



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.  
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 33 MAY-JUNE 2020**



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The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 – nla.pic-an 2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

**Patrons:** Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Keneally AO  
**President:** Gay Hendriksen **Vice President:** Frank Williams  
**Treasurer/Public Officer:** Kerima-Gae Topp **General Secretary/Editor:** Ronda Gaffey  
**Committee:** Minutes Secretary: Anne Mathews **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker,  
 Stephen Bryant, Pauline Garmonsway, Lynette Watkins, Janice Ruse-Huntington.

**Next Meeting:** TBC **Friday 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST AGM: 1.00pm. General Meeting at 2.00pm** followed by afternoon tea.  
**VENUE:** Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street, Parramatta.

Content	Page
President.....	2
Vale Jack Munday AO.....	3
Noticeboard.....	3
History Corner.....	3
'Our Girls'.....	5
Descendant's Corner.....	7

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

It is with great sadness that we share the news that the great Jack Munday AO has passed away.

Jack's advocacy for Australian heritage was second to none and he has been a staunch supporter of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends since 2011, shortly after we began our advocacy. He spoke several times at our Riot Day events and ensured inclusion of the 'Friends' work in his recent biography. He was instrumental in gaining a Green Ban on the Female Factory site and his advice was invaluable to our advocacy work. He continued with his support and attended our Bicentennial.



Jack will be sorely missed and remembered fondly by the Parramatta Female Factory Friends. Our thoughts are with his wife Judy. For Jack's words on the female factory, click this link:

<http://www.parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au/advocacy-2/friends-speak-out-for-the-factory/>

We continue our advocacy. A number of Members of Parliament have been contacted re current State Government directions and information regarding this. The committee and I have been working through the next steps of advocacy beyond the petitions. The light rail is of concern and there are questions to be answered regarding this. The only scheduled demolition within the factory footprint is in the Gipps Yard.

The committee has been meeting (online) during COVID restrictions and has been in regular communication with the next steps. Part of this is the 2021 Bicentennial and given the preparation for this and the COVID impact, we are not planning a Riot Day this year but rather focusing our energy on the Bicentennial. More news on that as we develop the way we will commemorate the beginning of the convict women's connection with the female factory.

With regard to COVID-19, the Parramatta Female Factory Friends are committed to health priorities, hand sanitisation and social distancing. This said, I am looking forward to seeing you at the 'Friends Rooms' when Government regulations and your sense of health confidence makes it possible.

Best Wishes

Gay Hendriksen

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### JACK MUNDEY AO



Jack at the Parramatta Female Factory

*"I remember Jack was 'on board' straight away when we told him about the female factory..."*

*Beth Matthews - friend and PFFF Member*

## JACK MUNDEY AO (1929-2020)

The Parramatta Female Factory Friends are deeply saddened at the passing of Jack Munday AO.


Jack's interest and concern in what was happening in Parramatta never waned and he always responded to calls when we were faced with what seemed insurmountable odds in our advocacy.

Over the years Jack has been widely lauded for his union leadership which brought improvements in workers' wages and conditions and, for his advocacy for the rights of First Nation people, migrant communities and women. His broader activism was instrumental in saving many invaluable heritage items which are now so iconic in the Sydney landscape. These include the Rocks, Kelly's Bush, the Bondi Pavilion and the Sirius building.

Jack's wisdom, his warmth, his energy and his total commitment to the environment, to Australian history and our heritage will never be forgotten. He was a true heritage advocate and Factory Friend - *the Friends* will miss him greatly.

Vale Jack

## NOTICEBOARD

- **MEETING scheduled for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020 is CANCELLED due to COVID-19 protocols.**
  - **NEXT MEETING 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST IS TO BE CONFIRMED: AGM at 1:00pm: General Meeting at 2:00pm** followed by afternoon tea. Venue: The Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street North Parramatta.
  - **A NEW PFFF PUBLICATION: SPECIAL PETITION EVENT PRICE \$40**
- The PFFF Bicentennial Book *History-Herstory-Ourstory*** is now available and will be on sale **once COVID-19 restrictions** are lifted. A *wafer* is also available for \$25 - this has a pdf version of the book, female factory women lists, videos and photographs of the 2018 Bicentenary Event. Postage & packaging will be an additional cost.
- 
- **MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2020.** Payment by cheque to: The Treasurer, Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. PO Box 1358, Parramatta 2124 or by direct deposit to BSB: 633 000 Account: 151 276 736 - **Please ensure your name** is on the EFT for reference.

## HISTORY CORNER - 100 YEARS AGO

"KEEP AWAY FROM SYDNEY..."

*'The greatest care and cleanliness should be practised during the influenza epidemic. Disinfectants should be liberally used, masks worn and crowding avoided. Keep away from Sydney.'*<sup>1</sup>

For a time during the flu epidemic of 1918-1920, masks had to be worn in public. All public gatherings were prohibited and places of entertainment such as dance halls and cinemas were closed. For the first time, the Sydney Easter Show was cancelled and Empire Day celebrations were impacted.

<sup>1</sup> Windsor and Richmond Gazette 7 Feb 1919



“UNDER STRICT QUARANTINE ON THE NORTH SHORE...”

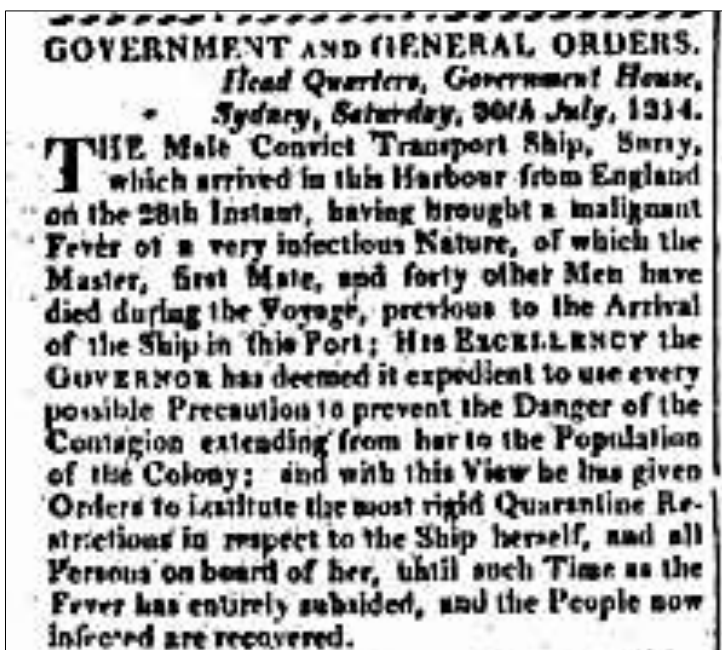
Typhus, also known as *ship fever* or *gaol fever*, was something to be feared - it could be a scourge on convict transports.

On 27<sup>th</sup> July 1814, the convict transport *Surry*, arrived in Port Jackson from England under the most distressing circumstances. The death toll was high with the eventual loss of the Captain, the Surgeon, two Second Mates, the Boatswain, 2 seamen, four soldiers and 36 male convicts of the 200 embarked - all were infected with typhus fever.<sup>1</sup>

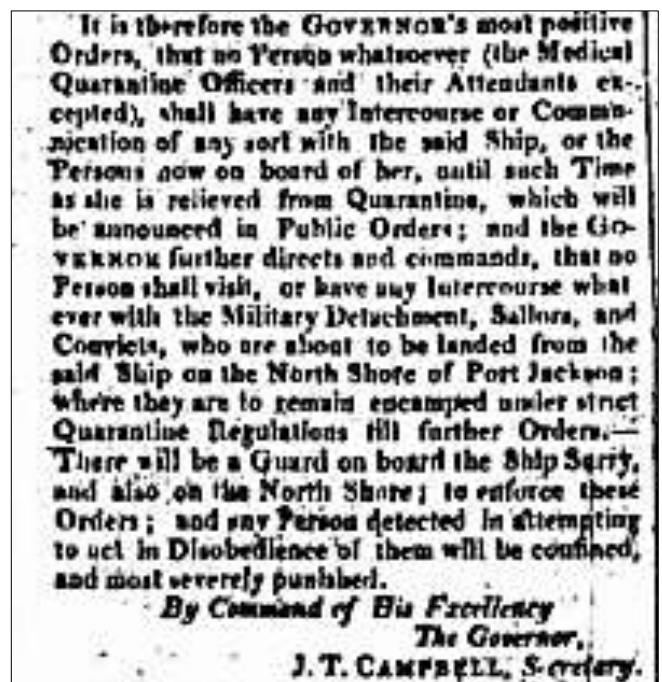
The ship had met with the female convict ship *Broxbornebury* just off the ‘Shoal Haven’ on the south coast - assistance had been requested and an officer, Mr Samuel Nash boarded *Surry* to assist a junior officer Mr Raine, to navigate the way into Port Jackson.<sup>2</sup>

On arrival in Sydney Cove, *Surry* was placed under strict quarantine and under guard, at a camp on the North Shore (off Kirribilli), the greatest fear being the spread of the contagion in the colony.<sup>3</sup>

Governor Macquarie ordered an inquiry into the voyage of three ships, *Surry*, *General Hewitt* and *Three Bees* which all had suffered heavy loss of life. Assistant Surgeon William Redfern led the inquiry.



**GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS.**  
*Head Quarters, Government House,  
Sydney, Saturday, 30th July, 1814.*  
**T**HE Male Convict Transport Ship, *Surry*, which arrived in this Harbour from England on the 28th Instant, having brought a malignant Fever of a very infectious Nature, of which the Master, first Mate, and forty other Men have died during the Voyage, previous to the Arrival of the Ship in this Port; HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR has deemed it expedient to use every possible Precaution to prevent the Danger of the Contagion extending from her to the Population of the Colony; and with this View he has given Orders to institute the most rigid Quarantine Restrictions in respect to the Ship herself, and all Persons on board of her, until such Time as the Fever has entirely subsided, and the People now infected are recovered.



It is therefore the GOVERNOR'S most positive Orders, that no Person whatsoever (the Medical Quarantine Officers and their Attendants excepted), shall have any Intercourse or Communication of any sort with the said Ship, or the Persons now on board of her, until such Time as she is relieved from Quarantine, which will be announced in Public Orders; and the GOVERNOR further directs and commands, that no Person shall visit, or have any Intercourse what ever with the Military Detachment, Sailors, and Convicts, who are about to be landed from the said Ship on the North Shore of Port Jackson; where they are to remain encamped under strict Quarantine Regulations till further Orders.— There will be a Guard on board the Ship *Surry*, and also on the North Shore; to enforce these Orders; and any Person detected in attempting to act in Disobedience of them will be confined, and most severely punished.  
By Command of His Excellency  
The Governor,  
J. T. CAMPBELL, Secretary.

<sup>3</sup>  
In 1895, the headstones of three victims of the *Surry* contagion were unearthed by a contractor working on a vacant plot of land in Jeffreys Street, Kirribilli. The headstone shown here is of Captain William Patterson who passed away after the ship reached Sydney Cove.<sup>4</sup>



References:

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wikipedia>

<sup>2</sup> *Convict Ship Surry 1814 - Free or Felon?* [https://www.jen.willetts.com/convict\\_ship\\_surry\\_1814.htm](https://www.jen.willetts.com/convict_ship_surry_1814.htm)

<sup>3</sup> *The Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser* (1803 -1842), Saturday 30 July, 1814 page

<sup>4</sup> *The Town And Country Journal* 27 July 1895, Article *The Surry Tombstones*, page 32

\*To those researchers out there - please let me know if you find the whereabouts of the *Surry* Headstones and remains.

by Ronda Gaffey



'OUR GIRLS' - by Beth Matthews and Anne Mathews

SARAH THORNTON aka THORN (1791-1827) - A First Factory Woman

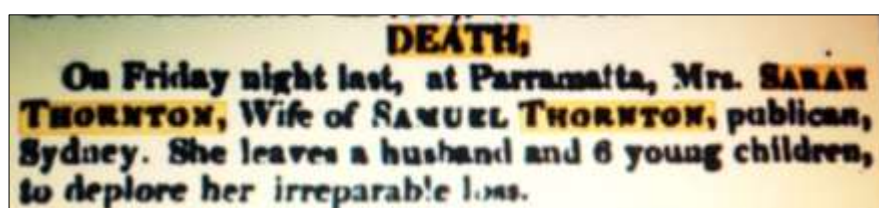
Sarah Thornton was sentenced at the Old Bailey, she left a husband and child behind in England, she gave birth to a son on the voyage to Sydney, she was reunited with her husband some 4 months later and enjoyed some success and comfort before her early death at 36 years of age.<sup>1</sup>

Sarah was aged 22, a native of London, a needleworker by trade and described as having black hair, hazel eyes and a fair/ruddy complexion.<sup>2</sup>

#### Timeline

- 1810 Sarah married Samuel Thornton
- 1813 charged with theft of 3 cards of lace along with 3 other women
- 1813 27 October Sarah is sentenced to death but sentence commuted to transportation for life
- 1814 embarked *Broxbornebury* with child Sarah aged 2; one child left in England
- 1814, 23<sup>rd</sup> June - gave birth to son Samuel on voyage to colony: J. H. Bent's diary notes: *This morning another convict of the name of Thornton was brought to bed of a fine boy. She had a very bad time....it was doubted whether the child or the mother must be sacrificed to save the other... but fortunately they saved both*<sup>3</sup>
- 1814, 28 July Sarah arrives in Port Jackson - sent to Factory at Parramatta with her 2 children
- 1814, May husband Samuel leaves England per *Somersetshire* - a free passenger
- 1814, 16 October Samuel Thornton arrives in Port Jackson; shortly after, Sarah assigned to husband
- 1819 Sarah petitions Governor Macquarie requesting mitigation of sentence to return to England- request refused<sup>4</sup>
- 1819 Samuel's renewal of Publican Licence- living in George Street Sydney<sup>5</sup>
- 1820 31 January, Sarah's Conditional Pardon is granted
- 1825 13 June Sarah's Absolute Pardon is granted<sup>6</sup>
- 1827, 23 November, death of Sarah at Parramatta<sup>7</sup>; buried Devonshire Street Cemetery, Sydney
- Children born in the colony were Margaret (b. 1816), George (b. 1819), Mary Ann (b. 1821) and Edward (b. 1824).<sup>8</sup>

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#### References:

<sup>1</sup> *Our Girls* - unpublished work sourced from original papers, State Archives and Records New South Wales, by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>3</sup> Diary of J. H. Bent, quoted in *Journey to a New Life: The Story of the ships Emu in 1812 and Broxbornebury in 1814, Including Crew, Female Convicts and Free Passengers on board* by Elizabeth Hook, c2006, p116

<sup>4</sup> *Colonial Secretary: Petition: 3201 4/1860 pp63-63b, SARNSW*

<sup>5</sup> *Colonial Secretary's Correspondence: Reel 6006 4/3499 p318. SARNSW*

<sup>6</sup> *The New South Wales, Australia, Convict Registers of Conditional and Absolute Pardons, 1788-1870; Reel 800, page 15 SARNSW*

<sup>7</sup> *The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser* (1803 - 1842), 26 November 1827, Family Notices, Death of Sarah Thornton page 3

<sup>8</sup> *Profile Sarah Thornton; https://AustralianRoyalty.net.au* retrieved 1/5/20

J.H. Bent was a passenger on the *Broxbornebury* and a newly appointed Chief Justice, brother to Ellis Bent, Judge advocate. He kept a diary of the voyage.

Mary Greenway, wife of Francis Greenway came free per *Broxbornebury* with her three children.

Sarah was literate and her voice is heard in the petitions she wrote and in letters to her family in England. In the following letter (c1820) Sarah describes the challenges of colonial life and tells of her and her family's modest success due to honesty, hard work and frugality - there is also perhaps a tinge of regret when she thinks of those in England likely to offend and to be faced with transportation and the hardships she experienced:

*'Myself and my husband have had many hard struggles to gain the means of an honest livelihood . To accomplish it we have worked night and day. I thank God that he has crowned our endeavours with success. I rose early in the morning and went to market bringing home my articles on my head, to furnish my shop to the best advantage. With the greatest care of our little profits and frugality in housekeeping we collected together a small sum sufficient to buy a little house. I then applied to the Gentlemen of the Colony, for a Licence; which they not only granted, but said that they would assist me and my husband in any way in their power, as that we associated with none but persons of good character... I often wish, my dear friend, you could see my little family and they playing around me, while I am milking my cows or making my bread. O that my voice could be heard by the young people in England, to deter them from evil ways... that they might not come to this wretched country where so much evil abounds. For though I have by a regular line of good conduct, and great privations arrived at a state of comfort, not one in twenty who is sent here, obtains even the necessaries of life, by their own industry, independent (sic) of support from the government.'*<sup>9</sup>

It would seem that at some point, Sarah ran her own business separate to Samuel.<sup>10</sup> Both were successful with Samuel having a grant of 100 acres where he ran cattle as well as being publican of a hotel in George Street Sydney.<sup>11</sup>

In an article about the exhumations at the Devonshire Street Cemetery (1907), there is a rather moving tribute to Sarah and Samuel - they are described as "two old and valued" colonists.<sup>12</sup>

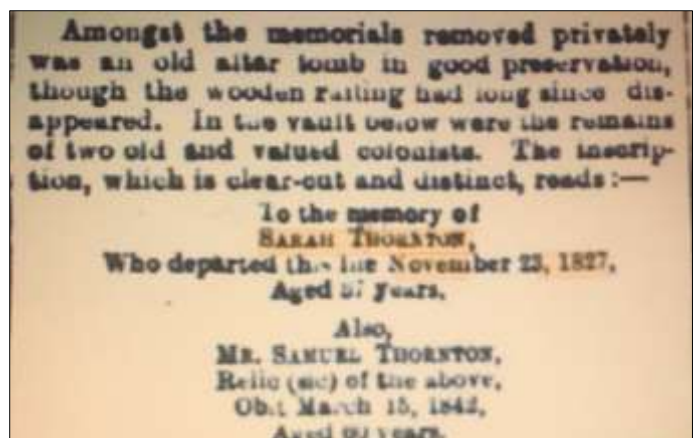


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Sarah and Samuel's son George Thornton (1819-1901), became a successful businessman and politician. He was an alderman, a Mayor of Sydney, a member of the NSW Legislative Assembly, and later a member of the Legislative Council. He died at his residence 'Lang Syne' in Sorrell Street, Parramatta in 1901.

References:

- <sup>9</sup> Transcription of letter from Sarah Thornton to relatives in England, from *Convict Women* by Kay Daniels, Allen & Unwin 1998, pages 220-221
- <sup>10</sup> Thesis presented for the degree of Master of Philosophy Australian National University, Canberra August 2001, *Women in Colonial Commerce 1817-1820 The Window of Understanding Provided by the Bank of New South Wales Ledger and Minutes Books*, Leanne Johns p22, retrieved 11/5/20
- <sup>11</sup> *Journey To A New Life: The Story of the ships Emu in 1812 and Broxbornebury in 1814, Including Crew, Female Convicts and Free Passengers on Board* by Elizabeth Hood, 2006, p 116
- <sup>12</sup> *Truth*, (Sydney, NSW: 1894 - 1954), Article, *The Devonshire Street Cemeteries*; Sun, 1 December 1907, page 7
- <sup>13</sup> *The Australian Dictionary of Biography - George Thornton* by Martha Rutledge, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/thornton-george> retrieved 11/5/20
- <sup>14</sup> Portrait: George Thornton by William Nicholas, 1854: Min 169, State Library of New South Wales
- <sup>15</sup> Image: Margaret Tucker (nee Thornton) daughter of Sarah and Samuel Thornton, *Thornton family tree*, <https://geni.com/people> retrieved 11/5/20

DESCENDANT'S CORNER - FRANCIS GREENWAY IN THE HUNTER VALLEY (AND HIS LINK TO 'FACTORY GIRL', MARY ANN AHERN, PER *PALAMBAM* 1831) by Margaret Szalay

Mary Ann Ahern, per *Palambam*, 1831, and her husband, Joseph Jones, per *Hadlow 1*, 1818, spent time living on the farm owned by Francis and managed by his son, William Greenway, as tenant farmers from 1830–1848/9 (as recorded on Joseph's petition for a conditional pardon in 1834<sup>1</sup>). In November 1832, Mary had been sent on a boat up to Newcastle with a group of 40 'assignable' women from the Female Factory, to be part of a parade for the purpose of assignment or marriage.

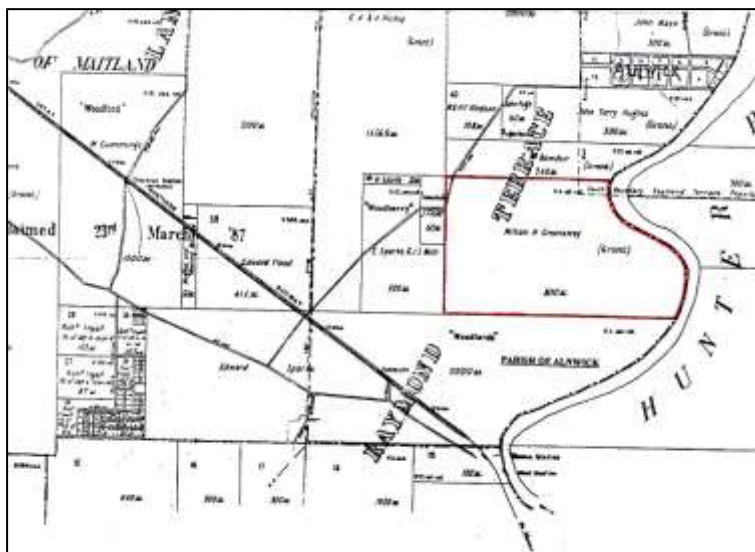
In their marriage banns in November 1832, Joseph, aged 31, is recorded as 'leases a farm from Mr. Greenway, Horse Shoe Reach, Hunter's River', and Mary, aged 21, is 'assigned to Mr. John Watson of Horse Shoe Bend'<sup>2</sup>. They married in January 1833, and went to live on the Greenway property. Nine of their ten children were born in the Hunter area, listed variously as Hexham, Alnwick, Maitland and Newcastle.

Francis Greenway had arrived in Port Jackson in 1814, as a convict on board the ship *General Hewitt*, and was immediately granted a Ticket of Leave, and was emancipated in 1817. He was employed by Governor Lachlan Macquarie as government civil architect to design the many buildings envisioned by the Governor, many of which remain today<sup>3</sup>.

This property of 800 acres near Hexham was granted to Francis Greenway by Macquarie to compensate for the smallness of his salary. He married and had a numerous family of whom at least two survived him. He later went to live on his Hunter property after he had fallen out with Macquarie, dying there in about 1837, aged about 60 years.



Francis Greenway



and, the Greenway property (marked in red)

In Francis Greenway's biography, it mentioned his probably spurious claims to a connection with the Howard family in England, and he planned a house called Howard Park on his Hunter property along the lines of the Howard castle in England. Although started, it was never finished. The baptism records for several of the Jones children refer to Horseshoe Bend, Howard Alnwick, etc. However, there is a house named "Howard" in nearby Tarro (photo below).

It was a hard life. The drought of 1838-39 was followed by a financial depression in the 1840s. In 1839, Joseph and Mary left the land to live in Maitland where he worked as a labourer to support his wife and

<sup>1</sup> NSW State Archives, Ref. 35/6373)

<sup>2</sup> NSW State Archives, Reel 723 4/2173

<sup>3</sup> Australian Dictionary of Biography

family of nine. During the depression from 1843–1851, farmers in the Hunter were boiling down their animals for tallow to survive.

Joseph and Mary moved back to Sydney in 1848/9 before their last child, Edward, was born. They lived in Sussex Street until Joseph's death in 1870.



Said to be "Howard", the Greenway house in Tarro



Greenway land on Horseshoe Bend on the Hunter River (M.Szalay, 2002)



265 Sussex Street Sydney (M.Szalay, 2004)

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Mary Ann Ahern is a maternal great great grandmother of Margaret Szalay and a paternal great great grandmother of Ronda Gaffey. Margaret is a family historian, author and publisher - [www.cremorne1.com](http://www.cremorne1.com)

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