



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER - ISSUE NO: 50th EDITION MARCH - APRIL 2023**



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

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Next Meeting: **Friday 21st April 2023.** Guest Speaker: Alasdair McGregor
Topic: *A Forger's Progress: The Life of Francis Greenway* at 1pm
 followed by afternoon tea at 2pm. **General Meeting:** 2.15pm
Venue: PFFF Rooms, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

Content

President's Message.....
 Noticeboard.....
 History Corner.....
 'Our Girls' - Isabella Anderson.....
 Research Centre Muster.....
 Report: Maitland Seminar.....
 Muster Profile: Ann Cale.....
 Guest Speaker Report.....
 Out & About.....
 Serendipity.....
 2023 Calendar.....

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Factory Friends,

Welcome to the 50th edition of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Newsletter. I would like to make a special acknowledgement of all the hard work by our content editor Ronda Gaffey. The newsletter was her brainchild and the worth of it is proved every edition. Thank you also to the copy editors and all the contributors without whom we would not have such a great representation of the Factory Friends and the history of the Parramatta Female Factory. It is a huge commitment to contact the contributors, organise articles, ensure diversity and consistency of design and subject matter, maintain a flow, provide information to a range of audiences as well as invigorate with special interests. Well done Ronda!



The Friends have had a busy time already even though it is early in the year. We have had great talks, continuing tours, researching, event participation and sorting through what we have, along with associated clean-up. We have also continued to receive furniture and equipment donations and have acquired more items that help us function better. None of this would have been possible without the hard work of the Committee and members volunteering. Thank you everyone.

World Heritage work moves steadily on and advocacy both with government and strategic relationships. You will have received a model letter in your email to encourage your local members to support what we are doing.

Don't forget if you would like to be more involved please consider volunteering at one of our events - the next one is the National Trust Heritage Festival on Saturday 13 May. Member involvement at these events always makes a difference.

See you at the Female Factory.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen

President

NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING: Friday 21st April 2023. Guest Speaker is author Alasdair McGregor**
Topic: A Forger's Progress: The Life of Francis Greenway - at 1pm followed by afternoon tea. **General Meeting at 2.15pm.**
- **The Australian National Trust Heritage Festival is on from 10th April - 14th May 2023.**
Look out for an exciting program of talks and tours being offered at other sites across NSW- see the National Trust website for information. The Parramatta Female Factory & Institutions Precinct will be activated as part of this Festival on Saturday 13th May 2023 - more details soon.
- **For all 2023** meetings, events and commemorative dates see the PFFF Calendar, page 13. PLEASE NOTE the workshop which was scheduled for Saturday 18th March, has been postponed.
- **A warm welcome to new members: Marcia Bartley, Dianne Castle, Sharon Greene, Joanne McGrath and Bernadette Mitchell.**





In January 2015, the inaugural PFFF Newsletter was published. It was to be a means of communication, given general meetings were bi-monthly and our membership was located Australia-wide. It was a way of keeping members informed about PFFF matters through the regular President's Message and also provide a platform for sharing research on Factory women and heritage news generally.



The cover design simply fell into place with the use of a banner and the distinctive PFFF logo, designed by Amiel Dizon. Integral to the cover design was the iconic watercolour by Augustus Earle (c1826) held at the National Library, Canberra - permission was sought, subsequently given and we were well away!

Since 2015 basic formatting and content has remained mostly unchanged with an occasional inclusion such as *Advocacy Corner*. We have also added a *Descendant's Corner* from time to time as members have shared their family research.

One 'column' which gives a lot of pleasure is *Serendipity* - Janice Ruse Huntington and I were chatting about how 'things' just turn up in our research and the surprising connections we come across and, there have been some fascinating and unexpected 'finds' to share.

For the women's profiles, initially I approached committee members Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews who were working on a database of the Parramatta Factories convict women and so began a successful collaboration. A special thanks to Anne and Beth for their continuing contributions and support.

The treasure trove of members' research has been extended in the last two years following the formation of the Research 'Muster' team and opening of the PFFF Research Centre. Since November/December 2020, the newsletter has included numerous articles. Thank you to Gay Hendriksen and the 'muster' researchers for the regular updates and to Kevin Dodds for his regular 'woman's profile' contributions.

As editor, I am really proud of the PFFF Newsletter and the body of work represented. There have been over 60 individual women's profiles in the newsletters so far and there are many more to come. It is also satisfying that the PFFF Newsletter distribution has grown and includes like organisations, key supporters of the Friends and other agencies. Furthermore, in February this year, PFFF lodged past editions (digitally) with the National Library of Australia which is required under the Copyright Act 1968 (amended 2016). Thank you to Kevin for undertaking this task.

Thank you everyone for your feedback and for your support. Thanks to Gay for all her support with this initiative and for those all important 'President' updates. Thanks also to my brother John Gaffey who often assists me with additional research. A huge thank you to the editorial team of Kerima-Gae Topp and John Brock whose beady eyes do not miss much in the editing process. Thanks also to the PFFF Committee. Ronda Gaffey

PUBLICATIONS CORNER -

All four PFFF publications are on sale at our Rooms, at events 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'. Our latest publication in the *Herstory* series is *Herstory Parramatta & Beyond* - another 'must' for your library!



Isabella Anderson was born about 1786. At aged 26 she was tried for larceny at the Lancaster Quarter Sessions and sentenced to seven years transportation.¹ It was her second larceny offence.

When Isabella and the 48 other convict women embarked the ship *Emu* at the London Docks, they would have had no inkling of what was to come. The ship departed on 12 November 1812.

At the time, the threat to ships from the French and the Americans was very real. The Napoleonic War was ongoing and Britain had imposed a trade blockade on the Americans.

The *Emu* was making her way past the Bay of Biscay when a 'privateer' ship, the *Holkar* approached. The *Emu* captain, despite having 10 guns on board, capitulated. The ship was seized as a prize for the Americans and the 22 crew and 49 convict women were put ashore seven weeks after their capture. On 17 January 1813, they were landed on St. Vincent, a Cape Verde Island and given provisions for four months.²

The crew and the women waited another 12 months for their rescue. They were returned to England in October 1813, however the women were not re-landed in Britain. They were held offshore in hulks until their re-transportation.

On 22 February 1814, 120 convict women, including most from the *Emu*, embarked the ship *Broxbornebury* and arrived in Port Jackson 28 July 1814. Isabella was accompanied by her infant daughter Jane who had been born on the voyage. Her father is unknown but most likely he was a sailor from the *Emu*.



An entry in the journal of passenger Jeffrey H. Bent* notes a birth on 14 June 1814 - the child is assumed to be Jane:

...this morning at 2 O'clock a little stranger made its entrance into this troublesome world. A fine little girl.³

When landed, Isabella and Jane (now six weeks old), were sent to the Female Factory - 'the room above the gaol'. In the 1814 Muster, Isabella and Jane are noted as *on stores* at the Factory. They were in the Factory for the next few years.

In the 1822 Muster, Isabella is listed as living with Thomas Riley in Sydney and noted as *wife* and free by servitude. Jane is listed separately as *CF* (came free) per *Broxbornebury*, *daughter of J Anderson*. It is possible that Isabella and Thomas were living in a defacto relationship since no record of their marriage has been found. It appears that the relationship was short-lived for in the 1823-4-5 Muster, Isabella Anderson (per *Broxbornebury*) is listed as *housekeeper* and living at Parramatta. Jane Anderson (per *Broxbornebury*) is listed as daughter of *Mrs Anderson*. In subsequent records, including her death record, Isabella appears as *Isabella Anderson*, not Riley.



References:

¹ Convict Records online

² Hook, Elizabeth, *Journey to a New Life: The Story of the ships Emu in 1812 and Broxbornebury in 1814, including crew, Female Convicts and Free Passengers on Board.* ³ *ibid*²

*Jeffrey Hart Bent was a Barrister at Law and was appointed as a Chief Justice in the Colony.

Image: The ship *Holkar* and the British ship *Orpheus* in action c1817 accessed online 3/2/23

Image: The Parramatta Gaol c1804 (far right) - the first Female Factory - 'the room above the gaol' - Dixon Library, State Library NSW.

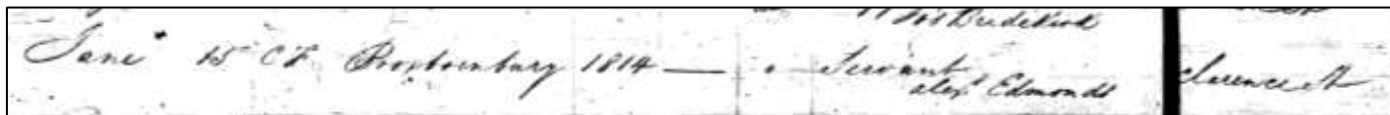


Lancaster City c1800



On 23 October 1824, Isabella's life suffered a minor 'hiccup' when she appeared before the Parramatta Bench of Magistrates along with Brigid Bourke. They were charged with *repeated drunken and riotous conduct*. Isabella was ordered to *the House of Correction for 3 months under Police Regulations*.⁵ The women were to either pay a fine of five shillings or face being sent to the stocks. Bridget paid her fine but Isabella did not. Despite this, there was a good outcome for Isabella - she was released after one week *in consequence of her family*. The reason for her early release may have been her daughter Jane, who was aged ten at the time.

In the later 1828 Census, Isabella aged 38, is listed a *housekeeper* for William Smith (householder) and living at Castle Hill. William Smith arrived per *Larkins* in 1817 with a sentence of *Life*. William (aged 38) and Isabella (aged 39) are close in age so it is possible they were in a defacto relationship. By this time, Isabella and her daughter Jane have separated. Jane aged 15, is noted as living as a servant with Alexander Edmunds (a shoemaker and a Ticket of Leave man), in Clarence Street, Sydney.



DISTRICT of *Castle Hill* No. *37* NEW SOUTH WALES. Census for the Year 1828.

By Act of the Government and Council of the 5th Dec. IV, No. 4, sec 8, it is enacted, that if any Householder, Employer of Servants, or Proprietor or Occupier of Lands, shall refuse or neglect to answer, or shall answer falsely or evasively, any of the Questions authorized by the said Act to be put relative to the Population, Cattle, and Occupied Land in the Colony, the Powers as aforesaid shall be used, at the discretion of two or more Magistrates, in a fine not exceeding Ten Pounds.

HOUSEHOLDERS NAME	Age	Sex	ARRIVAL		Business	Employment	Residence	Religion
			Ship	Year				
<i>William Smith</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>Larkins</i>	<i>1817</i>	<i>Life</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Castle Hill</i>	<i>Anglican</i>
<i>Isabella Anderson</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Penitentiary</i>	<i>1813</i>	<i>Widow</i>	<i>Housekeeper</i>	<i>Castle Hill</i>	<i>Anglican</i>

1828 Census - entries for Jane Anderson and Isabella Anderson - ancestry online

Isabella died 28 August 1850, aged 64. She was buried at the Mary Magdalene Anglican Church Graveyard at St. Marys. She is in an unmarked grave.⁶

The sea voyages Isabella made would have been terrifying - the ship boarded by a 'foreign' crew, being kept prisoner on board for a number of weeks perhaps wondering about her fate and the fate of the others, landed on an island, waiting 12 months to be rescued, then returning to England only to be prevented from setting foot on land, waiting for another convict ship to fitted out, embarking on another voyage, being pregnant and facing the birth of her child en route to NSW.

For Jane, life would have been hard - spending her infant years growing up above the gaol, with the sound of the looms and smell of the wool and then being separated from her mother at aged 15. Her life, subsequently, remains a mystery.

There is not much further known about Isabella's life. No marriage or the birth of more children can be verified however one thing is certain, Isabella's and Jane's survival in earlier years, was remarkable.

Postscript:

Isabella Anderson is noted as a 'cotton picker' by trade. It is assumed she was working in a Lancashire mill, set with the task of removing plant matter and other debris from the raw cotton as part of the cleaning process.



References:

⁵ Convict Records online - contributions by Beth Kebblewaite 31 July 2019: Col. Sec Papers Special Bundles Reel 6023; 4/6671, p45/56 SRNSW.

⁶ Findagrave online - entry for Isabella Anderson - memorial ID: 31733437.

Our Girls - unpublished work based on original papers SRNSW - Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews.

* William Smith per *Larkins* is listed in the 1822 Muster at Newcastle employed as a Government servant with a Conditional Pardon.

The Research Centre is shaping up well. The research group members have been busy bees. The Centre is now a regular feature of our open days. On International Women's Day, four researchers were assisting visitors' connection to our research and the wonderful Research Centre host, Jeanette Moles also assisted.

Our Factory women's list is growing so please keep those names and stories coming in. You can give directly to one of our researchers – Lyn, Lorraine, Kevin, Janice or me or else email (put 'research centre' in the subject field) - send to the parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com and that way we can ensure they are shared with all Australians.

We are also interested in special subject areas related to the Factory regardless of what it is. Recently one of our members Gerard Adolphe, shared some his findings on Mauritius convict women, including Constance Courrone/Lasablonaire/Trudgett. This is a great example of sharing our knowledge and member's generosity.

There have been 1,489 books entered in our catalogue and stamping the books has started. The books still need to be sorted, stamping completed and given a catalogue number, however headway is being made. We are starting to sort vertical files but this is a long term activity. We are also developing digital files for researchers. Although this will be a while coming, you can see the Research Centre is already shaping up to be a researcher's gem!

The Research Centre has been finally set up with furniture in place. A little more equipment is still to come but these are grant specific.

Don't forget as a member you are entitled to one hour free research each year which is valued at \$25. All research inquiries are responded to by appointment. You can either request a booking through our gmail or ask a volunteer to book you in when you come in next. If you don't live in Sydney you can contact us and we can provide an hour of research on an agreed direction.

I look forward to seeing you at the Research Centre.

REPORT: FEMALE CONVICT SEMINAR – 5 March 2023
Presented by Maitland & Beyond Family History, East Maitland

Lyn Watkins - Research Muster Researcher

Congratulations to everyone at the Barracks for their great presentation identifying over 1,033 female convicts that went through the Maitland area, and there are still more to discover. The ages of the female convicts ranged from 12 years old to over 60 years old. Hundreds of helpers have made a bonnet for each female convict which has the name of the woman, the ship and year they arrived embroidered on each side of the peak. They present as a fantastic display with each bonnet intentionally designed differently (except for a mother and daughter who came out on the same ship).



Another highlight of the day was the three female convict stories presented during the Seminar which were amazing.

The first story was of a 12-year-old Rachel Steward who was convicted, along with her mother, for shoplifting. They were from Dundee, Scotland but were sentenced in Yorkshire, England. Rachel was sentenced to seven years and her mother, Mary, was sentenced to 14 years, it was noted that they both could read. They were transported per *George Hibbert* 1834.

The second story was of the famous Molly Morgan from the Midlands, England. Molly and her husband were arrested for stealing 38 clippings of hemp yarn, valued at four pounds. Before sentencing, her husband escaped however Molly was sentenced to death, but luckily the sentence was commuted to transportation for 14 years to NSW. In 1790 she was placed on the infamous *Neptune* (Second Fleet), which arrived in Sydney in June 1790. Due to the terrible conditions on board, only 75 of the 158 convicts did not need medical treatment when they disembarked; many convicts died on this trip. It was thought that Molly may have been plied with food in exchange for favours. Her husband William made his way to Sydney as a free settler and they lived together for a couple of years.

At a weekly muster in November 1794, it was discovered three convicts were missing, one being Molly. Captain Locke of the whaler *Resolution* had set sail with Molly on board! In England she was reunited with her children, Mary now 12, and James now nine and went to Plymouth where she opened a dressmaking business. In 1797 she married Thomas Mears, even though her husband was back in NSW. The marriage to Mears did not last.

In September 1803, Molly Mears was convicted of a felony of stealing and was transported for seven years. Molly finally arrived back in Sydney in 1804. Some years later, she became almost a free agent and was given land with a few cattle. In 1814 she was convicted of branding Government cows as her own and transported to the penal settlement of Newcastle. In 1818 Molly was one of 11 lucky convicts to receive a Ticket of Leave to work at the new settlement of Wallis Plains. As land grants were not given to single women, Molly again, bigamously, married a Thomas Hunt in 1822. By 1823 she had cultivated 35 acres and won a contract to supply fresh beef to Government Stores at Newcastle for the sum of 3,000 pounds.

The third story was about Mary Fitzgerald (aka Poll Cott). Mary was 19 years old when she was convicted of stealing cheese in Cork, Ireland and sentenced to seven years. She was transported on the *Sir Charles Forbes* in 1837. Between 1850 and 1895, she was in and out of gaol about 250 times. She also spent some time at Gladesville Lunatic Asylum.



The 'Maitland Bonnets' - photography: Kevin Dodds.

These were such totally different and interesting stories.

ANN CALE - A NOTORIOUS THIEF WITH A TROUBLED LIFE - PART 1

Kevin Dodds, Research Muster Researcher

This **Ann Cale** is different to another Anne Cale of the same name, this Ann Cale was a notorious thief and was also known as Ann Kale, Ann Kail, Ann Simpson, Ann Coughlin/Coughlan.

Ann Cale was born in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England. She was described as a house servant and maid; she stood 5'1/4", was stout, with a pale or ruddy complexion and a little freckled, broad featured, with dark brown hair, bright hazel eyes, mole on left cheek, featured attack of a burn near left armpit, lost nail of forefinger of right hand.

<p>1st Offence In 1831, Ann was convicted of <i>Larceny</i> at Bristol, Gloucestershire, England and was sentenced to 9 months imprisonment with Hard Labour.</p>	<p>2nd Offence In 1832, Ann appeared before the Bristol Quarter Sessions and was convicted of <i>Larceny</i>, previously convicted, and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment with <i>Hard Labour</i> – Transportation for 14 years.</p>
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Previously convicted is actually a separate offence and carries a longer sentence. If you were convicted of a previous property offence that is, stealing of any kind and convicted and you were caught a second time, you

faced practically double the sentence as in this case where Ann received 14 years instead of the usual seven years for a first offence.

On 4 December 1832, the ship *Diana* sailed with 100 convict women on board. The voyage took 165 days. Surgeon Superintendent James Ellis R.N. kept a journal in which he recorded one death - Ann Cale is also recorded as having suffered the flu.

On 25 May 1833, the *Diana* arrived in Sydney Cove. The prisoners were mustered on 30 May 1833 and Ann Cale was sent to the Parramatta Female Factory for distribution (assignment).

<u>3rd Offence</u> On 28 September 1834, Ann Cale was admitted to <i>Gaol</i> for an unknown offence.	<u>7th Offence</u> On 18 December 1839, Ann was received at Newcastle Gaol from the schooner <i>Carrington</i> of Sydney as she had absconded from Mary Hoddle of Port Stephens.
<u>4th Offence</u> On 1 April 1837, Ann Cale was fined 40 shillings for assaulting Eliza Emery at the Rocks, Sydney, New South Wales.	<u>8th Offence</u> On 1 January 1840, Ann was apprehended after absconding from service of Mrs. Hoddle, from the schooner <i>Carrington</i> , Sydney.
<u>5th Offence</u> On 2 July 1838, Ann Cale was admitted to Windsor Gaol for <i>Disorderly Conduct</i> , 6 weeks 3 rd class and return to Government Service - Post Office.	<u>9th Offence</u> In 1841, Ann was returned to Newcastle Female Factory for an offence and was transferred by assignment to Government Service.
<u>6th Offence</u> On 3 February 1839, Margaret and Ann Cale having been charged with <i>Assault</i> by Ellen Reilly were before the court and the case was dismissed.	

On 17 September 1841, Francis Coughlan/Coughlin age 26 (per *Parmelia* 2) having served seven years and now free, made an application to marry Ann Cale age 27 (per *Diana*) which was granted by Reverend Irving Hetherington at Patricks Plain (Singleton).

In March 1833, Francis Coughlan, 18 years old, was sentenced at Kilkenny City Court, Kilkenny, Ireland, charged with vagrancy and sentenced to seven years transportation. Francis was 5'5" tall, with hazel eyes and sallow skin. On arrival, Francis was indentured to a Captain Clarke for his term of seven years. His trade was a groom, looking after the Captain's horses. On 25 September 1841, Francis was granted a Certificate of Freedom. It is presumed that Francis died before 1843.

Ann Cale gave birth to a son Daniel born 13 February 1842 at the Parramatta Female Factory. The only other Daniel Coughlin was born to a Patrick and Ellen Coughlin from Ireland who died in 1857 at Walcha. I can find no other reference for Daniel Cale.

On 17 October 1842, Ann Cale received her Ticket of Leave after serving nine years of her 14-year sentence, yet marked with a condition: *Allowed to remain in the District of Patricks Plain*.

On 17 August 1843, Patrick Simpson (per *Ann and Amelia*), age 39, made an application to marry Ann Cale aged 29, (per *Diana*) which was granted. It is presumed that her previous husband Francis died before she married Patrick Simpson.

The Simpson Family

Patrick and Ann Simpson had the following children: Mary Simpson born 1844, at East Maitland, NSW, Esther Simpson born 1846 at East Maitland, Julia Ann Simpson born 22 May 1847 at East Maitland and died on 7 August 1929 at Marrickville, NSW. Julia married a John Thomas Lane Barlow 1852-1935, on 21 October 1871 at Patrick Plains, NSW. The last child, Thomas Simpson was born on 10 August 1852 at Whittingham, NSW.

<p><u>10th Offence</u> On 26 August 1846, Ann Simpson was committed for trial at Maitland for <i>stealing 10 shillings</i> belonging to Daniel Roberts whilst employment as a char woman at the Northumberland Hotel, Maitland (Maitland Mercury).</p>	<p><u>14th Offence</u> On 6 July 1850, Ann Simpson was committed for trial at West Maitland Local Court for <i>stealing goods</i> from the Commercial Hotel belonging to the publican John Warn Tuck (Maitland Mercury).</p>
<p><u>Sentence of the 10th Offence</u> On 16 January 1847, Ann Simpson née Cole was found not guilty of <i>stealing 10 shillings</i> belonging to Daniel Roberts her employer at the Northumberland Hotel, as Daniel could not recall the actual coins that were stolen, and the jury was directed to acquit (Maitland Mercury).</p>	<p><u>15th Offence</u> On 25 September 1850, Ann Simpson was committed for trial at Maitland Quarter Sessions for <i>stealing from a kitchen</i> (Maitland Mercury).</p>
<p><u>11th Offence</u> On 12 Feb 1849, Ann Cale charged by John Canon with <i>Drunk and Obscene Language</i> – Discharged Maitland Mercury).</p>	<p><u>Sentenced for 14th Offence</u> On 9 October 1850, Ann Simpson was before the Maitland Quarter Sessions and was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment with hard labour at Newcastle Female Factory for <i>stealing a candlestick, 6 knives and forks, 6 plates etc.</i> belonging to John Warn Tuck (Maitland Mercury).</p>
<p><u>12th Offence</u> On 18 April 1849, Ann Simpson was discharged with a caution at Maitland Local Court after being apprehended for <i>drunkenness</i>. (Maitland Mercury).</p>	<p><u>16th Offence</u> On 30 April 1851, Ann Simpson was fined 5 shillings or 24 hours in the cells for <i>drunkenness</i> (Maitland Mercury).</p>
<p><u>13th Offence</u> On 14 September 1849, Ann Simpson was fined 10 shillings or 24 hours in the cells for <i>drunkenness</i> (Maitland Mercury).</p>	<p><u>17th Offence</u> On 13 October 1852, Ann Simpson, at East Maitland, lately released from gaol was committed for trial for <i>stealing articles of tweed etc.</i> from the shop of Mr. William Patey Peek (Maitland Mercury).</p>

Ann Simpson's daughter Mary Ann, 10 years old, is burnt to death in a fire.

On 3 December 1852, Ann Simpson's (estranged) daughter Mary Ann Simpson was standing too close to a fire inside her house at Scott's Flat when her apron caught on fire. She was quickly engulfed in flames and was burnt to death. The whole scene was witnessed by a boy who was talking to her through the front window at the time – the verdict: *accidental death by fire*.

To be continued...What happens to Ann? Can things turn around for Ann after such a family tragedy? Will Ann stop reoffending? Is this the only tragic event in her life?

PUBLIC PROGRAMS - PFFF WORKSHOPS 2023



POSTPONED - NEW DATE TBA: March 18 - Ancestry 101. This is the *Who, What, When, Where, Why of Ancestry!* Whether you have already started or if you are a newbie, this workshop will lay down some rules for you to follow to help you use the RIGHT way of using Ancestry.

May 20 - Patchwork Lives. Learn how to do basic patchwork techniques that the convict women used in the making of the 'Rajah Quilt'. Bring your own fabrics or order a kit – price to be advised.

July 12 - Trove. While it may be a treasure trove of information, the National Library of Australia's digital collection has now changed and some people find using Trove difficult. This workshop will cover how to access all the various digital collections and how to use the inbuilt tools to help you put them into a collection.

September 30 - Come and find me if you can!!! Researching Female Factory women can sometimes be elusive. This workshop covers useful methods, means and links to help your Female Factory specific family history.

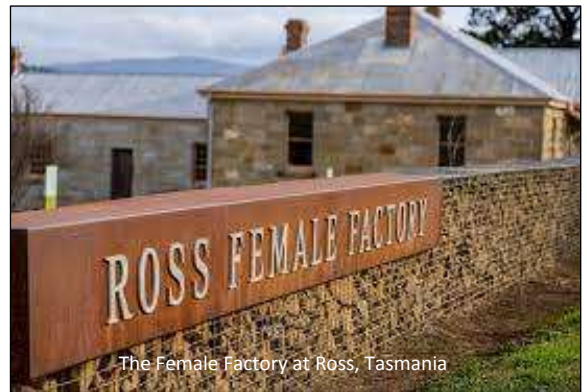
November 24 - Family History First Steps. Are you just starting out on your family history journey? This workshop will give you some hints and tips to find your way through what sometimes can feel like an unending maze.

Topic: Australia's Female Factories

Thank you Kerima-Gae Topp for your very informative and interesting talk on the Female Factories in Australia.

There was a total of 12 Factories, five in NSW, two in Queensland and five in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania). The Factories were built to provide work for unassigned female convicts who were employed in spinning, doing laundry, weaving, ironing or kept under punishment, picking oakum and breaking rocks. The Parramatta Factory predates them all.

Parramatta Female Factory, commissioned by Gov. Macquarie and designed by Francis Greenway, was the first purpose built Factory and three original buildings remain - the Matron's Quarters and Store, the Hospital (c1818) which was open to convicts and free settlers and the 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters (c1823), hence the need to work hard towards gaining World Heritage status for this site.



The Female Factory at Ross, Tasmania



The World Heritage 'Cascades' Female Factory in Hobart

International Women's Day Observance at the Female Factory - 10th March

Photography: Kevin Dodds



Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for making IWD such a successful day!

OUT & ABOUT

Congratulations to member and playwright Cate Whittaker for the resounding success of her play, 'Forgotten' which was performed in late January at the Riverside Theatre. It was a memorable and moving experience for all who attended and for member Heidi Garmonsway it was truly quite special. Heidi writes:

I recently had the privilege to play my ancestor (4x great grandmother), Matron Ann Gordon, in Cate Whittaker's play 'Forgotten'. It was so moving for me to give her a voice. Every time I saw the ending of the play I was in tears, what these women endured must never be Forgotten.



Heidi as Matron Ann Gordon



Matron Ann Gordon



In the final scene of the play, young Susanna Nesbit says:

And one day they will know what really happened here to us and will come and find us.

Photographs by Laura Cameron, courtesy: Heidi Garmonsway

And *they* (descendants and others) did *come* and did *find* so many factory women and, we continue to look for them and seek opportunities to commemorate their lives. They will never be forgotten. Ed.

SERENDIPITY - CONCEPT by Janice Ruse Huntington

Lyn Watkins writes:

I have three female convicts that went through the Parramatta Factory, *Honora Harrington*, *Margaret Brandon* and *Elizabeth Fellows* - they belong to my father's side and all lived in the Maitland area. Recently I attended the Female Convict Seminar held at the East Maitland Gaol by the Maitland & Beyond Family History Group and I was lucky to meet two other descendants of Honora's. A week later, we celebrated *International Women's Day* at the Factory site and I was lucky enough to meet another descendant of the same convict. Wow, finding three in a week, fantastic!

Apart from having female convicts associated with the Parramatta Female Factory/Asylum site, there is another family connection I discovered recently.

My husband's grandmother was in the Parramatta Mental Hospital from November 1925 until she passed away in 1964.

Image right: The Parramatta Hospital c1950 - view of trucks used to deliver food to the wards. Source: Parramatta Heritage & History Collection: LSOP 58. Today, the recently created Western Sydney Start Up Hub is located on the Female Factory footprint and former Asylum kitchen shown here.



Kevin Dodds writes:

Like Lyn, my serendipity is that I found one of my ancestor's bonnets at the Maitland Seminar - she was Selina Jones who married my 2x great grandfather Bartholomew Carey. It was nice to see her included.

SERENDIPITY continued...

And here is a Factory woman's rather eminent colonial 'connection'.



Ronda Gaffey writes:

After reading Isabella Anderson's narrative submitted by Anne and Beth for this edition, I was intrigued by the reference to a passenger on the *Broxbornebury*, Jeffrey H. Bent (see page 4). It seems that Isabella was travelling in rather illustrious company. Bent's journal, kept during the voyage, refers to the birth of a child who is assumed to be Jane, the daughter of Isabella Anderson - the entry is intriguing. Here was a man of the law, destined to take up an important judicial appointment in NSW, recording the birth of a convict women's child - *a little stranger made its entrance into this troublesome world* - Bent was clearly moved by this event and perhaps expresses some fear for the future of this newborn child, the child of a convict woman or is it more about his pessimistic world view?

Elsewhere in his journal, Bent shows concern for the convict women -

Monday 14th March

This evening I went to see how the convicts were; I found them pretty comfortable.

He also records their preoccupations and describes in some detail the regular entertainment of dancing and singing which all enjoyed:

Thursday 24th March

The weather was so delightful upon the Deck, that while we were at tea, many of the convicts began dancing on deck. The captain ordered the Fifer to play for them and they amused themselves till near nine. We kept it up till a late hour, walking the deck and listening to the songs of the Convicts and Settlers, many of them had fine voices, at Eleven we went to bed...



Tuesday 5th April

This evening the convicts danced to a Drum and Fife - One of the Crew plays very well.

For all on board, dancing was a distraction and a way to allay fears as they encountered rough seas:

Friday 24th May

The last night, the convicts and Settlers were all battered down on account of the sea breaking over the ship, and from the tremendous rolling, they fancied they were going down with every roll. This night they were thoughtlessly dancing...



Despite showing care and concern on board, there was another side to Bent's character. Prior to his departure from England, he had expressed his dismay to Lord Bathurst at not receiving a knighthood given his Colonial appointment as a judge and there was more drama to come.

On arrival, Bent refused to step ashore and meet Macquarie at Government House until Macquarie had acknowledged his status by firing a gun salute. The Governor obliged, Bent stepped ashore and was sworn in on 12 August 1814. A year later Macquarie refused to answer Bent's letters commenting they were insolent, disrespectful and unworthy of a reply!

Subsequently, Jeffrey H. Bent became a thorn in Macquarie's side until 'being removed' and departing the Colony in 1817. He died in George Town, in the West Indies in 1852.

References:

Bent, Jeffrey Hart; Journal extracts - in article: Australian Historical Dance [https:// www.historicaldance.au](https://www.historicaldance.au)

Jeffrey Hart Bent - Australian Dictionary of Biography - adb.anu.edu.au

Portrait of Jeffrey Hart Bent, oil on wood panel c1850. National Library of Australia <https://nla.gov.au>

Image: Colonial dancers - artist unknown - online

Image: A fifer c1800 - artist unknown - online

2023	PFFF MEETINGS - DATES &	EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY
January	Newsletter 20 th Committee Meeting	
February	<p>Committee Meeting Friday 17th Guest Speaker General Meeting</p>	<p>1st Feb. 202nd Anniversary - occupation of the new factory 1821 Riots: 3.2.1831; 24.2.1843</p>
March	<p>50th Edition - PFFF Newsletter 17th Committee Meeting <u>Open Day - PFFF International Women's Day event - Friday 10 March</u> Workshop - Saturday 18th March - "Ancestry" postponed</p>	<p>March: Linnwood House Open Day Riot: 7.3.1833 8th March - International Women's Day</p>
April	<p>Committee Meeting Friday 21st Guest Speaker: Alasdair McGregor General Meeting</p>	<p>Australian (NT) Heritage Festival 10th April - Sunday 14th May</p>
May	<p>Newsletter 19th Committee Meeting National Trust Heritage Festival at the FF site, 13th May <u>Workshop - Saturday 20th May - "Patchwork Lives"</u></p>	<p>DPIE Open Day/National Trust Heritage Festival at the Female Factory & Institutions Precinct - Saturday 13th May</p>
June	<p>Friday 16th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting</p>	<p>AGM PREPARATION</p>
July	<p>Newsletter 21st Committee Meeting <u>Open Day - Macquarie Anniversary Sunday 9th July</u> <u>Workshop - Wednesday 12th July - "Trove"</u></p>	<p>July 9th 205th Anniversary - Gov. Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the new Factory.</p>
August	<p>Friday 18th Committee Meeting AGM</p>	<p>History Week TBC</p>
September	<p>Newsletter 15th Committee Meeting <u>Open Day - History Week Saturday 9th September</u> <u>Workshop - Saturday 30th September - "Come & Find Me."</u></p>	<p>Linnwood Open Day TBC NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Soc. Annual Conference - 18 September</p>
October	<p>Friday 20th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting 27th RIOT DAY - 196th Anniversary/ the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture</p>	<p>Riots: 27.10.1827; 11.10.1836</p>
November	<p>Newsletter 17th Committee Meeting <u>Workshop - Friday 24th November - "Family History First Steps"</u></p>	<p>Riot: 29.11.1831 Parramatta Foundation Day Festival event TBC</p>
December	<p>Friday 8th *(2nd Friday) Committee Meeting General Meeting</p>	<p>Christmas afternoon tea</p>

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 IS OPEN 9am. 1st and 3rd Friday of the month and by appointment.

