



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 20 MARCH-APRIL 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
Publicity/Newsletter: Ronda Gaffey

SPECIAL General Meeting: 1:30pm. General Meeting 2:15 pm - FRIDAY 20th April 2018.
 Coach House, Hambledon Cottage corner Gregory Place and Hassall Street, Harris Park.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter.



'History, her story and our story' you will be hearing often between now and July the 7th. As you are aware it has been 200 years this year since Governor Macquarie laid the first stone at our beloved Parramatta Female Factory. The Friends are marking this anniversary through an event day: HISTORY, HER STORY, OUR STORY. This will be a day of dedication, commemoration and celebration. So mark it in your diaries now! Join us on what will be an historic occasion indeed! Bookings will open soon and the Friends will naturally have first choice of the bookings. There will be a few event choices so keep an eye out to make sure you don't miss out.

To this end we will need a great deal of help to make it a memorable day so please contact us and where we can best use your skills. Email parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com or let us know at the next meeting.

As part of the bicentennial event will be the unveiling of the memory wall that will have every Factory woman's first name registered. A powerful moment will be hearing these names once more on the Factory site. The memory wall is being done by Urban Growth at our request.

The committee has been working with stakeholders, potential partners and collaborations and a number of organisations have already indicated they would like to be involved. We would love to know about any potential sponsors you may know or groups that so might like to be involved. Please share any ideas you have in these area and any useful contacts.

We have recently advocated for the Museum of Australian Identity with the Greater Sydney Commission and the Whitlam Institute. The latter had some great ideas on how we might link the Female Factory with the Female Orphan School - more of that in the future.

The Constitution has been updated and is ready for being put to the membership for final consideration and adoption if that is what the membership chooses. There has been a notice of Special General Meeting sent to you with a copy of the Constitution and the meeting will be held on the 20th April 2018.

I was lucky enough to be a moderator for a Q and A session with Tom and Meg Keneally relating to the newest Colonial Fiction, *The Power Game* following on from *The Soldiers Curse* and *The Unmourned* (set in the Female Factory). They are great mystery novels and in a bookshop near you!

There will also be a talk on the Female Factory June 27th at the State Library of NSW and an article in the State Library NSW magazine marking the our bicentenary.

There are updates on our website, including the First Friday walks at the Factory by the Friends – bookings required.

Our World Heritage petitions have reached the half way mark for Federal Parliament. This is a great milestone but we need to spread the word and the petitions. You can download them from our advocacy page on the website or pick a copy up at the next meeting.

We had a very successful day at the SAG Congress. A big thanks to Ronda, Anne and Wayne Mathews – more members, more stories shared and more books sold!

I look forward to seeing you at the next General Meeting and our Special General Meeting for the Constitution on Friday April 20th at 1.30.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen

President

NOTICEBOARD

- **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** The next General Meeting for 2018 is **Friday 20th April at 2:15pm.**
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING re PFFF CONSTITUTION at 1:30pm.
- **MEETING DATES for 2018:** The 3rd Friday of the month -
15th June, 17th August (AGM), 19th October, 14th December.
- PFFF now have 2 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 at our next meeting in April. Enquiries: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com



New Members:

A very warm welcome to new PFFF members:

Sandra Bennett, Amanda Capilli, Lisa Parker, Helen Sim, David Reid, Stephanie Wallbank, Emma D'Silva, Lesley Malouf, Terry Fitzell, Lorraine Carter, Catherine Knauth, Daphne Switzer, Roslyn Vaughan, Joy Dean, Jane Miura, John Hack, Johan Reynell, Jeanine Smith and Kerri Simpson.

HISTORY CORNER - MARCH 200 years AGO ! Extract from Lachlan Macquarie's Journal 1818 -

Governor Lachlan Macquarie visited the site for the "new" Factory in Parramatta accompanied by Francis Greenway with the event recorded in his journal thus:

Wedy. 11 March 1817 [sic]

Having gone up yesterday in the carriage, with Mrs Macquarie, to Parramatta, we staid [sic] there all day - and returned again this morning to Sydney. -

I yesterday pointed out to Mr Greenway the intended Scite [sic] for the new Govt Factory & Barrack about to be erected at Parramatta for the use and accommodation of the Female Convicts



- (1) Macquarie Journal, Wednesday 11 March 1817 [sic], ML, A773, p145, retrieved from: <https://www.mq.edu.au/macquaries-archives/lema1818/1818mar.html>
- (2) *Lachlan Macquarie* - artist unknown, miniature, watercolour on ivory, c 1819, Mitchell Library, State Library New South Wales
- (3) *Francis Howard Greenway*. Date unknown and possibly a self-portrait. Pastel, donated by Greenway's granddaughter, Caroline Irving, ML/SLNSW

“OUR GIRLS” - BETH MATTHEWS & ANNE MATHEWS

Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews have been researching the women of the Female Factory for over a decade. They have rarely missed a beat travelling to the State Archives at Kingswood and settling down for the day. They have trawled through undigitised boxes of material and scrolled through endless microfilm reels and still go back for more! In this edition, the tables are turned in an interview with them - ‘our girls’!

When did you begin your research? What was your motivation?

We began researching the women in the Female Factory in 2006. The reason being for the exhibition called “*Women Transported*” which was held at the Parramatta Heritage Centre in 2008. This exhibition was a landmark event and eventually became a travelling exhibition due to demand and a wider interest from across Australia.*

How many women’s profiles do you have?

Beth - I have done approximately 4,500 profiles of the women. Anne - I have about 8,500 names of women who passed through the two Parramatta Female Factories between 1804 and 1848. These were both female convicts and free women including settlers’ wives or women charged with colonial misdemeanours.

What has been the most significant discovery?

The most significant discovery was the fact that the information was so scattered through the colonial records and the lack of images of the women. When we were researching for the exhibition we placed ads in papers and six unknown photographs came to light. Over the years a few more have been forwarded by descendants. Photographs of the women are few and far between so the ones we do have or do know about are very special and precious.

What has been the most emotional moment? Why?

Beth - the most emotional moment for me was finding two ancestors among the girls.

Anne - I found the information on how the women were treated emotional and in reading about the lack of food at the Factory. There were periods of drought which impacted the supply of food to the Factory and also there was corruption within the Factory. Food shortages were common which resulted in the riots e.g., the 1827 riot.

Who is your favourite woman? Why?

Anne - for me it is the story of the two slave children from Mauritius - Constance de la Sabloniere was 9 -10 years of age when she arrived and her sister/cousin Elizabeth was aged 12. Both arrived per *Dart* in 1834. It is so hard to imagine what it was like for these children to be transported at such an age. **

Beth - The story of Alice Leonard per *Mariner* who spent many a time in the Female Factory between her arrival in 1825 and the time she received her Certificate of Freedom in 1831. Alice was a spirited lass who stole the Matron’s peaches! Alice survived the Factory however her life ended in tragic circumstances - she was killed when a bullock dray overturned when she was travelling with her husband and children through Maitland in May 1849.***

What is one of the most surprising discoveries in your research?

In our years of research we have been continually surprised and in awe of the convict women for their stamina and resourcefulness. Transportation was an ordeal which they survived, many becoming the “mothers” of Australia. Another discovery our research has revealed is just how poorly the women were regarded by colonial menfolk and by officials.

What have you achieved? What further goals do you have?

We take pride in the fact that we have researched and written so many stories of the Parramatta Female Factory women. We also have an Index of convict women with their names, their ship and date of arrival which has been a very useful research tool and starting point for many descendants. The Index on display at the *Herstory* exhibition at Hambledon Cottage has led to many descendants contacting us with new information to add to our archives.

We are passionate about the convict women’s histories and hope to gather more profiles, write more of the women’s stories and add more names to our Index. We would love to be able to make a complete record of the Female Factory. Most of all we hope that the convict women of both Factories in Parramatta are commemorated at each Factory site and that a space is devoted to their narrative and to have a permanent home for our research.

CONSTANCE COURONNE - A SLAVE - AGED 8 YEARS 4 MONTHS

Année **RECENSEMENT BIENNAL.** **1832.**

ETAT par lequel l'Empereur Napoléon Ier a ordonné que les Colonies de son Empire seraient recensées par l'habitation des Blancs, des Noirs, des Mulâtres, des Indes, des Chinois, des Arabes, des Étrangers appartenant à ladite Habitation et devant le propriétaire de

NOM	PRENOM	ÉTAT	ÂGE	SEX	PROF.	REMARQUES	MUTATIONS
Marie	Julie	Blanche					
Constance	Couronne	Nègre	8	F			
Elizabeth	Couronne	Nègre	12	F			
Charlotte	Couronne	Nègre	10	F			
Julie	Couronne	Nègre	15	F			
Marie	Couronne	Nègre	18	F			
Constance	Couronne	Nègre	12	F			
Elizabeth	Couronne	Nègre	10	F			

At the time of Constance’s trial for the attempted murder of her mistress, her “owner” was Marie Julie Melanie Lasablonniere. Constance (born Couronne) later used the name *la Sabloniere*. (2)

References:
 (1) Entries for Constance Couronne and her siblings in, *Slave Registers of Former British Colonial Dependencies, 1813 - 1834, Mauritius > 1832, Flacq and Grand Port, Plantation slaves*, retrieved from ancestry.com 6/3/18
 (2) Cassandra, Pybus, ‘Children in Bondage: Elizabeth Verloppé and Constance Couronne’ in *From the Edges of Empire* eds: L.Frost, C. McAlpine, Convict Women’s Press, Hobart, pp 61-76

*The exhibition, *Women Transported - Life in Australia’s Convict Female Factories* was curated by Gay Hendriksen in collaboration with Dr Carol Liston and Dr Trudy Cowley. Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews were part of a team of researchers for the project. The exhibition was awarded a Commonwealth Grant to tour the country, supported by Visions of Australia
 **The stories of Constance and Elizabeth are told in the PFFF publication, *Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women*
 ***Alice Leonard’s story is told in *Herstory-Another Chapter Unfolds* - both books are available at PFFF Meetings and Hambledon Cottage.

GUEST SPEAKER - GENERAL MEETING 16th February 2018 SENIOR ARCHIVIST GAIL DAVIS - STATE ARCHIVES AND RECORDS NSW (SARNSW)

Gail’s talk was a real treat for members present. Gail began with reminding us of a few fundamentals of family history research such as - *work from the present to the past, record and revisit, and think outside the square.*

After a brief overview and navigation of the updated and comprehensive SAR website, Gail went on to remind us of the ‘jewel in the crown’ of research which are the *Archives In Brief Series*.

The State Archives holds some of the most important convict records and Gail focused especially on female convicts and gave lots of examples from SAR sources to explore. We had handouts to take away and lots of research options after a most entertaining and knowledgeable presentation.

Thank you Gail for your energy, your skill and inspiration!



Photograph: Gail and Anne Mathews

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIAN GENEALOGISTS: Hosts of the 15th AUSTRALASIAN CONGRESS ON GENEALOGY & HERALDRY FRIDAY 9th MARCH

Anne and I attended the 'SAG' hosted Conference' at Darling Harbour and were quite 'chuffed' with the day. It was really quite different setting up in the glorious space of the International Convention Centre.

We had a constant stream of people and were kept very busy fielding lots of questions and meeting many "new" women's descendants. The Index of names was such an invaluable reference on the day. We met a descendant of the Rev. Samuel Marsden, a descendant of William Tuckwell - (a long serving Factory Superintendent) and a descendant of Matron Fulloon, which were special encounters.

We caught up with "old" friends of the Friends including former PFFF Committee member, Suzanne Voytas. We had some terrific conversations, sold a lot of books, bookmarks and badges and most importantly, gathered more World Heritage petition signatures. It was great to see members attending and we were lucky to have Jennifer Reynolds from the P&DHS Family History Group drop by who was kept busy answering enquiries about Parramatta, particularly on the Lawson family!

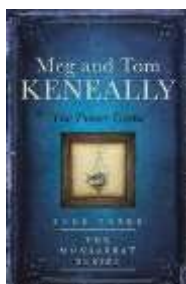


Finally a huge thank you to Wayne Mathews who assisted carrying the boxes, the banner and cases, for doing the much needed coffee run and finding a local print outlet to copy more petition sheets! Thank you also to SAG for the opportunity to participate in this event and to Danielle Lautrec for her support.

Ronda G

STOP PRESS!

- Congratulations to PFFF Patrons Meg Keneally and Tom Keneally on the publication of their 3rd book in the colonial whodunnit Monsarrat Series - *The Power Game*. (1)



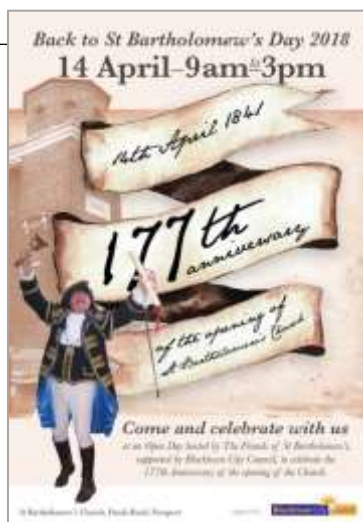
In this the third in the Monsarrat series, Hugh Llewelyn Monsarrat and his trusty housekeeper, Mrs Mulrooney, are sent to remote Maria Island to solve the murder of Bart Harefield, the detested cutter skipper responsible for bringing supplies to the island. Bart knows that currency is knowledge and he's not shy about reading letters he brings across...When Harefield is murdered with an axe, blame is laid at the feet of Thomas Power, the charismatic Irish revolutionary held in detention - with lots of privileges - on Maria Island. Monsarrat and Mrs Mulrooney are told to solve the murder. They soon realise their real job is to tie Power neatly to the crime so he can be hanged without inciting rebellion. But were there others who also had reason to want to shut Harefield up?



(1) *The Power Game* by Meg and Tom Keneally: A Vintage Australia Book published by Penguin Random House Australia 2018, North Sydney Australia; image of book cover and text retrieved from <https://www.penguin.com.au/books/the-power-game-978085798420>. Photograph - courtesy: Meg Keneally & Tom Keneally

- **Back to St Bartholomew's Day** is an occasion not to be missed. Look out for the Friend's sales and information stall inside the church and call in for a chat!
- **Guest Speaker** at Back to Bartholomew's Day (Saturday 14th April) is PFFF's Treasurer (or is it *treasure?*), local historian and Tour guide, Kerima-Gae Topp who will talk about the Female Factories.

Thank you to Jill Finch for her support.



STOP PRESS...

- THE NATIONAL TRUST HERITAGE FESTIVAL begins on 18th April and goes until 20th May. All events will be online - there is no booklet this year.
- Beth Matthews will be speaking at Hambledon Cottage during the National Trust Heritage Festival - Thursday 17th May 12:00pm. Bookings: Hambledon Cottage 9635 6924.
- Anne Mathews will lead a Factory tour Friday 5th May. Bookings essential - contact Anne pamat47@hotmail.com

And we are still smiling about Beth's encounter with the Premier on Australia Day in Parramatta Park!



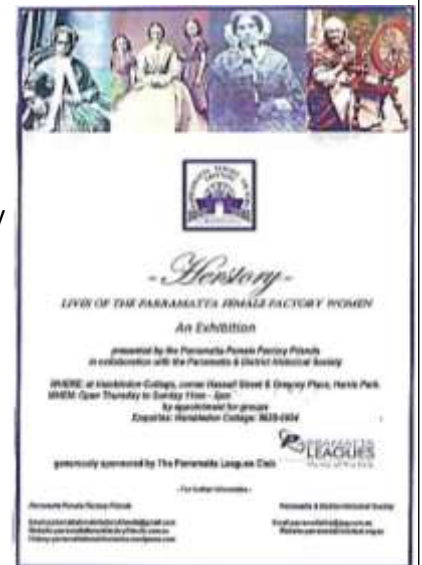
Photograph: Courtesy Rhonda Reese

Herstory...

The PFFF exhibition at *John Macarthur's Hambledon Cottage* will continue until August 2018. Many thanks to our colleagues of the Parramatta & District Historical Society for such terrific support in helping PFFF tell the women's stories!

On a personal note - when I was guiding at Hambledon Cottage recently, a visitor* found her ancestor in Anne and Beth's name Index which is on display. I casually asked which ship was she on - her reply, "Elizabeth 1828" - we hugged!

My great x 2 grandmother, Sarah Scott was on the same ship! Ronda G



- **THE EXHIBITION - HERSTORY - LIVES OF THE FEMALE FACTORY WOMEN** at Hambledon Cottage is open Thursday - Sunday from 11am to 3pm (last tour) - enquiries for tour of cottage and exhibition: 9635 6924
- **FIRST FRIDAY TOURS - WALK WITH US - JOIN A TOUR! TELL YOUR CLUB! TELL YOUR FRIENDS ! SEE FLYER**



ADVOCACY CORNER

- 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 Frydenberg 14 November 2017

- **THE NEXT STAGE is WORLD HERITAGE LISTING!** Keep those petitions running hot- we are half way to 10,000!
- **SUPPORT PFFF ADVOCACY FOR A WORLD CLASS MUSEUM at the site!**
- **BI-CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS -** If you have any sponsorship ideas or contacts please let us know!
- **WE ARE ALSO LOOKING FOR** a young descendant of one of the Factory women to take part in the dedication ceremony on the day! Please encourage a young family member to be PFFF's "YOUNG VOICE" and let Gay know.



©VM

Parramatta Female Factory Tours



Parramatta Female Factory c1818

“A Jewel in the Crown of Colonial Parramatta”
A rare & significant **National Heritage site** for all Australians

Tour Bookings: First Friday of the month

Large Groups: By appointment

Contact: pamat47@hotmail.com

Book a tour and explore this rare Governor Macquarie & Francis Greenway site which was once home to at least 5000 of the 24,960 convict women transported “*beyond the seas*” & from whom an estimated 1-5 to 1-7 Australians are descended!

Hear the inspiring & touching stories of the women’s lives, learn about their survival and legacy and much more!

What: Parramatta Female Factory site Tour
When: 1st Friday of the month 10am - 11:30am
Where: Cumberland Hospital, 5 Fleet Street,
North Parramatta
Cost: \$5



Please note: **BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL**

The Parramatta Female Factory site is within the grounds of Cumberland Hospital. Access is by guided tour only.

