the endorsed committee members for the 2016-17 year and to those endorsed at the October meeting including Publicity - Barbara Turner and General Assistant- Caroline Ruppe.

Finally, for the 2016 year we will gather with good cheer and Fellowship for our Christmas Lunch on Monday, 12th December. The cost is \$36 and the due date for payment has been extended to 30th November. So, for Christmas lunch, bring your clear cellophane wrapped gift for the tombola - the colour theme is red, white and green.

To all members and in Fellowship stay well.

Jane, President 2016-17



October

- 10th Logan Cherry
- 22nd Brittany Pace
- 28th Judith Pepper
- 29th Neil Pacey
- 29th John Green

November

- 2nd Colleen Simpson
- 5th Noelene Snowden
- 8th Athol Searston
- 9th John Brooker
- 10th Bill Gow
- 13th Mary Hurren
- 20th Ruth Adams

December

- 1st Barbara Turner, Helen Pacey and Mary Woodlands
- 2nd Sam Pacey (Jnr member), 3rd Jane Van Woerkom,
- 4th Bettye Searston, 10th Helen Moore, 20th Fay Heading,
- 22nd Cynthia Huggup, 24th John Turner 26th Don Huggup,
- 29th Carolyn Ruppe.

A couple drove down a country road for several miles not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically:

"Relatives of yours?"

"Yep" the wife replied, "In-laws"



Thank you to VP Barbara



*You are cordially invited to our
First Fleet Christmas Party 2016*



WHEN: Monday 12th December 2016

WHERE: Our usual venue, Senior Citizens Hall
Brunker Road, Adamstown

TIME: 10 for 10.3am. Tea & Coffee on arrival.

Cost: \$36 pp – which includes a ticket for the Tombola.

Catered by *Caterforce* with a lovely Christmas menu and a wide variety of dishes.

Payment by 30th November: By cheque to: 27 Jacknorman Street, Waratah West or
Direct Deposit to BSB 650 000 Acc.No. 982985602



There will be a short meeting before lunch.



Please bring along a cellophane wrapped gift for the Tombola

Australia Day Celebration

***** Monday 30th January, 2017 *****

Your Committee invites you, your family and friends to join them for a
Fellowship of First Fleeters Australia Day BBQ.

WHERE: Our usual venue in Brunker Road, Adamstown. We will gather from 10.30am for
Billy Tea/coffee and hardtack biscuits.

This will be followed by Trivia and Memorabilia, yarns and displays.
Please bring along any of your F.F. bits and pieces!

Then a BBQ lunch - All food supplied by the Chapter.

Special Guest: Phil Ashley Brown who will share his experiences in Antarctica.

Dress is an optional **Australiana Theme** - e.g. convict, colonial, bushy, beach, or
summer casual (but not au naturale!)

Looking forward to seeing you there as we remember our heritage
and enjoy each other's company.

No cost to you today!