

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 04
AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2015**

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 PFFF website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
 History: parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com
 online petition: <https://www.change.org/p/declare-the-parramatta-female-factory-a-national-and-world-heritage-site>



The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 –courtesy National Library of Australia –nla.gov.au/nla.pic-an 2818460

President: Gay Hendriksen **Vice Presidents:** Judith Dunn Anne Mathews
Treasurer: Kerima-Gae Topp **Membership Secretary:** Noela Vranich
Secretary/Public Officer: Alice Kershaw **Newsletter:** Ronda Gaffey
History Project: Anne Mathews Beth Matthews
Committee: Pauline Garmonsway Kerry Martin Michaela Cameron

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ! 2015
MEETINGS – 3rd Friday of every 2nd Month
GENERAL MEETINGS: 18th September 20th November
 (guest speaker :1:30pm)
ANNUAL ' IT'S A RIOT ' - FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2015

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS



Welcome everyone to another issue of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Newsletter. It has been an extremely busy time with advocacy, research and event organising for 'It's a Riot' Day and our exhibition at Hambledon.

Firstly, the advocacy and hard work of our membership has meant a real profile for the Parramatta Female Factory. Our current advocacy has been with the office of the Hon. Rob Stokes MP. A meeting was requested with the Minister but we were advised this would not be possible before November. Members of PFFF met with his senior advisor, two staffers and three Urban Growth representatives. We discussed our concerns with the PNUT Plan (Parramatta North Urban Transformation). Of particular concern were three multi storey buildings in the Female Factory footprint and open space/private use allocations for open spaces within the female factory. We continue to monitor this.

As you will be aware, for a few years we have had submissions with the Federal Government for inclusion of the Parramatta Female Factory in the National Listing. This year...Success!! It is now on the Federal working party for National Listing. This received editorial in the Sydney Morning Herald, Parramatta Advertiser and Parramatta Sun. One of our main goals as a group is National Heritage Listing so we are well on the way with this major milestone in our protection and access for the site.

Our second major milestone outcome is our petition of 10,000 to State Parliament. We needed a sponsorship in the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Jamie Parker and David Shoebridge accepted this. All Members of State Parliament were invited to accept the petition for World Heritage Status. Penny Sharpe, Shadow Minister for Heritage, Jamie Parker and David Shoebridge were the members who accepted. Geoff Lee MP for Parramatta was unavailable, Rob Stokes MP was unavailable but noted he would be happy to meet with us! For more detail on this historic event go to our Facebook address <https://www.facebook.com/parrafactory>.

It was an historic day for the Parramatta Female Factory and our group. Those present lay their hands either physically or symbolically on the petition. There was a great sense of unity. Supporting us were many group representatives including the NSW Nurses and Midwives Association, National Trust (NSW), Better Planning Network, Retired CFMEU (Green Ban representation), Sydney Hospital Nursing Museum and Museums Australia NSW. The event was included in Linda Mottram's Morning Show 702, ABC Online and Tim Webster's morning program 2UE.

The next step is submission for debate. We will advise concerning the progress. If it is not accepted in the Legislative Assembly then it will be presented in the Legislative Council which gives a second opportunity again for it to go into the Legislative Assembly.

Continuing the roll of good news the Parramatta Leagues Club has given our group a sponsorship of \$1780 which will certainly help our Riot Day and advocacy.

I would also like to take the opportunity here to introduce our newest committee member Michaela Cameron who is working with our social media Facebook and Twitter in particular and is regularly updating. Take a peek when you have time <https://www.facebook.com/parrafactory> and <https://twitter.com/parrafactory>

Of course there is also promoting our petition. If you are telling a friend then just mention change.org and Parramatta Female Factory, the actual web address is

<https://www.change.org/p/declare-the-parramatta-female-factory-a-national-and-world-heritage-site>

or you can put a smart phone over our QR code:



Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting or at the 'It's a Riot Day' 23rd October.

Yours in community

Gay Hendriksen

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS AT NSW PARLIAMENT
PRELIMINARY MEETING WITH DAVID SHOEBRIDGE MLC & JAMIE PARKER MLA



Above - Wayne Mathews, Anne Mathews, Gay Hendriksen, Ineke Hendriksen, Noela Vranich after meeting with Rob Stoke's Office. Below - John and Clelia Koch, Jack and Judy Munday and Mick Tubbs with Gay Hendriksen meeting David Shoebridge.



Congratulations to Gay, the PFFF Committee, members and friends and the North Parramatta Residents' Action Group for the wonderful, final push to get us over the line with the required 10,000 petition signatures. And well done to Anne Mathews who truly *'burned the midnight oil'* getting the final few hundred names and addresses onto the database!

MORE OF 'OUR GIRLS' PROFILES – BY BETH MATTHEWS

Mary Maher was born about 1788, Tipperary, Ireland. She was tried on 10th January 1827 in Dublin, Ireland-her offence was 'stealing a watch' and she was sentenced to 7 years transportation. Mary embarked the ship '*Elizabeth*' 11 in Cork Harbour, departing on 27th August, carrying female prisoners and children. After a voyage of 138 days it arrived in NSW on 12th January 1828.

The ship's muster and the surgeon's list show Mary Maher aged 25 when tried, a Catholic, a house servant of all work. She was described as 5ft 4 ¾ ", sandy to auburn hair and hazel eyes. In his journal, the ship's surgeon, Joseph H. Hughes shows Mary Maher '*September 20th 1827 acting as cook, a very strong and hale woman*'. Through some accident, Mary fell and grazed her leg '*which was attended with considerable inflammation and pain, ordered a warm fermentation for two or three days, then duped it with lint made with set plumb and bandage by which it got well-discharged 30th September*'.

The records relating to the Female Factory show *Mary Maher* -
1828 17th March 1st class; 24 hours for '*quarrelling and swearing*'
1828 29th March 1st class for '*quarrelling and neglect of work*'
1829 22nd January 3rd class; 7 days '*quarrelling and horrid swearing*'
1829 27th February 2nd class; 15 hours for '*infamous language*'
1829 17th May 2nd class; 20 hours for insolent to monitors'
1829 20th November 2nd class; 20 hours in cells '*fighting/bad language to Mary Emerson*'

On a Return of the children of female prisoners, of age for the removal to the Orphan School, signed by A.Gordon Matron, '*Thomas, child of Mary Maher, Elizabeth 1828 born 27th May 1829, Parramatta.*' is listed. Thomas was taken to the Orphan School on 8th August 1832 aged 3 years and 3 months and remained there until the 13th September 1837 when he was 8 years and 4 months. *



Parramatta Female Factory 3rd class

(extract from an article Beth wrote for the July edition of Parramatta & District Historical Society Hambledon Herald)-
*in Suzanne Voytas' book, '*Elizabeth 1828 – From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross*', Mary Maher is noted as a petitioner for the return of her son Thomas after she married (ref: Colonial Secretary's Correspondence). Permission was granted.

HISTORY CORNER – ANNE MATHEWS

The following 'snippet' is one of many discovered by Anne Mathews in her research. The source is *The Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser* 29th October 1836 and is a spirited advocacy for the plight of the convict women humiliated by the punishment of 'shorn locks'.

The new Police Magistrate of Parramatta is not likely to be loved for his gallantry to the 'frail fair ones' of the Factory, as a contemporary hinted some time back, when a female prisoner is brought to his bar, he orders her to uncap that he may admire her "shorn locks" as he poetically calls it, the style of hair dressing peculiar to the 3rd class. This necessary piece of rigour gives rise to a most indelicate exhibition in the Police Office a few days ago, the unfortunate object having too minutely obeyed the chief's stern mandate "uncover yourself prisoner!" Will any gentleman, any man of feeling, honour or common humanity assert that a female can be reformed by that which degrades her? Shame upon the inventor of this barbarous mode of punishing a woman. Deprived of that natural ornament her hair, she grows regardless of every other grace that should adorn the sex. That man who can exult in a woman's degradation however fallen from her former purity she may be, should live unloved, unblessed, by woman! I wish the Police Magistrate no greater punishment – Correspondent.



- A VOYAGE TO THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - THE FEMALE CONVICT SHIP – THE 'ALMORAH' (3)

RESEARCH BY NOELA VRANICH

The convict transport ship the 'Almorah' (3) weighed anchor on 6th April 1824 departing Cork Harbour for the Colony of New South Wales. The voyage was short, taking only 136 days and stopping nowhere.

The master was George Hay Boyd and the Surgeon Superintendent was Morgan Price, who was well experienced on a convict ship. Ships' medical officers were required to keep a record of patients, treatments and outcomes during the voyage, and as the journal of the 'Almorah' (3) is one of those I have copied in my research for the Female Factory, in this and following newsletters I will share with you some of the excerpts of her voyage.



Cork Harbour – Co Cork c1831 (Free Image Archive)

Surgeon Price began his journal on the 17th March

On the evening of the 17th March received from the depot at Cork one hundred and thirteen female convicts, fifteen free women and forty-five children. Some of the female prisoners had children in arms and three or four others in a pregnant state. From this period until the 6th April about fifteen children had the measles, all of whom by the usual treatment recovered. Psora and cuticular eruptions appeared on many -by the application of unquantum Sulphuris externally and laxative medicine it soon disappeared; during the whole time particular attention was paid in keeping the prison cleaned and well ventilated by charcoal fires in different parts of the prison.

Everyday when the weather would permit, the convicts as well as free women and their children on deck with their beds and mustered down at 6 o'clock each evening.

Wednesday April 7th

Nearly the whole of the prisoners and free settlers sea-sick.

Prison between decks cleaned as well as circumstances will allow.

Thursday April 8th

Convicts, free women and settlers nearly in the same state as yesterday and many unable to get on deck. Prison, Hospital cleaned as circumstances will permit. Seven children appeared this day, and having measles, admitted to the Hospital. Saline medicine administered and are kept as warm as circumstances will allow.

Friday April 9th

The weather being very cold and a heavy sea running- with some difficulty able to get many on deck, and others suffering greatly from sea-sickness – all my measles cases doing as well as can be expected. Prison cleaned and free admission of air between decks.

Saturday April 10th

Blowing very fresh, prisoners as well as the free women sick. Many of the convicts were this day severely affected with histeria.

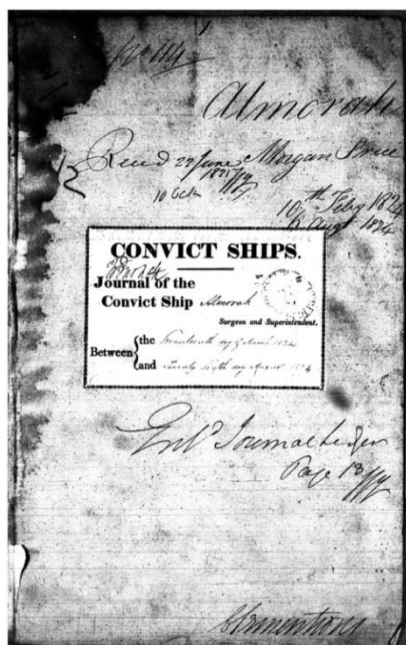
Mary McCarthy was seized with rigors and shiverings – pulse quick and small- thirst immoderate constant vomiting – bowels has been costive for some time past. Laxative medicine administered and in the evening an enema injected. The measles cases are doing as well as can be expected.

Prison and between decks as usual cleaned.

early part of the voyage, if not done on embarkation, Surgeon Price would have pointed out clearly to his charges, the Rules of The Voyage, but he doesn't outline them in his journal, as Surgeon Robert Espie did in the voyage of the *Lord Sidmouth* in 1822/3. I feel that if Price's Rules were not exactly the same, they would have been very similar:

The first instalment of the 'Almorah' (3) ends here. The excerpts are transcribed exactly as written by the Surgeon, including spelling, abbreviations and lack of punctuation. As the journals were a daily entry, and the Surgeon's time was limited, we must make allowances for errors. We are so fortunate to have these journals which shed a little light on what must have been terrifying experiences for the female convicts who were banished from their loved ones, to the bottom of the world, expecting never to see their homeland again.

It is probable that in this early part of the voyage, if not done on embarkation, Surgeon Price would have pointed out clearly to his charges, the Rules of the Voyage, but he doesn't outline them in his journal, as Surgeon Robert Espie did in the voyage of the *Lord Sidmouth* in 1822/3. I feel that if Price's Rules weren't exactly the same, they would have been very similar.



A COPY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE OBSERVED ON BOARD

1st The surgeon and superintendent being strictly(?) to prevent unlawful intercourse between the sailors and the women, he will punish most severely every appearance or intimacy towards it.

2nd Any women who shall be found guilty of swearing or any expressions of an indecent or immoral tendency shall be punished by solitary confinement and put on bread and water til she shall appear to have amended her conduct.

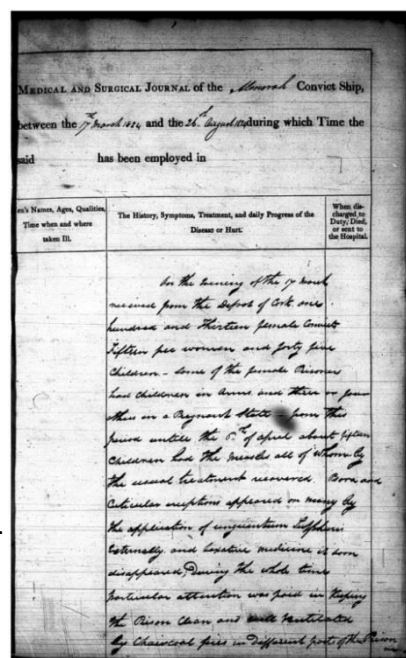
3rd Cleanliness being expected necessary for the health and comfort both of the convicts and passengers it is particularly (?) that the persons occupying each (?) or birthplace shall make or fold up their bed blanket and pillow in a tight roll with three ends (?) for being stored on deck and that they will make their portions of the sleeping places and the deck as clean as shall be judged necessary by the Surgeon & Supt who will inspect them every morning before breakfast. Any deviation from this will meet the severest punishment.

4th Any person disturbing the peace and comfort of the rest either by sitting up late or being up unnecessarily at night shall be curtailed of all indulgence during the passage and on arriving in N.S.Wales shall be reported as troublesome characters to the Governor.

5th Any person found thieving from the others shall be made a severe example of by putting them in solitary on bread and water and stopping all indulgence until evident signs of reform take place.

6th That the prisoners shall be convinced that they have one proportion of victuals allowed them by (?) it is the Surgeon and Superintendent's direction that two (?) shall attend alternatively to the opening of the provisions and that this may not be dispensed with.

7th The surgeon being anxious to establish a system of good order and industry at the period of the women's embarkation thinks it necessary to say that all complaints and grievances are to be represented to him only, and that in order they may appear clean and decent they shall be allow'd two washing days every week i.e. Tuesday and Friday, but it is all the same strictly forbid that they should waste any of the fresh water

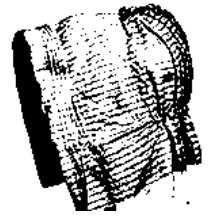


Source: "Almorah" AJCP ADM 101 Piece 2 Reel 3187 (M.L.)
 "Lord Sidmouth" AJCP ADM 101 (S.R.O.N.S.W)

NOTICEBOARD

WELCOME to our new members *Tracy Burgess, Michaela Cameron, John Cameron, Melodie Woodford, Joy Douglas, Bill Douglas, Rhonda Loftus, Margaret O'Hearn, Mary Elizabeth Denmark, Deirdre Bennett, Jennifer Reynolds, and Colleen Woodbury!*

A gentle reminder that **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES** (\$10 – individuals) are due in July each year – We also invite groups to join as affiliate members (\$25) and look forward to your support and advocacy which are highly valued. Donations are always welcome. And a big thank you for all the membership renewals !



RIOT DAY FLYERS are available now for distribution by our members - and we have a sponsor for the first time which is exciting and will assist in our planning into the future –thank you to the Parramatta Leagues Club!

A SPECIAL thank you to **Greta McDonald, Manager at the Cascades Female Factory Site** for her organisation's kind permission to use the copyright term "herstory". 'HerStory', the story of the Cascades Factory women is performed daily at the Female Factory site in Tasmania. The Hambledon Cottage Exhibition which opens in early October will tell the story of 'our girls' and is appropriately entitled-

Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women

POSTSCRIPT on BONNETS!!!!!! Christina Henri's 'Roses From the Heart' Project is nearing its target of 25,556 bonnets to honour the women transported from 1788-1853. With only another 800 or so required – please contact Christina if you are interested in creating a bonnet and honouring our convict women – cjhenri@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS – thank you to *Beth Mathews* and *Anne Mathews* for their history snippets for this edition of the newsletter. And thank you to *Noela Vranich* for sharing her research on the voyage of the 'Almorah' which carried so many of the Parramatta Female Factory women! The first instalment from Noela is on page 5 and 6.

A PFFF PROMO /SOUVENIR BUTTON BADGE is now available for purchase @ \$2.50 each – If you would like to buy a badge or sell the button badges on behalf of the PFFF, please contact Ronda.



If you have anything of interest, any photos or would like to contribute an article related to the Parramatta Female Factory please let me know! Many thanks for your feedback and support ! *Ronda Gaffey* ahalcoop@bigpond.net.au



It was a cold day in Parramatta Town and a wonderful turn up for the AGM in June– with over 25 attendees!

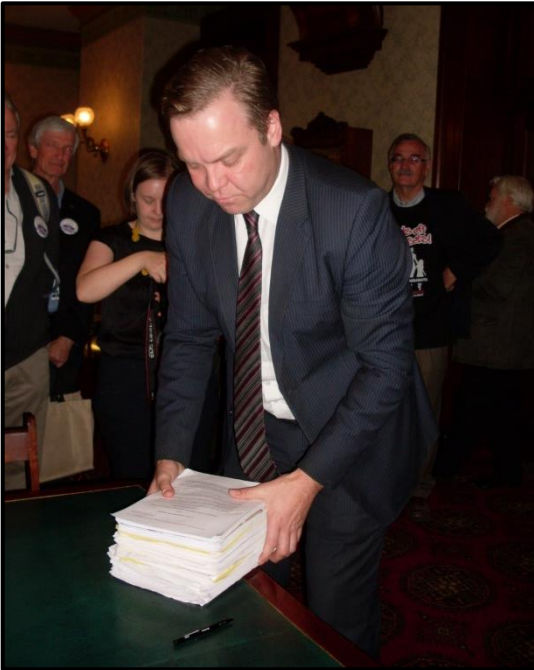
PICTURE GALLERY - FACTORY TOUR - LED BY ANNE MATHEWS JULY 2015



It was the coldest day in July when Anne Mathews led a hardy group of history buffs (including 2 descendants) on a tour of the factory. The group even got up close to the 3rd class sleeping quarters which was very special!

- A SPECIAL EVENT -

PRESENTING THE PETITION TO THE NSW PARLIAMENT



10.000 PEOPLE CAN'T BE WRONG!



Thank you to David Shoebridge, Jamie Parker, Penny Sharpe for their support of the PFFF, the Retired CFMEU, Councillor Shaw, Suzette Mead & the NPRAG members, the NSW Midwives & Nurses Assoc., Julie Owens, Tilly South & all the Parramatta Female Factory Friends & supporters.

The petition exceeded 10,000 and we now look forward to the next stage!

A special thank you to the 40 plus supporters who were able to come to the NSW Parliament on Thursday 20th!

