

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 06 DECEMBER 2015**

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 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

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Treasurer: Kerima-Gae Topp **Membership Secretary:** Noela Vranich
Corr.Secretary/Public Officer: Alice Kershaw **Minutes Secretary:** Kerry Martin
Pub/Newsletter: Ronda Gaffey **History Project:** Anne Mathews Beth Matthews
Committee: Pauline Garmonsway **Facebook:** Michaela Cameron

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: THE PFFF CALENDAR FOR 2016
 Guest Speaker - 1:30 pm at Hambleton Cottage Coach House. General Meeting at 2pm
FIRST MEETING OF 2016 IS FRIDAY - MARCH 18TH – see calendar of dates page 7

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS



Welcome to another issue of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends newsletter and the last one for the year. It has been a very busy year for us with activities, advocacy, challenges and successes.

As many are aware Urban Growth, planning instrument of our State Government has released plans which need a great deal of work to benefit the Female Factory. We are currently in dialogue with Urban Growth maintaining our advocacy imperatives so they are very clear about our vision and concerns.

With our advocacy we were successful in having the Female Factory on the National Heritage working party with the end view of national listing. We also submitted over 10,000 signatures to the State Parliament of NSW for World Heritage listing support, an online petition which is growing and a new Federal petition asking parliament to make a submission for world heritage status for the factory. Advocacy continues to ensure the Female Factory has the best possible outcome for the future including no new multi-storey buildings on the factory footprint, low rise housing and community centre on eastern and northern curtilage. Of critical importance is the vision of a living museum and national resource centre for the site. With advocacy we have worked closely with other heritage groups, particularly the Parramatta North Residents' Action Group. We have supported each other's advocacy. They particularly spread the word with our petitions, our Riot day and obtaining media for the cause. We also supported their symposium day and participated in the symposium discussions.

On a celebratory note, our 'It's a Riot' Day was the best yet with talks, tours, information tables and picnic. This year guest speakers included Julie Owens, Jack Munday, Rita Mallia, Leigh Rhiannon and Geoff Lee. Our keynote speaker was Alasdair McGregor speaking about Francis Greenway. Jack Munday also launched the book '*Conviction*' about the 1827 fight for rights at the factory. We had over 200 attending the day... a great success indeed. In this we particularly want to acknowledge the support from the Institute of Psychiatry and Parramatta Leagues Club for their grant.

Our regular speaker program has also been very successful and added to our knowledge of all things related to the factory. We are already planning for next year so don't miss these. The first one will include Carol Liston. We are also considering an annual talk in April as a part of Heritage Week as a counterbalance to our October event.

Enjoy your celebrations and relaxation over the festive season. Wishing you all a great Christmas and wonderful new year!

Yours in community

Gay Hendriksen - President

MORE OF 'OUR GIRLS' PROFILES - BY BETH MATTHEWS

ELIZABETH (SOMERS) HALL



Elizabeth (Eliza) Somers was born in Dublin, Ireland about 1807. She was convicted in Dublin, for 'stealing' (first offence) with a sentence of twelve months. She was tried a second time and then following a third conviction, 2nd June 1829, again for 'stealing', sentenced to seven transportation. (Image left: thought to be Eliza)

Elizabeth embarked on the ship *Asia 1* (its 5th journey) departing Cork Harbour, on 10th September 1829. The ship carried two hundred female prisoners, one re-landed and three deaths occurred on the voyage of 125 days. The *Asia* arrived in NSW on 13th January 1830.

Eliza Somers is described as 'age 23, catholic, single, born Dublin, do all work'. She was '5ft 3", dark brown hair, hazel eyes, a ruddy complexion, freckled and pock-pitted (see entry in the *Asia's* Muster below).

Asia 1 st						from Ireland				Lead Master	
No.	Name	Age	Place	Trade	Offence	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Mark	Signature
117	118	119	120	121	122	5 3	Ruddy	Brown	Hazel	None	Reuben Chapman
117	118	119	120	121	122	5 3	Ruddy	Brown	Hazel	None	Reuben Chapman
117	118	119	120	121	122	5 3	Ruddy	Brown	Hazel	None	Reuben Chapman
117	118	119	120	121	122	5 3	Ruddy	Brown	Hazel	None	Reuben Chapman

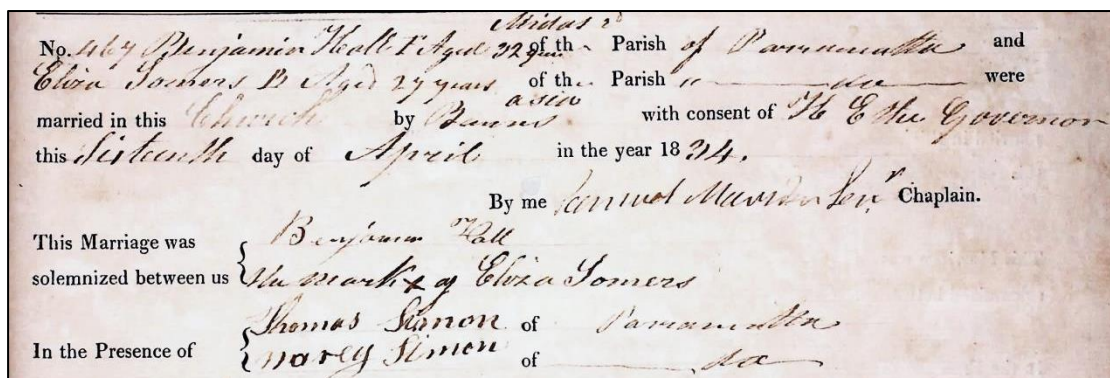
source: State Records NSW

On arrival Eliza was assigned to Reuban Chapman, an ironmonger in Pitt Street, Sydney. During this time Eliza became pregnant to Thomas Wade who had been convicted in 1824 and who had arrived on the ship *Mangles* with a sentence of transportation for life.

A son, Thomas Wade was born 24th April 1831. Eliza was then in the *Parramatta Female Factory*. From here she was assigned to William Panton of Stonequarry where she began a relationship with Benjamin Hall. The records show that she was returned to the Factory several times, absconding from her master to be with Benjamin Hall. He had been convicted at Bristol Quarter Sessions for 'stealing clothing' and sentenced to seven years transportation. He arrived per the ship *Midas 2* in 1827. After receiving his Ticket of Freedom he was employed in the Picton district.

Before Eliza and Benjamin's marriage, a daughter Mary was born in 1833. They were married in St John's Parramatta on 16th April 1834 by the Rev. Samuel Marsden whose signature appears on their Marriage Certificate below – note Eliza's 'mark'. Eliza's fifth child was born in 1837. He was **Ben Hall***, the bushranger.

Elizabeth's sentence ended on June 1836. Benjamin was then employed by Samuel Clift of Doon Range on the Liverpool Plains. Elizabeth was granted a Certificate of Freedom in 1846.



Ben Hall*

IT WAS A RIOT OF A DAY!



Setting up!



Ann Gordon's descendant Heidi Brown



Alasdair McGregor – guest speaker with Gay Hendriksen



Chatting over a cuppa tea!



Chatting about the Factory



An afternoon tour group

A VOYAGE TO THE COLONY OF NEW SOUTH WALES CRIME & PUNISHMENT – ON BOARD ‘THE ALMORAH’

(continuing extracts from Superintendent Surgeon Morgan Price’s Journal)

As the Almorah continued its southward journey, the participants settled into a daily routine.

“All on board became accustomed to the routine of the voyage.”

The Surgeon Superintendent, Morgan Price, was faced with the predicament that, as behaviour goes, the free settlers were equally as bad as or worse than the prisoners, commenting on the

“...cunningness and artful design of many of the free women”.



On board - image: forums.canadiancontent.net

“Few of the oldest and the worst Characters amongst the free settlers now on board object to adhere to the general Regulations and orders and in order to show them an Example I thought it my duty to handcuff one of them – Costello and with further Orders that any deviation from the general orders they should be sent to the prison and remain along with the convicts, the remainder of the Voyage. I find more difficulty with the free Women than the convicts, when they came on board I gave them to understand I should not make any Distinction between them and the prisoners in the event of them transgressing from the general Rules.”

“From time to time I have had occasion to handcuff many of the prisoners the principle crimes have been fighting and abusive Language.....I was obliged to punish – Costello (a free woman) for taking Fire between decks and abusive Language to the first officer and defiance of all orders that had been given out - Handcuffed one of the prisoners.”

“-handcuffed one of the prisoners for Cursing and throwing a Bottle at another prisoner.”

"Punished Bridget Fitzgerald* for disorderly conduct. This woman has surpassed anything I have witnessed in Violence and intemperate Conduct. This evening she had a Knife and threatening the life of two or three of the Prisoners - untill this time she has had charge of cleaning the Deck - and has in general behaved tolerable well - untill this day."

"The Punishment of handcuffing to the prisoners last week has been more often used owing to some Wine having been stolen from the Hold by some of the sailors and distributed to the Convicts."

Prison Door every evening locked at 7 o'clock, I have adopted this system since the Commencement of the Voyage and have every reason to think that no improper intercourse have taken place."

"Handcuffed Mary Rian for her Violent and intemperate disposition after detecting her on a falsehood. This old woman is perhaps amongst the worst in the Prison and is capable of inventing any story to cloak her own Conduct."

Towards the end of the journey, Morgan Price wrote:

"Punishments have neither been severe nor frequent altho I am persuaded we have as ill-disposed Characters on board as ever were sent out - hitherto I have persevered in one System and now I am happy to say they are all tolerable quiet.

Research – Noela Vranich

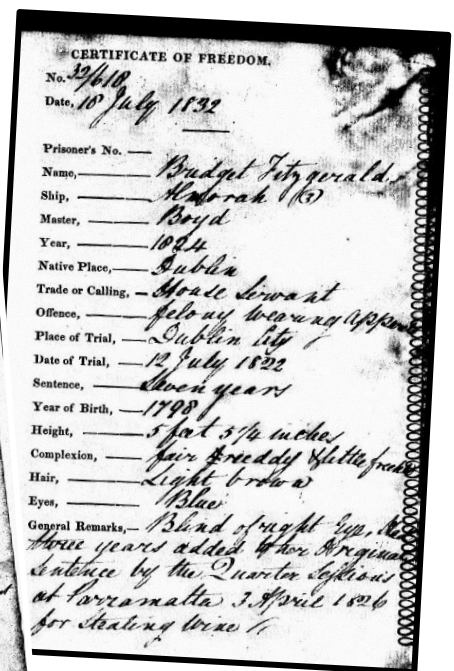
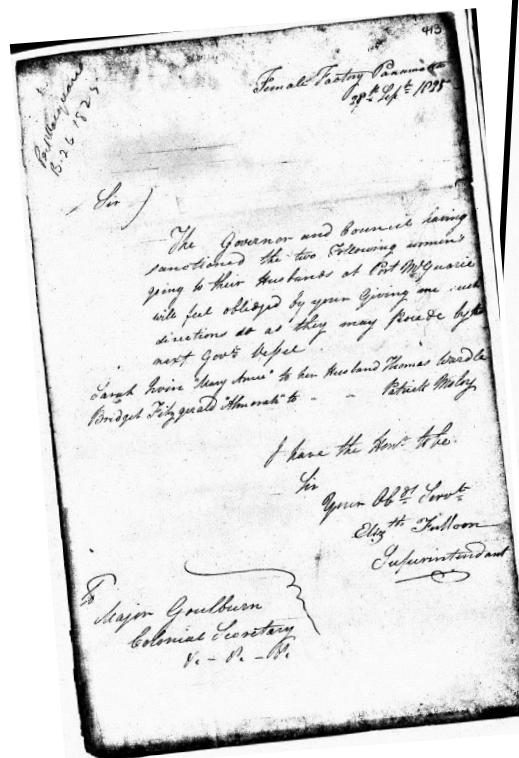
*Postscript :

Perhaps there was a happy ending for Bridget Fitzgerald – a Petition for Permission to Marry was signed by Supt. Elizabeth Fulloon September 1825.

(source: Colonial Secretary Correspondence 1788-1856)

Bridget's Certificate of Freedom was issued in July 1832

(source: State Records NSW)



A pair of convict handcuffs with key – marked with a broad arrow made by Field & Sons Holborn, London. Image: www.carters.com.au

NOTICEBOARD

- A warm welcome to new PFFF members ! *Max Littlefield, Mike Oldfield, Donna Davis , Jo Henwood, Raymond Goddard, Rosemary Sainsbury, Clare Moore, Valerie Birch, Robyn Burg, Cheryl Daley, Janet Grundy, Jenny Joyce, Toni Kingham, Gloria Milsom, Lorraine Mote, Kerrie O'Hagan, Anne Ware , Lorna Porter, Cherie Sloane and Patricia Worrard.*
- Don't forget to visit our current exhibition at Hambledon Cottage, Hassall Street, Parramatta - 'Herstory-Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women' Exhibition Thursday - Sunday 11am-4pm. Contact Hambledon Cottage to check times over the Christmas and New Year period - 9635 6924. OPEN TIL LATE FEBRUARY 2016.
(Note: The Cottage will be closed for repairs from late February- April 2016)
- Watch out for the National Trust Heritage Festival 'Discovery-Rediscoveries' 16th April - 29th May 2016 - heritage & history wise, there will be lots to do!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - 2016

Meetings – guest speaker at 1:30pm and **General Meeting** at 2:00pm

When: the 3rd Friday of every **second** month

Where: the Coach House, Hambledon Cottage, 63 Hassall Street, Parramatta

Friday: **18th March 20th May 15th July 16th September 18th November 2016**

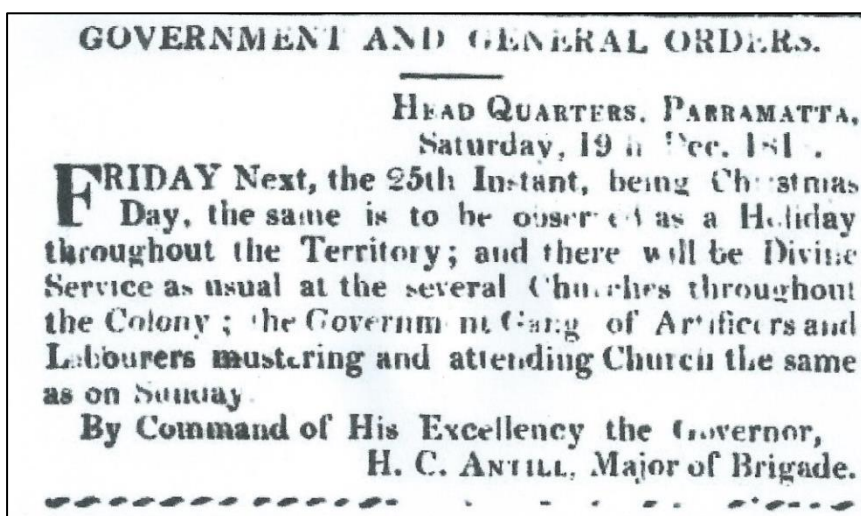
SPECIAL EVENT: 'IT'S A RIOT!' October 2016 - date to be confirmed



HISTORY CORNER

Christmas in the Colony 1818

By 1818, the Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser was being published three days per week and in the 19th December edition the following Government order appeared –



'Friday next, the 25th Instant, being Christmas Day, the same is to be observed as a Holiday throughout the Territory and there will be Divine service as usual at the several Churches throughout the Colony; the Government Gang of Artificers and Labourers mustering and attending Church the same as on Sunday

By Command of His Excellency the Governor,

H.C Anthill, Major of Brigade.'

One imagines 'the girls' would have been 'delighted' – a holiday but, attendance at church required and twice in one week!

Seasons Greetings To All



image: A Bush Christmas – the Art Gallery of NSW

Our Members, Friends



Supporters

