



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 42 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2021**



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Female Penitentiary or Factory, Paramatta [i.e. Parramatta] - watercolour 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:** Ronda Gaffey
Committee: Minutes **Secretary:** Lynette Watkins, **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker, Anne Mathews, Kevin Dodds, Janice Ruse Huntington, Judith Dunn OAM.

Next Meeting: Friday December 10 2021. **Guest Speaker:** 1.00pm followed by PFFF General Meeting at 2:00pm.
VENUE: PFFF Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

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Factory Friends,

Welcome to your 42nd edition of the Newsletter. Firstly, I hope you are all enjoying the increased freedom that vaccination has brought. Although we are all practising the new norm that is COVID influenced, we can at least see our loved ones and do the things we enjoy.

Our Riot Day was successful albeit online, via zoom, and positive feedback was shared by the participants. Congratulations and thank you to our speakers for their contributions – Steve Bryant, Judith Dunn, Ronda Gaffey and to Anne Mathews and Ronda Gaffey for the history PowerPoint presentation and, many thanks to our wonderful patrons Tom Keneally AO and Meg Keneally. Also, thank you to Kevin Dodds for the support in the setting up and implementing the technology for the event.

We also participated in the Parramatta Foundation Day Festival hosted by City of Parramatta Council and appreciate the support of Frankie Lee (COP Events Team) and NSW Dept. Planning, Infrastructure and Environment. Our contributions were three sets of tours and two trade tables with our great merchandise as well as an information section showcasing our Resource Centre books. A thank you to the committee for their behind-the-scenes organisation, our registration, covid marshalling, trade table staffing and tour guides: Eileen Avery, Kevin Dodds, Ronda Gaffey, Anne Mathews, Raelene O'Mullane, Janice Ruse Huntington, Kaye Weaver, Frank Williams, and Lyn Watkins.

I would also like to congratulate Anne Mathews, our new Tour Coordinator. Anne's experience goes back to our PFFF beginnings when she, Beth Mathews and I did the first tours as PFFF members. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role so our tours are in good hands.

Our advocacy at the moment continues to take the form of letters and response requests regarding World Heritage and NSW Budget Bids. It is still a time of 'treading water'. We are waiting on responses and following up.

Great news is that the Department of Planning, Infrastructure and Environment has offered the western end of the Matron's Quarters and Meeting rooms for our home. This would include two rooms, a storeroom, kitchen and toilet access. While the agreement has not been sent and signed yet, it is a positive show of faith in what we do, the need we have of better accommodation and the willingness to meet those needs. It is not done and dusted yet but a good step forward.

I look forward to being able to catch up with you all at our Christmas Party. Remember Christmas is different to other meetings as it is the second Friday in December. Until then, stay well and thank you for your continuing interest and support for the factory.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen, President



Vale Babette Smith OAM

This week, we received the very sad news that Babette Smith OAM passed away. Babette was a staunch supporter of the Parramatta Female Factory cause from the beginning. I have known Babette since the early 2000s. Her great intellect, ground-breaking research and commitment to family history and female convict history will indeed be missed. Her willingness to share her ideas and research, her passion for history and her great books, made her unique in our Australian history community and wider Australian community.

Gay Hendriksen 22/11/21

NOTICEBOARD

A warm welcome to new PFFF members - *Lorraine Henshaw, Lynette Smith, Leonie Farrugia and Donna Hendry.*

*** NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2021. GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Lesley Potter - topic: *Midwives at the Female Factory 1:00pm.*** This will be followed by the General Meeting at 2pm. Venue: 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta. **Please note that COVID protocols in place at the time, will apply. Please share the attached flyer with your family, friends and networks. BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL.**

Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/midwives-at-the-factory-by-dr-lesley-potter-tickets-214968365167>

2022 - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: PFFF General Meeting: Guest Speaker at 1:00pm, **Friday 18 February 2022.**
General Meetings are the **3rd** Friday of every **second** month beginning in February.

ZOOMING - A huge thank you to our facilitator Gay, to presenters, members and visitors who joined us for PFFF meetings, talks and Riot Day during COVID! Thank you for your support and for the many donations.

Parramatta Foundation Festival

Check out the new Foundation Day 2021 mini documentaries - the first is *Music from Songbirds and Songlines to Street Sounds, a History of Music in Parramatta* and features an intriguing segment about Mrs. Macarthur's piano and a delightful interview with Cliona Molins and Rosie McDonald, composers of the PFFF Bicentenary Song Suite!

The second is *Parramatta Foundations: 200 Years - The Lancers, Brislington House, The Parramatta Female Factory* which acknowledges the three 2021 Parramatta Bicentenaries and features an interview with PFFF President Gay Hendriksen. To view, enter **Foundation Day Festival at Parramatta Mini Documentary - Australian History** into your search engine. Congratulations to Frankie Lee (COP Events team) for such a terrific production.

Congratulations Kerima-Gae Topp

Kerima-Gae Topp has received a significant award, a **Certificate of Achievement** from the **Royal Australian Historical Society (RAHS)**, for her volunteer work with local history groups.



Kerima-Gae is a member of four RAHS Affiliated Societies; the Hills District Historical Society, Friends of St. Johns Cemetery, Friends of Mays Hill Cemetery and the Parramatta Female Factory Friends. She is not just a member of all these societies but is on the executive of each committee as treasurer - an often difficult position to fill.

Kerima-Gae delivers meticulous reports to each of their committees and general meetings and guards their funds from any unnecessary spending, helping to build funds and often recommending methods of fundraising. Not only does she fulfil this task in an exemplary manner, she undertakes many other tasks for each society, preparing and guiding tours, writing brochures for events, maintaining membership lists, editing newsletters and contributing to all discussions in committee in a helpful and considered way. A warm, friendly person, Kerima-Gae is always on the lookout for new members who she makes very welcome at meetings. For all these reasons, it was believed Kerima-Gae was a very appropriate person to receive this award which was publicly granted at the RAHS Conference on 6 November. And, she is famous for her egg sandwiches, often distributed at afternoon teas!

Judith Dunn OAM, Councillor Royal Australian Historical Society

Photograph: Kerima-Gae Topp

Congratulations Cate Whittaker

Congratulations to Cate who has received a commendation in the **National Competition of the Society of Women's Writers**. Cate's 2000 word essay was on Elizabeth Fry, a particular topic of her research over the years. Elizabeth Fry's role in assisting the convict women of Newgate and her constant care and concern for their well-being in the colony was considerable.



Photograph: Cate Whittaker, PFFF Collection.

Portrait of Elizabeth Fry, 1813, National Portrait Gallery, London.

HISTORY CORNER... 10 YEARS ON & SO MANY MILESTONES REACHED !

by Ronda Gaffey with recollections from PFFF Founding President, Gay Hendriksen.

PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS (PFFF) - ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES, 2011 - 2021

In December 2010 the Parramatta Female Factory 3rd Class Penitentiary building was threatened with being turned into a computer data room. This alarmed many heritage professionals, the local Federal member and community members. Word was passed around and 40 concerned people met in a local café next to the Parramatta River. Enlisting the help of Museums Australia NSW and some key museum professionals, a successful action saved the Third Class Penitentiary from a terrible fate. Many of these 40 individuals were the core of the Parramatta Female Factory Action Group which we now know as the Parramatta Female Factory Friends.

The PFFF foundation membership and first Committee formed. Our first event was International Women's Day, March 8th 2011 which included talks in the 3rd Class Penitentiary and site tours. The PFFF Charter was written in 2011 followed by the Constitution. The group has thrived and achievements include:

- Sustained advocacy with local, State and Federal authorities for the PFF site to be preserved, developed and managed as a site of national and international significance according to the ICOMOS Burra Charter.
- Successfully led community action to prevent the iconic 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters and Penitentiary building (c1823-26) being used as a data room in 2010.
- Successful negotiation - CFMEU 'green bans' in 2012, given the existential threats to the female factory site.
- Submission written for National Heritage Listing, begun in 2012 and achieved in November 2017.
- Since inception, established partnerships with a range of community, local and national history and heritage groups both professional and community, to promote the heritage and the high significance of the site.
- Established the now iconic Parramatta Event - the Annual Riot Day Commemoration focusing on the factory riot of 1827. This has been an annual event since 2011.
- Participation in Annual Family History Conferences, heritage site Open Days, Australia Day and National Trust Festival events.
- Sustained advocacy through talks, seminars and conference papers about the factory and the women for professional and community heritage organisations.
- Promotion and media coverage on local and Australia-wide radio including ABC 702, 2GB, Alive 90.5, Sydney U3A and on social media platforms.
- Sustained regular site monitoring over the years - alerting NSW government authorities of site issues.





- In 2016, Meg Keneally (a factory woman's descendant) and Tom Keneally AO, became Patrons of PFFF.
- Working in partnership with Parramatta & District Historical Society - meetings held at the Coach House at Hambledon Cottage (2011-2019) and a successful *Herstory* exhibition held in the HC Lucas Gallery.
- Two publications launched: *Herstory -The Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory* in 2016 and *Herstory - Another Chapter Unfolds* in 2017.
- Developed a vision for a museum and resource centre of national standing.
- Success in collecting 10,000 petition signatures asking the NSW Government to support world heritage.
- Presentation of the petition with 10,000 signatures to NSW State Parliament in 2017.



- Participating in SPROUT - a NSW Government community forum re future adaptive re-use of the North Parramatta heritage site. Heritage identified at the core of future development, November 2016.
- The term, 'Heritage Core' is first used in NSW Government documents; core factory buildings described as being 'exceptional heritage value'. PFFF acknowledged as site 'stakeholders' in 2017.
- A Registration of Interest submitted to NSW Government re the site's future occupation - PFFF advocacy for a National Resource/Research/Museum and Site interpretation in 2018.
- In 2018, successfully negotiating with Urban Growth NSW, the construction of the Commemorative Wall at the factory site, honouring the convict women and for a sign identifying the factory site.
- Developing and hosting the Macquarie Bicentenary 7th July 2018, commemorating Governor Lachlan Macquarie laying the first stone for the first purpose - built female barracks and factory at North Parramatta; many dignitaries and over 1,300 attended.
- Successfully negotiating with UGNSW (later Infrastructure NSW) for a presence at the site - temporary rooms allocated in June 2019.
- PFFF recipients of a City of Parramatta Community Award - Australia Day 2019 for advocacy and volunteer contribution to research, education and tourism. Individual Members are recipients of history/heritage/

volunteer awards which include: A NSW Heritage Council Award, a NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies Award and two members have received a Royal Australian Historical Society Achievement Award.

- A further 11,000 plus signatures collected for UNESCO World Heritage Petition to Federal Parliament.
- Motion of support for UNESCO World Heritage listing, passed by City of Parramatta.
- Ms. Julie Owens MP accepted the World Heritage Petition in an event at the factory site in March 2020.
- Ms. Susan Templeman MP presented the WH Petition to Federal Parliament in June 2020.
- Submission for World Heritage listing accepted by Parliamentary Petitions Committee - progressed in 2021.
- A new publication released in 2020, *History-Herstory-Ourstory Commemorating 200 Years at the Parramatta Female Factory* with an accompanying memory stick wafer.
- Sustained members' research with countless women's profiles written.
- PFFF launched the Parramatta Female Factory Research Room in 2020 and the tea room named the Matron Gordon Tea Room.
- From inception, maintained bi-monthly general meetings and monthly committee meetings.
- Bi-monthly Guest Speakers' Programme since 2014.
- In 2015, a bi-monthly newsletter was launched and is now in its 6th year of publication and 42nd edition.
- Bi-monthly Workshop Programme launched in 2020.
- Received a Parramatta Leagues Club Grant for the 1821-2021 Bicentenary song suite commission.
- Bicentenary 1821-2021 held in February 2021 and launch of *Mothers of the Nation* song suite commission.
- National Trust Heritage Festival participation in 2021 incorporating site activation with inaugural character vignettes and readings in the 3rd Class Penitentiary.
- Participated in the Parramatta Foundation Day Festival 2019 and 2021.
- A milestone reached with success in negotiations with NSW Dept. Planning, Infrastructure & Environment for a 'permanent home' in a building within the factory footprint, November 2021.

Congratulations to all on an amazing 10 years of sustained effort, passion, determination and milestones reached!



Photographs: PFFF Collection

'OUR GIRLS' by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews
PUNISHMENT IN COLONIAL PARRAMATTA

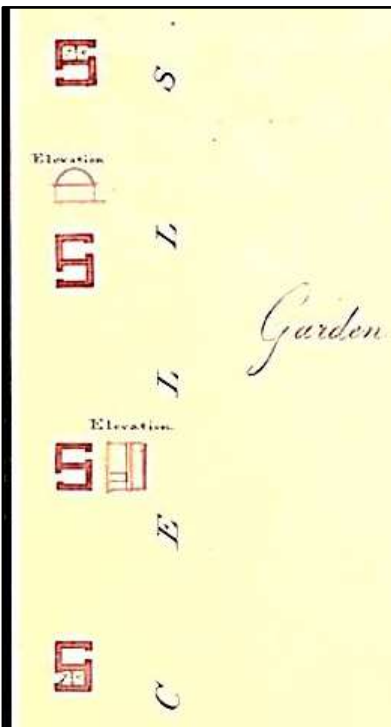
In the colonial period, the women of Parramatta were punished not only within the Female Factory but elsewhere. Punishment included being sent to the 'treadmill' or 'treadwheel' and spending time in the stocks.



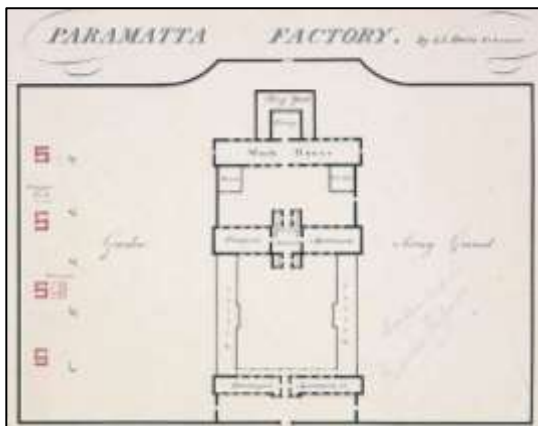
THE SOLITARY CELLS

Eight double but separate cells or so called 'dark' cells with no windows, were part of the 1818-1821 'new' factory and barracks construction. They were most likely made of sandstone and the roof, oak shingles which were common fabrics used at the site. The elevation image on the Harris map (1822) shows a distinctive domed roof which recalls a design later used in the construction of a small prison on the Guernsey Island of Sark.

Today the double cells have gone - they were located near the northern Gipps Yard wall near the Bowling Green and the Sisters of Charity memorial.



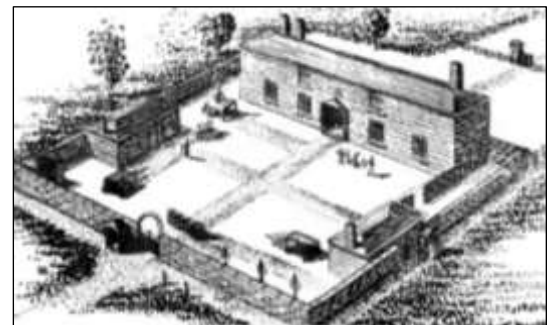
1822 Factory plan by S. I. Harris Colonial Architect ML/SL NSW, showing the double cells.



Above: The Sisters of Charity Memorial - the northern wall of the Gipps Yard.



Above: The Prison on Sark, Guernsey Islands, UK.
 Below: Sketch: The old Parramatta Gaol (1804)
 National Library of Australia.



THE TREADWHEEL

Being sent to the treadwheel was an exhausting and dangerous form of punishment. There were two treadwheels installed at Carter's Barracks in Sydney and it is possible there was one at the old Parramatta gaol on the river (c1804-1841).

Research has found one woman, Ellen Wood, sent "to the treadmill" in 1837. One wonders what 'crime' she had committed to warrant such a punishment. One assumes her sentence of 'hard labour' was served in 3rd Class at the factory. (Gaol Description & Entrance Book - entry for Ellen Wood dated 08.08.1837 SRNSW).

* 961 Ellen Wood	700	P. Five 1/2 Weeks 1 Month to the Treadmill
962 Mary Ann Gleason	1000	Whiskered Dress Sewed

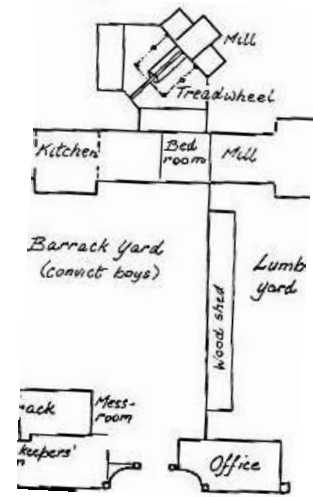
Researchers have identified eight women arriving in the Colony with the same name. There is an *Ellen Wood* with the alias *Dunn* who was before the Bench many times over the years from 1825 - 1842. This could be her.



Women on the Treadwheel - Britain 19thc



The Carters' Barracks Sydney (c1819) with diagram showing the treadwheel¹



THE STOCKS

In Britain, the stocks were perhaps one of the most traditional and enduring forms of punishment from the Middle Ages until the late 19th century. The stocks meant being locked in a wooden frame in a sitting or standing position and remaining in the same position for two hours or so. It would have been physically painful, especially on days of extreme heat or cold and rain. The length of time in the stocks varied from one to four hours.

Records from the Parramatta Magistrates' Bench Books² and various Sydney Gazette reports, show a number of women sentenced to the stocks and then sent onto the female factory for further punishment: *Ann Kerslake per Midas* 1825, was in the stocks for two hours in March 1826 then sent to the Factory; *Ellen Leach* spent three hours in the stocks and then a further 12 months in the Factory; in 1828 *Esther McDonald*, two hours in the stocks, three months in 3rd Class then returned to Government service; in 1829, *Eliza Reynolds per Lady Rowena*, two hours in the stocks and then 24 hours in the cells. Women were also sent to the stocks from the female factory and then returned, as in the case of *Elizabeth James* - in 1826 she was sentenced to four hours in the stocks and returned to the female factory.

An earlier reference to a convict woman being sent to the stocks, is the case of *Elizabeth O'Brien*. She was found guilty of stealing 20 yards of calico in Parramatta. She was sentenced to 'stand in the Pillory at Parramatta...for one hour and kept to 5 years of hard labour' (Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser 1803 -1842, 5 June 1814, p2).

The Parramatta stocks were located in George Street - in the heart of Parramatta Town. The stocks provided a short, sharp punishment in full view of the public - the purpose was to make an example of the offender.

Elizabeth O'Brien stood next indicted, for buriously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Thomas Fuller, at Parramatta, on the night or early in the morning of the 20th of March last, and stealing therefrom about 20 yards of calico, value 20s. the sale of which in various fragments was by evidence traced immediately to the prisoner at the bar: She was accordingly found *Guilty*; but although the offence was capital in the eye of the Law, yet the Court, from the consideration of the offence being unaccompanied by any of those terrors to the injured persons which rank the crime of burglary among the more direful and abominable species of offences, had thought proper to remit the capital part of the charge; but finding it necessary at the same time to deter others from similar acts of dishonesty by the force of example, had found her guilty of the stealing, and adjudged that she should stand in the pillory at Parramatta on the 7th of July next, between the hours of 9 and 10 in the forenoon, for one hour, and be kept 5 years to hard labour.—Adjourned to



A View of the Governor's House at Rose Hill in the Township of Parramatta - NLA
The convict huts are on the left in George Street - the 'stocks' are on the near far right.

References:

¹ Diagram of the Carters' Barracks treadwheel in *Design for Convicts* by James Semple Kerr page 53, National Trust of Australia (NSW) Australian Society for Historical Archaeology, Library of Australian History published 1984, Sydney.

² Bench of Magistrate Cases 1822-1836. Ref: SRNSW Reels 660-662.

The Carters' Barracks (c1819 - 1901) was located in Pitt Street, close to where Eddy Avenue is today. It is marked with a Green Plaque, an initiative of the Royal Australian Historical Society.

At the Carters' Barracks, the treadwheel was used not only as a punishment but as a 'treadmill' to grind grain.

THE RESEARCH CENTRE MUSTER

Welcome to the latest Muster. COVID restrictions may have slowed down some activities but the research team continues the good work. We have received another fiche reader and microfiche relating to family history so thanks to Anne Mathews for garnering and coordinating delivery of this resource with assistance from Judith Dunn, Greg Dunn and Kerima-Gae Topp. Thank you to Roslyn Thomas and Virginia Klemt and for this wonderful donation given in memory of their mother and sister, the late Cecily Thomas who was an avid researcher and family historian. Thanks also to Eileen Avery for donating some very useful convict related books and to the Hawkesbury Library for their donation. Please keep the factory and convict life related books coming in.

We are also receiving information on the factory women and staff for our vertical files so if you have a factory ancestor or if you have relevant colonial books, digital resources or hard copy information, please contact me at parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

We continue to work on our catalogue list of books and information resources, including vertical files and digital files which we hope will be more accessible for our visitors in the new year.

For Foundation Day we also had an information table and female factory lookup list available. Both proved to be of interest to the visitors to the day.

Gay Hendriksen Coordinator - PFFF Research Centre

THOSE IMPORTANT WOMEN'S LISTS

One of the tasks being carried out to enhance our resources is a database of potential women, men and children who might have been associated the factory. To this end, we are working on a document which will include names and details we find from various sources - direct enquiries, questions asked on social media and more.

The document format will be compatible with our existing one so that new additions can be easily incorporated. We will retain those names to enable us to refer to them in future enquiries rather than replicate the research.

This should prove to be a useful tool.

Janice Ruse Huntington and Lyn Watkins Researchers - PFFF Research Centre

RESEARCH SECTION BOOK COLLECTION

As part of the development of the Research Centre we have been building up a collection of books to help with convict tracing and family history research.

We have been lucky enough to have had hundreds of books donated, and are in the process of cataloguing these, so visitors can more easily use them in research. Unfortunately, the process has been delayed due to COVID restrictions, and will also be made much easier when we can move into more secure premises.

The material is an eclectic mix, with a wide range of subjects that may just help you get past that frustrating research road block. For example, there is an extensive range of cemetery records such as *Gravestones of the Hawkesbury* by the Pitt Town Research and Preservation Society.

As progress is made in collating this collection, we will give you further insights into what we have in our collection.

Barry Lance Researcher - PFFF Research Centre

CHARLOTTE ANN (aka Emma) DAVIS/DAVIES - A BRUSH WITH DEATH



Charlotte Davis was born 1 January 1810 in London, England and was a housemaid, kitchen maid in Hackney, London. She was 4'10" $\frac{1}{4}$ tall; with a fair complexion, brown hair and hazel-grey eyes.

On 22 October 1826 at St. John at Hackney, Charlotte, at a mere 17 years of age was charged with 'Stealing of 1 bag, value 1s., 16 half-crowns, 30 shillings, and 7 sixpences', the property of her master Henry Pelling, in his dwelling-house. However this offence of stealing was much more serious as the facts disclose it was actually an offence of Larceny as a Clerk or Servant and in 1826 was considered a felony Robbery, hence the death sentence. This was later commuted to life and then the Courts reviewed it again and gave Charlotte a sentence of 7 years Transportation. Although sentencing has changed, this offence has remained a separate offence and is still the law in New South Wales.

Below is the actual Old Bailey proceeding before Mr. Justice Park:

HENRY PELLING. I keep the Green Dragon public-house, in Well-street, in the parish of St. John at Hackney. The prisoner was two months in my service. On Sunday the 22nd of October, about three o'clock in the afternoon, my brother called me from the adjoining room to the bar; I searched the drawer where my money was kept, and missed it - it was not locked. I cannot say how much I had there; there were more than twenty half-crowns, some shillings, and sixpences - I went to the prisoner and accused her of it; she denied it - I requested to know where it was, as it had been in a bag; she still denied it; I told somebody to fetch a constable - she then said, "*Pray, Sir, forgive me, I will never do so any more,*" and pointed to a corner in the wash-house, where the bag lay, covered up; it was my bag, and contained 3l. 13s. 6d. in half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences. Her box was searched, and nothing found but new clothes, worth about 3l.; there were gowns, stockings, caps, thimbles, and a pair of scissors.

JOHN PELLING. I am the prosecutor's brother. At nine o'clock on Sunday morning, the 22nd of October, I saw this bag of silver in a drawer at the further end of the bar - I was in an adjoining room at three o'clock that afternoon, and saw the prisoner pass the door and go to the farther end of the bar; I heard the drawer open; she passed the door, returned into the kitchen, came back, went to the further end of the bar again, and I heard another drawer opening, and silver rattling; she then returned into the kitchen, and I went into the bar, and sat by the drawer till my brother returned - I informed him - he afterwards called me, and showed me the bag.

JOHN WOODS. I am a constable. I took the prisoner in charge, with the bag, at Mr. Pelling's house.

VERDICT: GUILTY SENTENCE: DEATH

Charlotte was sent to Newgate Prison and remained there whilst her death sentence was commuted to Life. Charlotte departed on 27 March 1827 onboard the *Princess Charlotte* and arrived on 6 August 1827. She was sent to the Parramatta Female Factory for assignment to Newcastle.



On 31 August 1828, Charlotte was 'Given Up By Her Master' H.L. Antill Esq. at Newcastle having served two years there and was returned to 1st Class at the Parramatta Female Factory.

On 24 May 1830, Charlotte married John Abel Avery, convict, *Asia 2*, 'now free' at St. John's Church, Parramatta with the consent of Governor William Yate.

John Abel Avery and Charlotte Davis (aka Davies) had 12 children. All were born in New South Wales, Australia.

Photograph top: Charlotte Davis

Photograph above: John Abel Avery - source Ancestry.com.

Charles Avery - born 7 July 1832 at Castle Hill, died 1911 at Ulmarra, NSW; **Mary A. Avery** - born 7 July 1832 at Sydney, died 1878; **Charlotte Emma Avery** born 9 November 1833 at Sydney, died 1908; **Edward Avery** - born 12 December 1835 at Sydney, died 1910; **John Avery** - born 12 January 1837 at Windsor, died 1886; **Robert Henry Avery** - born 28 July 1839 at Sydney, died 1893; **William Avery** - born 14 October 1841 at Clarence River, died 1910; **Eliza Florence Avery** - born 4 December 1843 at Sydney, died 1919; **Sarah Avery** - born 22 February 1846 at Sydney, died 1928; **George Henry Avery** - born 23 November 1847 at Clarence River, died 1928; **Matilda Ann Avery** - born 23 March 1850 at Swan Creek, Clarence River, died 1872; **Richard Avery** - born 1852 at Clarence River, died 1908 at Kempsey.

Despite a death sentence being imposed, Charlotte lived a full life and with her husband John Avery, raised a large family.

Charlotte died on 3 August 1874 Macdonald River and is buried at West Kempsey, NSW.

by Kevin Dodds Researcher - PFFF Research Centre



References:

Old Bailey Online; Convict Indents & Ship Musters 1813-1828; 1828 Census; Applications to Marry; St John's Parramatta Parish Records – Marriages and Baptisms; 1837 Muster; BDA Online; Kempsey Cemetery; [Charlotte Davis - Facts \(ancestry.com.au\)](http://ancestry.com.au)

SERENDIPITY - UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS!

by Janice Ruse Huntington

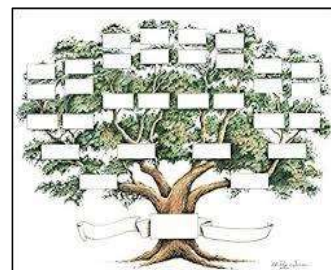
There are always surprises in store and, very close 'to home'! Please share your serendipity- email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Member Wayne Mathews writes:



Photograph: Kerima-Gae Topp at Mays Hill Cemetery.

During a recent Mays Hill Cemetery walk and talk with Kerima-Gae Topp, we were stopped at the grave of her grandfather. This grave showed the surname *Burdus*. A memory came to me that my my cousin married an *Allan Burdus*, a renowned speedway sidecar owner and preparer.



I asked Kerima-Gae if she had an *Allan* in the family. To my amazement she answered, 'Yes, he is my cousin' - a connection I was not expecting!

You never know who will come to light when you ask a question!

Kerima-Gae writes:

I was also surprised to find such a connection. My cousin Allan was known as the Vincent HRD expert, owning and preparing three Australian Championship winning speedway sidecars. Preferring to prepare bikes rather than ride them himself, Allan left the speedway sidecar winning to his brother, Les.

As a child, I remember spending many a weekend at Westmead Speedway, also known as Parramatta Showground, now the site of Westmead Hospital and watching my uncle Charlie (Allan's dad) on his bike with brother Percy in the sidecar, race around the dirt track.

Photograph - 'in action' at the speedway - source unknown.



Foundation Day is a Parramatta tradition which celebrates the day Governor Arthur Phillip travelled up the Parramatta River and ordered a settlement be established at the place where tidal water became fresh water, on 2 November 1788. Initially named *Rose Hill*, the area became known as Parramatta from 1791. The day has been celebrated on the first weekend in November.

For many Parramattans, there are wonderful memories of watching the street parade down Church Street and all the 'fun of the fair' the day brought. Nowadays, the event has been branded *The Parramatta Foundation Day Festival*. This year it was held on Saturday 6 November with restricted events and digital presentations.

Despite COVID restrictions, it was a memorable day for PFFF and visitors alike. One highlight was having access to the 3rd Class Sleeping Quarters and Penitentiary. It is always quite emotional to be in this place where there was so much suffering. Thank you to Julia Dabrowski (DPIE) for assisting PFFF in accessing this highly significant building.

THEN



NOW - 2021



Photographs by Cassandra Hannagan

