

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO:12 DECEMBER 2016
- FEBRUARY 2017**

Contact: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com or PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124
PFFF website/online petition: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
History: parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com



The Parramatta Female Factory by Augustus Earle 1826/nla.pic-an2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

Patrons: Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Kenneally AO
President: June Bullivant OAM **Vice President:** Judith Dunn OAM
Treasurer/Public Officer: Kerima-Gae Topp
Secretary: Alice Kershaw
Committee: History Project Anne Mathews Beth Matthews
Pub/Newsletter: Ronda Gaffey

Content	Page
President.....	2
History Corner.....	4
'Our Girls'.....	5
Riot Day Gallery.....	7
New Exhibit.....	10
Noticeboard.....	11

THE PFFF CALENDAR FOR 2017 – SEE NOTICEBOARD PAGE 11
NEXT GENERAL MEETING IS FRIDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2017
GUEST SPEAKER AT 1:30 PM GENERAL MEETING AT 2:30 PM AT
THE COACH HOUSE, HAMBLEDON COTTAGE, HASSALL STREET,
PARRAMATTA.

Artwork: Banner and PFFF logo by Amiel Dizon - dizonbydesign.com.au



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Members

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, on behalf of our executive committee but also from myself and my husband Barry.

We have had a busy six months. Firstly it is my pleasure to welcome Meg and Tom Keneally as the Patrons of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends. I am sure with the support of Meg and Tom, our group will experience a greater profile in the Australian community and we would like to thank them for their generous support.

I would like to say what a wonderful hardworking, dedicated membership we have. Riot Day was an overwhelming success and we raised \$1600. It was amazing to see "the team" spring into action on the day. I would like to congratulate all who participated and for making the day such a huge success (husband Barry who has worked in community service for over 30 years stated that he had never seen a team work so well). A special thank you to Anne Mathews who worked over and beyond the call of duty, handling all the phone calls and messages, compiling the booking list and making the 200 purple souvenir bags (donated by a friend) complete with the PFFF logo and information handouts. Thank you to Ronda Gaffey for the media blitz and the publicity which resulted in such an overwhelming response. Her contact with Weekend Notes resulted in over 1600 people reading the PFFF article (with journalist receiving \$10). I am not aware of how many attended but the word is out. Thank you to WeekendNotes and journalist Gary Brown.

The registration desk was most ably managed by Kerry Martin assisted by Kaye Weaver and further supported by Diana Paul and Margaret Ahearn selling raffle tickets. Thanks also to John Gaffey, head of sales and chief chair mover. A special thank you to our tour guides on the day, Gay, Beth, Judith, Anne, Alice and Ronda. Feedback from the community was wonderful to hear with everyone expressing they had an interesting time. Seasoned historians told of learning new things from their Riot Day experience. It was also pleasing to see the day supported by the trade tables taken by Parramatta & District Historical Society, Brislington Nursing Museum, St John's Parramatta Cemetery Friends, Janet Grundy and Dymocks Parramatta, NSW State Records and Gary Carter, local author.

The girls on the 'tea and coffee' Pauline, Christina and Heidi were unbelievable with personal service for the disabled (myself and Barry). Heidi said she was 'mum's go for'. She was also helping everyone else and supporting Paul Turner who manned the front gate directing our visitors and guests.



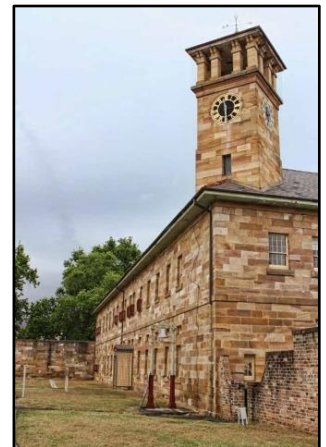
We have thanked our speakers Meg and Tom Keneally; a good close relationship has been established with Meg, due to the effort put in by Gay Hendriksen and with Meg doing research and her willingness to appear on Wendy Harmer's ABC radio program. The interview with Meg and Gay resulted in a wonderful piece of publicity. Thank you to Meg and Gay. Thank you also to Gay for liaison with Meg and her family who attended Riot Day -10 all told.

(Photo: Meg and Tom Keneally: Random House)

After having an email conversation with John Alessi, I met him and his wife Leanne on Riot Day. They had been on a tour with Anne Mathews and had enjoyed it thoroughly. Leanne and John are photographers and have kindly sent through a few they took on the day. They also photograph historical enactments and all things colonial. They have an extensive network and we thank them for their support.

(Photo - right: John Alessi)

On November 11th, Urban Growth held a symposium/community workshop SPROUT (Grow Ideas) and I congratulate our members Gay Hendriksen, Ronda Gaffey and Alice Kershaw who attended. Gay presented the view for PFFF and represented us very professionally. Ronda spoke from a personal perspective as a factory woman's descendant and Alice was to ask the hard questions. Alice represented herself as a descendant also. This strategy worked extremely well - we had three different opportunities to get our message across about the female factory.



The National Trust Festival is on again in 2017, from 18th April to 21st May. The theme is "Having a Voice" and we are working on a plan of action for the month. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Anne, Beth and Ronda have been working on the *Herstory* exhibition. They have added different profiles and also created a power point which will be at Hambledon Cottage soon. At the last meeting, members were taken through the cottage and were able to view the new material.

Thank you and a Merry Christmas to members of the Parramatta and District Historical Society for the continued support of our group, making the Coach House available for meetings and also for the exhibition *Herstory* which has been further updated by the girls and that will take it into the 'New Year'.



Thank you to Dorothy Warwick and the "Friends of Linnwood House" who hosted a PFFF stall at their Open Day in October (attended by John, Ronda Gaffey and I) and in November (attended by Barry and I). The PFFF photographic display attracted a lot of attention and the opportunity gained a lot of interest for what we are doing. The display showed people what is on the female factory site and some of the history. Probably the most important part was that people came from all over NSW to the event at Linnwood which featured a display of vintage cars. The event was well attended.

I would like to congratulate Kerima-Gae on her talk given for the National Trust recently. The feedback from people attending was very positive, many not aware of the other nine factories mentioned. They also commented on the amount of research that had gone into the talk and said they almost run out of chairs. Thank you for your time and all you do on behalf of our history.

We look forward to more work putting our "Voices" out there. It is so important to let the community know that there is more to the factory than sandstone buildings, while they are important they do not tell the story of the women who were held there. Also thank you to all the groups who have supported us throughout the year and on Riot Day, especially our sponsors Parramatta Leagues Club, NSW State Records, Friends of St John's Cemetery, Parramatta and District Historical Society, and of course the people who turned up to make this day a complete success.

Finally, a very warm welcome to new PFFF members, Dianne Myers, Leslie Rogan, Alma Burg and Terry Smith.

June Bullivant OAM
President

*Wishing All Our Members, Friends & Supporters
A Very Happy Christmas & New Year*



HISTORY CORNER

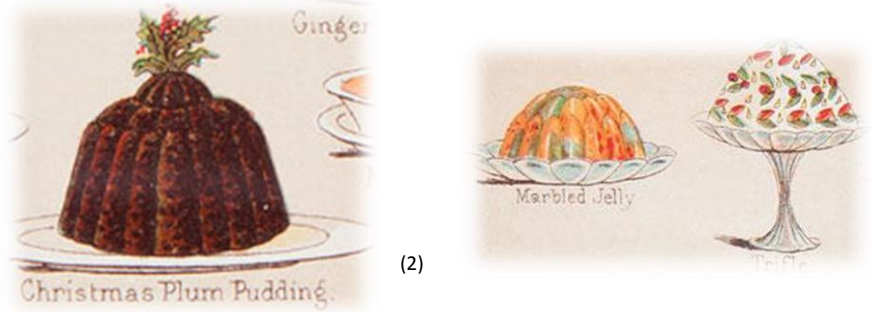
CHRISTMAS WAS A TIME FOR CELEBRATION AND ABSCONDING!

In the colony, various culinary goodies were for sale just in time for the preparation of all those special seasonal dishes. Ingredients on sale were of 'superior quality', 'at very low prices' and included 'raisins, jams, jellies, almonds and Imperial and French plums'! (1)

CHRISTMAS FRUITS, &c.

ON SALE at the Undersigned's, of superior quality and at very low prices, viz. :—

ZANTE Currants
 SMYRNA Raisins
 CAPE pudding Raisins, at 6d. per lb. in boxes of about 40 lbs. ; to suit private families
 IMPERIAL and French Plums
 CANDID Citron, Orange and Lemon Peel
 ENGLISH Jams, Jellies, and Bottled Fruits
 JORDAN, hard and soft Shell Almonds
 CLOVES and Cinnamon



Absconding a Few Days Before Christmas!

"Mrs Cochrane, the Matron of the Factory, anxious no doubt, to get as speedily as possible to the comfortable enjoyment of her own parlour, let the female prisoners into the dormitory from the yard without counting them. Seeing this, three women managed to secrete themselves in the yard, and it being wet, there was no chance of any of those vigilant guardians of the softer sex, who watch over the safety of their frailer daughters, going out in the pouring rain to look if any were behind. When night came on, and all was quiet, the three runaways broke open the store, and taken out a quantity of rope, made a kind of ladder end of which one of those heroines attached her petticoat, filled with stones; this they threw over the top of the walls, and the petticoat catching in the chevaux de frize at the top, they were enabled to scale the wall with little difficulty, and to get clear off. The names of the women are Anne Murray, per Whitley, seven years, last assigned to Mrs Moore George-street, Sydney; Mary Quin per Isabella, last assigned to Mr Bennett of Parramatta; and Caroline Carter, per John Renwick, last assigned to Mr Hopkins of the Market Wharf, Sydney. (1)

RUNAWAYS FROM THE FACTORY.—On the evening of the 8th inst., it being very wet, Mrs. Cochrane, the Matron of the Factory, anxious, no doubt, to get as speedily as possible to the comfortable enjoyment of her own snug parlour, let the female prisoners into the dormitory from the yard, without counting them. Seeing this, three women managed to secrete themselves in the yard, and it being wet, there was no chance of any of those vigilant guardians of the softer sex, who watch over the safety of their frailer daughters, going out in the pouring rain to look if any were behind. When night came on, and all was quiet, the three runaways broke open the store, and taken out a quantity of rope, made a kind of ladder to the end of which one of those heroines attached her petticoat, filled with stones; this they threw over the top of the walls, and the petticoat catching in the chevaux de frize at the top, they were enabled to scale the wall with little difficulty, and to get clear off. The names of the women are Anna Murray, per Whitley, seven years, last assigned to Mrs. Moore, of George-street, Sydney; Mary Quin, per Isabella, last assigned to Mr. Bennett, of Parramatta; and Caroline Carter, per John Renwick, last assigned to Mr. Hopkins, of the Market Wharf, Sydney.

(2)



(1) Articles from *the Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser*, Saturday December 18th 1841

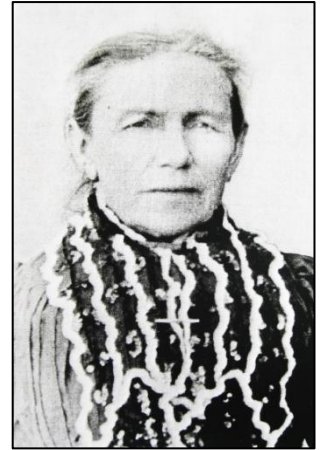
(2) Illustrations from *Mrs Beeton's Everyday Cookery & Housekeeping Book* 1859

“OUR GIRLS” PROFILES BY BETH MATTHEWS AND ANNE MATHEWS

CATHERINE LONG was the daughter of John and Ann Long of Kingston-on-Thames. She is noted as being baptised at the same church where her parents had married. She was from Woolwich, London.

At the Spring Assizes in the City of Cork, Catherine was charged and found guilty of “larceny from a shop”. A report in the Freeman’s Journal 23rd April 1822 reports she “stole a piece of linen, the property of Henry Morough”.

Catherine was transported to NSW for seven years per *Woodman* which left Cork Harbour on 25th January 1823. The ship carried 97 female prisoners; three deaths occurred on the voyage which took 131 days. The ship arrived in Port Jackson on 25th June 1824.



The ship’s indent records Catherine Long as *18 years of age, 5ft 1 and a half inches, sallow complexion, dark flaxen hair and light grey eyes*. The ship’s Surgeon wrote, “*Catherine Long: spare habits and had led a vicious life*” (Surgeon Superintendent George Fairfoul wrote of most of the women in many such unflattering terms).

On arrival Catherine was assigned to a Mr Lloyd of Liverpool. A son James was born in the Parramatta Female Factory 15th July 1826 and the father named as James Grime (per *Malabar* 1819), carpenter.

In a petition dated 14th February 1827, directed to the Governor, Ralph Darling

This humble petition of James Grimes Prisoner of the Crown per Malabar (1) Most respectfully Showeth That your petitioner is a carpenter in the employ of the Government at Sydney and is desirous to be united in Marriage to Catherine Long per Woodman also a prisoner, at present the assigned servant of John Davis, Castlereagh Street Sydney. That the intimacy between petitioner and the said Catherine Long is of several years standing and has a young child by petitioner.....

Mr Davis, to whom Catherine was assigned, supported the petition and said this of her

I have this to state that Catherine Long has conducted herself during the time of being in my service, in a sober, honest and industrious manner. I give my sanction to the petitioner James Grimes

It is interesting to note the overwritten comments on the petition:

Sir, A committee of the Board of management has the honor to bring under your observation the following circumstance connected with the assignment of a Female from the establishment of Mr J Davis of Castlereagh St no. 49 who keeps a laundry. It appears....this person has allowed the woman Cath. Long - Woodman - assigned to him to leave his house, & she is at present living with a carpenter of the name of Grimes attached to the Engineer Department in a state of prostitution in Liverpool Street. The Board beg to recommend this irregularity may be [?] with the utmost severity of the law.....

Wm Dumaresq

(William Dumaresq was on the Board of the Parramatta Female Factory Management, ever vigilant regarding the women’s living arrangements).

Permission to marry was finally given and Catherine and James were married in Scots Church, Sydney on 20th August 1827 by the Rev. John Dunmore Lang. Catherine received her Certificate of Freedom 3rd April 1829.

Catherine and James had four children. A son James was born in 1828 and died in infancy. A daughter Mary was born in the female factory and baptised on June 4th 1829 at St John's Parramatta. Another daughter Jane was born in 1832.

James deserted Catherine and her children about 1832. On his Certificate of Freedom (1848) is overwritten "cleared out to H. Town". A letter in the Supreme Court NSW (1862) refers to an Affidavit from Catherine stating James' desertion of her and their children on 25th August 1832 "without any reason or cause".

Following James' desertion Catherine 'took up' with William Carlow who arrived in 1822 (per *Mary 11*). Their first child Martha was born at Capertee, followed by the birth of Mary Ann in 1840, William in 1842, John in 1846 and Ellen in 1849. Their children were baptised at St Bernard's Church in Hartley.

Catherine and William married at Liverpool Plains on January 13th 1854, however the marriage was bigamous since James was still alive. He died some years later in 1877.

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.
 No. *29/287*
 Date, *3rd April 1829*

Prisoner's No. _____
 Name, _____ *Catherine Long*
 Ship, _____ *Woodman*
 Master, _____ *Ford*
 Year, _____ *1823*
 Native Place, _____ *Weymouth*
 Trade or Calling, _____ *Servant*
 Office, _____
 Place of Trial, _____ *City Court*
 Date of Trial, _____ *Spring Assizes 1822*
 Sentence, _____ *Seven years*
 Year of Birth, _____ *1805*
 Height, _____ *Five feet 3 inches*
 Complexion, _____ *Fair*
 Hair, _____ *Dark brown*
 Eyes, _____ *Blue*
 General Remarks _____ *Wife of James Grimes*
(Carpenter)

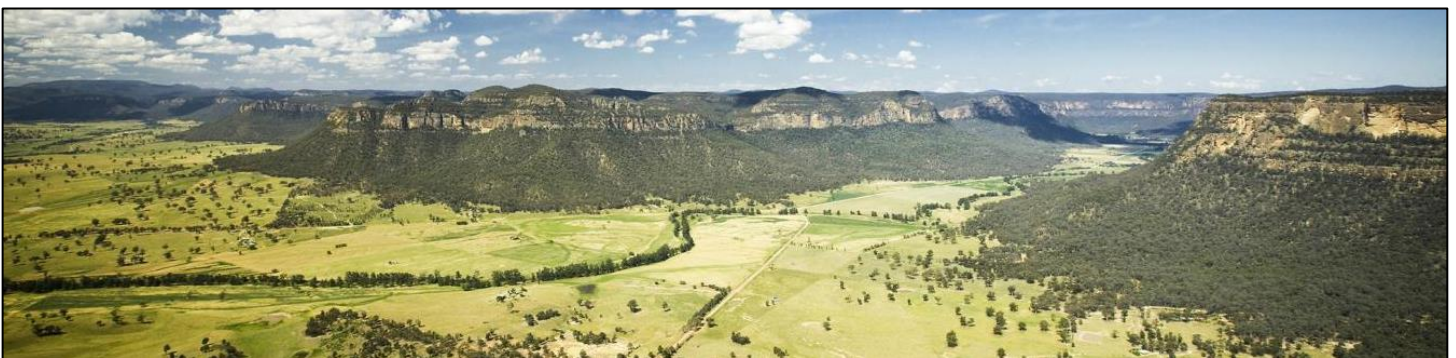


St Bernard's Church Hartley NSW

William Carlow died in 1858 and Catherine died in 1871. They are both buried on their property *Dandry*, near Coonabarabran, NSW, with their son John who was killed in a horse accident. After William Carlow's death, Catherine continued farming on their property and became a successful landowner and businesswoman.

<i>John Grime Jun:</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>Shalabar W. Frontages Road Str. 2. 2. Lang</i>
<i>Catherine Long</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>Woodman Lane Str. 2. 2. Lang</i>

Entry for James Grime and Catherine Long – NSW Register of Convicts' Applications to Marry 1826-1851
 The Reverend John Dunmore Lang is noted as the clergyman. SRNSW



Capertee Valley NSW: Source NSWDP&W

It is interesting to note that Catherine and William Carlow's first child Martha was born at Capertee. The Reverend Samuel Marsden had a "run" there – 72 miles west of Bathurst. Between 1822 and 1830 William was assigned to Marsden. In the 1828 Census he is listed as "bond" to Marsden and working at Bathurst. William Carlow received his Ticket of Leave January 31st 1830 and was to remain in the district of Bathurst. It is possible he remained at the Marsden property after his TOL.

Sources:
 'Our Girls': Unpublished work by Beth Matthews and Anne Matthews sourced from original papers SRNSW.



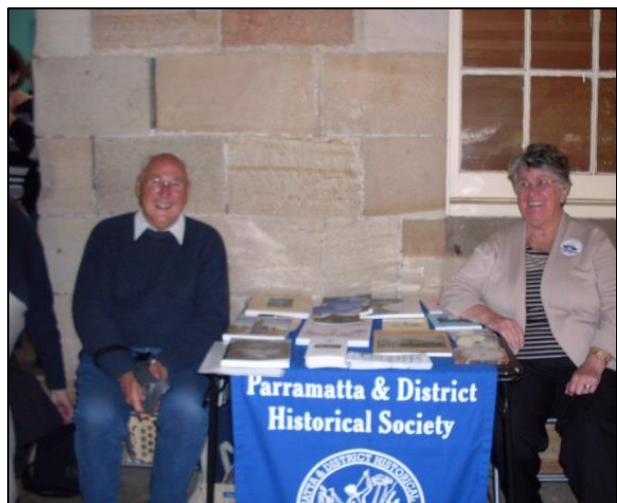
Tom Keneally (above) Meg Keneally & Tom Keneally (right)



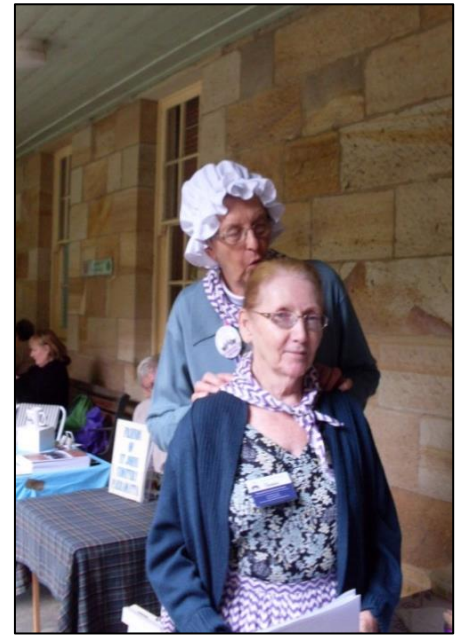
June and visitors



The busy bookstall with Janet Grundy



Ken Smith and Enid Turbit – P&DHS



The wonderful PFFF helpers – Heidi Brown (top left), Kaye, John and Kerry (middle) and the hospitality team (right), Pauline and Christina. Below left, the Hon. Geoff Lee, NSW State Member for Parramatta chatting with Gay.



The Lecture Theatre was a 'full house' for Meg's talk (and a surprise word or two from Tom!).



Photos: Ronda Gaffey



Riot Day images – (left) chamfered stone wall inside the drying yard Photo: Ray Goddard.

Above – Ronda with members of the Botany Bay Historical Society.

Photo: Courtesy BBHS

RIOT DAY 2016 – A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE BY MEG KENEALLY

In her Riot Day Address, Meg spoke eloquently about her ancestor Mary Shields and also shared her research for the second novel she and her father Tom have recently written. The novel is set in Parramatta and is entitled *“The Unmourned”*. It is due for release in March 2017. (This excerpt from her address is published with kind permission).

As anyone here who has researched their factory ancestor knows, there is a story in every letter, every official document, every sketch, and every artefact.

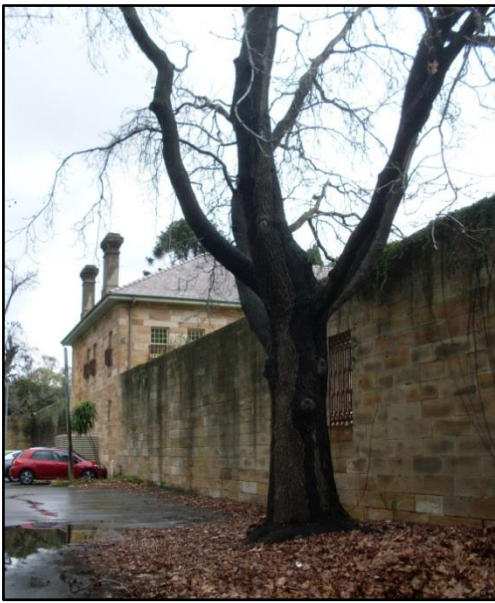
And the Female Factory is the repository of many of those stories. The women incarcerated here are the ancestors of up to 1.7 million Australians, including me.

I was lucky enough while researching this book to get to stand in a meeting room where the old committee room would have been, where my great-great-grandmother would have certainly stood to be selected as an assigned servant, and I would like to thank the Institute of Psychiatry who are marvellous custodians of the site and who allowed us access.

But there are many buildings which stand empty, many buildings in the factory are unloved, are except by those here, and it strikes me as such a dreadful waste that they have not been preserved, that the rest of the 1.7 million Australians who are descendants of factory women can't stand in their great-great-grandmothers' and great-great-great-grandmothers' shoes as I was fortunate enough to do.

So I would like to applaud the Parramatta Female Factory Friends and their proposal to restore this site and make it part of a museum of Australian Identity. It is an inspired idea, and one which is crucial in preserving the stories of brutality, hope and survival which have soaked into these walls.





Above -The Gipps Yard. Middle - Looking out of the Yard.



Governor Sir George Gipps

THE GIPPS PENITENTIARY & SOLITARY CELLS 1838 -1885

The new exhibit in the *Herstory – Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* exhibition at Hambledon Cottage is a beautifully worked model of the Parramatta Female Factory Gipps Penitentiary & Solitary Cells by Terry Fitzell. The building was commissioned by Governor Sir George Gipps in 1838.

The new penitentiary comprised 3 storeys with dark cells on the ground floor and solitary cells with windows on the floors above. It breached British penitentiary rules by keeping women in solitary in the dark and Gipps was ordered to add windows. A stay in solitary was limited by magistrates to 21 days.

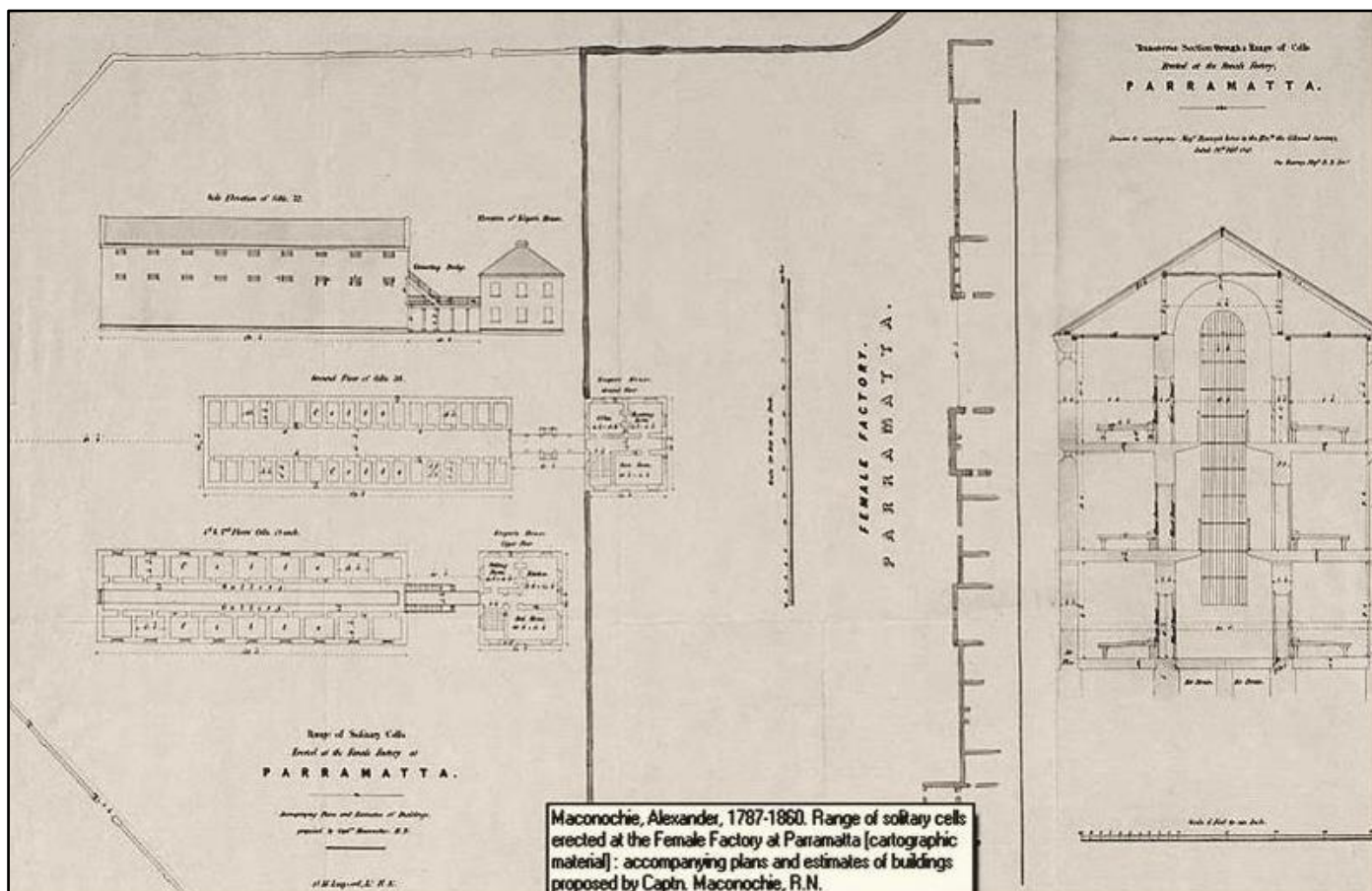
With the cessation of transportation to NSW in 1840 and the subsequent closure of the female factory by 1848, the building became part of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum. Old and infirmed factory women remained there being cared for under the Asylum system. The building was demolished in 1885.

Many thanks go to Anne Mathews for her research and liaison with Terry.

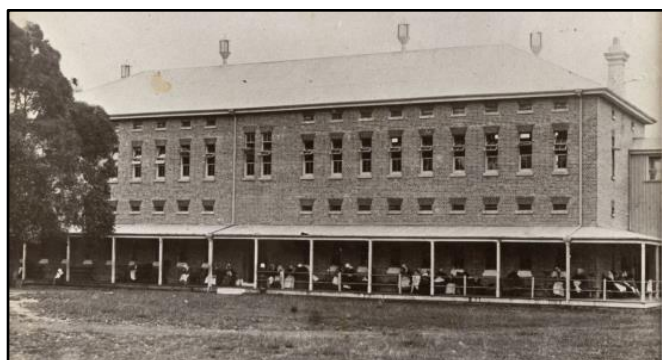


The Gipps Penitentiary Model in situ.

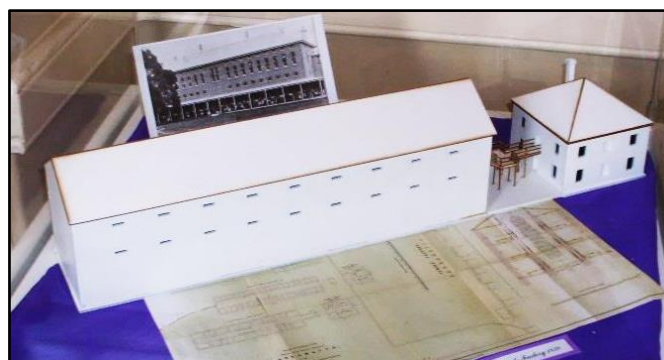
Sources:
Notes provided by Anne Mathews
Portrait of Sir George Gipps: SLNSW



Plans for the Parramatta Female Factory Penitentiary & Solitary Cells – by Captain Alexander Maconochie, R.N. SLNSW



The Gipps Penitentiary in the Asylum period c 1870 – courtesy Terry Smith



The model with photo in the background – Herstory exhibition

NOTICEBOARD- IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – 2017

- Meetings **2017** – guest speaker at 1:30pm and **General Meeting** at 2:00pm
When: the 3rd Friday of every **second** month. **Venue:** Coach House, Hambledon Cottage, Parramatta.
17th February 21st April 16th June 18th August AGM 20th October 15th December 2017
- A PFFF CALENDAR for 2017 IS ATTACHED with some interesting historic dates to note as well as core events. Next year will be the Parramatta Female Factory's 199th Anniversary. The following year will be quite special when the Factory will be 200 years old. **The PFF Bi-Centenary** will be quite something and, to begin planning for, so let the ideas flow!
- **Herstory** – *Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* closes at the end of May 2017. Please note that Hambledon Cottage closes on 12th December 2016 and re-opens 1st January 2017
- A date for your diary! Call in at the PFFF/NPRAG **Australia Day Stall** in Parramatta Park on 26th January 2017.
- The next PFFF Newsletter will be out mid-March 2017.
- **EMAIL addresses** – please let us know if you have a **new email** address or recently acquired one so we can update our records. Many thanks.



Image: Bessie Rouse's Scrap Album c1880 - 1890
 Rouse Hill House & Farm Collection SLM (HR 80/20)



© PFFF Inc. 2016