



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.  
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 35 September-October 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: Lynette Watkins Membership Secretary: Cate Whittaker,  
**Tour Coordinator:** Steve Bryant, Anne Mathews, Judith Dunn OAM, Janice Ruse Huntington

**Next Meeting: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there is no guest speaker. General Meeting at 2:00pm**

**VENUE:** Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street, Parramatta.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Factory Friends,

It certainly has been a very busy time since the last newsletter. We conducted a successful AGM despite COVID and your new Committee are: Steve Bryant, Judith Dunn OAM, Ronda Gaffey, Anne Mathews, Janice Ruse Huntington, Kerima-Gae Topp, Lyn Watkins, Cate Whittaker, Frank Williams and myself. We certainly have launched into activity.

The Federal Petition was accepted officially and the request will be considered. On World Heritage, the City of Parramatta Council minuted their support in a Council meeting. We also have support from the National Trust who recently joined us in a meeting with the Lord Mayor to encourage more support.

There has been a development application (DA) submitted by Infrastructure NSW for a business hub within the Factory footprint. We submitted our objections and letters have been written to Councillors and Parliamentarians in relation to this. Watch this space. Our view is that the hub should not be on the Parramatta Female Factory Footprint.

It is likely that at some point the Friends' Rooms may be moved to the main range, but this is yet to be determined.

We are currently developing a proposal for preferred use of the Parramatta Female Factory Site. This is a drill down from the Museum of Australian Identity concept and will be our preferred advocacy tool when it is finalised. Ideas being discussed are currently focusing on interpretation, museum style, in the exceptionally significant buildings or perhaps interpretation throughout the Female Factory Footprint. If you have any suggestions, thoughts or feedback feel free to email: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com) .

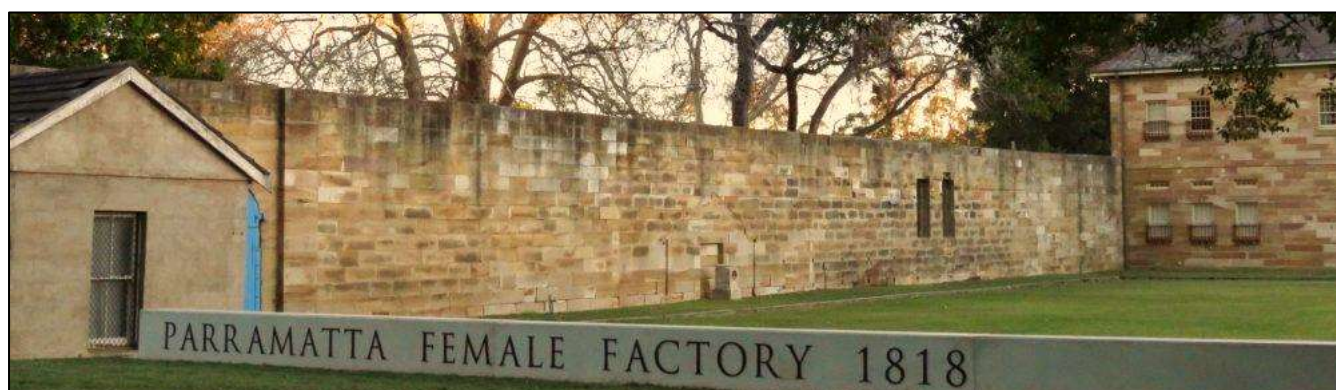
As you would be aware now, there will be no *It's a Riot* event this year but COVID permitting, in February 2021, we will commemorate the women entering the Parramatta Female Factory in 1821. Watch this space for more detail.

On a different note, literally, there are four songs that have been commissioned for this commemorative event which will have their debut at this event. There have been compositions developed recently, but this is our very own acknowledgement of the spirit of these women.

See you at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> October.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen



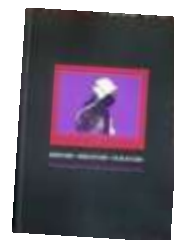
## NOTICEBOARD

\* **The next General Meeting is Friday October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Due to COVID-19 protocols there is no guest speaker. General Meeting at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea.** We are a registered COVID-19 safe venue.

\* **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 - date for payment of 2020-2021 fees is October 31<sup>st</sup>.** Payment by cheque to PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124 or direct deposit: BSB: 633 000 Account: 151 276 763 - please ensure your name is on the EFT. Thank you for your continued support.

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## HISTORY CORNER =

### MEDICAL CARE AT THE PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY

by Ronda Gaffey



Above: Model of the Greenway Hospital (c1818-1821) by Wayne Mathews  
Right: The Female Factory Hospital today - the dormer windows, porch and other features were added later.



When the hospital was built at the Parramatta Female Factory (1818-1821), it was intended to provide medical care for the women awaiting assignment and for other convict women inmates. In 1822, the hospital was recorded as having 15 *bedsteads*<sup>1</sup>. In the next few years, the intake increased and in 1826 between March and October there were on average 11 to 26 patients admitted each day<sup>2</sup>.

As the town of Parramatta grew, so did the admissions to the General Hospital and its capacity was reached. So by 1829, the Factory Hospital was providing medical care not only for the Factory women but for all women requiring medical treatment<sup>3</sup>.

The Factory Hospital was the first dedicated health service for all women in the colony, both convict and free however little was done to increase its capacity and requests for expansion, were ignored<sup>4</sup>. During Governor Darling's time, a verandah was added and women were treated in what might be considered, an outdoor day clinic<sup>5</sup>. In time the Factory Hospital became important as a lying-in hospital with any number of pregnant women being admitted for their confinement.

Today the "Greenway" Hospital stands as witness to the countless number of women, convict and free, who would have passed through its door. It is also witness to those colonial children born there, to those children separated from their Factory mothers in infancy and to those who are *lost in time*. Let's hope the women and the children's narrative has a permanent place here, in the not so distant future.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup> *Once is Enough, Chapter 7 page 112, These Outcast Women The Parramatta Female Factory 1821-1848* by Annette Salt published 1984, Hale & Iremonger

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid* page 111

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* page 112

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid* page 116

<sup>5</sup> *Medical Services for Women*, Liston, Carol, page 42, *Women Transported Australia's Convict Female Factories* by Gay Hendriksen, Carol Liston and Tricia Cowley published 2008 Parramatta Heritage Centre, Parramatta

Photographs - courtesy Anne Mathews (model) and Kerima-Gae Topp (the Greenway Hospital today).



Mary Mumford was born in Cork, Ireland in 1790. She was aged 37 at the time of her transportation in 1827. In the ship's indent she is described as a nurse and midwife. Her narrative is unusual, in that she is one woman who gave her occupation as *midwife*. Shortly after her arrival she worked as a midwife at the Sydney Infirmary, then at the Factory hospital and later, in private practice. She secured recommendations from the Colonial Surgeon Dr James Bowman and Dr Mathew Anderson, Principal Surgeon to the General Hospital Parramatta and the Female Factory.

#### Timeline:

- 1827 - 15<sup>th</sup> February, tried at the Old Bailey for theft of employer's belongings and sentenced to 14 years transportation (2<sup>nd</sup> offence).
- 1827 - 4<sup>th</sup> June departed London per the convict ship *Harmony* (1).
- 1827 - 27<sup>th</sup> September, arrived in Port Jackson.
- 1827 - after arrival, assigned to the Sydney Infirmary, Macquarie Street.
- 1828 - working at the Parramatta Female Factory as a midwife but residing outside the Factory.
- 1829 - in 3<sup>rd</sup> class for 12 hours for neglect of work - what work was neglected is not known.
- 1830 - Ticket of Leave cancelled - *living in a state of prostitution in Parramatta*.
- 1833 - June 4<sup>th</sup> resident in Mr Harvey's cottage, opposite the Roman Catholic Chapel, Parramatta - advertising services as midwife<sup>1</sup>.
- 1835 - July 25<sup>th</sup> - permission given to marry Thomas Burgess per *Morley* (1) 1817.
- 1835 - August 22<sup>nd</sup> - granted permission to marry but not followed through.
- 1837 - Ticket of Leave issued (2<sup>nd</sup> issue).
- 1837 - employed at the Factory as salaried midwife.
- 1838 - resigned from Factory position.
- 1839 - March 8<sup>th</sup> - Ticket of Leave cancelled - living in Parramatta with Martin Campbell, per *Isabella* (3) 1823.
- 1840 - domicile in West Maitland - name changed to *Mary Gordon*; advertises her services as midwife.
- 1841 - February 15<sup>th</sup>, her 14 year sentence expires.
- 1857 - June 26<sup>th</sup> died in West Maitland Hospital aged 75 - her occupation was recorded as *midwife*.

Mary Mumford was a survivor - she was enterprising and she was an independent working woman. She was confident in her skill and proud of her achievement. Her life as a colonial midwife, is to be commemorated.

**NOTICE.**  
**M**RS. MUMFORD respectfully takes leave to apprise the Ladies, and Public in general of Parramatta and its Vicinity, that she intends practising as MIDWIFE, and trusts that her having been employed in that capacity for several years in the Female Factory without even one accident occurring, will be a sufficient encouragement for them to employ her.  
Residence, Mr. Harvey's Cottage, opposite the Roman Catholic Chapel.  
Parramatta. 4th June, 1833.

Sydney Herald, 6 June 1833, page 3.

**Midwifery.**  
**M**RS. MARY GORDON (late Mumford) respectfully begs leave to acquaint the females of Maitland that she has commenced practising as Midwife, and promises the utmost attention and care shall be applied on her part to those individuals who may honor her with their commands. Respecting her conduct and qualifications, she has in her possession a Certificate from Surgeon Anderson, of the Colonial Hospital at Parramatta, under whose superintendence she attended the delivery of more than nine hundred women in eight years.  
In consequence of the great depression of the times, Mrs. G. requires no higher fee than 10s., leaving it to the generosity of those who can afford it to reward her services as they find her deserving.  
Shamrock Cottage, West Maitland. 935

Maitland Mercury December 16 1843 p3.

Sources:

Our Girls - unpublished work sourced from original papers, State Archives and Records NSW by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

Mistress of her Profession - Colonial Midwives of Sydney 1788 -1902 by Lesley Potter, published Anchor Books, Sydney 2015

Women Transported Life in Australia's Convict Female Factories by Gay Hendriksen, Carol Liston and Trudy Cowley published 2008, Parramatta Heritage Centre, Parramatta.

Biographical Database (BDA) online: - Profile for Mary Mumford per Harmony 1.

<sup>1</sup>Letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1828, Wm. Dumaresq to Col Sec. in Colonial Secretary's Correspondence - SARNSW: Research by Anne Mathews

<sup>2</sup>Letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> 1835, Dr J. Bowman to Col Sec. in Colonial Secretary's Correspondence - SARNSW: Research by Anne Mathews

26 August 1828  
 41  
 Factory 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1828

Sir,  
 Mary Jones, Post-Midwife to the State having tendered her Resignation, a Person of the name of Mary Mumford, Harmony adjacent the Bridge to the General Hospital Sydney is mentioned as being qualified for the Situation, we have the Honour therefore to recommend her accordingly. - With the view to render her Services as generally useful as possible it is represented that her Residence out of the State would be desirable as being, entirely under the orders of the Colonel Surgeon by directing her to attend on many of the poor at their own Residence, with frequent the necessity of their being received into the Hospital we are therefore induced to recommend this measure particularly as the person is an elderly woman -

at Secretary  
 The Salary

The Salary of Mr Jones is £20 - which we beg this Honble the Governor with respect to Mary Mumford, in Consideration of her finding her house, Paid nothing which she will not receive from the Government.

We have the Honour to be  
 Sir  
 Your Obedt Servants  
 for the Committee  
 W<sup>m</sup> Dumaresq

Medical Department  
 Sydney 21 February 1835

Sir

I have the honor to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency The Governor that Mrs Mary Mumford holding a Ticket of Leave has offered her Services as a midwife at the Female Factory and as she performed that duty a considerable time and is a very competent person I have to request His Excellency will be pleased to sanction her appointment

she will reside in the Factory and perform the duty for £40 a year without Rations which I conceive a moderate charge for so important a Service

I have the honor to be  
 Sir  
 Your most obedient Servant  
 J. Bowman

Above:

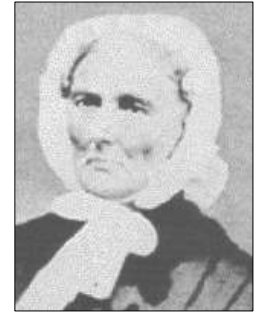
A letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1828 from Wm. Dumaresq referring to the appointment of Mary Mumford to the Parramatta Female Factory following the resignation of Mary Jones. Her salary was to be 20 pounds and she was to find her own accommodation<sup>1</sup>.

Right:

A letter dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 1835 from Dr James Bowman recommending Mary Mumford's appointment as midwife, with a salary of 40 pounds and with the instruction, she was to be housed at the Factory<sup>2</sup>.



*DESCENDANT'S CORNER - FINDING ANN*  
by Heidi Garmonsway



I recently went for a long weekend to the Hunter Valley and so I took the opportunity to go to Glebe Cemetery in East Maitland and visit Ann Gordon's grave. It is also highly probable that Francis Greenway is buried here, but it's not proven and there is no marked grave.

Ann Gordon was Matron of the Parramatta Female Factory for nine years from 1827 to 1836 and she is also my great, great, great, great grandmother. But I am not a "Gordon".

As I was on my walk to and from the grave site (it's not easy to get to), I was thinking about how I came to be and what Ann must have gone through. Ann gave birth to an illegitimate daughter, Letitia, when she was only 14 years old and that is my line of descent. I know that back then it was not out of the question to have a child at that age, but she was not married and by all accounts seemed to be from a "good" family.

I was surprised at how emotional I felt when I went there. I have thought of these things before but it really hit me when I saw her gravestone and thought of my own children.

Ann lived in Portsmouth and I kept pondering what happened to her, was she raped by a drunk sailor? Was it incest? Was he a great love that left her? Did it affect the way she treated women at the Factory who had to leave children behind? Did Ann's husband talk her into leaving Letitia behind or did she want to? We'll never know...

What I do know is that Letitia was left with Ann's mother when Ann moved to Australia with her husband Robert Gordon. I know that Letitia crossed out "King" (Ann's maiden name) and wrote in "Gordon" on her marriage certificate.

I have read letters that Ann wrote to Letitia and I know that Letitia thought of her grandmother as her mother. And most importantly, I know that Ann always loved Letitia and never forgot her, she tried to convince Letitia and her husband to move to Australia.

Saddest of all, I know that Letitia lived so close by (in today's terms), but they never saw each other again.

Letitia met and married Edward Garmonsway and moved to New Zealand and that is my connection, my mother met my father, a Garmonsway, in Wellington, New Zealand and they came back to Sydney to marry and live.

I can't believe that I have worked in Parramatta, in walking distance from the Female Factory.

On my visit to the grave, I felt that Ann finally had a part of Letitia back with her, in Australia, in me.

Photograph: Heidi Garmonsway, PFFF Collection  
Photograph: Ann Gordon, courtesy the Garmonsway family.  
Photograph: Ann Gordon's grave and headstone, courtesy Heidi Garmonsway.





## REMEMBERING THE RIOT OF 1827

This year we are unable to hold the Annual Riot Day but let's pause and reflect on the events leading up to that morning of 27<sup>th</sup> October 1827:

***“The action described by authorities as a riot had its origins in the life of the factory over the previous 12 months and was a culmination of distress over working and living conditions”<sup>1</sup>.***

- In February 1826, a Factory woman Mary Ann Hamilton dies of starvation - at the time women are on half the men's rations.
- 1826 15<sup>th</sup> August, the Grand Jury\* visits the Factory and finds conditions unsatisfactory; no proper water supply; bread is inferior, conditions for children inadequate and, there is a shortage of clothing and shoes.
- In 1827 corruption reported over rations; Matron Fulloon's son reported for liaisons with the women.
- In March 1827, Superintendent Dr Henry Douglass is accosted - one woman wrestles him to the ground.
- Unrest continues and in September, Matron Fulloon tenders her resignation, effective from 25<sup>th</sup> October 1827.
- In the week of 21<sup>st</sup> October unrest is reported with a number of women refusing to work. Matron Fulloon responds by reducing rations; removing tea.
- The following day, women in 3<sup>rd</sup> class take over the yard and expel a constable.
- Later that week, Matron Fulloon informs constables she expects unrest; she is assaulted by some women and is rescued by the constables.
- 7am, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October newly appointed Matron Ann Gordon stops the allowance of bread and sugar altogether; women threaten to tear down the gates if rations not reinstated.
- Rations are not reinstated and a riot ensues. The outer wall is breached and women “poured forth” into Parramatta like “bees from a hive”<sup>2</sup>.
- 200 women (mostly 3<sup>rd</sup> class) are reported missing at the breakfast muster.
- Police and military ordered to quell the riot; a captain, a lieutenant, two sergeants and 40 rank and file with bayoneted weapons are despatched. Women who are caught are returned to the Factory - many still at large.
- Alleged ringleaders confined to cells. Women reported to declare: “If one suffered, all suffered”<sup>3</sup>.
- In December 1827, the final two women are rounded up. Subsequently rations are restored to regulated subsistence level. The women's action successful - ringleaders are sent to Newcastle<sup>4</sup>.

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Hendriksen, Gay, *It's a Riot or is it? Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* page 17/18, published Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. 2015.

<sup>2</sup> *The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW 1803 - 1842) Wednesday 31 October 1827 page 2; <sup>3</sup> *ibid*

<sup>4</sup> *Conviction - The 1827 Fight For Rights at Parramatta Female Factory* by Gay Hendriksen published 2016.

<sup>5</sup> *The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser* (NSW 1803 - 1842) Monday 29 October 1827 page 2.

\*the Grand jury comprised 12 magistrates - Hannibal Macarthur was Foreman.

Research: Ronda Gaffey

WHEN, AT BREAKFAST TIME, THE MUSTER ROLL WAS CALLED, ABOUT TWO HUNDRED IT IS SAID, PRINCIPALLY OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> CLASS, WERE FOUND WANTING...

5.

## **ELOPEMENT EXTRAORDINARY!!!**

**Early on Saturday morning, a *rush* was made by a number of the damsels domiciled within the walls of the Factory, at Parramatta. It appears that they succeeded without observation in opening a passage through the outer wall, and when, at breakfast time, the muster-roll was called, about two hundred, it is said, principally of the third class, were found wanting.**

**A *civil* (to wit, a party of constables), and a military force was immediately called into action. Parramatta was in an uproar. Nothing was sacred from the prying eyes of the searchers. The very *sanctum sanctorum* of every dwelling-house in the town was invaded. Numbers were captured in the course of the day, but upwards of one hundred, we are informed, are missing at the moment we are writing.**



3<sup>rd</sup> Class - Parramatta Female Factory c1823-1826 Photograph: Anne Mathews



## SERENDIPITY - DISCOVERING UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS

by Janice Ruse Huntington



Recently I was chatting with our editor Ronda Gaffey, and we just happened to mention the unexpected connections we come across in our research and in the casual conversations we have in a wide range of contexts, so we thought it would be of interest to share those stories. We would welcome your "serendipities" too. Please email me: Janice at [parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com)

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Janice writes:

My hairdresser knows I have an interest in the Parramatta Female Factory and she is passionate about local history. When I was there a couple of weeks ago, she was so excited to tell me that she had been tracing a line of her family and it led back to a Factory girl - she did not know the name off the top of her head but she remembered some names of the children and that they were placed in the Female Orphan School.

Coincidentally I had my copy of the Bicentennial book with me and thought I would have a browse. Blow me down if on the first page I opened, some of the information she had leapt out at me. Yes, it was her forbear!

The Factory girl is Catherine Ahern (Sullivan) who was in 3<sup>rd</sup> class at the time of the 1827 riot.

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Ronda writes:

I was on a tour two years ago when I first came across the name *John Foran*. We were wandering around an old farm house at Mutton Falls (once the house and store of Ann Webb). The tour blurb mentioned a John Foran and his companion who had held up Mrs Webb (without success). My sister-in-law is a *Foran*...is this *her* Foran, I wondered?

Months later, a casual conversation with Beth Matthews revealed an unexpected family connection. I recall the conversation went something like this:

Beth: *Foran? Is that John Foran? John Joseph Foran of Bathurst? John Foran, the bushranger? He's on my tree too!*

My response: *That's him!*

My brother's children are directly descended from John Foran (1846 - 1923), the bushranger who was active around the Bathurst area in the 1860s. Foran was caught for *robbery under arms* in July 1867 and sentenced to 15 years on the Bathurst road gang. He served 6 years and 7 months and then was granted a conditional pardon.

Sources:

Beth Matthews: Family History notes

John Gaffey: The Forans of Bathurst, Family History notes

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### STOP PRESS!

**A Virtual Talk by Babette Smith OAM    Topic: The Making of the Australian Working Class  
on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020 from 12.30-1.30pm**

*Explanations for the strength of working class culture in Australia have traditionally credited educated (mainly middle class) Irish rebels, English Chartists, Scottish 'martyrs'. The crime they committed at home was the key to interpreting their influence in Australia.*

*Join historian Babette Smith as she explains how the research for her book, *The Luck of the Irish*, contradicts the argument revealing that the reactions of ordinary prisoners to the convict system was crucial to creating the Australian working class.*

This will be a virtual talk via Zoom. **Find out more: <https://smsa.org.au/?p=22245>**

**Please register for this event. The link can be found at the https address.**

THE EVENT IS FREE - EVERYONE WELCOME and is hosted by the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts (SMSA).

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