



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 48 **November-December** 2022**



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The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 – nla.pic-an 2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

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Minutes Secretary: Lyn Watkins

Next Meeting: **Friday 9th December 2022**
General Meeting: **1pm** followed by afternoon tea at 2pm.
Venue: PFFF Rooms, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

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Factory Friends

Welcome to the spring edition of our Newsletter. Firstly, a huge thank you to all the volunteers for our Annual Riot Day and the City of Parramatta Foundation Day Festival contributions - it was a stellar effort.

The Friends have our fourth book published so you now have a marvellous Christmas present for family and friends. As one of the three editors I can attest to the hard work by Ronda Gaffey in coordinating this book and the great editorial work by Anne Mathews with additional support from Kerima-Gae Topp, John Brock and Judith Dunn. Our Patron Tom Keneally AO made it a special launch.

The Annual Riot Day, *It's a Riot*, was a very well organised event coordinated by Ronda Gaffey and Kevin Dodds. A very busy day was marked by a moving commemoration with a Scottish piper, great tours, a wonderful Parisienne café with delicious treats, stock sales, bric-a-brac, trade tables, research centre activity and *Herstory* displays throughout the rooms. The whole site was abuzz with activation and connection to our wonderful historic Female Factory. Thank you Pauline Garmonsway, Heidi Garmonsway and Eileen Avery for catering, Anne Mathews, Lyn Watkins, Steve Bryant and Ronda Gaffey for tours, Wayne Mathews for the popular Factory Models exhibition, Gary Carter, Kevin Dodds and Steve Bryant for early morning 'set up', Kerima - Gae Topp, Linda Bradley, Kevin Dodds and Pam Mulholland for sales, Frank Williams, Kaye Weaver and Patricia Grove for registration, Jeanette Moles and Janice Ruse Huntington for research centre activities and Lorraine Henshaw, PFFF photographer. Lastly, thank you to Judith Dunn, Greg Dunn and Barry Lance for traffic control duty and keeping all safe.

It's a Riot Day was also marked by the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture with guest speaker Dr. Carol Liston who shared some wonderful new research on convict women.

This was all followed a week later by the Parramatta Foundation Day Festival hosted by the City of Parramatta Council at the Parramatta Female Factory site. The Friends contributed through tours, sales, research room enquiries, the *Herstory* displays and character vignettes in the 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters and Penitentiary.

November was also a time of real progress for World Heritage. The Hon. Minister Tanya Plibersek MP and Dr. Andrew Charlton MP visited the Female Factory and later in the morning, Dr. Andrew Charlton MP hosted a Parramatta Heritage Forum to which the Friends contributed. At the Forum, the Minister announced a \$900,000 contribution to the progression of World Heritage for the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct. Our vision of World Heritage moves one step closer. Although great progress has been made, of course there is more to do with site re-use and interpretation still an open question.

I look forward to seeing you all at our new rooms for our next general meeting on Friday 9 December which is also our Christmas party. Don't forget this meeting is always the second Friday in December. We are aiming for an old-fashioned Christmas. Feel free to bring a plate and definitely bring yourself!!!!

To all, I wish the very best for the festive season and look forward to a new year of great things for our beloved Parramatta Female Factory.

All the best
Gay Hendriksen
President



NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING: Friday 9th December 2022. General Meeting at 1:00pm followed by a Christmas afternoon tea at 2pm. This meeting is the 2nd Friday in December. Please note the earlier start time.**
 - **For 2023 meetings, events and commemorative dates see the PFFF Calendar - page 14.**
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HISTORY CORNER - THE DAWNING OF THE DAY

Ronda Gaffey

Research shows at least 56.3% of convict women were Irish. So many of these women passed through the Female Factory and I thought they deserved something rather special for Riot Day.

Piper Bill Wright, resplendent in his Stewart tartan came armed with such a wide repertoire of tunes. I asked if he knew a particular Irish tune and indeed he did - it is one of the first tunes a piper learns!



An Irish language song (*Fiance Geal an Lae* - literally, 'the bright golden rings')¹ was published in 1847 by Edward Walsh (1805-1850) in *Irish Popular Songs* and later translated as 'The Dawning of the Day'. The lyrics speak of a man meeting a fair maid thus:

One morning early I went out.../ I left the town and wandered on through fields all green and gay/...and who should I meet but a beautiful maid/ At the dawning of the day/ No cap or cloak this maiden wore/ Her neck and feet were bare/ Down to the grass in ringlets fell/ Her glossy golden hair/ A milking pail was in her hand/ She was lovely, young and gay/....On a mossy bank I sat me down/ With the maiden by my side/ With gentle word, I courted her/ And asked her to be my bride/ She turned and said, " Please go away "/ Then went on down the way/ And the morning light was shining bright/ At the dawning of the day.

The melody of the song has endured though the lyrics have been adapted over time.

References:

¹Translation: Na Casaidigh, Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org> accessed 30/10/2022.

HERSTORY - PARRAMATTA & BEYOND

Ronda Gaffey

Herstory - Parramatta & Beyond has been such a commitment. My sincerest thanks to everyone for all your support in realising this project. The team have lived and breathed the project since early 2022 and it has been such an amazing journey with many more incredible narratives uncovered.

A special thank you to the Parramatta Leagues Club Board, for their support of this publication, made possible through a Community Club Grant.

The colour chosen for the cover of the new publication is 'teal green' - a colour symbolic of the expansiveness of sea and sky, something experienced no doubt, with both terror and awe by all those transported 'beyond the seas'!

All PFFF publications are on sale at our Rooms or by mail order - p&p is extra. To place your order - email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com (Write 'Book Order' in the subject line). Check out our sales corner when you next visit our rooms, or check online at: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au and follow the link, 'shop'.



What a fantastic day we had on Friday 28th October! Hundreds of people came to commemorate the women, discover our history and for many, their convict ancestors.

Major drawcards were the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture, the Ceremony at the Commemorative Wall and guided tours which included the 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters and Penitentiary.



The ceremony at the Bicentenary Wall with a Piper from Pipers of Distinction was especially moving and it was wonderful to see so many floral tributes laid in honour of the Factory women.

PFFF were honoured to have the following guests on the day - Dr. Andrew Charlton MP (Federal member for Parramatta), Julia Finn MP (State member for Granville), Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Sameer Pandey, Tom Keneally AO (PFFF Patron) and Judy Keneally (descendant), Cheryl Bates (President, National Trust

Parramatta), Jeff Allen (President, Parramatta & District Historical Society), CEO Chris Dimou and President Greg Monaghan (the Parramatta Leagues Club), Sr. Genevieve Walsh and Sr. Margaret Fitzgerald (the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity).



Lecture Theatre 8 - at capacity for the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture.

Top right: Adjunct Assoc. Professor, Dr. Carol Liston AO.
Lower right: Gay Hendriksen, CEO, Parramatta Leagues Club, Chris Dimou, Tom Keneally AO, PFFF Patron and President, Parramatta Leagues Club, Greg Monaghan.

The PFFF Rooms were full of activity with the PFFF sales and bric a brac tables, trade tables (Parramatta & District Historical Society and Topp Tours), the Hand Weavers' & Spinners' Guild of NSW demonstrating their craft, the *Herstory* displays and the Factory Models exhibition. The Research Room and Babette Smith Library was also kept busy throughout the day with family history enquiries.

The Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture was delivered by Adjunct Associate Professor Dr. Carol Liston AO. This was followed by the launch of the recently published *Herstory - Parramatta & Beyond*, another publication milestone for PFFF.

The Parisienne-style street café and the freshly baked scones were a hit and sold out! The monster raffle was also a great success with prizes generously donated by members - these included a pencil sketch of the Factory, a collection of First Fleet dolls, a donation of vouchers from the Parramatta Leagues Club (our major sponsor) and three annual subscriptions from Jason Reeves (Ancestry.com - a minor sponsor) as well as four novels generously donated by author Sara Powter.

A big thank you goes to all the hardworking volunteers who made the day such a success. A special thanks also goes to St. John's Ambulance team for their attendance.

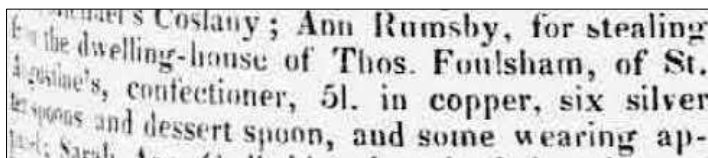
It was a truly memorable day.

Thank you to everyone who pitched in and contributed to yet another remarkably successful day for PFFF on Sunday 13th November - the Parramatta Foundation Day Festival. It was a sterling effort by all.

In sorting through our collection of Colonial Secretary's Papers recently, a letter signed by Dr. Henry Douglass was spotted. One thing led to another and very soon another intriguing story unfolded about a 'Factory' woman.¹

Ann Rumsby aged 19, servant, was tried at Norwich City Quarter Sessions, Norfolk, England on 16 May 1821. She and a companion Charles Edward were convicted of stealing copper coins to the value of five pounds as well as six silver spoons, a dessert spoon and some clothes from a dwelling house. Ann was given a sentence of seven years while Edward was acquitted since it was Ann who was found with the stolen goods on her person, not Edward.²

With 107 other women, Ann embarked the ship *Mary Ann* which left Portsmouth, 27 December 1821. The ship sailed to Van Diemen's Land and then onto Sydney, arriving 20 May 1822. The ship's surgeon, Dr. James Hall wrote:



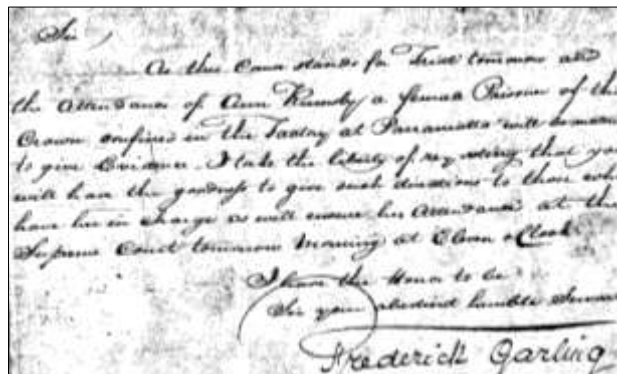
*I feel myself justified in saying that no ship has arrived in a more quiet, decent state, than the "Mary Anne" and very few have or can equal it. We have no complaints against the crew or the women; no intestine broils, all is harmony and decency...*³

Ann was in the Parramatta Female Factory for a short time, then 'placed into Private Service' with Dr. Henry Grattan Douglass.⁴ Soon after her placement, events began to unravel for Ann and Dr. Douglass and Dr. Hall.



Douglass arrived in the Colony with his family in May 1821 and was placed in charge of the Parramatta Hospital, he was also appointed Superintendent of the Female Factory. He was a magistrate in Parramatta until 1825 and Commissioner - Court of Requests; he was involved with the Agricultural Society, the Benevolent Society and Philosophical Society. He became a friend of Governor Brisbane and a foe to Marsden and Hannibal Macarthur with whom he served on the Parramatta bench.

The messy saga began when Dr. Hall visited Ann shortly after her assignment to Dr. Douglass. Ann allegedly said, or Dr. Hall construed, that Douglass had behaved inappropriately towards her. By August 1822, Surgeon Dr. James Hall was bringing an action against Dr. Douglass alleging his misconduct with Ann.⁵

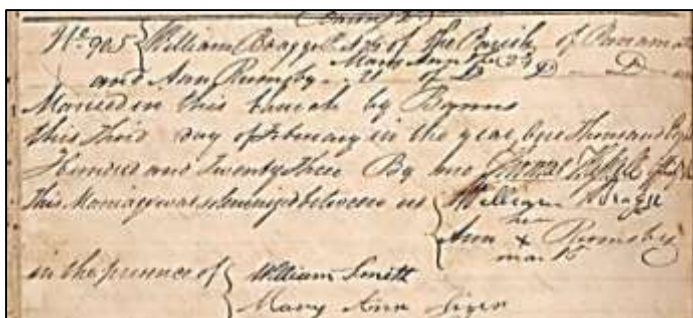


A request was made for Ann to appear in the Supreme Court at eleven o'clock on 30 November in the case of *Douglass v Hall*. Ann was questioned repeatedly but she refused to testify against Douglass, her former master. Subsequently Ann was convicted of perjury and ordered to serve out the remainder of her sentence at Port Macquarie. However Douglass approached Governor Brisbane and Ann was returned to the Factory⁷ with the instruction that she remained there until a suitable assignment could be found for her in some *respectable private purvue*.⁸ Ann chose marriage.

References:

- ¹Mathews Anne, Matthews, Beth, *Our Girls* - unpublished work sourced from original papers, SRNSW
- ²Norfolk Chronicle Saturday 19 May, 1821 p2
- ³Willets, Jenni - Convict Ship Mary Anne, <https://freesettlerorfelon.com> - extract from Medical Journal - Dr. James Hall accessed 2/11/22
- ⁴Colonial Secretary's Papers entry for Ann Rumsby, May, 1821 Colonial Secretary's Index, State Records website - Dr. Henry Grattan Douglass SRNSW
- ⁵Portrait of Henry Douglass - in *Caring for Convicts and the Community - A History of the Parramatta Hospital* pub. Cumberland Area Health Service, 1988
- ⁶Colonial Secretary's Papers - Letter from Frederick Garling to Col. Sec. Goulburn - Douglass vs. Hall, Main series of Letters Received, 1788-1826, SRNSW
- ⁷Colonial Secretary's Letters, 1806 - 1849 SRNSW
- ⁸New South Wales and Tasmania, Australian Convict Musters - 1822 entry for Ann Rumsby, SRNSW.

Ann Rumsby, aged 21 married William Bragge aged 26 (per *Baring* 1819 - 14 years) at St. John's Parramatta, 3rd February 1823. William's signature appears in the register and Ann signed with her mark.⁹ Ann and William had eight children - two daughters and six sons.¹⁰



Sadly, Ann had suffered from heart disease for a number of years and died at 48 years of age. At the Inquest, the the circumstances of her death are described in detail with evidence from William, her husband of 27 years. It is a moving account and reveals William's care for Ann:



...Dr Douglass has lately seen her; deceased was in Sydney last week and came home Saturday night, and was not worse than usual...On Monday night...she retired to read at 9 o'clock; I went to bed at ten o'clock; we conversed about family matters and upon the holy scriptures till two o'clock, I awoke at six o'clock, and saw her out of bed with our grandchild in her arms; she came into bed again; I said, "it rains;" she replied, "yes, it has thundered and lightened very much," I said, "I will set the tubs to catch the water," she replied, "yes;" I was in the act of putting on my socks when I heard her make a noise of hoarseness in the throat; I said, "What is the matter?" She did not answer; I put my hand on her foot, but she did not move it;...I lit a candle and saw that she was dead; I was formerly employed as Dispenser in the Parramatta Hospital, and have seen many sudden deaths from similar causes; ...I was of opinion that she would die suddenly; and have therefore put written directions in my children's pockets when they have gone to Sydney with her, lest she should die and not be known...¹¹

Ann died at home on 18 March, 1850. At the time of her death, William was a district constable of Kissing Point; their oldest child was 27 and their three youngest sons were ten, nine and eight. Ann is buried at St. Anne's Churchyard, Ryde. William died in 1861 and is buried beside her. The two headstones stand as a testament to their lives and are in such good condition 170 years on.¹²

The Inquest mentions a consultation with Dr. Douglass in Sydney. It would seem that Ann's relationship with him continued over the years - it was 28 years since Ann had been first assigned to him and they still had contact up until her death.



References:

⁹St. John's Church Parramatta, Parish Register - entry for Marriage, Ann Rumsby and William Bragge, accessed 2/11/22

¹⁰*Hands, Phil*, Community Contributions, Convict Records: <https://convictrecords.com.au> accessed 2/11/22

¹¹Inquest, death of Ann Bragg: Village of Ryde, Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 -1954), Friday 22 March, 1850, page 2, accessed 12/11/22

¹²*Shaw, Kevin, Eastment, Janice*, The Churchyard on the Hill: St. Anne's at Ryde, NSW, pub. Ryde Historical Society Inc., 2020.

Photographs: Ann Bragg(e), William Bragge; graves at St. Anne's Churchyard, Ryde, NSW - <https://billiongraves.com>>grave accessed 25/10/22

It is intriguing that Ann and the Doctor had such a long acquaintance. What was it about Ann - was she from 'polite' society and therefore treated differently? Why was she recommended specifically for a 'respectable' placement? Did they both perceive her health problems at an early stage and her vulnerability? Was there something attractive about her or her personality which drew the two Doctors to her as 'protectors', therefore becoming jealous rivals?

Postscript: Dr. Henry Grattan Douglass became an eminent citizen in the colony and passed away in Sydney, 1 December 1865. Dr. James Hall R.N. made several journeys to NSW - he died on 30 March, 1869, in Southsea, England.

Suggested further reading: King Hall Connections -2000 - J - Convict Ships. The Case of Ann Rumsby 1821-1822 The Accusations sites.google.com
Henry G. Douglass - Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 1, 1966, adb.anu.edu.au.

RESEARCH MUSTER

Gay Hendriksen, Research Centre Coordinator

It has been an extremely busy time for the Research Centre Team.

The forty boxes of books from Babette Smith's bequest have now been shelved along with all the previous donations. New shelves were also bought to ensure we can have all the books in shelves. The Research Centre is taking shape well. Kevin installed the 'Library Thing' and the team got straight into registering our collection.

We have added to the PFFF room displays with the addition of the newly donated cabinet and Frank Williams has organised stands for the costumes donated by City of Parramatta Council.

The team was very busy during Riot Day and Foundation Day. A special thank you to Janice Ruse Huntington, Lorraine Henshaw and Kevin Dodds for fielding the research inquiries at these events. Also a special thank you to Jeanette Moles who was essential for keeping the Babette Smith collection secure and doing convict women lookups and being a friendly research room host for both events.

We still respond to research inquiries but this has slowed down while we sort through what promises to be a great resource.

UNUSUAL OFFENCES IN THE FACTORY

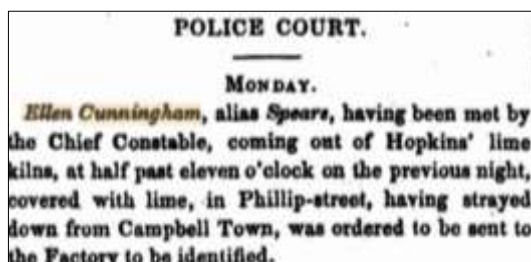
Kevin Dodds, Research Muster Researcher

When you look at the typical crimes of *Stealing, Receiving, Assault and Escaping*, it makes some of the administrative offences stand out. Female convicts were punished for some of the most unusual offences inside the Parramatta Female Factory. Here are some examples:

WRONG PLACE, WRONG TIME (Loitering)

Ellen Cunningham alias Spears was sent to the Factory for being in the wrong place at the wrong time. There are very few details on Ellen, but other news articles link her to a gang who committed minor or petty crimes and who were well known to the Constabulary.

Imagine being caught coming out of a lime kiln at 11.30pm covered in lime. For being in the wrong place at the wrong time, Ellen spent some time in 3rd Class at the Factory and that is her only entry.



POLICE COURT.
MONDAY.
Ellen Cunningham, alias Spears, having been met by the Chief Constable, coming out of Hopkins' lime kilns, at half past eleven o'clock on the previous night, covered with lime, in Phillip-street, having strayed down from Campbell Town, was ordered to be sent to the Factory to be identified.

Parramatta Chronicle and
Cumberland General Advertiser,
Saturday 13 Jan, 1844 page 2.

The 10th Commandment and Charlotte Purdon

You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.

Charlotte Purdon, a bonnet maker by occupation, was 20 years of age when convicted in Westmeath, Ireland on 4 Jan 1837 for stealing hay. She was sentenced to seven years transportation, arriving in NSW on the *Sir Charles Forbes* on 23 December 1837. Charlotte's father and uncle were convicts in the colony having arrived nine years earlier.

Charlotte remained in the Parramatta Female Factory and was given a Ticket of Leave on 27 January 1843 to remain in the Windsor district, however, it wasn't long before she was convicted of *Disorderly Conduct* at Windsor in June 1843 and sent to the Parramatta Female Factory and her TOL cancelled.

Charlotte, who could read and write, wrote to the Governor for an assignment and was assigned to a Mr. W. Spence. It was during her assignment to Spence that she was charged with *violating the 10th commandment* on 22 March 1845.

Apparently Charlotte disapproved of her master and his rank in society and felt she should be placed with a more respectable person. She did not take to the meagre meals which were 'not to her palate' - she had requested chicken be included in her diet. The Parramatta bench obviously took a dim view of her protestations and she was returned to the Parramatta Female Factory, receiving two months in 3rd Class.

Parramatta Chronicle and Cumberland General Advertiser, Saturday 22 Mar 1845 page 2.

Charlotte received her Certificate of Freedom on 5 Sep 1845.

Well, the story has another strange twist - upon being released from the Parramatta Female Factory on 5 September 1845, Charlotte immediately went to the local hotel (probably the closest one) and drank until she appeared drunk, in celebration of her release and having received her Certificate of Freedom. It was something to celebrate, however this time the Parramatta Bench took a more sober view of the matter and discharged her without a conviction as the cause for celebration was now over and Charlotte could enjoy her newfound freedom.

A month later, Charlotte is still celebrating her freedom. On Saturday 10 October 1845, Charlotte had been drinking out at Windsor with Mary Jackson and must have been in a state as they were not sober enough to appear at the Windsor Police Court on Tuesday 13 October. They were lucky enough to be discharged.

Charlotte Purdon was charged with being outrageously drunk on the previous day. *Charlotte* pleaded that the event arose from her release from the Factory to a state of freedom, and on a promise that the Jubilee should not be prolonged, was discharged.

Parramatta Chronicle and Cumberland General Advertiser, Saturday 6 Sep 1845 page 2.

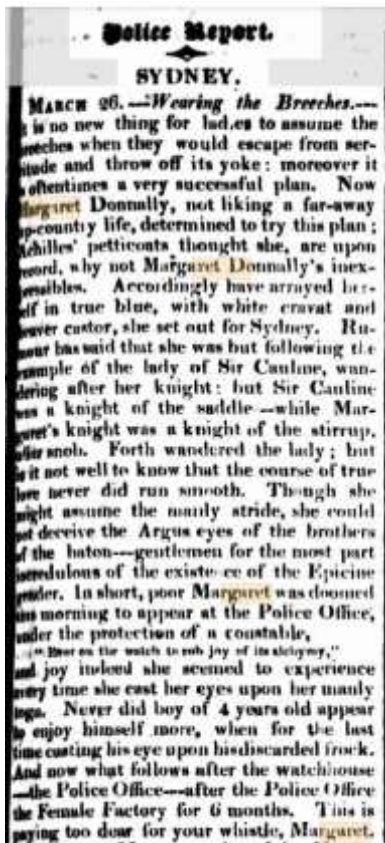
Charlotte, now somewhat sober, turns to romance and marries Edward Gregor out at Montefiores (just north of Wellington in the central west of New South Wales).

This is where Charlotte and Edward seem to leave no trace. Did they have children? Did they move? Did they work and die on a farm?

TUESDAY, OCT. 13.
Before Dr. Whitaker, J. P., and Captain Scarvell, J. P.
Mary Jackson and *Charlotte Purdon* respectively pleaded guilty to having been drunk, but having been in confinement for three days, were discharged.

The Cumberland Times and Western Advertiser, Saturday 18 October, 1845

Wearing Breeches – Or the Luck of the Irish



POLICE REPORT

SYDNEY

MARCH 26 (1827) - **Wearing the Breeches.** It is no new thing for ladies to assume the breeches when they would escape from servitude and throw off its yoke: moreover it is oftentimes, a very successful plan. Now Margaret Donnally, not liking a far-away up-country life, determined to try this plan; Achilles' petticoats thought she, are upon record, why not Margaret Donnally's inexpressibles. Accordingly have arrayed herself in true blue, with white cravat and beaver castor, she set out for Sydney. Rumour has said that she was but following the example of the lady of Sir Cauline, wandering after her knight: but Sir Cauline was a knight of the saddle -- while Margaret's knight was a knight of the stirrup, alias snob. Forth wandered the lady; but it is not well to know that the course of true love never did run smooth. Though she might assume the manly stride, she could not deceive the Argus eyes of the brothers of the baton---gentlemen for the most part incredulous of the existence of the Epicine gender. In short, poor Margaret was doomed this morning to appear at the Police Office, under the protection of a constable,

"Ever on the watch to rob joy of its alchemy,"

and joy indeed she seemed to experience every time she cast her eyes upon her manly toga. Never did boy of 4 years old appear to enjoy himself more, when for the last time casting his eye upon his discarded frock. And now what follows after the watchhouse --the Police Office---after the Police Office the Female Factory for 6 months. This is paying too dear for your whistle, Margaret.

Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803 - 1842), Thursday 29 March 1827, page 3.

Margaret Donnally* is suspected to have disguised herself as a man to evade police detection after escaping from the Parramatta Female Factory. She had escaped the Factory and was on the run, having already served time in Port Macquarie. Margaret was a known repeat offender and records indicate that once she received her Certificate of Freedom, she never re-offended.

Lazy – Five Women Accused of Being Lazy, end up in Solitary Confinement.

Ellen Savage, per *Almorah III*, 1824, was in the Parramatta Female Factory on 31 March 1829 when charged by the Matron for being *lazy*. Her punishment was demotion from 1st Class to 3rd Class and 24 hours in a solitary cell on bread and water. Ellen was then allowed to return to 2nd Class.

Eleanor Payne, per *Lady Rowena* 1798 ended up back in the Parramatta Female Factory and was charged with being *lazy* on 17 May 1826 whilst awaiting her trial which did not occur till 7 March 1829. Her punishment was a 3rd Class solitary cell for seven days on bread and water.

Sarah Piper, per *Princess Royal* (2) 1829 was in the Parramatta Female Factory and was charged with being *lazy* on 5 September 1829 and her punishment was time in a 3rd Class solitary cell on bread and water (until she was reprieved).

Margaret Collins, per *Grenada* (4) 1827 was in the Parramatta Female Factory and was charged with being *lazy* on 7 August 1829. Like Sarah, she was punished by being sent to a 3rd Class solitary cell on bread and water (until she was reprieved).

*Donnally is a misspelling of Donnelly and although there were many Margaret Donnellys who went through the Parramatta Female Factory, this has to be Margaret Donnelly per *John Bull* (2) 1821.

Mary Browne was in the Parramatta Female Factory and charged with being *lazy* on 26 December 1826 and was sent to a 3rd Class solitary cell on bread and water (until she was reprieved).

The three women above, Sarah, Margaret and Mary were given indefinite sentences; it was up to the matron as to how long they spent in a solitary cell, based on reports from the monitress. The longest sentence on bread and water in a solitary cell was specifically 56 days (from the current PFFF database), however most sentences in solitary cells on bread and water were less than a week, and some were as short as seven hours.

The offences mentioned are all considered administrative offences. In colonial days it was up to the head of a gaol or institution to keep good order and to ensure the convicts responded to all given tasks. So to that effect, they could virtually punish someone for any minor indiscretion. There have even been punishments for falling asleep at church or reading a newspaper.

The monitress or constable would parade the female convict before the matron and she would determine if the action warranted punishment. Invariably most actions were punished. Then the matron would need to determine the punishment - that was sometimes written down but a lot of offences were not. The instances of going to 3rd Class would be recorded so that the matron could justify to the Board of Management of the Parramatta Female Factory as to the population of 3rd Class and how many were admitted during the week/month and how many were released to 2nd Class or assignment etc.

It must have had a deleterious effect on the female convicts. A quote by Professor Hamish Maxwell-Stewart based on his research in Tasmanian convicts is, that for each day spent in a solitary cell, it is known that it could take a week off your life expectancy, for example, seven days would be seven weeks off your life.

References:

Trove
Parramatta Female Factory – Female Convict Database
Ancestry.com (accessing the Convict portal for all records of NSW and VDL convicts)
Biographical Database of Australia
NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages
State Archives NSW
With reference to Sir Cauline (page 10) see: Sir Cauline by Anonymous British - Famous poems, famous poets - All Poetry.

Speakers' Reports

Janice Ruse Huntington and Lyn Watkins

Kevin Dodds - Convicts and the Law - 21st October 2022

Kevin, PFFF General Secretary, stepped in to deliver our bi-monthly talk on *Convicts and the Law* which was well attended.



The presentation closely followed the passage of law from the Magna Carta to the massive changes in law during the Victorian era when there were 1,300 new acts of Parliament in one year.

Kevin explained the intricacies of the law and how it was dispensed by the courts and then looked at the types of crimes and how convicts were punished. It was interesting to learn that in the Parramatta Female Factory, there were 950 different types of administrative punishments which included everything from reading a newspaper to attempted murder.

Of interest was the development of the courts and how Australia was still linked to England until 1983.

Another thing learned from Kevin's Talk: The Old Bailey, the Central Criminal Court in London, was so named because it was in Bailey Street and the cockney or slang term was *I am going down to the Old Bailey*.

Dr. Carol Liston - A Study of Female Convicts -
The Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture - Riot Day 28 October 2022

We were so pleased on Riot Day to have pre-eminent expert on convict history, Adjunct Associate Professor Dr. Carol Liston AO as our guest speaker. The room was packed with all listening intently to such an amazing presentation on her latest work - a detailed study of 5,000 female convicts from England, Scotland and Wales.

What followed was an approach to research and disclosing individual cases which teased out a fascinating analysis of the society and culture of England during the late 18th Century and early 19th Century.

In her presentation, Carol had photographs of the actual records and showed what can be missed in the official records when the many hand written notes are not included in various databases. It was like finding hidden treasures - the research that is being undertaken is so detailed and methodical.

The presentation was extremely well received; it was intriguing and thought-provoking with many questions being asked. It is always a pleasure to listen to any of Carol's presentations as they are always very professional and delivered in a manner which engages the audience. Carol held the audience with facts and theories, which made you want to buy the book or read the peer reviewed article before Carol has had the time to write it.

OUT & ABOUT - Linnwood House Open Day

Ronda Gaffey

Linnwood House is always a delightful venue for PFFF. On Sunday 11 September, Anne Mathews and I had a stall with the usual PFFF merchandise and promotion material, including Riot Day flyers.

We were in a front room - dubbed 'the Parramatta Room' on the day, since we were sharing the space with Brislington House Museum and the Friends of Old Government House and Experiment Farm Cottage!



OUT & ABOUT - Riding the Waves of History - 37th Annual Conference of NSW & Act
Assoc. of Family History Societies

Lyn Watkins

Kevin Dodds and I attended the Trade Fair held at the Maitland & Beyond Family History's home at the Barracks, 17 Lindesay Street, East Maitland on Sunday, 18 September 2022.

We had a wonderful time even though the weather was very windy - we had to remove the roof of our gazebo before it was damaged.

There was a display of bonnets, beautifully embroidered by Vicki Osborn and helpers, with names, ships and dates, representing most of the female convicts who came through the area.

There were many small historical societies involved in the day which made it very interesting and everyone attending agreed to keep in touch during the year. We are looking forward to next year's event to be held in Maitland Gaol.



Our wind-blown stall.

As many of our Parramatta convicts were sent to Maitland, including my three female convict forbears, I found it very interesting.



Lyn Watkins & Vicki Osborn & bonnets.



More beautifully embroidered bonnets. Photographs - courtesy Vicki Osborn.

SERENDIPITY

concept by Janice Ruse Huntington

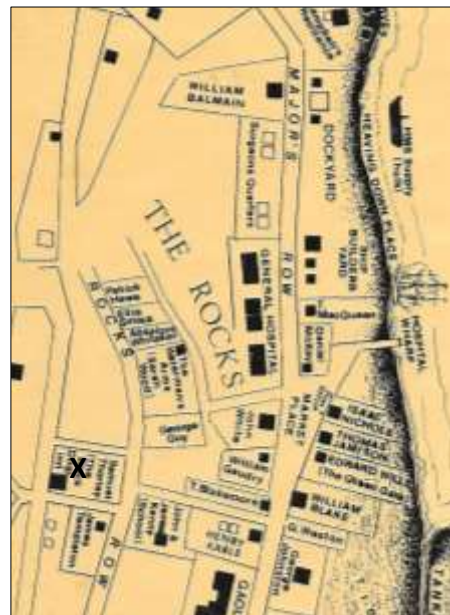
And there are more intriguing serendipities this month!

John Gaffey writes: While doing some family history research for a resident here in the Village, I found that 'our' James Templeton* ('husband' of Sarah Scott, a Factory woman c1828) was one of his forbear's neighbours in 1811.

James Templeton was living in *Rocks Row* (later Cumberland Street). His property overlooked the *Black Dog Inn* which was occupied by Samuel Thorley who had arrived in the Colony in 1791.

It is always fascinating to come across these connections....I wonder if Sarah ever frequented *the Black Dog Inn* or if an inn was still there when she left the Factory in March 1830 to live with James.

I am rather tickled that my neighbour is descended from Samuel Thorley who was a neighbour of my great x2 grandfather - and here we are neighbours in Castle Hill, 200+ years on.



Extract from Map - Early Sydney showing the Principal Residents - 1803-1810 by James Meehan.

*James Templeton is my and my sister Ronda's great, great grandfather - Sarah Scott is our great, great grandmother.

Ronda Gaffey writes: Recently I attended a local historical society meeting and was asked to look after a new member. One thing led to another and after mentioning my association with the Parramatta Female Factory Friends: *You must know Constance. I do indeed know Constance!* The new member's husband and two daughters are direct descendants of *Constance de la Sablonniere*, one of the youngest women to be in the Parramatta Female Factory. I was chuffed - another serendipity and another 'Factory' connection made!



2023	PFFF MEETINGS - DATES &	EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY
January	Newsletter 20 th Committee Meeting	PFFF Bi-monthly Workshops TBC
February	<p>Committee Meeting</p> <p>Friday 17th Guest Speaker</p> <p>General Meeting</p>	<p>1st Feb. 202nd Anniversary - occupation of the <i>new</i> factory 1821</p> <p>Riots: 3.2.1831; 24.2.1843</p>
March	<p>Newsletter 17th Committee Meeting</p> <p>PFFF International Women's Day event - Friday 10 March</p>	<p>March: Linnwood House Open Day</p> <p>Riot: 7.3.1833</p> <p>8th March - International Women's Day</p>
April	<p>Committee Meeting</p> <p>Friday 21st Guest Speaker (ANTHFEVENT)</p> <p>General Meeting</p>	<p>Australian (NT) Heritage Festival TBC</p> <p>50th edition - PFFF Newsletter</p>
May	Newsletter 19 th Committee Meeting	DPIE Open Day TBC
June	<p>Friday 16th Committee Meeting</p> <p>Guest Speaker</p> <p>General Meeting</p>	AGM PREPARATION
July	Newsletter 21 st Committee Meeting	<p>July 9th 205th Anniversary - Gov. Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the <i>new</i> Factory.</p>
August	<p>Friday 18th Committee Meeting</p> <p>AGM</p>	History Week TBC
September	Newsletter 15 th Committee Meeting	<p>Linnwood Open Day TBC</p> <p>NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Soc. Annual Conference - 18 September</p>
October	<p>Friday 20th Committee Meeting</p> <p>Guest Speaker</p> <p>General Meeting</p> <p>27th RIOT DAY - 196th Anniversary/ the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture</p>	<p>Riots: 27.10.1827; 11.10.36</p>
November	Newsletter 17 th Committee Meeting	<p>Riot: 29.11.1831</p> <p>Parramatta Foundation Day Festival TBC</p>
December	<p>Friday 8th *(2nd Friday)</p> <p>Committee Meeting</p> <p>General Meeting</p>	<p>Christmas afternoon tea</p>



*Note: The last meeting of the year will be held on the **2nd Friday in December**.

REGULAR SITE TOURS - BY APPOINTMENT. CONTACT: TOUR COORDINATOR parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 11AM. BI-MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKER 1:00PM. FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA. GENERAL MEETINGS 2:15PM.

PFFF RESEARCH CENTRE OPEN 9am. 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.