

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 19 SUMMER EDITION 2018**



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 PFFF website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
 History: 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

General Meeting: 1:30pm from 2:15, **FRIDAY 20th February 2018.**
 Coach House, Hambledon Cottage, Hassall Street Parramatta.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Welcome Friends to the New Year and what an eventful one it is shaping up to be! Finally the Parramatta Female Factory is moving into the well-deserved spotlight! Our national listing is still bringing a smile to my face and many of the Friends. A small group can still make a difference!

However now is the time to push forward with our petition! Let's make this the year to present it to Federal Parliament and get the World Heritage listing on the way. You can take away a copy from one of our meetings or go to parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au to the advocacy tab and find the petitions there. You will also find our membership brochure there. We are steadily growing but more in our group will help spread the word further. My challenge to you this month is for each of you to add one new member to our fold!

2018! It's the Bicentennial Year for the Female Factory. 200 years ago on the 9th of July Governor Lachlan Macquarie records in his journal that he had laid the first stone. Of course we will commemorate, reflect and celebrate. Our plan is to acknowledge this highly significant date. It falls on a Monday so in order to share with as many as possible, we will have a day of coming together on the 7th of July so please put this aside in your diaries and join us. As the day takes shape we will continue to update you. You can of course put your hand up for volunteering from now by letting us know at our meetings or by emailing: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

This is also a good year to promote our tours. To this end as well as arrangements with group visits, we are offering tours for individuals on the first Friday of each month. Our April speaker will be Anne Mathews and it will be a guide training session. We have had 'how to be a guide' but this one is about the content to share so that we are all sharing the right information.

Our next general meeting is February and our special guest speaker is the fabulous Senior Archivist, Gail Davis from State Archives and she will be talking about family history but with a focus on finding Female Factory ancestors. As Gail is a very popular speaker it would be great if you can rsvp if you are attending.

Concerning our advocacy we continue to promote the Museum of Australian Identity and the significance of the Female Factory. We are also looking for a home for the Friends - preferably at the Factory. We will keep you posted on this. We continue to get the petitions out. Most recently the Friends had a stall at Parramatta Park Australia Day event which was highly successful.

Looking forward to seeing familiar faces of our long time members and new ones at our next meeting,

Finally, a warm welcome to new members: *Beth Aglio, Eileen Avery, Karen Doyle, Linda Farrell, Rosemary Foran, Linda Graham, Lorraine Holroyd, Alan Holroyd, Jan Muir, Karen Osman, Jane Rouvray and Catherine Tisdale.*

Gay Hendriksen
President



Tour Groups on Riot Day: Photographs: Bob Cook and Wal Phelps.

NOTICEBOARD

- **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** The first General Meeting for 2018 is **Friday 20th February at 1:30** when our guest speaker will be *Gail Davis* from State Archives and Records NSW (SARNSW) which is not to be missed!
- **MEETING DATES for 2018: The 3rd Friday of the month :-** 20th February, 20th April, (Special General Meeting) 15th June, 17th August (AGM), 19th October, 14th December.
- **Factory Tours are the first Friday of the month;** bookings essential - contact Anne: pamat47@hotmail.com Groups by appointment.
- Friday 9th March is **Family Finder Day** at the 15th Australasian Congress - Genealogy and Heraldry being held at the International Convention Centre, Darling Harbour. There are short talks on the day and any number of Exhibitors including PFFF. Details and bookings: website: *Congress 2018 - Events Air* and follow links or contact info@congress2018.org.au
- PFFF now have two books in the **Herstory series** - the new publication comprises material which was on display on Riot Day 2017 - there are women's profiles and timelines as well as a glimpse into the men's world of work at the Factory! \$15 each. *Herstory - Another Chapter Unfolds* will be available on our sales table at our next meeting in February. Enquiries: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com
- A huge thank you to *Amiel Dizon* our treasured graphic designer for our Bi-Centenary logo - thank you also to members for your input at the last General Meeting!

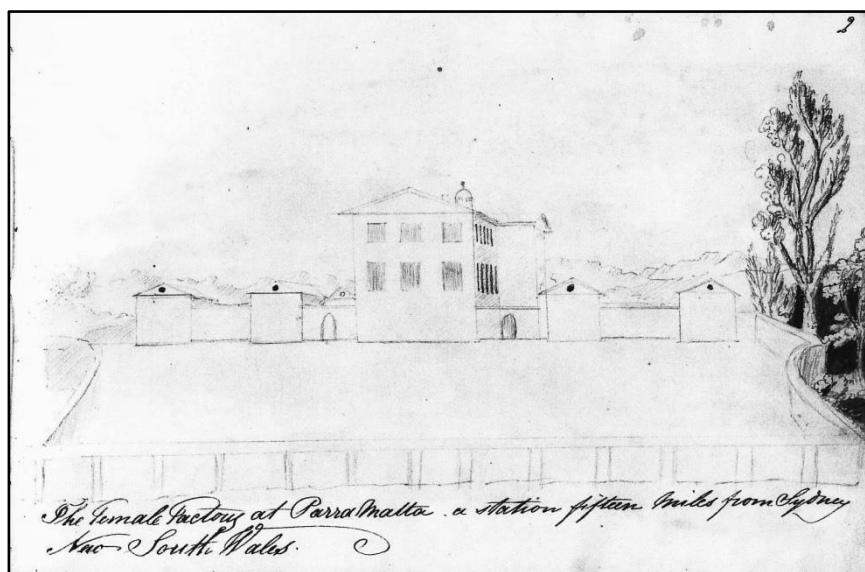


HISTORY CORNER - 200 YEARS AGO !

MEMORANDUM FROM GOVERNOR LACHLAN MACQUARIE 29TH JANUARY 1818, INSTRUCTING FRANCIS GREENWAY:

To make a Ground floor Plan and Elevation of a Factory & Barrack sufficient to lodge 300 Female Convicts, on an Area of Ground of 4 Acres, enclosed by a Stone Wall 9 feet high.⁽¹⁾

A PENCIL SKETCH OF THE FEMALE FACTORY - SHOWING THE WALLS, MAIN BARRACKS LOOKING SOUTH AND RECREATION GROUND - 1823



Sources:

(1) *Macquarie memorandum*, 29 January 1818, ML, BT 20, p3327 quoted in *A Forger's Progress The Life of Francis Greenway* by Alasdair McGregor pub: New South University of New South Wales Sydney 2015, p282

(2) Pencil Sketch 1823 - *The Female Factory at Parramatta, a station fifteen miles from Sydney New South Wales* by Robert Charles Harry -nla-pic-au 6301; National Library of Australia (NLA)

MORE PROFILES - "OUR GIRLS" BY BETH MATTHEWS AND ANNE MATHEWS

CATHERINE BIRD was 16 years old* when she was convicted in Dublin on 17th August 1825. Her offence was "stealing from her mistress" and she was sentenced to seven years transportation. (1)

Catherine's family circumstances were dire as indicated in the following petition from her widowed mother Mary, pleading mitigation of Catherine's sentence:

Mary Bird of 33 Montgomery St. Dublin

Most humbly showeth.....is a desolate, disconsolate and widowed mother of Catherine Bird now a prisoner on the gaol of Newgate, for a crime committed by her, against her mistress Mrs Southwell of Mecklenberg St., wherein your Excellency's, child is aged 16 is under sentence by the law of 7 years transportation from this land.

*That the late husband served in His Majesty's army 88th Foot, 13 years and lost his life at the storming and taking of Badajoz** and left her with four younger children unprovided for with the exception of what sum the officers contribute to me. That petitioner returned with her young infants to Belleim, Portugal and was forwarded to England then proceeded to Ireland.*

That petitioner has since her arrival lived in the neighbourhood of Ninety Ninth Street, endeavouring by the remainder of the contribution afforded by the said officers, honestly and industriously rear and educate her children and has not the means to support her but the produce of son's industry, a youth of 18 years and his income is 7/7 a week. That under all those disturbing circumstances your humble petitioner most fervently prays Your Excellency's direction for mitigation of her daughter's sentence wherein she will be restored to an aged widowed mother and desolate soldier's wife, whom she will in affirmative. Be ever in duty bound to pray. Mary X Bird (her mark). (2)

Mary's petition was not successful and Catherine Bird embarked *Lady Rowena*, departing Cork on 19th January 1826. The ship carried 100 female convicts and arrived in NSW on 17th May 1826 after a direct voyage of 118 days. On the ship's muster roll Catherine is described as: *single; catholic; none (education); no previous conviction; 5 ft. 0¼"; ruddy complexion; slightly pock pitted; brown hair; hazel eyes.* After arrival Catherine was assigned to *J. McArthur, Sydney.* (3)

In 1826 Catherine applied for permission to marry Brian McMahon per *Atlas* and again in 1828 to Henry Welsh (aka Henry Vose) per *John Barry*. Permission was granted but neither event was registered.

In 1826 Catherine was reassigned to John Cobb, York Street, Sydney and two years later in the 1828 Census, she is listed as *a government servant* and in the Factory at Parramatta. (4)

(4)

71	Bird Sarah	30	Granda	1824	7 th Dist	Factory	Parramatta	21
72	Catherine	20	Lady Rowena	1826	7 th Dist	do	do	21

No reason was given for her being in the Factory, but family research tells us of the birth of her first child, Mary Ann (c1828) which may have been the reason. No registration of the birth has been found.

Catherine was granted a Ticket of Leave dated 8th November 1830 with the remark - *for good conduct in the Factory.* In 1832 Catherine was granted a *Certificate of Freedom* with the general remark; *Wife of Wm. Garner, free per Hebe.* (6)

Sources:

(1) *Our Girls - unpublished work* by Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews, sourced from original papers State Records and Archives New South Wales (SARNSW)

(2) *Mary Bird's petition in the Irish Gift - roll no 14*, Mitchell Library New South Wales; cited in *Ibid*

(3) *Our Girls - unpublished work* by Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews, sourced from original papers SARNSW

(4) 1828 Census - entry for Catherine Bird; cited in *Ibid*

* Catherine may have been older than 16 and her age adjusted later - on the ship's Muster she is noted as 19; on the 1828 Census she is noted as aged 20. ** In 1812, a joint Anglo-Portuguese army led by Arthur Wellesley (later Duke of Wellington), besieged Badajoz, Spain and forced the French garrison to surrender.

Catherine Bird and William Garner were married on 8th June 1831 with the marriage registered in St Mary's Sydney. William was a brick maker and held a Ticket of Leave. (7)

William had been convicted in Lancaster, England on 20th March 1820; his offence was "highway robbery". He was sentenced to death but the sentence was then commuted to transportation for life (8). In 1837 he was granted a Conditional Pardon seventeen years after his arrival in NSW. (9)

Catherine and William had eight children: Mary Ann (possibly born in the Factory Parramatta c1828); George, 1834, Sydney; John, 1835, Parramatta; Susan, 1838, Concord; William, Brickfield Lane; Rosanna, 1844, East Maitland; Rebecca, 1847, West Maitland; Catherine (Kate), 1849, East Maitland.

The place of baptism for the children shows the family moved around, because of William's work most likely.

On 6th September 1882, Catherine Garner died from pneumonia in East Street, Maitland and was buried at St Joseph's Roman Catholic Cemetery. The death certificate shows her father was a "blacksmith" and that she had been a widow for 20 years. (10)

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.

No. *39/1108*
 Date, *24 December 1832*

Prisoner's No. —
 Name, — *Catherine Bird*
 Ship, — *Lady Rowena*
 Master, — *Truissall*
 Year, — *1826*
 Native Place, — *Dublin*
 Trade or Calling, — *House servant*
 Offence, — *House robbery*
 Place of Trial, — *Dublin City*
 Date of Trial, — *17 August 1825, per Act*
 Sentence, — *Seven years*
 Year of Birth, — *1806*
 Height, — *5 feet one inch*
 Complexion, — *Fair Suddy & Slight*
 Hair, — *Brown* *Black patches*
 Eyes, — *Grey*
 General Remarks, — *Wife of Wm Garner has been holding a Ticket of Leave for Sydney & had a Ticket of Leave No. 30708 dated 8 November 1830 now surrendered & cancelled*

(6) Certificate of Freedom - Catherine Bird

One of the oldest female convicts to be transported was on board the ship *Lady Rowena*. Catherine Finn was 80 years old and had been convicted of *passing bad money* and sentenced to seven years. Her son had been transported the previous year. Catherine died in November 1826 whilst in the Female Factory. Sadly, she was never to be reunited with her son which was most likely the reason for her crime. (11)

No.	Name	Sex	Age	Month	Ship	Year	Employment	Residence & District	Time since sent	State	Remarks
1287	Bird	Female	15	Months	Edmund	1824					
1288	Bird	Female	9	Months	Edmund	1824	for Labour				
1289	Bird	Female	15	Months	Edmund	1824					
1290	Bird	Female	9	Months	Edmund	1824					
1291	Bird	Female	15	Months	Grenada	1824					
1292	Bird	Female	9	Months	Lady Rowena	1826					

(12) 1828 Census showing entries for Mary Ann Bird aged 15 months, Mary Ann Bird 9 months (BC - born in the Colony), Sarah Bird per Grenada and Catherine Bird per Lady Rowena. It is likely one of the children was Catherine Bird's daughter Mary Ann. The four entries show residence as Factory Parramatta.

Sources:
 (6) Certificate of Freedom for Catherine Bird; New South Wales, Australia Certificates of Freedom 1810-1814, 1827-1867 SARNSW
 (7) *Our Girls - unpublished work* by Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews, sourced from original papers SARNSW
 (8) *Ibid*
 (9) New South Wales, Australian Convict Registers Conditional and Absolute Pardons 1788 -1870 for William Garner, 1837-1839, No 39/60 (Reel 777), SARNSW
 (10) *Our Girls - unpublished work* by Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews, sourced from original papers SARNSW
 (11) *Free Settler or Felon?* by Jenni Willetts; https://www.jenniwilletts.com/convict_ship_lady_rowena_1826.htm p3
 (12) 1828 New South Wales, Australia Census (Australian Copy) Alphabetical Return (NRS.1272) Surnames A - C, SARNSW

PFFF AUSTRALIA DAY STALL - PARRAMATTA PARK 26TH JANUARY 2018



Once again we took advantage of an opportunity to promote PFFF, gather petitions and further our advocacy, having a stall in Parramatta Park on Australia Day. We spoke to an endless flow of people, including many history buffs and descendants. We gathered pages of signatures and sold numerous promotional badges and bookmarks. Most importantly we covered our costs for the stall on hire from Parramatta City Council and attracted new members!

A very special thank you to Anne Mathews, Beth Matthews, Pauline Garmonsway and Kaye Weaver who worked like demons throughout the day - selling, chatting, gathering signatures and responding to all manner of enquiries. The group of "girls" in their caps attracted much attention - the price of a tourist photograph was a signature! We also attracted the attention of a *Fairfax* photographer so we may make it into the local papers or in online reports!

In the late afternoon I spied the local State member and the Premier, alerted Beth who in apron and cap was off like a shot; then watched as she charmingly negotiated the security cordon and spoke to the Premier who now has souvenirs of the day including a promotional badge (*Herstory Matters*) and a memory of a most polite encounter with one of the "girls"!

Report by Ronda Gaffey

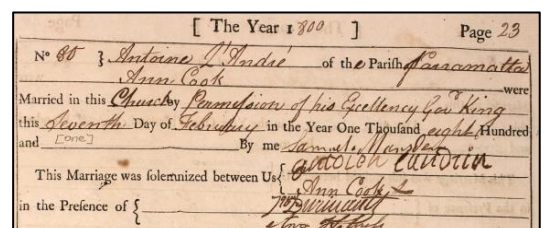
Australia Day Postscript - A Casual Conversation & Discovering A Shared Family History!



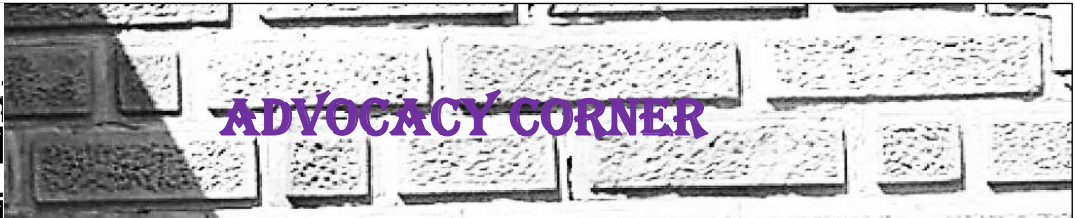
Max Littlefield and Beth Matthews
 (1) Parish Register - St John's Parramatta for The Year 1800 page 23
 showing the marriage of Antoine L'Andre and Ann Cook - 7th February 1801 (?)

PFFF member Max Littlefield came to give us moral support and when Beth heard her mention an ancestor who had Parramatta connections there was great delight and the floodgates opened with Beth sharing her encyclopaedic knowledge of the man! Beth and Max discovered they have a common line of descent from *Antoine L'Andre* and *Ann Cook* who were married at St John's Parramatta by the Reverend Samuel Marsden in 1800!

(1)



2018	PFFF MEETINGS - EVENTS &	DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
January	Newsletter 26 th Australia Day stall, Parramatta Park	
February	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday 16th General Meeting	1818 tenders out for the <i>new</i> factory at Parramatta/ 1st 196th Anniversary - women transferred to the <i>new</i> factory 1821. Riots 3rd 1831, 7th 1833, 24th 1843
March	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday Newsletter 16th Committee Friday 9 th SAG Congress - PR stall	National Trust Heritage Festival begins 18th April - 20th May 20th May NT Festival ends
April	PFF Site Tours 1 st Friday National Trust Festival 20th General Meeting	
May	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday Newsletter 18th Committee	
June	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday 15th General Meeting	Monday July 9th 200th Anniversary - Governor Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the <i>new</i> Factory - celebrations 7 th /8 th July - details TBA
July	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday Newsletter 20th Committee 7th/8th BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS	3rd – 10th History Week events
August	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday 18th AGM/General Meeting	Wistaria Fete/Linnwood PR stalls
September	PFF Site Tours 1 st Friday Newsletter 21st Committee 14th NSW ACT Family History Conference	11th 1836 riot
October	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday 19th General Meeting 26th RIOT DAY - 191 st Anniversary - Riot	27th 1827 riot
November	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday Newsletter 16th Committee	29th 1831 riot
December	PFF Site Tour 1 st Friday 14th General Meeting & Christmas Party * (2nd Friday)	



- National Heritage Listing: Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct:

“ The stories of tens of thousands of women and children institutionalised in Australia will be formally recognised with the inclusion of the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct on the National Heritage List today... The Precinct is highly valued for its heritage importance by the local, state and national community and this National Heritage Listing will allow the Australian Community to stand witness to the lives and experiences of women and children who lived there...”

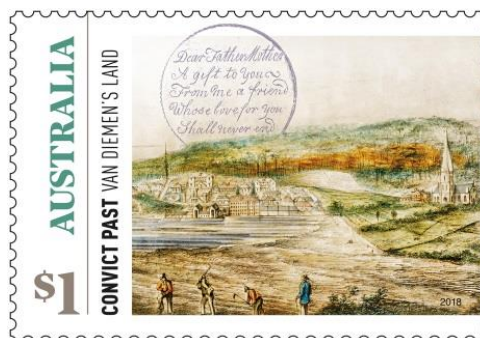
Media Release: Hon Josh Freydenberg, 14th November 2017

- **THE NEXT STAGE is WORLD HERITAGE LISTING!** Keep those petitions running hot- so far we are half way to 10,000!
- **The site is a NATIONAL and INTERNATIONAL site of significance!**
- **SUPPORT PFFF ADVOCACY FOR A WORLD CLASS MUSEUM AT THE SITE -**
for more information contact parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com
- **SUPPORT OUR BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS!**

STOP PRESS! Checkout the 16th January 2018 philatelic issue from Australia Post - who knows what might be in the pipeline!



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200 YEARS

HISTORY · HERSTORY · OUR STORY