

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.  
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 17 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2017**



Contact: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com) or PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124  
 PFFF website: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au](http://parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au)  
 History: [parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com](http://parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com)  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pffriends/>  
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parramattafemalefactoryfriends/>  
 Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/parramatta-female-factory-federal-petition-for-world-heritage>



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

**Patrons:** Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Keneally AO  
**President:** Gay Hendriksen **Vice President:** Judith Dunn OAM  
**Treasurer/Public Officer:** Kerima-Gae Topp  
**Secretary:** Kerry Martin  
**Committee:** History Project Anne Mathews Beth Matthews  
**Pub/Newsletter:** Ronda Gaffey

Content	Page
President.....	2
Noticeboard.....	4
History Corner .....	5
'Our Girls'.....	6
Special Feature - Sligo Gaol.....	7
Advocacy Corner.....	8

The next meeting is a **General Meeting FRIDAY 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017**  
 Guest Speaker at **1:30pm** at the Coach House, Hambleton Cottage.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the Parramatta Female Factory Friends September- October Newsletter.

Coming up soon is our annual, *It's a Riot*. This year we are including an exhibition on the Parramatta Female Factory, drawn from the popular *Herstory* exhibition. The ever popular tours will be available and some great trade tables for your interest. So bring a picnic, enjoy the ambience of the Female Factory and connect with Factory Friends and descendants. As the tours have been so popular in the past we have provided ticketing. The tours themselves are free but to book go to this link and follow the prompts: <https://www.facebook.com/events/469021826787685>



This coming twelve months we will continue our advocacy, promotion and sharing the Female Factory Stories. We are working hard to get to our aimed 10,000 signatures so please share our petition. It's as easy as going onto our website and the advocacy tab: <http://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/advocacy-2/petitions-brochure/> Then download our petition page and print. The details for return are at the bottom of the page. We are also on a membership drive so on the same page you can download a copy of our membership brochure and share or even easier bring a friend to the *It's a Riot* day or to our meetings.

To share the stories online then the following links will provide more information:

<http://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/> <https://parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com/> Of course you can also buy copy of our *Herstory* catalogue!

Last but not least you can join the conversation on our Facebook and <https://www.facebook.com/pffriends/> and 'like' us. We also have Instagram so if you have any great pics of our events then send to our Gmail and we will share them on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parramattafemalefactoryfriends/>

Of course we always look forward to seeing you at our meetings and the committee and I welcome your suggestions, ideas, comments and feedback.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen  
President

### READ ALL ABOUT IT!

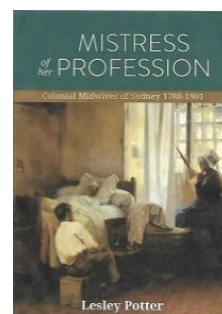
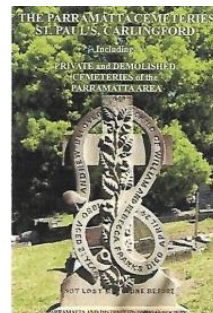
#### RIOT AT THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY!

*" .... the inmates quickly poured forth thick as bees from a hive.....  
about forty took to the bush towards Toongabbie....."*

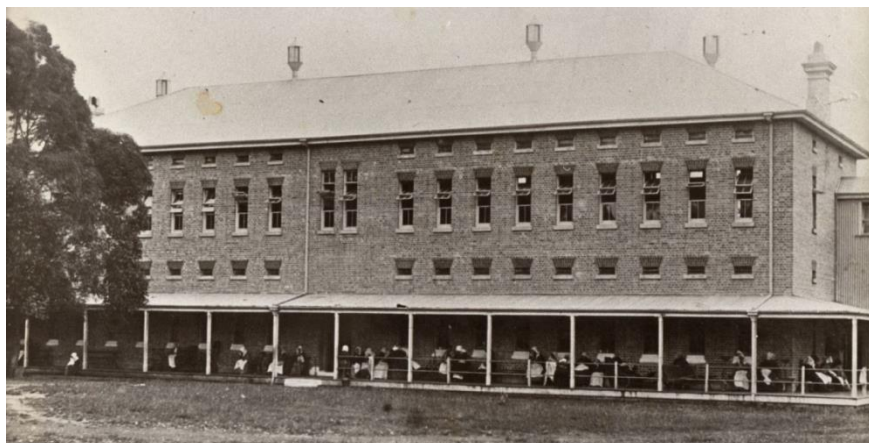
*See page 5 for full report from the Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1827*

## NOTICEBOARD

- The next PFFF General Meeting is Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October with guest speaker at 1:30pm - General Meeting at 2:15pm.
- The 190<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1827 riot is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10am - 3pm with history and archaeology displays as well as models of the factory buildings in the Lecture Theatre of the Institute of Psychiatry - entry is through the courtyard.
- A reminder - annual PFFF subscriptions (\$10) are due in July each year. Please send your cheque to the Treasurer, PFFF PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124 or direct deposit Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. BSB: 633 000 Account: 151 276 763 (but please tell us who you are on the deposit slip!).
- Congratulations to PFFF Vice President Judith Dunn OAM FPDHS and Rosemarie Morris FPDHS for their book, *St Paul's Carlingford Cemetery & Private and Demolished Cemeteries*. For each cemetery there is a history and plan as well as details of their transcriptions and memorial plaques. For sales enquiries contact Parramatta & District Historical Society: [parramattahist@tpg.com.au](mailto:parramattahist@tpg.com.au)
- Congratulations also to member Dr Lesley Potter for her book, *Mistress of her Profession - Colonial Midwifery from 1788 - 1901* - published by Anchor Books: <https://www.anchorbooksaustralia.com.au> This book weaves the stories of nine midwives into an account of the development of midwifery training in New South Wales. Lesley has devoted a chapter in her book to midwifery practice in the Parramatta Female Factory and has profiled factory midwives and factory women who became midwives in their community.



This is the third exquisitely detailed Fitzell - Sawtell Parramatta Female Factory model which is currently featured in the *Herstory* Exhibition at Hambledon Cottage. The model is of the Penitentiary Cells commissioned by Governor Gipps in 1838 which were located in what today is called the Gipps Yard. Originally there were no windows - these were added later. Photographer: Bob Cook.



The 1838 Penitentiary Cells in the Gipps Yard in the Asylum period c 1870.  
Photo: the Terry Smith Collection.



## HISTORY CORNER - IT'S A RIOT! NOT ONE, BUT SIX!

The Riot of 27<sup>th</sup> October 1827 is perhaps the most widely known, however there were five others which occurred on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1831, 29<sup>th</sup> November 1831, 7<sup>th</sup> March 1833, 11<sup>th</sup> October 1836 and 24<sup>th</sup> February 1843. There were a number of reasons why the riots took place - these included a cut in the women's rations, food shortages, overcrowding and the women's response to the changeover from one Matron to another. Another perspective is that the 1827 riot specifically may be seen as a significant "workers' action" when the women "downed tools" in response to their conditions and treatment.

The Riot of March 1833 resulted from the women resisting the customary hair cutting. The Reverend Samuel Marsden, in his capacity as Factory Board of Management member and Magistrate, and Dr Mathew Anderson, fellow magistrate and physician to the factory were in attendance on the day. When Marsden and Anderson entered the 3<sup>rd</sup> class yard, they were pelted with a shower of stones. The women's resistance was short lived however; they were subdued, their hair was cut and the punishment of confinement in solitary resulted.

The Reverend Marsden wrote about the incident in detail in a letter to Alexander Macleay 7<sup>th</sup> March 1833:

*"I told you when I was in Sydney on Tuesday that I expected the women in the Factory would excite a riot again. They began on Wednesday night to be very troublesome and this morning they struck work. This was also the day for their hair to be cut. They one and all are determined not to submit to this operation. 40 soldiers with their officers were ordered to attend the constables to the factory. Anderson and I went before, Captain Westamott gave directions for the soldiers - the women collected large heaps of stone and as soon as we entered 3<sup>rd</sup> class they threw a shower of stones as fast as they possibly could.....I have no doubt but all the officers who saw their riotous conduct will be convinced of the necessity of keeping them under by the hand of power". (1)*

Marsden's final comment is emphatic; keeping the women *under* by threat of musket; punishing them through physical deprivation and the humiliating action of hair cutting which was, *"cutting power and cutting at identity"*. (2)

The monitress whose paid job it was to cut the women's hair had refused - such was the women's solidarity. Ann Jarvis (per *Competitor*) who was serving a two month sentence in 3<sup>rd</sup> class for improper conduct carried out the task (see page 6 for Ann Jarvis's profile).

### Sources:

*"Our Girls"* Unpublished work by Anne Mathews and Beth Mathews

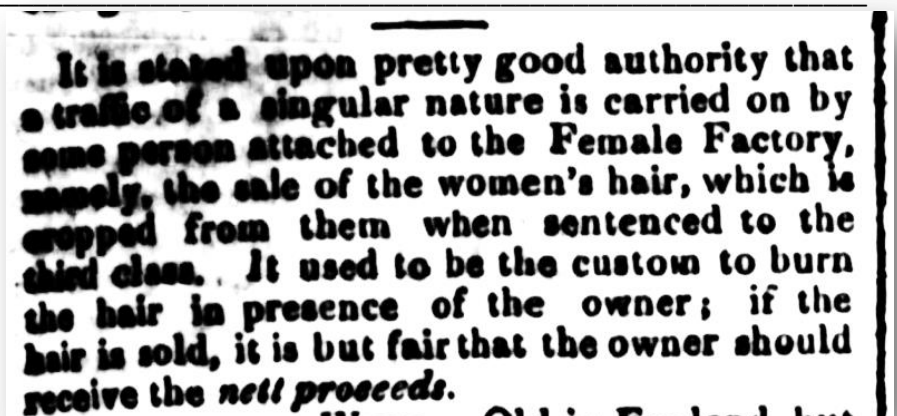
(1) Marsden, Samuel *Correspondence from Samuel Marsden to Alexander Macleay, Parramatta 7 March 1833, Colonial Secretary's Papers* SRNSW.

(2) Hendriksen, G., page 23 - *Women Transported - Life in Australia's Female Factories* by Gay Hendriksen, Carol Liston and Trudy Cowley

## HAIR TRAFFICKING

From the Sydney Monitor:

*It is stated upon pretty good authority that traffic of a singular nature is carried on by some person attached to the Female Factory namely the sale of the women's hair, which is cropped from them when sentenced to third class. It used to be the custom to burn the hair in presence of the owner; if the hair is sold, it is but fair that the owner should receive the nett proceeds."*



It would seem that "someone" on the "inside" was profiting from the factory women's humiliation. The reference to the cut hair being burnt in front of the owner would have been a cruel act and served to underscore a woman's humiliation and disempowerment.

Source: *Domestic Intelligence: The Sydney Monitor* NSW: 1828 -1831, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1831, page3.

## THE RIOT OF 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 1827

### Riot At the Female Factory

We briefly noticed in our last as the circumstance was hastily communicated to us on Saturday evening, the fact of a riot having taken place on the morning of the same day at the Factory in Parramatta. Since then we have been made acquainted with further particulars. A short time previous to the resignation of the late Matron (Mrs Raine), which took place on Friday evening last, it was found necessary to mulct some of the continues in their proportion of tea and sugar, &c; in consequence of which, a general spirit of discontent was excited and a determination to have revenge on the retiring Matron was loudly proclaimed. Mrs Raine, however, who had intimation of the gathering storm, took measures accordingly; and, on Friday evening, was rescued by a party of constables, who were previously instructed, from the fury of a number of women, by whom she was assailed, in one of the rooms, a short time previous to her departure. On the following morning (Saturday), at about 7 o'clock, the new Matron, Mrs Gordon, being in charge, the allowance of bread and sugar being stopped in consequence of the conduct of the previous day, a considerable number of the women broke out of the factory; but persuaded by Mrs Gordon and the constables, they returned in again, threatening at the same time, that, if the usual allowance of bread and sugar was not immediately forthcoming they would tear down all before them. Some little delay ensued, and in about half an hour afterwards, a numerous party again assailed the gates, with pick axes, axes, iron crows, &c, &c, the united force of which, wielded as they were a determined and furious mob, soon left a clear stage, and the inmates of the Factory were quickly poured forth, thick as bees from a hive, over Parramatta and the adjoining neighbourhood. About one hundred came into the town, exclusive of the number that took different routes. Constables were seen running in all directions. A Captain, a Lieutenant, two sergeants, and about forty rank and file, were in immediate requisition by the Magistrates, and were seen flying in all directions with fixed bayonets, for the double purpose of securing the fugitives, and staying the mutiny; and so violent were the Amazonian banditti, that nothing less was expected but that the soldiers would be obliged to commence firing on them. After a little time, however, numbers of those who had broke loose were secured, and conducted back to the old quarters under military escort, shouting as they went along, and carrying with them their aprons loaded with bread and meat, for which, after the manner of a conquering army, they had laid the inhabitants of Parramatta and its vicinity under contribution. On their arrival at the Factory, Major Lockyer, the Superintendent of Police, at Parramatta, directed the ringleaders, to be selected and confined in the cells, but so determined were the rioters, that though opposed by a military force, they succeeded in rescuing their companions, declaring, that if one suffered, all should suffer. About forty, we understand, who took to the bush, towards Toongabbie, have not yet been retaken. A military guard is now stationed at the gates of the Factory, and Parramatta is quiet again.

Transcription (source unknown) - article from *the Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser* Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October 1827.



(MARY) ANN JARVIS was born about 1796 in Leicester, England. She was convicted in Lancaster on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1827 and her offence was "common larceny". Ann was sentenced to seven years transportation; she had three previous convictions.

Ann embarked the ship *Competitor* London departing on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1828. The ship carried 99 female prisoners arriving in New South Wales on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1828 after a voyage of 119 days.

The Muster Roll on the ship describes Ann as: *Age 32; reads; catholic; married one child; a cook; born Leicester; 5ft 3 1/4 inches; fair freckled; brown hair and eyes; a scar near right eye.*

Shortly after arrival Ann was assigned to Henry Steel. Ann is then shown in the *Return of Punishments* for 18th March 1829 at the Parramatta Female Factory. The entry shows: *Ann Jarvis, Competitor, 3<sup>rd</sup> class, 12 hours for neglect of work, by Matron.*

Further factory records show Ann in 3<sup>rd</sup> class for two months for "improper conduct" at the time of the March 1833 riot. In a letter from the Committee of the Parramatta Female Factory, dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 1833 it is noted Ann received a "remission of sentence". The letter reads:

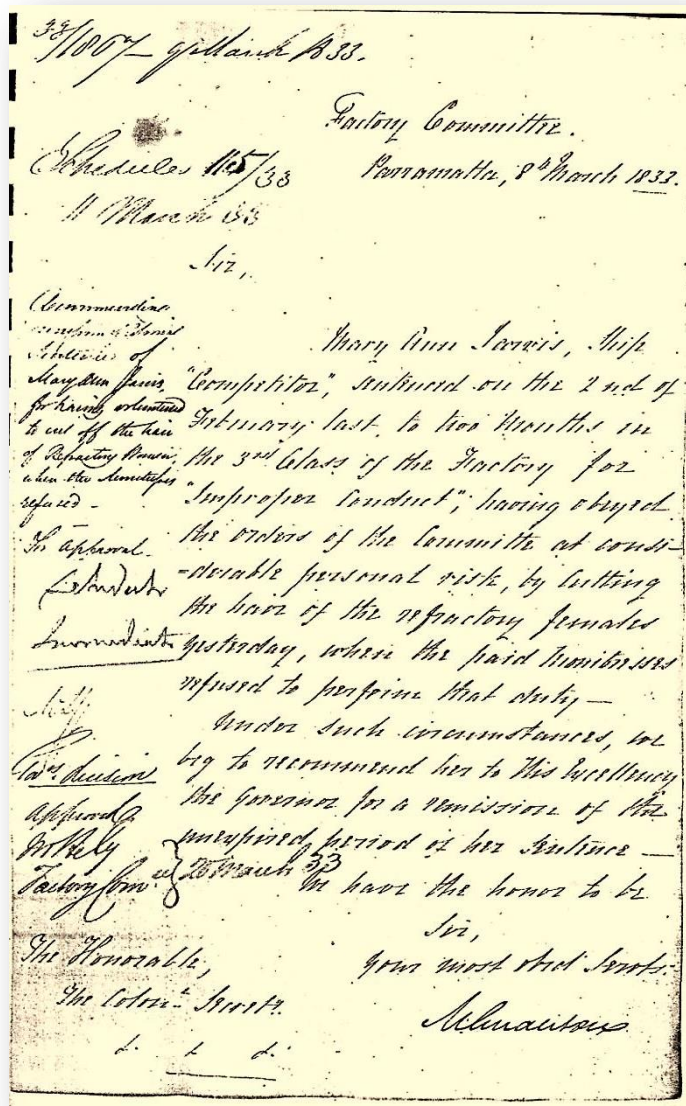
*Mary Ann Jarvis per Competitor, sentenced on 2<sup>nd</sup> February last, to two months in 3<sup>rd</sup> Class of the Factory for "Improper Conduct", having obeyed the orders of the Committee at considerable personal risk by cutting the hair of the refractory females yesterday when the paid monitress refused to perform that duty - under such circumstances we beg to recommend her to His Excellency the Governor for a remission of the unexpired period of her sentence...."*

Ann had stepped up and cut her fellow prisoner's hair when the monitress had refused.

According to the letter, Ann had done so at "considerable personal risk" - her fellow 3<sup>rd</sup> class inmates would not have been impressed. Ann's reward was remission of her two month sentence in 3<sup>rd</sup> class.

Ann Jarvis received her Certificate of Freedom in 1834 on which she is noted as wife to *Thomas Jarvis* per *Royal George* 1828. (1)

The Monitress position was filled by one of the "better behaved" factory women who reported to the Matron. Her role included ensuring lights out and being a second pair of eyes for the Matron and Sub - Matron. There were possibly 2 in each class depending on the number of women in the factory at the time. (2)



Sources:  
 (1) "Our Girls" Unpublished Work by Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews  
 (2) Notes by Anne Mathews



# SLIGO GAOL, IRELAND & A PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY CONNECTION



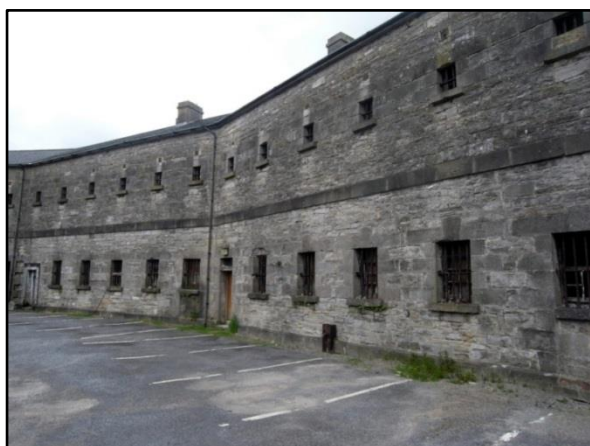
1. 2.



In April this year, PFFF received an email “out of the blue” from the Friends of Sligo Gaol. The email from their secretary Lara Byrne, alerted us to the fact that there is a significant historical link between the Sligo Gaol in Ireland and the Parramatta Female Factory!

The Friends of Sligo Gaol are a volunteer group of thirteen with diverse skills and comprise three archaeologists, a photographer, two journalists, a former prison guard, an event organiser and historian and many more skilled individuals. The aim of the group is to provide community support for the conservation of Sligo Gaol, to promote greater understanding and public awareness of its history and heritage and to work towards the eventual opening of the Gaol as a visitation attraction.

Interestingly for us, the gaol was built in 1818 and for the 200<sup>th</sup> commemoration next year and the group are in the process of creating an illustrated children’s book. This book is based on the real life story of *Bridget McFadden* who arrived on the convict ship *Margaret*, landing in Port Jackson in January 1839. The book takes facets of her story and tells of her meeting with a boy from the Dharug tribe. The book is set both in Ireland and in Australia and was inspired by Bridget’s story as well as the history of the interaction between aborigines and the early colonists borne out by recent archaeology at the precinct.



3.

In the ship’s indent Bridget is listed as:  
*Bridget McFadden aged 22; trade, laundress and housemaid; place of trial, Sligo; sentence 7 years; offence, stealing money; single; height, 5ft 1 inch; complexion, dark and a little pockmark’d; hair, brown; eyes, hazel. General remarks, scar on back of thumb.*

(Right: Certificate of Freedom - Bridget McFadden 24 April 1845 SRNSW)

No.	46/210
Date,	19 February 1845
Prisoner's No. ....	29/164
Name .....	Bridget McF.
Ship .....	Margaret 2
Master .....	Barnes
Year .....	1839
Native Place ...	County Sligo
Trade or Calling ..	Laundress and
Offence .....	
Place of Trial ...	Sligo
Date of Trial ...	16 July 1838
Sentence .....	Seven years
Year of Birth ...	1817
Height .....	5ft 1 inch
Complexion .....	Dark and a little
Hair .....	Brown
Eyes .....	Hazel
General Remarks ..	Scar on back

*20 July 46*  
*Scampbell*  
 Made & Witnessed &  
 dated 24 April 1845

Sources:

Friends of Sligo Gaol <https://www.sligo-gaol.ie/>

Facebook: SligoGaol

Images: (1) <https://www.magnumlady.com/2013/08/16/sligo-gaol/> (2) Ibid (3) <https://www.derelictireland.blogspot.com/2013/06/sligo-gaol/>



## ADVOCACY CORNER

- There have been numerous opportunities to promote the Friends and gather more signatures with our participation in the September Open Day at *Linnwood House* as well as attending and having an information table at the *Rex Stubbs OAM History Symposium* at Windsor. Thank you to Michelle Nichols, Rebecca Turnbull and Dorothy Warwick for their support. Thank you also to Anne Mathews and Kerima-Gae.
  - A further opportunity for advocacy and publicity will be PFFF participation in the NSW & ACT Family History Conference being held in Orange later this month.
  - To date, there has been no news regarding the National Heritage Listing of the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct - a letter supported by our Patrons Meg Keneally and Tom Keneally AO and the Macquarie Society, has been written requesting confirmation of National Heritage Listing following the recommendation by the Heritage Council.
  - PFFF have continued to meet with UGNSW regarding plans for the adaptive re-use of the factory precinct. Further community consultations are planned and a decision is expected in 2019. For an update on the work at the Parramatta North site go to:  
<http://urbangrowth.nsw.gov.au/assets/Uploads/PNUT-0020-Heritage-overview-PRINT.PDF>
- 



© PFFF 2017