

# ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC BULLETIN

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**AUGUST 2013**

**537**

## REPORT ON JULY MEETING (10.07.2013)

The Banksia B Room at the Commercial Club was a very comfortable and efficient setting for the July meeting of the Society. The program was varied beginning with the Question of the Month followed by our main speaker Keith Crossley who spoke on the First Fleet, its occupants and their descendents in Australia who keep the memory alive through the Fellowship of First Fleeters. Keith has been a pioneer of the establishment of the Albury-Wodonga District Chapter. Following Keith were two shorter presentations, one by Michael Browne supported by Chris McQuellin with images of the construction of the Robbins and Porter monoplane, and the other by Jan Hunter relating the history of Albury's Book of Remembrance. The book contains about 2000 names of men and women from within a radius of 50 miles of Albury who served in the Great War 1914-1918.

In the Members' 15 minutes, Patricia Strachan drew our attention to Justice John Fletcher Hargrave, the judge who handed down a decision on the disputed Will of Thomas Scott Townsend. (See Bulletin 536 p.5) She pointed out the name should have no 's', by way of introducing the first woman solicitor to practice on the Murray, Jessie Hargrave. She was the daughter of a lawyer who came from Melbourne and set up a practice at Yarrawonga. He is thought to have had a connection to Lawrence Hargrave of aviation fame. Jessie Hargrave was a brilliant student who became a solicitor and joined her father in his Yarrawonga practice which became known as Hargrave & Hargrave. After his untimely death following a run to the top of a

## NEXT MEETING

**WEDNESDAY**

**14 AUGUST 2013**

**7.30pm at Commercial Club Albury**

Speakers: Ross McGarvie, James Fallon High School: "The new junior History syllabus;"

Ray Gear: "Early town planning in Albury;"

Twenty question Quiz  
Members' 15 minutes

**HAVE  
YOU  
BEEN  
TO SEE  
IT?**



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**ALBURY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC**  
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## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Subscriptions are due 31 May. *Bulletins* will not be sent to members who have subs outstanding as at 31 August.

Single: \$25

Family: \$33

Corporate: \$50

**Meetings:** 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm usually at Commercial Club Albury.

Committee meets 3rd Wednesday of the month 5.15pm at Albury LibraryMuseum.

Research undertaken \$25 first hour.

Enquiries in writing with \$25

hill at a public outing, Jessie assumed the responsibility of supporting her mother and two younger brothers. She continued the practice taking in another solicitor. Life as a woman solicitor was not easy. The story is told that in order to get clients for the practice, Jessie would enter the bar of the local hotel and drink with the male patrons. She had a reputation as an excellent solicitor. One district farmer when enlisting in the AIF left the responsibility for his farm in her hands. Upon his return after three years as a POW in Changi, he declared the farm better managed than he could have done himself.

In the matter of the spelling of the name, Joe Wooding will check his source, the *Border Post* of 1868, to see if the error lies there. [Joe has checked his source which does spell the name with an 's' so we can blame a reporter or compositor working at the *BP* 145 years ago.]

Narda Reid asked a question about Albury's 'corner shops'. Is there a list as most have long since closed? Jan Hunter and Helen Livsey answered that many of these small businesses are entered in the Historic Properties Register, a database being developed from the Buildings File which Helen has maintained for some years. Helen said she would be pleased to have additional information about corner shops: when they opened, when they closed and who ran them, to add to the Register.

#### **ANSWER TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH**

*When was the first private telephone connected in Albury and when was the automatic exchange giving us 060 numbers installed?*

In short no definitive answer to the question was forthcoming, however Joe Wooding provided some interesting facts.

The first telephone call from Albury was reported on January 30<sup>th</sup> 1878 when Mr McGauran, manager of the Albury Telegraph Office, called Sydney without success then Melbourne, which was 'satisfactory beyond expectations', Albury to Wodonga was even more clearly heard and a conversation could be held with ease.

May 28<sup>th</sup> 1886 a public meeting to establish a telephone exchange was reported. Mr CL Griffith stated in his own business the advantage of his telephone system was considerable.

In 1898 a telephone exchange was opened in Albury with 17 subscribers. Roxburgh & Aikins, accountants, were allocated number 1 and Fleming Henderson & Stedman, solicitors, number 2.

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> 1930, Mr J Durant of Albury called his sister in Folkstone in England, the first international call from Albury.

The first rural automatic telephone exchange was reported at Uranquinty in February 1935. The date of the automatic exchange in Albury and the introduction of the 060 numbers was harder to establish.

By email Noel Jackling said it was after 1961 and probably 1966/7. He added Tietyens Angel & Jackling had early numbers 14 and 15, although they were allocated to a predecessor to that firm of solicitors, but [Noel] has no idea who that might have been. The firm started with Fowler & Hick in about 1874, which was before telephones. Roma Freeman has a 1971 phonebook which doesn't have 060 numbers. Ron Haberfield's calendar which sparked this question was dated 1963.

#### **FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS**

**By Keith Crossley**

*Keith Crossley was born in Cessnock, Hunter Valley, the son of a coal miner. He completed his schooling at Muswellbrook High School, and then trained at Sydney Teachers' College, later obtaining both Bachelor and Master degrees at University of New England. Keith taught at Walgett, Lismore, Orange, Glen Innes and Albury, retiring in 1997 after 41 years with NSW Dept. of Education. He has a strong interest in family history, having researched all his family lines back to the first arrivals in Australia. In 2006-7 as a personal interest he wrote the booklet "A History of Albury High School". In the past 2 years he has pioneered the establishment of a local Chapter of the Fellowship of First Fleeters.*

#### **FIRST FLEET**

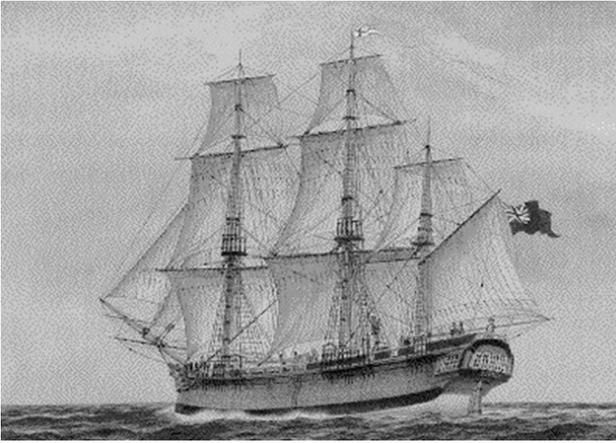
In Australian History, the First Fleet is the name given to the 11 ships which sailed from Portsmouth, England, on 13 May 1787 bound for Botany Bay.

Six of the ships were loaded with male and female convicts, 504 men and 192 women, some with children.

Other personnel included army marines, some with wives and children, sailors and a number of others such as doctors, listed as surgeons in those days, and aides to the officers and doctors. There was one minister of religion and his wife. Free settlers numbered about 384. It is thought that in total 1,373 people arrived at Sydney Cove, but numbers are not certain.

The ships of the fleet were the naval escort: HMS Sirius and HMS Supply; convict transports: Alexander, Charlotte, Friendship, Lady Penrhyn, Prince of Wales, Scarborough, and food and supply transports: Golden Grove, Fishburn and Borowdale.

The fleet was under the supervision of Arthur Phillip, the first Governor of New South Wales.



**HMS Sirius, under Captain John Hunter, was flag ship of the First Fleet . After the establishment of the settlement, Sirius remained as a supply ship, sailing to the Cape of Good Hope in October 1788 to obtain food supplies for the starving colony. Shortly after her return she was wrecked off Norfolk Island on 14 April 1790.**

Image: FFF of Victoria webpage

On arrival, Phillip was not happy with Botany Bay as recommended by Captain James Cook, so he sailed a little further north and entered Sydney Heads. He selected Sydney Cove for the settlement because of the freshwater Tank Stream.

The first members of the Fleet to land at Sydney Cove did so on 26 January 1788, the day we now know as Australia Day. First ashore are thought to have been Lieutenant George Johnson and convict James Ruse. Some suggest Ruse actually carried Johnson ashore??

#### FELLOWSHIP OF FIRST FLEETERS

The Fellowship of First Fleeters was established in 1968 by a group of family history researchers who discovered their First Fleet ancestry. These descendents had a mutual desire to establish a fellowship group.

The motto of the Fellowship of First Fleeters is "*To live on in the hearts and minds of descendents is never to die.*" This motto has been the driving force to keep the memory of the First Fleet alive.

The Fellowship of First Fleeters promotes and encourages:

- Research of Australian family history, whether it leads to the First Fleet or not;
- Excursions and visits to historic sites;
- Members to write about historic events and persons;
- Celebration of special occasions such as Australia Day; and
- The placement of plaques and monuments on First Fleet sacred ground including First Fleet graves.

The Fellowship had very humble beginnings just like many historical societies. The simple and personal beginnings have grown into a sophisti-

cated professional body with a membership of almost 9000, but it is still built on volunteers. First Fleet House at 105 Cathedral Street Woolloomooloo Sydney is the headquarters of the Fellowship. The newsletter *Founders* was first produced 44 years ago.

A tenet of the Fellowship is a scroll listing all who arrived on the First Fleet. In order to establish a First Fleet ancestor one must research the family beginning at the present generation and working back to the first arrivals in Australia. Only then can the scroll be consulted and eligibility for membership established.

Governors of New South Wales have been patrons of the Fellowship since 1968, thus following in the footsteps of the first Governor, Arthur Phillip. Marie Bashir, the current Governor and a history enthusiast, when in Albury for the Lions Garden Party, told local Chapter members of her trip to Scotland and her visit to the grave of another governor, Lachlan Macquarie. She was moved to tears as she remembered the great debt NSW and the nation owes to that man.

Sydney is the parent body of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and Chapters are springing up in regional centres. For "*reasons*" of inter-capital rivalry, Melbourne has a First Fleet Fellowship (note variation of name). Albury-Wodonga District Chapter is a cross border Chapter affiliated with Sydney.

Membership of the Fellowship has 3 categories:

- Full member: proven lineage to a First Fleeter;
- Associate member: related to full member, e.g. wife, husband, partner.
- Friend member: a citizen interested in the goals and values of the Fellowship.

#### ALBURY-WODONGA DISTRICT CHAPTER

I have been a member of the Fellowship since 1983 and, living here in Albury, I envied the Sydney members because of the wonderful activities they seemed to enjoy. To see if there were any other local First Fleet descendents, who were interested in a local Chapter, I put a letter in the *Border Mail* in September 2011.

I was overwhelmed by the response. There were three other locals already members of the Fellowship of First Fleeters and 40 other people contacted me indicating they wished to be part of a local Chapter.

There are strict protocols to follow to establish a Chapter, so I approached Sydney office to start the process. In November 2011, an in-

augural meeting was held under the guidance of Sydney Fellowship directors. The naming of our Chapter was a frustrating experience—Murray, Upper Murray, Murray Crossing, Murray Valley, Riverina, Mountain Rivers, Twin Cities and Crossing Place were suggested. In the end, preferential voting came up with the old favourite: Albury-Wodonga District.

Today we have a membership of 49 with others awaiting approval. Members are from Beechworth, Bright, Corryong, Wagga Wagga, Tumburumba, and Holbrook and of course Albury and Wodonga. We have a newsletter called *Sails to Settlement* and this has added great interest and enjoyment to our Chapter.

Our Chapter meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month in the Library/Museum where members speak about their ancestor, guest speakers present on particular topics and special activities are celebrated e.g. Australia Day, Anzac Day.

Members of our Chapter have some notable ancestors: James Ruse, the first self-sufficient farmer in the colony, and George Johnson, lieutenant of Marines and deposer of Governor Bligh in the Rum Rebellion. Thomas Kinder is the ancestor of WWI Victoria Cross recipient Albert Borella, father of Chapter member Rowan Borella. Edward Miles is the ancestor of famous novelist, Miles Franklin, author of *My Brilliant Career*. Chapter member, Stewart Ross is a descendent of Edward Miles and cousin to Miles Franklin.

#### MY FIRST FLEET ANCESTORS

My first research into family history focussed on paternal lines. Thomas Crossley arrived in 1828 on the Phoenix and is buried in the cemetery of the beautiful little town of Wollombi just outside Cessnock. After tracing all paternal lines on both Mum's and Dad's side of the family, I then traced the maternal line on Dad's side and this gave some Second Fleet ancestors. Last of all I traced the maternal line of Mum's family and there were three First Fleeters.

Although my First Fleet ancestors are not famous, they are representative of the 1788 days. They are Jane Langley, convict, Thomas Chipp, marine, and Henrietta Langley (Shewing) Jane's daughter by seaman, Phillip Shewing.

In 1987, the Jane Langley Association was founded by descendents of the three First Fleeters and, like many other family groups, has compiled a full history of the ancestors and their descendents in a book entitled *A New Beginning*. The book has amazing detail and it is now up to the current families to keep their history up to date.

Jane Langley was tried at the Old Bailey in 1785 for stealing five guineas. She was sentenced

to 7 years transportation beyond the seas. She arrived on the Lady Penrhyn with daughter Henrietta who was born in Cape Town on the voyage out. In 1790, owing to a food shortage in Sydney, Jane was relocated to Norfolk Island. Jane died in Sydney in 1836 aged 70, having spent 48 years in the Colony of New South Wales. She was buried in the Devonshire Cemetery, but in 1908 when the old cemetery was built over by Central Railway Station remains were removed to Rookwood and Waverley Cemeteries. Families were given an opportunity to mark the new resting place, but at that time Jane was not fortunate enough to have interested family so her resting place is now unknown.

Thomas Chipp was a marine who arrived on the Friendship. After his marine service in 1791, Thomas became a farmer with a grant of land on Norfolk Island where he married Jane Langley. Two children were born to the couple on Norfolk Island and a further five after they returned to Sydney where Thomas received a grant of land at Bankstown.

Thomas died in 1842 aged 93 having lived 54 years in the Colony of NSW. He was buried in St John's Parramatta cemetery but unfortunately his grave location is unknown and unmarked.

Henrietta Langley, Jane's daughter by seaman Phillip Shewing was born on voyage at Cape Town on 22 October 1787. The female convicts had been loaded onto the Lady Penrhyn in January, five months before the First Fleet sailed and Henrietta was conceived during that period. She married Edward Fletcher at St Peters Campbelltown and had 6 children.

Henrietta died in 1828, 8 years before her mother. She is buried alongside her husband in St Peters Cemetery Campbelltown and their graves are marked with headstones. Her grave is also marked with a First Fleet plaque.

#### RICHARD JOHNSON

Reverend Richard Johnson, the Church of England clergyman who baptised Henrietta in Cape Town has a story of his own. He arrived on the store ship Golden Grove together with his wife Mary. He was the first minister of religion in the Colony and built St Phillips Sydney, the first church in Australia. He also built the first school. He took his Bible back to England when he returned, but it is now in St Phillips Sydney. It is displayed on special occasions such as Australia Day.

#### CONCLUSION

Early research was costly and frustrating, but today computers at home give access to records and to the work which other researchers have placed on websites. The records of the time of the First Fleet contain an unbelievable amount of de-

tail. Most convicts could neither read nor write so the information was recorded by a scribe. The records are handwritten with quill and ink and are very readable. Aliases and variations of spelling can be a challenge when doing research.

### ALBURY'S BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

By Jan Hunter

When the Albury War Memorial was being built there was a great deal of discussion about whether names would be inscribed on the monument and if so, whose names would be on it. As a result the monument remained pristine. The idea of a Book of Remembrance was mooted quite early and over the years various ideas were put forth. The following newspaper article gives a summary of the situation in 1927.

'...some time ago it was decided to incorporate the list of men who enlisted in the Albury district in a Book of Remembrance.'

The news quickly spread and, as a result, the Mayor announces that a Book of Remembrance has been promised the town and district by Mrs Falkner, 'Tokay,' Bellevue Hill, Sydney, wife of Mr. F.B.S. Falkner, who was Albury's representative in the Federal House of Representatives some years ago. [Member for Hume] The mayor has taken advantage of this most generous offer, and has accepted it on behalf of the citizens. The book is to be a massive volume, approximately 18 inches square, containing 250 leaves. The cover will be of finest Royal blue morocco leather heavily embossed in gold. In the centre of the outside will be placed a gold cross—the symbol of sacrifice, studded with jewels. Each of the 250 leaves will be decorated in blue and gold scroll design work by an artist, and the whole of the names will be suitably spaced and printed by hand. The outer edges will be decorated with a floral design in pure gold. It may confidently be stated that nothing finer of a similar nature has

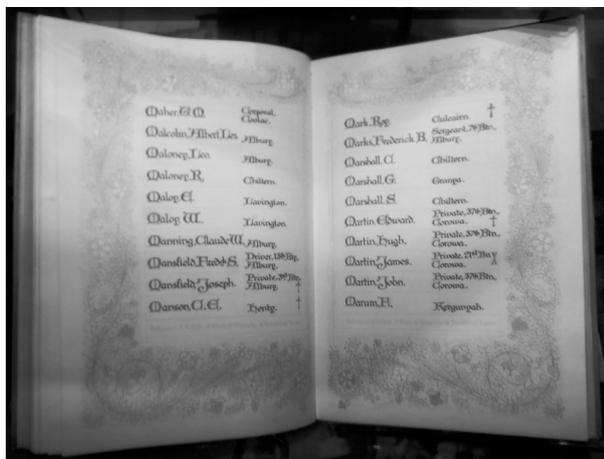


Case made by Stuart Logan to hold the Book of Remembrance. The book has been removed and placed in the LibraryMuseum. The empty case is in an anteroom at the Council Chambers

ever been produced in Australia. The binding of the book will be a distinct feature. Mrs. Falkner is particularly anxious that the production shall be worthy of the great objective for which it is being provided. The compilation of the list of names of those who enlisted, together with their battalion number, rank, military decorations and any other particulars is causing the committee a good deal of anxiety. Those who enlisted at any place within a radius of 50 miles of Albury in New South Wales or Victoria, or their friends or relatives should forward their names and particulars to the Town Clerk of Albury as soon as possible. The book when dedicated and unveiled will be placed possibly in the vestibule of the Albury Town Hall under a plate glass case, resting upon a fine table, made from silky oak wood taken from Albury street trees. It will, therefore, be recognised as one of the outstanding features of interest in the town for all time.' *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* 19 August 1927, p22.

In March of 1931 the book is nearly finished with 2000 names and plans are being made for Mrs Ethelbert Elizabeth (Ethel) Falkner to present it to the Albury Municipal Council. The book has taken two years to put together and 'the lettering and illumination, a very striking example of workmanship have been done by Mr P S Templeton and the binding and decoration by Mr Walter Taylor.' *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* 6 March 1931.

Whose names would go in the book and how those names would be gathered caused a great deal of worry. Deciding on a 50 mile radius for those serving was the simple part. A letter was sent to the Dept of Defence asking for all the names of those in that category brought forth a letter saying words to the effect 'you must be jok-



The Albury Book of Remembrance listing men and women from the district who served in World War One 1914-1919, now on display in the Crossing Place Exhibition at the LibraryMuseum

ing', for it was impossible to gather those details from the millions of records. As far as can be ascertained it was up to the families to send in the names and this explains why the Book of Remembrance is not an accurate document – some names were never sent it and some names came in but only with some service details.

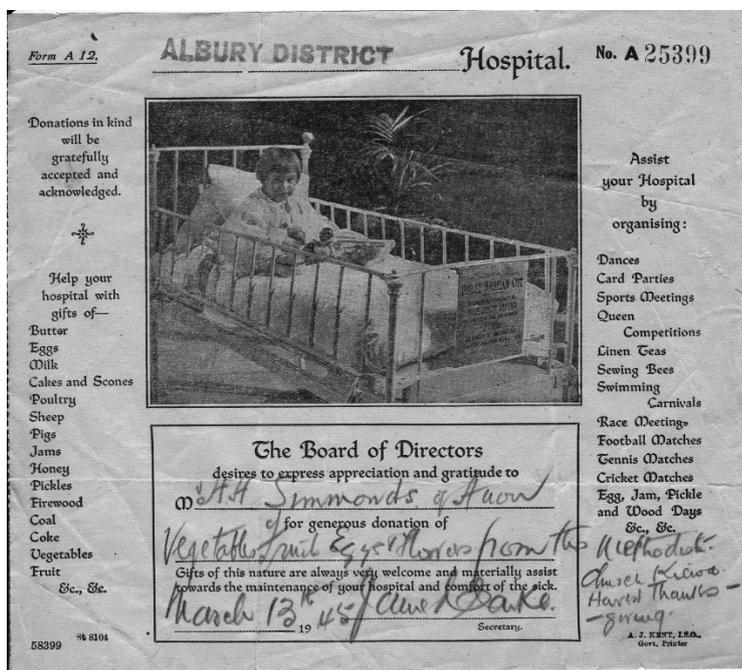
However, the book was duly installed in the Town Hall in a glass case and a page turned every day. This continued for decades until the book became too fragile. It is now in the Library Museum on permanent display.

References: *Albury Banner and Wodonga Express* 27 May 1927; 3 June 1927 Book suggestions; 19 August 1927 Mrs Falkiner donates; 6 March 1931 Book to be presented shortly.

### FOOD FOR THE HOSPITAL

This image of a certificate of gratitude for a donation of vegetables, fruit, eggs and flowers has been forwarded to us by the Wodonga Historical Society. It was amongst a collection of documents from the Kiewa Methodist Church in the 1940s and 50s which WHS has just received.

The certificate features a photograph of a child in the 'Dolly Nepean Cot', but was not taken at Albury District Hospital. The certificate is printed by the Government Printer and intended for general use with individual hospitals adding their own heading stamp.



**The inscription reads:**  
**The Board of Directors desire to express appreciation and gratitude to Mr H H Simmonds of Huon for generous donation of Vegetables, Fruit, Eggs & Flowers from the Methodist Church Kiewa Harvest Thanksgiving. Gifts of this nature are always welcome and materially assist towards the maintenance of your hospital and comfort of the sick.**  
**March 13th 1945. James Clarke Secretary**

**VACANCY/OPPORTUNITY**  
**Opportunity for a technically minded person to be responsible for setting up the laptop computer and data projector at the A&DHS Meetings.**  
**If you can help, please talk to Doug Hunter**

The certificate shows the multitude of ways in which communities were able to support their local institution. It is a far cry from the way in which our hospitals are financed and run today.

James Clarke was Secretary of the Albury District Hospital from 1931 till his death in September 1945.

But that's not all the story. In the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 9 February 1928 is this article:

**GRATITUDE  
 GIFT FOR HOSPITAL.  
 FORMER INMATE REMEMBERS**

Years ago a keen, bright-eyed child was an inmate of one of the children's wards at Sydney Hospital, suffering from serious burns. She was a patient for eight months, and bore her sufferings with great fortitude. She was ever grateful, for the care bestowed upon her, and said that in the years to come she would not spare herself in her efforts to remember Sydney Hospital, and would endow a bed in the children's ward as a token of her appreciation of Sydney Hospital's service to her.

Time dimmed the incident, but it lived vividly in the memory of the patient, who never failed to send a cheerful message and some small gift for the children's ward every Christmas.

Two years ago the secretary of the Sydney Hospital received a letter from London asking for information regarding bed endowment, as the former patient desired, if possible, to make provision in her will for her life's wish to be consummated. Recently the lady herself arrived in Sydney, and the institution that had done so much for her and numberless others was her foremost thought. She called on the secretary, and spent the morning among the children in the ward she knew so well. As the result of her visit she decided to give effect to her desire immediately, and Sydney Hospital received a gift of £1000.

The name of this grateful former patient is Miss Dolly Nepean, and a cot in the children's ward of Sydney Hospital will bear her name in perpetuity. In addition, Miss Nepean has been elected a life governor of the Institution,

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**ROBBINS AND PORTER EXHIBITION**  
**AT THE ALBURY LIBRARYMUSEUM**