

Launch of the OFA Singapore Coffee Table Book



Dear Fellow Old Frees,

We are glad to inform you that we are launching our book “Live Free, In the Spirit of Serving” published to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of our beloved Penang Free School.

Details of the Book Launch are:

Date: Wednesday 21st September 2016

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Copthorne King’s Hotel, Havelock Road (Queen Room, Level 2)

Dinner: Buffet Dinner (mainly Penang food)

Cost for Old Frees and Guests: S\$30.00 per person, inclusive of a complimentary copy of the book (selling at \$20.00 each) “Live Free, In the Spirit of Serving”

This commemorative book is the culmination of three years of work by our editor (Ms Doris Tan Chung Lee) jointly with our Management Committee and Working Committee members. The book features many prominent Old Frees who contributed to Singapore’s development in the past as well as many Old Frees who are still contributing significantly to Singapore’s development.

Come along and join in our beloved School's Bicentennial Celebrations. Hear a few Old Frees speak of their life experiences in Singapore. If you wish to, say a few words when we open the floor to all. Please do not miss this historic event.

OLD FREES' ASSOCIATION
SINGAPORE



FOUNDED 1962

Please register your attendance by email to Gabriel Teh, Hon. Secretary at tehgab@singnet.com.sg or Tel. 9679 2621 followed by mailing your cheque (\$30.00 per person) made payable in favour of “**Old Frees’ Association, Singapore**” to:

Old Frees’ Association, Singapore,
3 Mount Elizabeth #11-07,
Mount Elizabeth Medical Centre
Singapore 228510

We hope to have your support for this event. For catering purposes, please register by 15 September 2016. Thank you.

Fortis Atque Fidelis

Yours sincerely

Alex Ooi

President

Old Frees’ Association, Singapore

Excerpts from the book...

Live Free

IN THE SPIRIT OF SERVING

AUTHOR
Tan Chung Lee

PUBLISHER
The Old Free's Association, Singapore

CHAPTER
1

On the Road to 200 Years

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The year was 1786. Until then, the island of Penang or *Pulo* (later changed to *Pulau Pinang*, a name attributed to its native *areca catechu* palm known as pinang in Malay, was part of the Sultanate of Kedah.

However, faced with the threats of invasion from then Siam and Burma, Sultan Abdullah Mukarram Shah of Kedah ceded the island in July to the British in return for military protection.

Thus on 11 August, Captain Francis Light on behalf of the East India Company raised the Union Jack in Penang to take possession of the island, which he renamed Prince of Wales, after the heir to the British throne.

That date was to mark the pivotal point for Penang and Penang Free School.

ARRIVAL OF HUTCHINGS

The British had long recognised the strategic importance of Penang not just as

an anchorage for their trading ships thanks to its natural harbour but also as a base to counter increasing French influence in Indochina in the north and as a means of checking Dutch expansion in Sumatra in the south.

For the first 19 years, Penang was administered as a "Residency" under the control of the Governor of Bengal.

In 1805, it became an independent Presidency which essentially meant that it was an administrative subdivision in its own right and subject to control from the higher authority of the Governor-General of India. A governor, Philip Dundas, was appointed to head the administration.

In 1813, Penang received a new chaplain of the presidency. He was Reverend Robert Sparke Hutchings, who was previously based in Bengal.

He had been sent to replace Reverend Atwill Lake, who was the first resident chaplain appointed in 1804.

Reverend Hutchings arrived at a time when Penang was enjoying a boom. It was prospering thanks to increasing trade and economic development and there was a spike in population as immigration was encouraged.