



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 36 November/December 2020**



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

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Committee: Minutes Secretary: Lynette Watkins **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker,
Tour Coordinator: Steve Bryant, Anne Mathews, Judith Dunn OAM, Janice Ruse Huntington

Next Meeting: Friday 11th December 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, North Parramatta.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Factory Friends,

First I would like to wish everyone the best for the festive season and hope peace and health are with you.

It continues to be a busy time. With our advocacy, we are waiting with baited breath as to the response and outcomes for the business hub submission by the Parramatta Female Factory Friends. We are asking for a business hub not to be put in the Parramatta Female Factory Footprint. We have also asked what exactly the Government site management plans are and where the consideration for World Heritage is up to. We will advise you concerning that when we know.

We have also asked about our future accommodation in the Factory Footprint and it is looking positive that we are in the future plans.

We were advised that in relation to the Registration of Interest, we scored high on the list of community consideration for the site and are waiting for more information at this time.

We have been working hard on finalising our draft vision for the site, its use and future and it is I believe, a robust tool for enacting our charter.

Subject to Covid restrictions, we will commemorate the women entering the Parramatta Female Factory in 1821. There will be a walk and commemoration, however spaces will be limited. The walk will only include 30 people and the commemoration will allow an additional 50. I will advise when bookings are open but when you do see the option, please book early to avoid disappointment. The four songs commission is progressing well and will make it a memorable event. We are planning CD sales on the day.

I am delighted to say the Parramatta Female Factory Research Centre is going well and will be a boon to the Friends' community service options, and a good sister to the tours. Do say hello to our research team next time you are in the rooms.

See you at the Christmas meeting and get together on the 11th of December.

All the best
Gay Hendriksen
President

FROM THE EDITOR:

Thank you to everyone for your support this year, for all your contributions, the wonderful insights and for helping me in producing our PFFF Newsletter. Enjoy this bumper edition!



With Best Wishes for Christmas & the New Year
Ronda Gaffey

NOTICEBOARD

* The next General Meeting is Friday 11th December, 2020. Due to Covid-19 protocols there is no guest speaker. General Meeting at 2:00pm is followed by afternoon tea. Please note this is the second Friday of the month due to **Christmas Day** being so close to the scheduled third Friday. We are a registered COVID-19 safe business.

* The PFFF Bicentenary Book *History-Herstory-Ourstory* is now available and will be on sale at the Friends Rooms, 3rd Friday of the month, or by email order to:

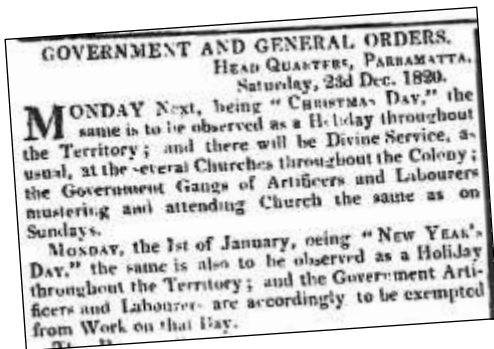
parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com The book costs \$40 - postage & packaging is an extra \$12.20. A wafer is also available for \$25 - this contains a pdf version of the book, Female Factory women lists, videos and photographs of the 2018 Bicentenary Event. Postage & packaging for the wafer is \$3.30.



PFFF books are excellent Christmas gifts as well as other items we have on sale at our Rooms, including convict caps for dress - ups, "hussif" sewing kits and bookmarks.

HISTORY CORNER - CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY 25th DECEMBER 1820

by Ronda Gaffey



Monday Next, being "Christmas Day," the same is to be observed as a Holiday throughout the Territory; and there will be Divine Service, as usual, at the several Churches throughout the Colony; the Government Gangs of Artificers and Labourers mustering and attending Church the same as on Sundays...¹

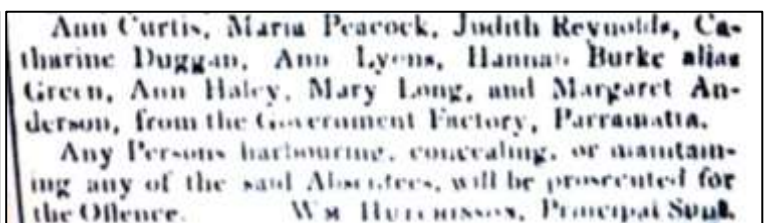
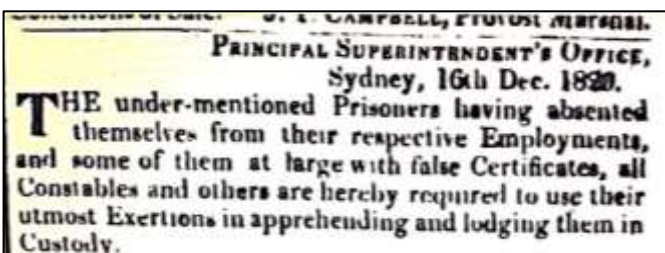
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Christmas Day meant a day's relief from labour for the convict women and men but was regimented nevertheless. One imagines the stone masons ceasing work at the new Factory and the women of Parramatta attending the muster and then Church.

For some, Christmas time was a good reason to abscond. Ann Curtis, Maria Peacock, Judith Reynolds, Catherine Duggan, Hannah Burke, Ann Haley, Mary Long and Margaret Anderson were all reported as "absenting themselves" from the Government Factory at Parramatta. What better time to catch up with friends or lovers and enjoy the taste of freedom!

Ann Curtis and Maria Peacock had arrived per *Morley* in October 1820. Maria had been sent to Factory above the Gaol for six months, having committed a secondary offence in the Colony³.



1

References:

¹ Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser (1803-1842), Saturday, December 23, 1820

² Watercolour, St John's Church Parramatta [after 1803] from Collections, State Library of NSW

³ *Our Girls* - unpublished work sourced from original papers State Records & Archives NSW by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

'OUR GIRLS' ...24 hours in the cells!

by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

A rich primary resource is the Female Factory 'Return of Punishments' which we have dipped into over the years and made some interesting finds¹.

Punishment was part and parcel of daily life at the Factory. The women had no control over their circumstances and had lost much. They were resentful, frustrated and totally powerless. The women lived with the uncertainty of where and when they would be assigned or re-assigned, and for many, when or if, they would ever see their children who they had been forced to give up. It is little wonder they reacted to their confinement and to authority.

1828	No.	Name	Age	Ship	Crime	Punishment	By whose order
		Mary & Roope	1	Brothers	Neglect of work	14 Hours	per Elizabeth
		M. Cath: Lacey	1	Woodman		14 Hours	do
		M. Cath: Lacey	1	Woodman		14 Hours	do
		M. Cath: Lacey	1	Woodman		14 Hours	do

The so called crimes the women were punished for range from - neglect of work, insolence, fighting, throwing objects, quarrelling, use of foul language, sleeping during Divine Service, destruction of Government property, abuse of the Matron or Sub Matron and Monitress and stealing food.

The most common punishment was 12 or 14 hours in the cells. The crime of theft or destruction of property, repeated insolence or refusal to work, brought a longer time in the cells - for example, **Bridget Kelly** per Elizabeth, was sent to solitary for 24 hours for *destroying her Govt. Handkerchief*. A fellow transportee **Ann Warren**, spent 24 hours in the cells for *throwing tea about the Mess Hall*.

June 6		Bridget Kelly	2	do	destroying her Govt. Handkerchief	24 Hours	
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Another, **Mary Gaskin** per Elizabeth, was sentenced to 24 hours in cells for *purling provisions*. Was this just opportunist theft or was Mary hungry? **Catherine Fearn** also spent 24 hours in the cell for the same offence.

		Mary Gaskin	1	Elizabeth	purling provisions	24 Hours	per Elizabeth
		Catherine Fearn	1	do	from the kitchen	24 Hours	per do
		Ann Warren	1	do	throwing tea about the mess hall	24 Hours	do

Jane Weldon per Princess Charlotte was sent to cells for *having a pack of cards on her possession*. Having a pack of cards was potentially disruptive - perhaps Jane was just looking for diversion or was it for "gain"?

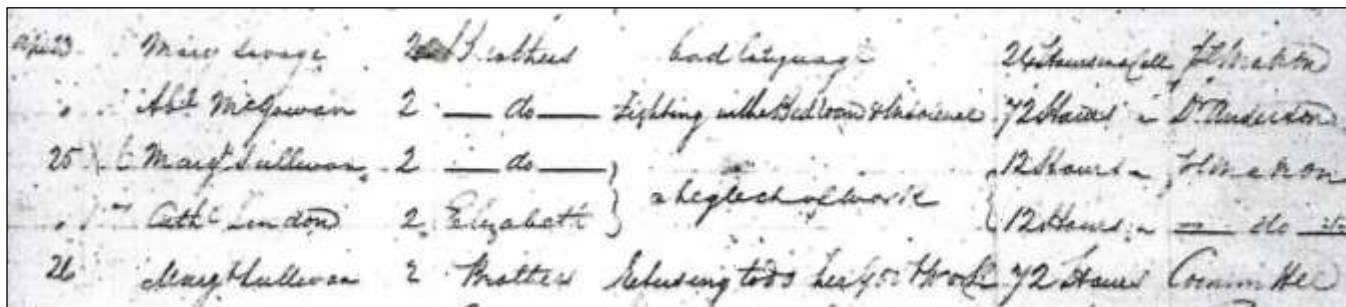
		Jane Weldon	1	do	having a pack of cards on her possession	24 Hours	do
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Ann McAsperit per Elizabeth (a mother of 3 who was transported with her infant son), spent 24 hours in the cells for *allowing her child to break a new flax wheel* - her child Edward was aged 2 at the time². One has to wonder whether Ann was distracted for a moment and an accident happened - how could a woman do her work and supervise an infant at the same time? This was a reason given by those in authority to remove children to the Orphan Schools. A child was seen as a distraction and hindered a woman in her work.

		Ann McAsperit	1	do	allowed her child to break a new flax wheel	24 Hours	
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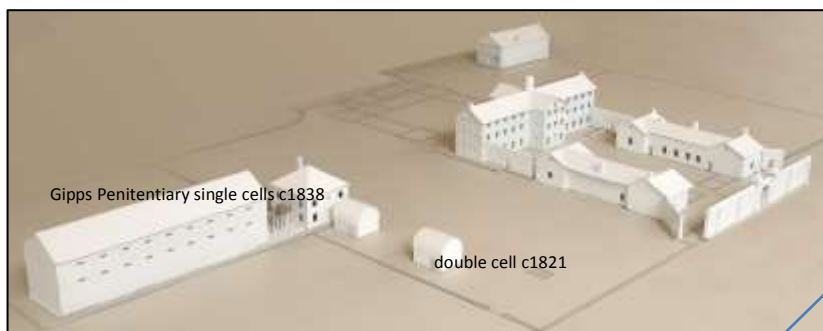
As regulations dictated, in 1829, Matron Gordon recommended Edward aged 3, for the Boy's Orphan School at Liverpool. Ann eventually recovered her child in 1836³.

Women were placed on punishment by the Matron, Dr Anderson or the Committee. In the following extract, it is interesting to note **Mary Mullivan** per *Brothers*, who was placed on punishment by Dr Anderson (magistrate and Factory Committee member), received 72 hours in the cells for Refusing to do her Govt Work. Perhaps this was a repeated offence and 3 days in a cell was intended to send a strong message. One might imagine what 3 days on bread and water, confined to a small stone cell in late April, in Parramatta, would have been like. **Abigail McGowan** also received 72 hours in the cells for fighting in the bedroom and for insolence.



In reading these entries, one cannot but reflect on the women's circumstances and reasons for their behaviour - if only their voices could have been heard and their side of the story told. We can only surmise.

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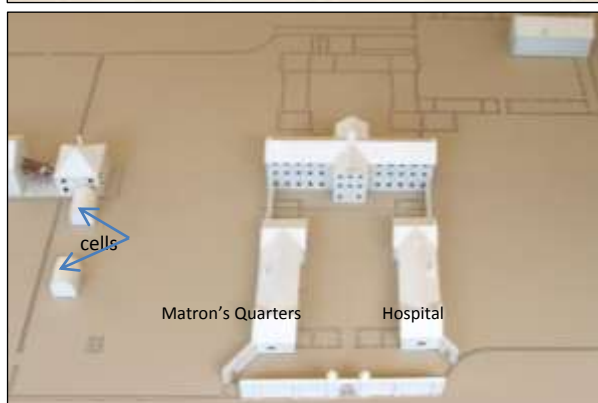
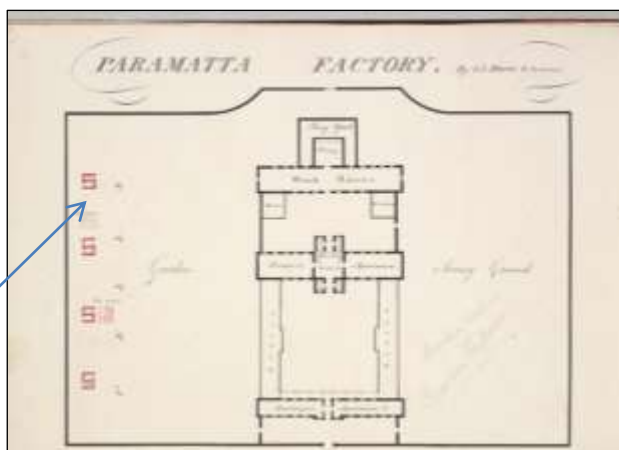


Above:
Model showing the FF site by 1838⁴. The 3 storey, 72 single cells
Gipps Penitentiary is shown with a Matron's quarters (c1838).
The domed buildings are the double cells (1821-1848).

Right: 1822 map showing the 4 double cells. These double cells were 15ft and 20ft long. The stone walls were 10 to 12 inches thick so a single cell would have been approximately 6ft 6" x 8ft 6".

Right: Model showing the double cells in relation to the Greenway Matrons' Quarters and Hospital.

5



6

References:

- ¹ Return of Punishments 01-07-1827 to 30-06-1928, Colonial Secretary's Correspondence, Reel 2278 SARNSW
- ² Profile of Ann McAsperit, pages 259-260 in Elizabeth 1828 the worst and most turbulent From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross by Suzanne Voytas published 2008
- ³ Ibid page 261
- ⁴ Model of the Parramatta Female Factory site by Wayne Mathews - photograph courtesy Anne Mathews
- ⁵ c1822 Plan of Parramatta Factory by S J Harris, Colonial Architect, Mitchell Library, State Library of NSW
- ⁶ Model of the Parramatta Female Factory site by Wayne Mathews - photograph courtesy Anne Mathews.

RESEARCH CENTRE MUSTER

A New Public Access Service from The Parramatta Female Factory Friends

Welcome to the Research Centre Muster - the first from your Parramatta Female Factory Research Centre.

The Centre will be a place you can learn about the history and life in the Factory through your own research there, access the information as our team develops it and attend a small number of workshops (maximum of 10), or if you visit (during opening hours or by appointment), the research team will do their best to point you in the right direction for your research and provide handy family history research hints related to the Female Factory. It also includes a reference library.

Meet your research team who have been working hard since we opened in July. The friendly faces you will meet at the rooms or at the end of an email if you have an inquiry are: Kevin Dodds, Barry Lance, Janice Ruse Huntington, Lyn Watkins and myself as coordinator. Each member of the team has years of family history and research experience and commitment to sharing the stories. We have already started to respond to inquiries and of course as we develop information for public access, we welcome your information about the history of the factory women and the site to add to the resource.

What you will find here in the 'muster' will be updates on our growing resources, research experiences, some of our interesting research finds and, as we develop our vertical information files, you will be able to find more on the history of the women and the site and interesting information bytes.

We would like to thank all the donations of books and research resources, such as our two new computers and fiche information. Generosity abounds. We are off to a great start.

Gay Hendriksen _____

Bright Eyed and Bushy Tailed – Ready to Go

We have made a start on research and the requests for research are turning out to be a mixed bag. Some people are providing very extensive information and are, in fact, adding to our current holdings and willing to share. Lyn and I are perplexed by a query from someone who knows that their ancestor was in the Female Factory, but would like to know what happened to her children. Records of children around the time seem to be scarce.

However, as our library resources grow, our capacity to provide answers will also grow.

Janice Ruse Huntington and Lyn Watkins _____

Mary Ann Bently = An Insight into One Research Story

Existing records did not have her in the Parramatta Female Factory and Irish Convicts did not have her details (which have since been corrected) but the applications to marry prove that Mary was there at that time and also again when she was convicted of three offences (unknown) around 7-9 and 10 May 1831 (it appears unlikely they were multiple counts of a single offence). She would have been released again (assigned) as she was almost immediately released to work for a George Tomlins shortly after her arrival, such was the need for those who had special skills.

The research tells a great story and how she survived, the break up of her first marriage and then her second marriage with George which was equally difficult, as he was continually escaping custody and being recaptured. Mary Ann would have been on her own with a small child/children.

Kevin Dodds _____

Parramatta Female Factory Women in Queensland

Historian Jan Richardson has recently been awarded a one-year research fellowship at the Harry Gentle Resource Centre at Griffith University, in Brisbane. Her topic: *Convict women and their families in pre-Separation Queensland*. Moreton Bay was part of New South Wales until separation in 1859, and many convicts were sent to Moreton Bay prior to this date.

A penal settlement had been opened at Moreton Bay in 1824. This was reserved for hardened criminals and was closed in 1839, with only a few convicts retained to help with preparation in opening Moreton Bay to free settlers in 1842. In 1837 Andrew Petrie, an experienced builder, was sent to Moreton Bay as Clerk of Works to oversee building works in preparation for the free settlers.

The 1851 NSW Census of Northern Districts (now Queensland) showed a population of 5700 settlers over 21. Of these 2200 were convicts or ex-convicts, but only 107 were women – about 5% of the population.

Jan Richardson is compiling a list of these women, and will make it available to us for when complete. Several of these women had come from the Parramatta Female Factory.

One of these women was Jane Appleyard. She was transported in 1835 to NSW, and had at least 3 stays at the Parramatta Female Factory during her 7-year sentence. In 1841, at the end of a one-year sentence for “forging an order”, she was assigned to Andrew Petrie, at Moreton Bay. Jane was a dress maker, “mantua maker” is on her convict records, and it appears she was selected for this post because of her dressmaking skills at Moreton Bay.

Jan has recently given a talk on her research, including more on Jane Appleyard, and it is available on line at Livestream link:

https://livestream.com/qldstatearchives/offenderspaupersandpioneers?fbclid=IwAR2GWQX7rVHFrLHfRqO9aLRVu65h_dSjtM48ZYxPzORRxezgyu2bi8YKWSM

Barry Lance _____



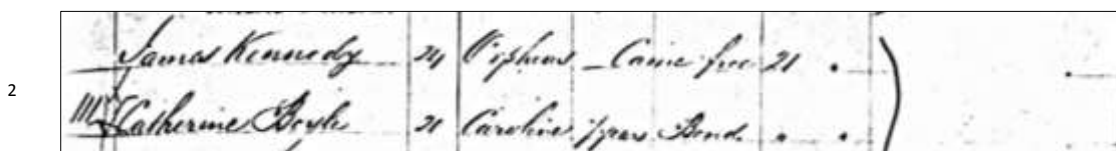
Research Team members:
Above: Lyn Watkins
Right: Kevin Dodds
Far right: Janice Ruse Huntington
Photography: Gay Hendriksen

CATHERINE BOYLE: A PARRAMATTA WOMAN & A PIONEERING FAMILY

My Irish ancestor was **Catherine Boyle**; the ship's indent shows she was 18, could read and write and was Catholic. She was single, from Belfast and worked as a house maid/laundry maid. She was convicted at Antrim on 11 April 1832, for house robbery. Catherine had a former 3 month conviction and was sentenced to 7 years transportation. She was barely 5 feet tall, with a sallow complexion, dark brown hair, grey eyes, scars on forehead, wrist and heel and a purple spot on her left palm¹.

Catherine arrived on the ship *Caroline* from Cork, on 6 August 1833. Her brother Edward was transported for life on the *Bussorah Merchant* (2) which arrived on 13 December 1831. She was assigned from the Female Factory to Myra Anne Gooch of Parramatta.

Catherine was granted permission to marry on 21 March 1835 to James Kennedy, the son of a NSW Veterans' Company soldier who arrived on the *Orpheus* in 1827². They were married at St. John's Church Parramatta on 9 April 1835 by Rev. Samuel Marsden.



Their children were Susan, born 21 May 1835, James, born 18 December 1836, Jane, born 28 October 1838, Elizabeth Margaret, born 30 October 1840, Mary Ann, born 10 February 1843 and Ellen Rebecca, born 3 March 1845. I have not been able to trace all their children but Susan Kennedy married Richard McGuiness at St John's on 8 September 1853. They moved to Mudgee and raised their nine children. Susan and Richard are buried in the RC Cemetery there.

Elizabeth Margaret married Charles Tunks on 27 August 1867 at Norfolk House, Church Street. His first wife had died in childbirth in 1855. They had eight children and Elizabeth died at their property at Colo Vale near Mittagong on 19 October 1913.

Elizabeth is supposedly buried in the Tunks family vault at St John's Cemetery but her name is not on the headstone.

Mary Ann, who is my great grandmother, married George Branch, an immigrant from Suffolk U.K. in the Presbyterian Manse at Braidwood on 7 June 1866. He was a miner and Mary Ann was a domestic servant on a property called "Monkittee". They had seven children and their youngest child, Florence Hilda Branch, was my grandmother. They are buried in Braidwood but there is no headstone.



As yet I have not been able to find the deaths of Catherine Boyle and James Kennedy, as there are numerous James and Catherine Kennedys buried around Parramatta.

¹ *Convict Indents & Ships Musters 1831 - 1832 SRNSW*

² *Application to Marry* for Catherine Boyle and James Kennedy approved by Rev. Samuel Marsden, sourced from ancestry.com ref: 30514_081752002
Photograph: The Tunks Family Vault, St Johns' Cemetery Parramatta, courtesy Kerima-Gae Topp



It never ceases to amaze me, just how connected we can be! In response to our *serendipity* reference to **John Foran** (PFFF Newsletter, Sept/Oct), PFFF member Rosemary Foran writes:

What a coincidence that there is a connection with other members - I am a direct descendant of John Joseph Foran who was my paternal great grandfather. I am descended from one of his daughters who married Andrew John Bagnall...And, there is a factory connection in the family!

*My female factory ancestor was **Honora Geary** who arrived on the Hooghley from Ireland in 1831 with her baby daughter. Honora had been convicted of stealing 3 pigs and was convicted in Galway. She married William Bagnall Snr. and was sent to Moreton Bay after reoffending in the Colony. I believe her son, William Michael Bagnall, was born in the PFF Hospital in January 1836 and accompanied Honora to Moreton Bay with another small child Ann. Her elder daughter, Ellen/Helen was placed in the Orphan School and was returned to her father's care after Honora's return to Sydney. The family later moved to Maitland district before settling in the Bathurst district where William and Honora remained for the rest of their lives. Their grandson, Andrew John Bagnall married John Foran's daughter Johanna, in Bathurst, in 1915.*

Photograph: John Foran from *Bushrangers, bandits and bastards - An Illustrated history of Colonial Crime 1850 - 1900* by Edgar F. Penzig published 1984, supplied by Rosemary Foran.

From Kerima-Gae Topp:

While I was researching stonemasons connected with headstones in some of Parramatta's historic cemeteries recently, I discovered a stonemason, John Garnett, who used to live in the house next door to my family's property, where I still live.

Many years after Mr. Garnett died, I remember when his family were selling the property, they asked my father if he would like all the sandstone blocks in the adjoining paddock, to which my dad said, "Yes".

So today all those beautiful sandstone blocks that edge my flower and vegetable gardens, once belonged to this stonemason my research had uncovered. I was delighted to discover such a lovely personal connection. But there was another delight in store for me.

I decided to do more research about John Garnett and found that he was an important stonemason who was involved in numerous constructions. These included the widening of the Lennox Bridge in Parramatta, in the 1930s, building the War Memorial that still stands in the main street of Balmain and, when the statue of Governor Bourke was moved from the Domain to outside the State Library in Sydney, it was John Garnett who built the plinth it now stands on.

*In searching for more information about this statue, which is regarded as Australia's first public monument/statue, I looked at the '**Monument Australia**' website and would you believe on my screen appeared our wonderful Parramatta Female Factory Bicentenary Wall. I rushed to the phone to tell Ronda of my discovery and she, like me, was excited.*





Photographs: Parramatta Female Factory Bicentenary Commemorative Wall on a tranquil Sunday morning- courtesy Kerima-Gae Topp

The **Female Factory Bicentenary Commemorative Wall** is listed along with another 34,767 public monuments! There is a short text explaining the 200th commemorative event and history of the Factory - “Our Girls” are well and truly ‘on the map’.

The ‘**Monument Australia**’ website is an historical and educational research site which records monuments and memorials in all Australian States and Territories. The Commemorative Wall is listed under the theme Government and sub-theme Colonial and is classified as a “monument”. The link is: <https://monument.australia.org.au>

Thank you Rosemary and Kerima-Gae for sharing your discoveries! We would welcome your “serendipities” too. Please email me: Janice at parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

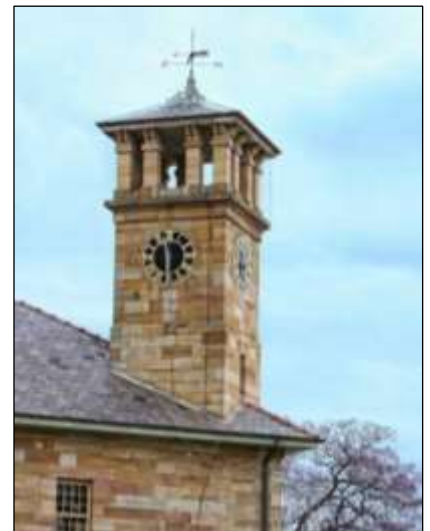
STOP PRESS! THE FACTORY CLOCK IS TICKING AWAY! by Ronda Gaffey

A few of the Committee were at the Friends Rooms recently when we learned that the Factory clock was ticking again. By now the chime should also be restored (which is a soft chime, by all accounts).

The clock, a relic of the Female Factory period, is one of a number of heritage items which have been restored at the Factory site recently.

The Female Factory clock dated 1821, was one of five Thwaites & Reed clocks sent to the Colony in honour of George 1V’s ascension to the throne, however it was not installed at the Factory until September 1827.

After the Factory barracks building was demolished (c1883-5), the clock was installed in the Asylum building where it remains today. The additional faces were added then.



Above: The Factory clock in situ today (PFFF Collection)
Left: The Female Factory Barracks and clock c1870 (SAG Collection: Ralph Hawkins)



References:
A Royal Gift & Enduring Legacy, Herstory - Another Chapter Unfolds
by Anne Mathews, Beth Matthews, Ronda Gaffey pub by PFFF 2015
Research notes - Dr Terry Smith PhD



Above: Photograph: Asylum period showing the Parramatta Female Factory Matron's Quarters on the left - the Asylum Ward building with the Factory clock at rear - Terry Smith Collection

Below: Letter dated 5 September 1827 from Alexander McLeay, Colonial Secretary to Board of Management re installation of the clock at the Factory; Reel 1055, Colonial Secretary's Correspondence SARNSW. Research by Anne Mathews

Mr. James Robertson
 Supdt of Govt Clocks
 No. 583.

I am &
 Alex McLeay
 Colonial Secretary's Office
 5 Sept 1827

27/8/06. Gentlemen,

In reply to your Letter
 of the 25th ulto. I am directed by the
 Govt to inform you, that instructions
 have been given to Mr. Robertson
 to take immediate measures for
 putting up the clock at present
 in the Commissariat at the
 Female Factory, this is all very
 coinciding in your opinion
 that and is necessary for
 that Establishment

I am &
 The Board of Management Alex McLeay

