



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.**  
**NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 21 MAY-JUNE 2018**



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  
**Publicity/Newsletter Editor:** Ronda Gaffey

**Next Meeting: 1:30pm - NO GUEST SPEAKER - Bicentenary Orientation for Members**  
 followed by **General Meeting, 2:15 pm - FRIDAY June 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.**  
 Coach House, Hambledon Cottage corner Gregory Place and Hassall Street, Harris Park.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



This edition of our Newsletter could well be called *Coming of Age!* We are getting close to the Parramatta Female Factory Bicentennial, our advocacy work is bearing healthy fruit, our new Constitution is robust and meets our individual group character of equity and openness. Our Newsletter editor notes this is our 21<sup>st</sup> edition so I think this last item deserves a vote of thanks to our editor and all the contributors. Thank you and keep your stories coming!

Our advocacy continues and I am happy to say with some very positive outcomes. Although the gem is the National Heritage listing, through negotiation we have managed to garner a commemorative wall on the factory site to be unveiled on our celebration day, 7<sup>th</sup> July. One side will have *Parramatta Female Factory* and the other side, a plaque with our logo, a short description and all the first names of the women we have discovered so far. We also have a request in with Urban Growth for a home on the site which is being considered currently. We have also been invited on a community advisory committee with Urban Growth which means we can understand and respond with our group perspective – a seat at the table. I put this down to our solid charter, passionate and committed membership, steady advocacy and maintaining the same position on preservation i.e., all the site respected and preserved with no new buildings and future use of the site being for all Australians and support from like-minded community groups.

Our new Constitution was passed unanimously at the April Special General Meeting. Some of the improvements include acceptance of postal voting. Everyone will know the candidates and not just those present at the AGM. The committee will be back to 10 people with voting rights and of course more people working for our group. So do think of nominating if you think you are able to commit to attending the meetings and helping on our various activities.

Last but not least, HISTORY - HERSTORY - OURSTORY is our Bicentennial Dedication, Commemoration and Celebration – 7<sup>th</sup> July 10am – 3:30pm. It is free but you do need to book. There is also a talk at the State Library of NSW Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 12:30-1:30 (this one costs – see link). You can either go to <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/history-her-story-our-story-bicentennial-dedication-tickets-44365283758> and <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/talk-history-her-story-our-story-tickets-44579238703> or just put in your search history, “History Herstory Our Story Bicentennial’ and both the eventbrite bookings come up.

The day is looking spectacular. There will be the dedication, unveiling of the commemorative wall and a range of events, including re-enactments, lectures by Tom Keneally AO and Meg Keneally, Babette Smith OAM and Assoc. Professor Carol Liston. There will be Colonial craft demonstrations, a children’s corner, storytelling, quill writing, music, displays, trade and information tables and much more. Hope to see you there!

All the best  
Gay Hendriksen  
President

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## AND THEN, ON THE MORNING OF JULY 9<sup>th</sup> 1818...

*Went up to Parramatta early this morning in the Carriage accompanied by Major Antill. After breakfast went to the place selected for Building the Factory and Barrack for the Female Convicts on the Left Bank of the Parramatta River - where I met Mr Greenway, the Govt Architect and the contractors Messrs. Watkins & Payten - and at 12 O’Clock laid the Foundation Stone of this new Building in the usual Form; giving the Workmen Four Gallons of spirits to drink Success to the New Building - I afterwards visited the New Female Orphan School -*

Journal; Lachlan Macquarie <https://www.mc.edu.au/macquarie-archive/lema/1818/1818july.html>

## NOTICEBOARD

- **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** The next General Meeting for 2018 is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 2:15pm.**  
**FURTHER MEETING DATES in 2018:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month - 15<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> August (AGM), 19<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> December. **ANNUAL RIOT DAY is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.**
- **A DATE NOT TO BE MISSED! The Parramatta Female Factory Bicentenary Celebration, Commemoration & Dedication is Saturday July 7<sup>th</sup> - see attached poster for information and please pass on to your networks!**
- A very warm welcome to new PFFF members: *Linda McDougal, Jo Edwards, John Parmenter and Karren Smith.*

## HISTORY CORNER - ANOTHER MACQUARIE BICENTENARY ! MACQUARIE OBELISK, MACQUARIE PLACE PARK, Sydney 1818

The Macquarie Obelisk which stands in Macquarie Place Park, at Loftus and Bridge Street Sydney, is said to be the earliest surviving public monument of the Australian Colonial period.

It was designed by Francis Greenway and erected in 1818. The large sandstone structure functioned as the zero point for the measurement of roads from Sydney to major towns and landmarks of the time.

The obelisk was erected as part of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and Mrs Macquarie's civic improvements <sup>(1)</sup>.

The Macquarie Obelisk stands as a relic of Macquarie's Georgian Town Plan for Sydney as reflected in the panoramic view shown below (c1821) <sup>(4)</sup>.



### References:

- (1) Monument Australia: [www.monumentaustralia.org.au](http://www.monumentaustralia.org.au)
- (2) The base of the Macquarie Obelisk; photograph by Gay Hendriksen
- (3) The Macquarie Obelisk; photograph ABR PFFF Collection.
- (4) The Macquarie Place Obelisk, Government House and windmills in the domain 1821 by Major James Taylor from the collections of State Library of New South Wales [a2916001/VI/ca.1821/4 (detail)] (Detail of Plate 1 of Panoramic Views of Port Jackson, c1821 drawn by Major James Taylor, engraved by R. Havell & Son, published London 1823), Mitchell Library; retrieved from [https://dictionaryofsydney.org/structures/macquarie\\_place\\_obelisk/](https://dictionaryofsydney.org/structures/macquarie_place_obelisk/)
- (5) View of Macquarie Place, Sydney - 1850 - from the collections of SLNSW [a7123001/SV 237], ML; retrieved *ibid*.



## OUT AND ABOUT

*Back to St Bartholomew's Day* at Prospect (Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April) was an occasion not to be missed. The Friend's sales and information stall inside the church was busy with general enquiries, sales and lots of family history researchers stopping by for a chat! And of course we do not need any excuse to dressup! We felt quite at home with the town crier, the NSW Marine Corps and roving minstrels!

The guest speaker, PFFF's Treasurer, local historian and tour guide Kerima-Gae Topp gave a most informative and well researched talk about the Female Factories, including the first inland Female Factory at Bathurst.

Thank you to Jill Finch for offering PFFF the "spot". Also a personal thanks to PFFF member Jacqui White and Graham Wicks for transport assistance on the day.



PFFF stall and three lively lasses - Anne, Beth and Ronda



Photograph: (above): Beth Aglio



Far right: The Town Crier for the City of Sydney, Graham Keating and Kerima-Gae.

## AN INLAND FEMALE FACTORY AT BATHURST 1833-1844

**1815**

### *From Pumpkins to Petticoats*

The brick building that stood on this site was built in 1816/17 as a commissariat storehouse for supplies from Sydney and produce from the settlement's farm and gardens. It was the first two-storey building in inland Australia. In the late 1820s, with the winding up of the Government Farm and an increase in the number of soldiers stationed in Bathurst, the building was converted for use as military barracks. This included adding a fireplace and an internal staircase.

After the soldiers moved to new barracks, the empty building drew the attention of the local magistrates, who petitioned for its use as a female factory. Such an institution, it was argued, would ensure a reliable supply of female convicts for assignment to local settlers.

The Bathurst Female Factory was the only female factory in inland Australia. It opened in March 1833 with the arrival of "a stock of fifteen valuable females", all of whom were assigned "at a quick rate". The factory served also as a women's gaol and as a place of refuge for children at risk. It was closed in 1844 and the building demolished in the 1850s.

THE BATHURST GOVERNMENT SETTLEMENT HERITAGE TRAIL

Call's Market

MACQUARIE RIVER

One of the "other" female factories Kerima-Gae spoke about, was the inland facility at Bathurst which opened in March 1833 with the arrival of "a stock of 15 valuable females", all of whom were assigned "at a quick rate"!

Photograph: Commemorative Plaque at Bathurst marking the site of the Commissariat Store (1816/17) which later became the Female Factory in the years 1833-1844; ABR PFF Collection.

## **“OUR GIRLS” - BY BETH MATTHEWS & ANNE MATHEWS**

### **Moving on from Parramatta to Bathurst**

*The following three profiles are of women who were moved on from Parramatta Factory to Bathurst either to serve time in the Bathurst Factory or to be assigned as servants. They may also have been sent because of their misbehaviour or “unsettledness” judging by their records. The women followed an earlier group who by all accounts had been assigned “at a quick rate” in March 1833 soon after the Bathurst Factory was established (see page 5).*

**Ann Evans** was born about 1818 in Chester, England. She was convicted at Lancaster, Liverpool Quarter Sessions on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1831. Her offence was “stealing a handkerchief” and she was sentenced to seven years transportation. She had a previous conviction of 15 months <sup>(1)</sup>.

Ann embarked the ship *Pyramus* which departed Cork, Ireland on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1831. The ship carried 151 female prisoners - however 2 were re-landed and there were 2 deaths on the voyage which took 116 days. *Pyramus* arrived in NSW on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1832.

In the ship’s muster roll, Ann is described as: *aged 14; no education; protestant; single; a nurse girl; 4ft 10 1/2 inches; fair complexion; brown hair; hazel, small eyes; nose cocked, small scar on centre of forehead, scar on left thumb; T S on upper left arm; large mole on left shoulder* <sup>(2)</sup>.

Records show Ann Evans (*per Pyramus*) was in the Parramatta Female Factory and she appears on a list of 15 women to be sent for assignment to Bathurst. *There is a note for “Mr Murray ...to get the Van in good order, and to report when it will be ready* <sup>(3)</sup>. The list is dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 1833 which was a year after young Ann’s arrival.

**Mary William** was born about 1795 in Flintshire, North West Wales. She was convicted between 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1829 in Manchester, England. Her offence was pick pocketing and she was sentenced to fourteen years transportation having 2 previous convictions.

Mary embarked the ship *Sovereign* at the Downs on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1829. After a voyage of 102 days, the ship arrived in NSW on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1829.

On the muster roll, Mary Williams is described as: *age 34; protestant; single; a housemaid, cook and laundress; 5ft 3 inches; ruddy, pock pitted complexion; dark brown hair and eyes; a hairy mole on lower part of left cheek; assigned to the Factory* <sup>(9)</sup>.

Mary Williams appears on a list of prisoners to be sent to Bathurst, July 1833. She later appears on a Muster List of Convicts in NSW for 1837, aged 40, in the Factory at Bathurst <sup>(10)</sup>.

**Mary Ann Williams** was born about 1810 in Dublin. She was convicted in Dublin on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1831. Her offence was “stealing clothes”. She was sentenced to seven years transportation, with a previous conviction <sup>(11)</sup>.

Mary Ann embarked the ship *Southworth* in Cork and departed on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1832. The ship carried 134 female prisoners; there was one death on the voyage of 129 days with the ship arriving in NSW on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1832. The women were landed on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Nineteen women were assigned from the ship. Others were sent to Parramatta to be assigned.

In the ship’s muster roll Mary Ann is described thus: *age 22; no education; single; catholic; nurse girl; 4ft 11inches; fair complexion; brown hair; grey eyes* <sup>(12)</sup>.

Records show that on 21<sup>st</sup> February 1833, Mary Ann Williams *per Southworth* was sentenced by the Sydney Bench to “one month in the factory” for being drunk and disorderly <sup>(13)</sup>.

Later that year, Mary Ann Williams *per Southworth* appears on a list of female prisoners to be sent to Bathurst - the list is dated July 1833 <sup>(7)</sup>. Records show that Mary Ann Williams received her Certificate of Freedom July 27<sup>th</sup> 1840 <sup>(14)</sup>.

References:  
(1) to (14) from *Our Girls* - unpublished work by Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews sourced from original material, State Archives and Records New South Wales

## POSTSCRIPT:

The women of the ship *Pyramus* were finally landed on 14<sup>th</sup> March 1832, some 9 days after arriving in Sydney Cove. Thirty eight women had children whom they left behind - only six children accompanied their mothers on the voyage.

Of the 147 convict women on board, 26 had a relative already in the colony. These included a husband, an uncle, a sister brother or cousin. One woman's husband had been in the colony 3 years and another's husband had been transported at the same time.

On landing, 17 were assigned; some being assigned in Sydney or to Parramatta as well as Prospect, Windsor, Maitland and Portland Head. The remainder were sent to the Factory at Parramatta <sup>(1)</sup>.

Convict women embarking the convict ship *Sovereign* were from London but many had made the journey from numerous counties of England and there were reports of the difficult conditions they had to endure. Several women being brought to London from Liverpool were chained together on top of a stage coach which overturned in the night causing them to be thrown onto the road. It was reported that one woman *Mary Williams* received a deep gash in her leg when the irons ploughed into it.

The ages of the convict women ranged from 15 years to 57 years. At least 15 of the women were accompanied by their children. Forty women were sent to the Parramatta Factory. <sup>(2)</sup>

In his journal, Surgeon Superintendent George Fairfowl gives some interesting glimpses into life on board:

*The women and children were mustered on Sundays and Thursday, and inspected to see that their hair was combed and their persons linen and stockings were clean. Cheerful and innocent amusements among themselves were encouraged, and provided the songs were not licentious, singing was permitted until 8 o'clock except on Sundays and Thursday...*

*On Sunday mornings church services were read to them; on the quarterdeck when the weather permitted...On Thursday evenings the service was read in the prison and as they were permitted to sing the psalms and hymns which many, having been trained to it in Newgate, did with considerable taste and melody...* <sup>(3)</sup>

(The reference to Newgate is interesting - no doubt these women had met Mrs Elizabeth Fry and had responded to her ministry).

### References:

(1) *Free Settler or Felon? Pyramus*, by Jenni Willetts; [https://www.jenwilletts.com/pyramus\\_1832.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/pyramus_1832.htm)

(2) *Free Settler or Felon? Sovereign*, by Jenni Willetts; [https://www.jenwilletts.com/ship/sovereign\\_1829.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/ship/sovereign_1829.htm)

(3) *ibid*

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## THE BICENTENARY OF THE VOYAGE OF THE FEMALE CONVICT SHIP *MARIA* 1818

The female convict ship *Maria* left England on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1818 with 126 female prisoners. It was the first female convict ship to be provisioned by Mrs Fry and the Ladies of the Newgate Prison Committee. Provision was made for a school on board and the women were provided with sewing tools and fabric so they could fashion items which could be sold after their arrival in Sydney <sup>(4)</sup>.

An account of Mrs Fry visiting the ship at London docks and farewelling the women is moving. All who witnessed the moment were impressed:

*Many of the women wept bitterly, - all seemed touched: when she left the ship, they followed her with their eyes...* <sup>(5)</sup>

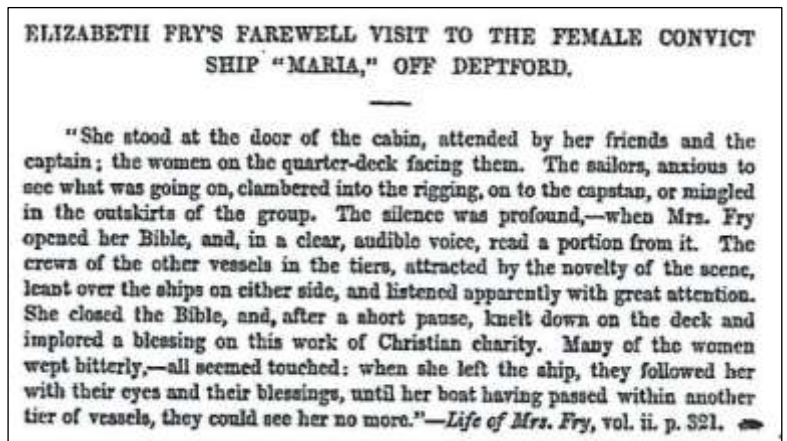
The arrival of *Maria* was recorded by Governor Macquarie (entry for Thursday 17 September 1818):  
*The Female Convicts have all arrived in good Health* <sup>(6)</sup>.

### References:

(4) *Free Settler or Felon? Maria* by Jenni Willetts, [https://www.jenwilletts.com/maria\\_1818.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/maria_1818.htm)

(5) *Life of Mrs Fry*, vol. ii, p. 321 quoted in *Free Settler or Felon?* by Jenni Willetts, [https://www.jenwilletts.com/maria\\_1818.htm](https://www.jenwilletts.com/maria_1818.htm)

(6) Lachlan Macquarie Journal; Thursday 17 Sept; retrieved from <https://www.mq.edu.au/macquarie-archive/lema/1818/1818sept.html>.

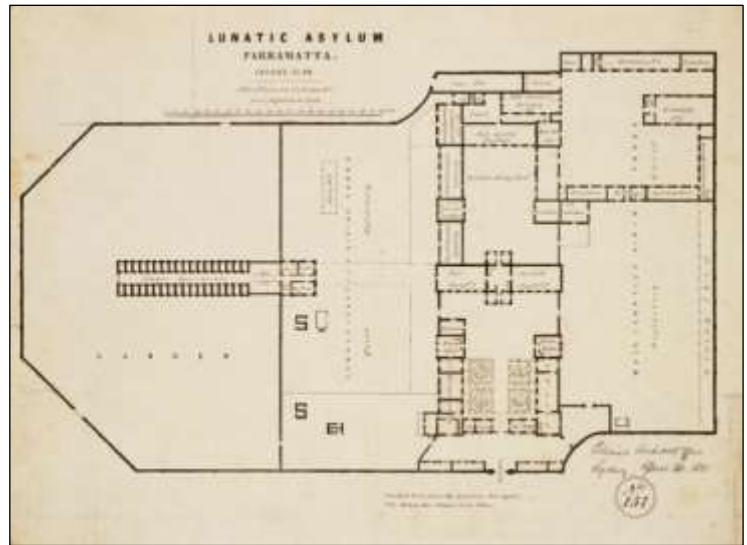






# ADVOCACY CORNER

## A SINGULAR & ENDURING PARCEL OF LAND AT NORTH PARRAMATTA



The parcel of land comprising the recently listed National Heritage Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct is so little changed from the 1830s. The distinctive Gipps Yard (where once the 1838 Gipps Penitentiary Cells were sited) with its familiar, odd geometric shaped and walled perimeter, has endured. Let us hope that the Factory footprint here and elsewhere across the Factory site is **never** built on. PFFF continue their advocacy in this regard.

References:  
(1) 1844 plan of Parramatta by W Meadows Brownrigg showing the Female Factory, the Roman Catholic Orphan School and Parramatta Gaol - the large parcel of land north of the Female Factory is Marsden's 36 acre estate; sourced from *Heritage Snapshots PNUT*; published by Urban Growth New South Wales 2017.  
(2) 1855 Lunatic Asylum Parramatta, Colonial Architect's office Sydney April 20 1855 - showing the 1838 Gipps Penitentiary & Solitary Cells. No.157 Mitchell Library/State Library, New South Wales.  
(3) 1904 Map of Parramatta Town showing lots 83 and 84 Map marking the Fleet Street Quarry (and surrounding plots including the former Female Factory/Asylum and Industrial School for Females); SLNSW a63866001  
(4) 2016-17: Aerial Photograph showing the designated heritage/historic core at North Parramatta (the Female Factory/Asylum footprint, yards and buildings; the Institutions Precinct ); courtesy: UGNSW 2017.

## LAST PAGE - STOP PRESS!

The NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Annual Conference is a must do event with lots of opportunity to check out the latest in family history research and take an opportunity to catch up with *like minds* and old friends. Look out for the PFFF stall and P&DHS and *sail into history* for a weekend down south!



### Programme

#### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September

9:00 - 4:00

FREE Family History Fair open to the general public

FREE public talks; workshops for conference registrants

Help desk to assist with family history research

For conference registrants 6:30 - 8:30 Meet and Greet

#### Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September

8:30 Open

9:30 - 3:30 Conference

4:00 Annual General Meeting

6:30 - 10:00 Conference Dinner

#### Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September

9:00 - 1pm Conference

For further details access website: [www.sailingintohistory.org.au](http://www.sailingintohistory.org.au)

Email: [info@sailingintohistory.org.au](mailto:info@sailingintohistory.org.au)

## OUT AND ABOUT POSTSCRIPT - THANK YOU

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Assoc. Professor Carol Liston, Meg, Gay & Hon. Julie Owens MP (at V by Crown)



Beth, Brian & Anne at the Open Day at North Parramatta, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>.

As a member of the Parramatta Heritage Partners Group, PFFF (Gay, Ann and I), attended the *NSW National Trust Heritage Festival Launch* at the recently opened *Philip Ruddock Heritage Centre at Crown by V* in Parramatta. A huge thank you goes to Brian Powyer and Ken Smith (PHP) who gave us so much support - thank you to Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews whose *Herstory Talk* at Hambleton Cottage and *First Friday Tour* were included in the Festival programme.

Anne, Beth, Pauline Garmonsway and I also attended the *Urban Growth NSW Open Day* at the North Parramatta site on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May which attracted a crowd of 500. Our information and sales tables (3!) were kept super busy and it was gratifying to catch up with PFFF Patrons Tom and Meg, Brian Powyer (National Trust) and member Terry Smith who gave talks on *writing about history; heritage significance and history of the North Parramatta sites*.

Many thanks to James Adcock and the Events team at UGNSW who gave us terrific support for the day.

Ronda Gaffey