



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.  
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 34 July-August 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:** Friday 21 August AGM at 1.00pm.  
**VENUE:** Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street,  
 Parramatta.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

I sincerely hope that this newsletter finds you well.



This month has been a busy one with our advocacy. There has been follow up on our petition which was presented to Federal Parliament by Susan Templeman MP on behalf of Julie Owens MP and representing the Factory Friends. The petitions have moved to the next stage and are currently with the Federal Petition Committee to ensure they are robust and accurate. We have been in contact with the CFMMEU reaffirming our relationship with them and in regard to the best way to protect the site in the future. We have also submitted letters and followed up on current status of the Parramatta Light Rail and any perceived threat to possible World Heritage status.

As a Committee we have been busy ensuring Covid-19 Safe rooms and operations. We are now registered as a Covid-19 Safe organisation. Our rooms have been assessed and are prepared with appropriate distance markers. There are conditions of entry and hygiene protocols in place and registration is essential for tracing purposes if required.

July saw our first day of the research centre open, from 9am until 11am. It will continue to be open between these times on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, Covid -19 restrictions dependant of course. Thank you to all the members who have helped to get the research/resource centre up and running. Members are welcome to assist as we continue to set up the resource.

Because of Covid -19 it was decided that we would not hold Riot Day this year. However in the spirit of optimism, we are continuing to plan the commemoration of the convict women moving from the factory above the goal to our purpose built female factory. We plan to commemorate it on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2021, Covid -19 dependant of course. This would be a simpler event than our 2018 Bicentennial, but would include a walk between the factory sites, commemoration and performance of our original commissioned work.

Our AGM is coming up soon and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their commitment and hard work over the last 12 months, ensuring we continue with our good work.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen

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### **AGM VOTING - SPECIAL NOTICE:**

**A reminder - all votes, either electronic or postal, must reach the secretary by COB, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Please remember to put "Voting Paper" in the subject line of your email or in the top left corner of the envelope and write your name on the back. Voting will also take place at the AGM.**  
[parramatafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramatafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com) or PO BOX 1358 Parramatta 2124

**Please let us know you are coming - we have a capacity at the Rooms - bookings to our gmail account or if you have no email access, then phone or SMS 0414624620 and leave your name and message.**  
**Thanking you - Ronda Gaffey Secretary.**

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## NOTICEBOARD

\* **NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> AUGUST AGM 1:00pm.** Venue: The Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street North Parramatta.

\* **The next General Meeting with speaker, will be Friday October 16, 2020 at 1:00pm. TBC.**

\* **The PFFF Bicentennial Book *History-Herstory-Ourstory*** will be reprinted soon and will be on sale at the Friends Rooms, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month **or** by email order to:

[parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com) The book is \$40 - postage & packaging is \$12.20.

A *wafer* is also available for \$25 - this contains a pdf version of the book, female factory women lists, videos and photographs of the 2018 Bicentenary Event. Postage & packaging for the wafer is \$3.30.

\* **Final Reminder:** Annual fees are due July 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Payment by direct deposit: BSB: 633 000 Account: 151 276 763 - please ensure your name is on the EFT.

\* From membership secretary, Cate Whittaker: *The fight is not over yet! We are the women's voice so let us shout the cause for World Heritage and a museum on site, on Facebook and, encourage your friends to join PFFF.*

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A WORD FROM THE TREASURER - Kerima-Gae Topp (aka 'Our Treasure'! Ed)

*Unless you attend our General Meetings, you probably only hear from me when membership renewals are due. Thank you to all those who have renewed following my recent emailed reminders and a 'big' thank you for including your names on your bank transfers. And if you haven't renewed yet please consider doing so as it is important for us when dealing with different 'powers that be' that we can show that we have strong membership numbers.*

*Maybe you can help me with a 'direct deposit' that was made on 08.03.20 with the tag 'Barbara Bryan'. No one of this name is a current member and I have received no membership application form with contact details, so if anyone knows this lady could you please ask her to contact us as we would dearly love to welcome her as a member, send her our newsletters and thank her for supporting PFFF.*

*I would also like to thank you for the many comments received about how you enjoy the PFFF newsletters, to quote one... 'I love your newsletter and keep them all'. Ronda Gaffey, our Secretary does a wonderful job of putting these interesting newsletters together, combining President Gay's report, stories about 'Our Girls' supplied by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews, plus adding her own items of interest. Well done Ronda.*

*(Thank you Kerima-Gae and to everyone for your kind words and support. Ed.)*

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HISTORY CORNER....205 years ago

by Ronda Gaffey

In 1815, following the high mortality aboard the convict transports, *Three Bees*, *Surry* and *General Hewitt*, Governor Macquarie instructed **Dr William Redfern**, Colonial Surgeon, to head an inquiry. Redfern's subsequent report was to bring dramatic changes regarding the conditions on board convict transports. His core recommendations were the need for ***ventilation, cleanliness, fumigation, a healthy diet, clean clothing, provision of water and wine...allowing convicts on deck and the employment of competent surgeons (naval) on board...***



Dr William Redfern

**From 1815**, the Naval Transport Board appointed a qualified naval surgeon on every convict ship leaving Britain and Ireland. **The Surgeon - Superintendent** was responsible for the discipline and moral oversight of the convicts as well as ensuring their good health. **Delivery of a healthy cargo**, a vital colonial labour force, was an imperative. For the surgeon, it meant being paid and, a voyage home.

## THE SURGEON - SUPERINTENDENT & THE SHIP'S JOURNAL

For any researcher, the surgeon's journal is a rich primary source, however not all have survived, but those that have, are most insightful, especially when there is an entry for one of "our girls"!



The following are extracts from two journals of the female convict transports *Lord Sidmouth* 1822 and *Sovereign* 1829 which demonstrate the daily routine on board and adherence to 'regulations'.

*Cleanliness being especially necessary for the health and comfort of the convicts... the persons occupying each birthplace shall make or fold up their bed blanket and pillow in a tight ball...for being stored upon deck and that they will then make their portions of the sleeping places and the decks clean as shall be judged necessary by the Surgeon & Supt every morning before breakfast...<sup>1</sup>*

*...They were made to rise at 7 in the morning, and when dressed, to roll up neatly their beds, pillows and blankets in a hard roll. After this the prison was swept out and such parts as were wet dried up, and when this was properly done, and not before, breakfast was served out...the water closets were also washed out three times a day and oftener when required and each time sprinkled with the solution of chloride of lime...The women and children were mustered on Sundays and Thursdays, and inspected to see that their hair was combed and their persons linen and stockings were clean...<sup>2</sup>*

The third extract is from the Journal of Surgeon - Superintendent James Hall of the convict ship *Mary Anne* <sup>(1)</sup> 1822. Hall was perceptive noting the women's hardships and various ailments of the "female system" - he ended the voyage feeling most satisfied and with some pride states:

*"On the while I must observe that the women and children enjoyed a high state of health during the voyage owing to a rigid system of cleanliness and good discipline having been maintained.*

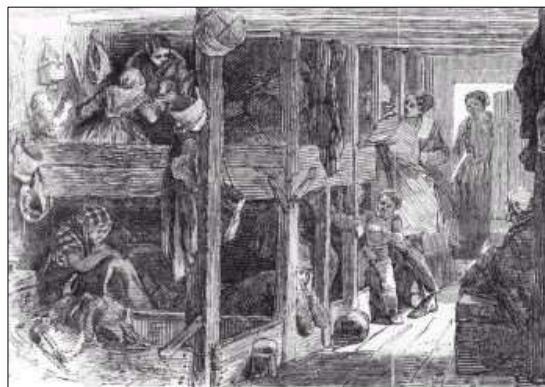
*I feel myself justified in saying that no ship has arrived here in a more quiet, decent state than the "Mary Anne" and very few have or can equal it. We have no complaints against the crew or women...all is harmony and decency"<sup>3</sup>.*

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Journal extract, Robert Espie RN; article, *the Convict Ship Lord Sidmouth* - the female transport *Lord Sidmouth* 1822 by Noela Vranich from *Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* pub by PFFF 2016

<sup>2</sup> Journal extract, George Fairfowl RN; quoted in *Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Sovereign 1829* [https://www.jenwillets.com/ship/sovereign\\_1829.htm](https://www.jenwillets.com/ship/sovereign_1829.htm) retrieved 1/1/2020

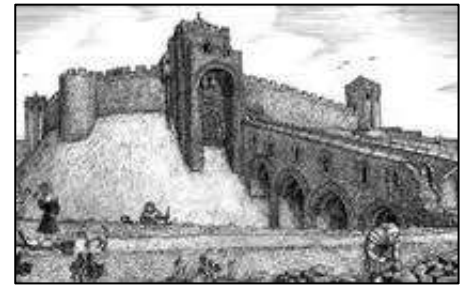
<sup>3</sup> Journal extract of Surgeon Superintendent James Hall - quoted in *Free Settler or Felon? Convict Ship Mary Anne 1822* [https://www.jenwillets.com/maryann\\_1822.htm](https://www.jenwillets.com/maryann_1822.htm) retrieved 11/7/20



Below deck - source unknown

'OUR GIRLS' by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

Martha Brooks was convicted at the Devon Assizes, the Lent Sessions 1821, at Exeter Castle. She was from Otterton, Devon and described as a spinster who with "force and arms - did steal and take away bread, butter, a gown and a handkerchief" from "the dwelling place of Joel Hayman". Martha was found guilty of burglary and sentenced to be hanged. She was reprieved and sentenced to 14 years transportation <sup>1</sup>.



Exeter Castle

Martha embarked *Mary Anne* <sup>(1)</sup> which departed Portsmouth on 25<sup>th</sup> December 1821. In the ship's indent Martha is described as, "servant, 23 years, fair complexion, brown hair, hazel eyes, 4<sup>ft</sup> 11<sup>1/2</sup>" tall" <sup>2</sup>. There were 108 women from numerous counties of England and Scotland who embarked and the voyage took 146 days, arriving in Port Jackson 11<sup>th</sup> March 1822. It is likely Martha was sent to the Factory with the remainder of the women to await assignment <sup>3</sup>.

3. **On Wednesday His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR went on board the Mary Ann transport, and inspected the female prisoners, preparatory to their transmission to Parramatta; which took place yesterday morning.**

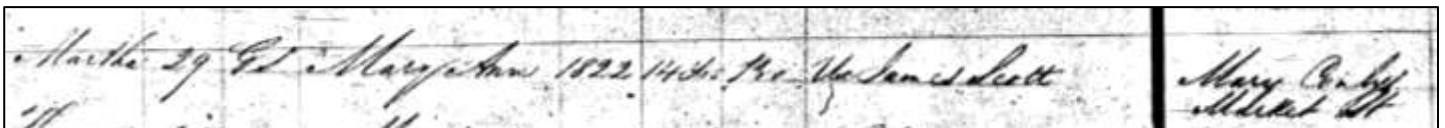
Martha's time as a Government servant was short-lived - an onboard liaison between Martha and James Scott, Boatswain, led to James' request to stay in the colony and to their subsequent marriage.

Martha and James were married on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1822 at St Philips Church Sydney - James is recorded as 22 years of age and Martha, aged 20 <sup>4</sup>. In November 1822, one month after their marriage, James applied for the removal of his wife from the employ of Jacob where she had been assigned <sup>5</sup>.

Martha and James' daughter was born 13<sup>th</sup> October 1824 and baptised Charlotte Mary Ann <sup>6</sup>.

In the 1825 Census & Muster, Martha and her daughter Charlotte were in the Parramatta Female Factory. It would seem that James had returned to his former life as a mariner. Later, in the 1828 Census, Martha was in the household of Mary Conly in Market Street Sydney. She is noted as "Ux" (wife of) James Scott <sup>7</sup>. It is interesting to note that four year old Charlotte is living with her mother Martha which would have been a good outcome for a convict woman's child <sup>8</sup>.

7.



8.



It is most likely that Martha met Henry Pollard, her second husband, in the Market Street neighbourhood. He was born in Bath, Somerset (1799) and was a convict who arrived aged 14 or 15, *per Somersetshire* in 1814 with a life sentence for burglary <sup>9</sup>. He was noted as aged 28 in the 1828 Census and living in Market Street.

In the Application for Publication of Banns (16<sup>th</sup> May 1829), Martha's circumstances are revealed. She is described as "being at large since the death of her late husband having one child to provide for by her own industry" <sup>10</sup>. In the remarks column, the circumstances of James Scott's death are recorded as "Drowned

somewhere on the coast of Malacca on the wreck of the brig *Active*...which he had entered as a sailor in the port of Sydney...the *Active* was wrecked about three years ago...most of the crew, including Scott, perished”.

*List of Persons applying for the Publication of Banns, at the Scots Church, Sydney 16 May 1829*

NAME	AGE	Widower, Widow, Bachelor, or Spinster.	Ship arrived by.	Year of Arrival.	Sentence.	Prize or Bond.	Present Service.	Character.	REMARKS.
Henry Pollard	31 <del>28</del>	Bachelor	Scythian	1814	Life	Acting Lt 1794/1795	On his own account	Good	Is a butcher & dealer, is able to maintain a family
Martha Brooks & Scott	20	Widow	Amienne	1801 1802	14 years	Bond	Thrust to sea & large since the death of her late husband, having one child to provide for, has ever led a distressful life.	Good	Had married shortly after her arrival in the colony to James Scott, free farmer & trader of Orange, who was then a crew man on the coast of Malacca, on the wreck of the brig <i>Active</i> , capt. in Sweden, on board of which vessel he had entered as a sailor in the port of Sydney. The <i>Active</i> was wrecked about three years ago, & most of the crew, including Scott, perished.

It is also interesting to note that Henry, now a Ticket of Leave man, was working “on his own account” as “a butcher and dealer” and is noted as being able “to maintain a family”.

Martha and Henry were married at the Scots Church, Sydney on 8<sup>th</sup> June 1829 and settled in the South Colah (Pennant Hills) district. Martha and Henry went on to have seven children: Harriet b. 1830, William b.1832, Maria b.1833, Harriett b.1836, Thomas b.1839, Mary b.1842 and Martha b.1844<sup>11</sup>.

Martha died at the age of 64 in December 1863 in Lane Cove Sydney. She is buried at All Saints Cemetery, Parramatta. The headstone includes a plaque erected by the Pollard family.

Martha’s daughter Charlotte Scott, married John Francis Duffy in 1840 when she was 16 (it is thought they were neighbours). They were the parents of 16 children. Charlotte lived to 84 years of age and died in 1908.



Above: Martha Pollard’s grave - All Saints Cemetery, Parramatta

Left: 4 generations of Martha’s descendants. Her daughter Charlotte (Duffy) is seated on the right holding her great grandchild. Photographs courtesy - the late Bob Pollard and family.

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References:

<sup>1</sup> Pollard Family History notes sourced from original papers by Bob Pollard

<sup>2</sup> Convict & Ships Musters 1788-1828, SRNSW Ref: Vol. 4/4004 - 4/4013 Mary Anne 1822 Volume entry number 8

<sup>3</sup> Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser, Friday 24 May 1822 p2

<sup>4</sup> Australia Marriage Index Ref: Vol .Number V

<sup>5</sup> Colonial Secretary's Correspondence Index 1788-1825: SRNSW Reel 6055 4/1762 - pp. 46-7

<sup>6</sup> Birth Record for Charlotte Scott Ref: 45A retrieved from ancestry.com 11/7/20

<sup>7</sup> New South Wales Australia Census 1828 online database - entry for Martha Brooks

<sup>8</sup> New South Wales, Australia Census 1828 online database - entry for Charlotte Scott

<sup>9</sup> Pollard Family History notes sourced from original papers

<sup>10</sup> New South Wales Australian Convict Application for the Publication of Banns 1828, 1838-1839 for Martha Brooks and Henry Pollard

<sup>11</sup> Pollard Family History notes sourced from original papers by Bob Pollard

'Our Girls' - unpublished work, sourced from original papers SRNSW - Ann Mathews and Beth Matthews

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*Bob Pollard passed away earlier this year and is sadly missed as a fellow researcher and member of the Parramatta & District Historical Society Family History Group. I am forever grateful to Bob as a fellow researcher who was always willing to share his family history - he was so proud of his ancestry. Thank you also to Phil Murphy and Helen Toohey for Martha's, James' and Henry's narratives.*

*Beth Matthews.*

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Postscript:

The convict ship *Somersetshire* arrived the same year as the 'notorious' *Three Bees*, *Surry* and *General Hewitt* and brought news that Napoleon Bonaparte had been defeated. In celebration, a Royal Salute was fired from Dawes Battery and in the evening, a "general illumination took place." Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser 19 October 1814.

The brig *Active* was purchased by Rev Samuel Marsden for his missionary work and was owned by him until 1824 or thereabouts when it was purchased for the "Calcutta" run. en.m.wikipedia.org

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ADVOCACY CORNER - A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE ACHIEVED!

**On Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020, Ms Susan Templeman MP on behalf of Ms Julie Owens MP, presented a Petition of 10,558 signatures in support of submission for the Parramatta Female Factory to be placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.**

This presentation was a milestone for the members of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends, convict women descendants, historians, and the local and wider Australian community who made this possible. This event marked the culmination of years of advocacy for the recognition of this important site and for its appropriate custodianship and management into the future. This was a momentous occasion. We now are urging 'the House' to support this submission and further the application.

Parliamentary Presentation link: <https://youtu.be/oNTboAYbVaU>

<https://www.facebook.com/JulieOwensMP/videos/302071867499187/>



Above: 7th March - 11,000<sup>+</sup> signatures presented to Ms Julie Owens MP

Photograph: Lona Logan

Right: Susan Templeman MP at Parliament House, Canberra, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Photograph - courtesy Susan Templeman MP.





**NATIONAL HERITAGE LISTING -2017  
PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY  
AND NOW FOR WORLD HERITAGE LISTING!**



Photographs: PFFF Collection