

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO:05
OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2015

Contact: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com or PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124
 PFFF website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
 History: parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com
 online petition and brochure:
<https://parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/advocacy-2/support-share-sign/>



The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 –courtesy NLA

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

Content	Page
<i>President.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Our Girls.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Voyage of the 'Almorah'.....</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Noticeboard.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Conference-Port Macquarie....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Exhibition Gallery.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Thank You!.....</i>	<i>8</i>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY- RIOT DAY IS NEXT FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER!
GENERAL MEETING IS FRIDAY – NOVEMBER 20TH Guest Speaker at 1:30 pm
 at Hambleton Cottage Coach House.

'Herstory – Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women' Exhibition is now open!

WHERE: Lucas Gallery Hambleton Cottage, Hassall Street, Harris Park **WHEN:** Thursday- Sunday 11am-4:00pm

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Welcome to another newsletter and a month full of activity. A big focus was developing and setting up the exhibition '*Herstory-Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women*'. If you want to discover more about our factory and the women who went through it, this exhibition will give you great insights. It was definitely a group effort from PFFF members and community members. It is on at Hambleton Cottage until 28th February 2016.



Preparations are hotting up for the '*It's A Riot*' celebration and commemoration for the Female Factory women. So bring your picnic, something to sit on, walking shoes for more great tours of the female factory, your pennies....I mean dollars and cents.....for our badges, books, bookmarks, trade tables (including State Records, Inside History, colonial specific booksellers and our advocacy partners) and make sure you have booked for Alasdair Mc Gregor's talk on Francis Greenway and the Parramatta Female Factory. It promises to be our best one yet!

I would like to take a moment to thank the Institute of Psychiatry and Cumberland Hospital for allowing our event on the Female Factory site which we all know is a special experience.

Our advocacy is stepping up with our new petition. We have now presented our 10,000 + signatures to State Parliament for support of the Female Factory. Now we are asking the Federal Government to actively submit an application for the Parramatta Female Factory site to be World Heritage. An updated petition and brochure are available from our website:
<https://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/advocacy-2/support-share-sign/>

Our online petition is still very important as it shows the support is much further afield than our hardcopy. We now have 2,727 online petitioners and the same number of comments supporting our work and it means that 8,181 emails have gone to State and Federal Governments.
<https://www.change.org/p/declare-the-parramatta-female-factory-a-national-and-world-heritage-site>

The 'Friends' were invited to meet with Urban Growth (UG) representatives for an update on their plans (PNUT) and our concerns. What was shared by them was the same as what is on their website but it did give us an opportunity to express that we want 'a seat at the table' for decisions concerning the female factory and reiterate that we are deeply concerned by any multi-storey buildings on the footprint of the factory and its curtilage.

We also supported and participated in the North Parramatta Resident Action Group Symposium which was inspirational in presenting community voices and possible alternatives to the PNUT Plans from UG...I think the acronyms say it all!

Yours in community

Gay Hendriksen

MORE OF 'OUR GIRLS' PROFILES – BY BETH MATTHEWS



Constance de La Sabloniere* and her sister Elizabeth. The girls are featured in the current PFFF Exhibition at Hambledon Cottage.
Research: Beth Matthews

Constance was born in Mauritius. She and her sister Elizabeth were slaves – the girls were convicted for the attempted murder of their mistress.

On the day of the offence, Elizabeth had been told to make a pot of tea for her sewing mistress, Madame Morel. Belise, another maid, had prepared it and Constance had supplied a white powder. She had been given this powder by Madame Morel to use as an emetic.

Madame Morel and her three year old son reacted to the tea with violent headaches, dizziness and palpitations. Elizabeth went to the doctor and reported that her mistress was suffering indigestion. The doctor's diagnosis differed – he decided that Madame Morel and her son had been poisoned with arsenic. Both Madame Morel and her son survived, however the girls were tried for attempted murder. Elizabeth's father pleaded mitigation.

Constance and her sister Elizabeth were sentenced to death; this was commuted to transportation for life given their ages – Constance was eight and her sister twelve. The girls were among the youngest women to be transported. They arrived aboard the brig, the '*Dart*' in 1834 and were sent to the Parramatta Female Factory. Constance's trade was given as '*embroider and needlewoman*' and Elizabeth's was given as '*laundress, needlewoman*'.

The Colonial Secretary at the time took an interest in the girls' case and they were assigned to a family who had recently arrived in the Colony. Mr Henry C. Wilson was the First Police Magistrate and a widower with three daughters, living at '*Spencer Lodge*' in Miller's Point.

Constance and Elizabeth remained with the Wilson family for six or seven years and when Elizabeth Wilson married, Constance was retained as her maid and moved with her to Wellington Valley, NSW. Here, with the support of Mr Wilson, Constance was assigned to and subsequently married Robert Trudgett, '*a steady man, an experienced bushman and stockman*'.

Constance and Robert had eleven children all of whom survived childhood. Constance gained her Ticket of Leave in 1843 and then her Conditional Pardon in 1848. Constance became a well respected midwife in the Bathurst district. She died in 1892 aged 67.

Elizabeth married one month after Constance and was also assigned to her husband Jean Larmie, '*a young man of good character*' and a native of The Isle de France/Mauritius.

They married in Sydney and had six children of whom three died in infancy. Elizabeth's husband died in 1861, leaving her with a five year old son and two grown daughters. She died in 1874 at Woolloomooloo Sydney - 52 years of age. Elizabeth had received her Conditional Pardon in 1851.

*Constance took her mistress's name de la Sabloniere – spelled differently by Constance

A VOYAGE TO THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES
THE FEMALE CONVICT SHIP – THE 'ALMORAH' (3)
RESEARCH BY NOELA VRANICH



THE SECOND CHAPTER

The month of April was, by the account of Surgeon Superintendent, Morgan Price, a miserable one for all on board the 'Almorah'. Many of his entries focus on the sea:

"blowing a gale and a heavy sea running and nearly the whole have suffered very considerable sea-sickness....."

"Blowing fresh and a heavy sea running and really is very distressing to see the continual reaching of nearly the whole of the prisoners, free women and children."

"rain, heavy seas.....nearly the whole of the prisoners and free women occasionally on deck."

The rough seas meant that Divine Service was not held regularly on Sundays as would be usual, but Surgeon Price *"issued out between the convicts, free women and children, Bibles, Testaments and Religious Tracts."*

And on the same day: *"those who have suffered so much from sea-sickness are now in a weak state, Port Wine, Lemon Juice and Sugar have been issued out to the convicts and free women and children alternately, for some time past."*

"Children are daily at school and every means adopted to inculcate morality, and the women employed in knitting stockings, sowing etc"

Mary McCarthy's illness worsened during April, but all the children with measles improved gradually. although still *"in hospital."* Four more prisoners were *"admitted to hospital"*

"Margaret Brian – Hysteria, excessive depression of spirits, nausea, and unable to retain anything when taken to the stomach"

"Mary Rian – since we have been at sea this woman has suffered greatly from the sickness accompanying with hysteria"

"Ann McGuire..... This old woman of 80 years of age have suffered much from sea-sickness and have been considerably reduced in strength, depression of spirits and apparently sinking fast, nourishing diet, and have scarcely any hopes of a favourable change."

Mary Ready.....*"had two ribs fractured by a fall of the main Hatch Latter"*

Many other ailments were recorded during this month such as pneumonia, heat induced headaches, *"depression of spirits"*, regular problems with *"hysteria"*, *"spasms"*, all these ably attended by Surgeon Price using *"copious bleeding"* and administration of medicines, as well as *"nutritious diet, port wine, lemon juice and sugar"*.

Towards the end of April, at last the seas abated and the problem then was *"excessive heat"* which caused distress among his charges, but he had a *"proper awning spread"* on deck, thus alleviating the situation and as his hospital patients were improving.....his final entry for April concludes:

"I feel much pleasure in observing that the prisoners have behaved remarkably well.....issued to each convict one gown."

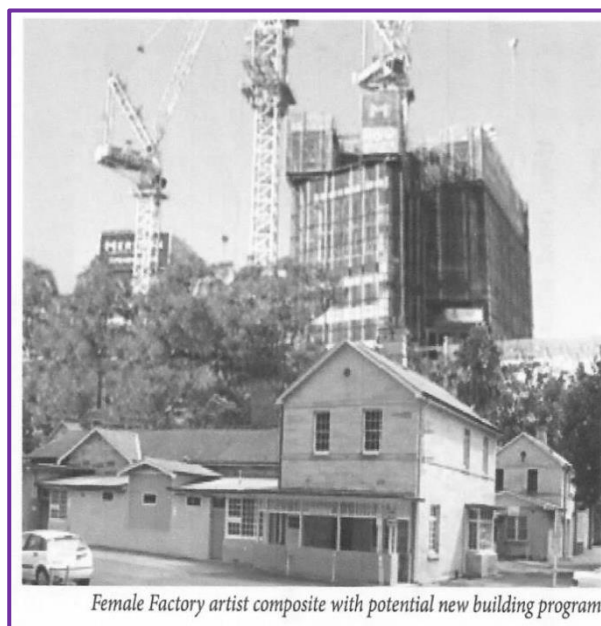
Perhaps this was a reward!



Female convicts departing an English Port 1800s.

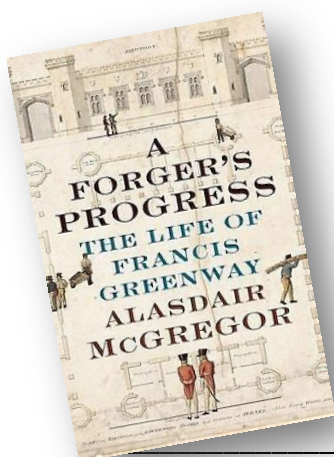
NOTICEBOARD

- A warm welcome to our newest members *Nicole van Schieveen, Yvonne Davidson, Patricia Brien, Peter Vandy, Mark Marusic, Karen Fountaine and Elinor Wrobel* and to all our “returning members” – thank you for your continuing support!
- PFFF have a revised brochure (see right). Let’s hope this never happens!
- A date for your diary ! Make sure you visit the Lucas Gallery at Hambledon Cottage to see our Exhibition – **‘Herstory- Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women’** – Hambledon Cottage is open Thursday- Sunday from 11am – the last tour is 3pm.
- Don’t forget to sign the new PFFF Petition – this time it is bound for Federal Parliament The petition can be downloaded from the PFFF website (see page 2).



RIOT DAY is 23rd October. **BOOK NOW** if you have not done so – **Bookings:**

at the PFFF gmail address or 96305237. The day promises to be a very special day with tours, trade tables and our guest speaker *Alasdair McGregor* who has written an extremely well researched and fascinating biography of *Francis Greenway* in which he devotes a chapter to the Parramatta Female Factory!



A Forger's Progress – The Life of Francis Greenway
by Alasdair McGregor : published by Newsouth -2014



FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCE AT PORT MACQUARIE - OCTOBER 2015

The Conference agenda was very full and over three days participants enjoyed many stimulating talks on the latest genealogical research.

One of the highlights was The John Vincent Crowe Memorial Address given by Dr David Roberts. His topic was *'Colonial Gulag. The Rise and Fall of Port Macquarie'*. He told the history of the site from its beginning in 1821. So far only eleven women have been identified. By 1822 there were about 1000 convicts, 43% of whom attempted escape. By 1826 Governor Darling had declared sentences invalid and many were repatriated to Sydney as *'an act of mercy'*.

Kerry Martin, Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews manned a table, selling bookmarks, button badges, books and, most importantly, gathering signatures for the new PFFF Petition. They are great ambassadors and proactive in *'networking'* ! Next year the Conference will be held a little closer to *'home'*, in Camden.

From notes supplied by Kerry Martin



- Herstory -
Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women



Below: The 'set up crew' with one of the 3rd class girls!



The PFFF Exhibition '*Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women*' is a collaboration between the Parramatta Female Factory Friends and the Parramatta & District Historical Society. The Exhibition is an opportunity to showcase some of the valuable research done by the Friends. It is also an opportunity to promote the Parramatta Female Factory and the advocacy role of the PFF Friends.

There is a lot to see with four main panels devoted to individual women's profiles. Among the women featured is *Eliza Somers*, Ben Hall's mother! In our memorabilia cabinet '*Remember Me*', there are photos of precious family keepsakes sent in by descendants of the factory women. These include an image from a mourning brooch, bookmark sampler needlework, braided hair, a needle-case and a whalebone walking stick to name but a few.

The Exhibition runs from October through to the end of February next year. We hope you can make it and take the opportunity also to experience the delights of Hambleton Cottage so carefully maintained by our hosts, the Parramatta & District Historical Society.

- Herstory -


LIVES OF THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY WOMEN

An Exhibition

presented by the Parramatta Female Factory Friends
in collaboration with the Parramatta & District Historical Society

WHERE: at Hambledon Cottage, corner Hassall Street & Gregory Place, Harris Park.
WHEN: Open Thursday to Sunday 11am - 4pm from October 2015 - March 2016 or
by appointment for groups
Enquiries: Hambledon Cottage: 9635-6924

generously sponsored by The Parramatta Leagues Club



- For further information -

<p><small>Parramatta Female Factory Friends</small></p> <p><small>Email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com Website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au History: parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com</small></p>	<p><small>Parramatta & District Historical Society</small></p> <p><small>Email: parramattahist@tpg.com.au Website: parramattahistorical.org.au</small></p>
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Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative; our sponsors The Parramatta Leagues Club, our hosts The Parramatta & District Historical Society, the PFFF Committee, PFFF members and the Exhibition Sub-Committee.

A very special thanks to Anne Mathews for being such a wonderful 'offsider', for all the suggestions, troubleshooting, checking and double checking of material and facts. A huge thank you to Noela Vranich for such a sterling effort in editing and proofing the material and for her moral support! And, thank you to the set up team – Alice, Pauline, Anne, Beth, Kerry and Noela. A special thanks to Trevor Patrick (P&DHS) for his advice and support!

A huge thank you to all our contributors: Heidi Brown, Judith Dunn, Pauline Garmonsway, Gay Hendriksen, Alice Kershaw, Kerry Martin, Anne Mathews, Beth Matthews, Noela Vranich, Shirley and Chris Moore, Lorraine Dobbs, Janice Huntington, Babette Smith, Margaret Szalay. Thank you to Greta McDonald, Manager of the Cascades Female Factory for the use of the copyright term, 'Herstory'. Thank you also to Janice Eastment and Ralph Hawkins.

Ronda Gaffey