



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC. NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 60 **November - December 2024**



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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: Vacant, **General Secretary/Tour Coordinator:** Kevin Dodds **Committee:**

WHS Officer: Gary Carter, **Site Watch:** Judith Dunn OAM, **Editor/Publicity Officer:**

Ronda Gaffey, **Membership Secretary:** Lorraine Henshaw,

Minutes Secretary/Guest Speaker Co-Coordinator: Lyn Watkins

Next Meeting: Christmas Afternoon Tea **Friday 13th December 2024 at 1pm**
followed by **General Meeting at 2.15pm**

Venue: PFFF Rooms, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

Parking available - Parramatta Leagues Club Car Park.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Factory Friends,

Welcome to the Spring/Summer of the Newsletter, the 60th edition. The end of the year is in sight and the last two months have been busy for the Factory Friends.



Recently, we have been involved in two major events, our Annual *It's a Riot Day* which is held to commemorate and celebrate the Female Factory women and, *Parramatta Foundation Day*, a City of Parramatta event which we contributed to, through opening our Rooms, the Research Centre, Matron Gordon's Tearoom and with offering tours and talks. I would like to thank all our volunteers for their involvement. There is no way that we could engage in these community events without the commitment and just plain hard work of our volunteers and the PFFF Committee. Thanks also go to the Parramatta Leagues Club for the staff volunteers and equipment support for Riot Day.

We have reached another milestone with the official opening of the Parramatta Female Factory Research Centre and Babette Smith Collection on Riot Day. Factory supporter, Dr. Andrew Charlton MP (Federal Member for Parramatta) and our wonderful patrons Tom Keneally and Meg Keneally launched the Centre with passionate speeches and responses to our newest resource. It was well attended by public and members alike. We also welcomed Senator Maria Kovacic, Deputy Opposition Whip and Robyn Preston MP for Hawkesbury. Although not able to make the event, Cassandra Fernando MP made a special trip from Holt to see the Centre and the site in response to our invitation to parliamentarians. Also in attendance were many government representatives and heritage organisations showing their support for the Factory Friends and the Centre.



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen & Wal Phelps.



During this period, there has also been advocacy for protection of the buffer zone around the Female Factory, an important element for achieving UNESCO World Heritage. We have registered our initial opposition to the proposed developments with Government, ensuring our perspectives and insights are clearly communicated, particularly relating to the Albert Street/O'Connell Street high-rise proposal.

With grant money, we have been able to publish the second edition of the Bicentennial Book, *History Herstory Ourstory*, so we have a full complement of four PFFF publications. Also, we have a new trifold promotional brochure. Thank you to all involved in these projects.

We achieved a Creative Initiative Grant which for this year will be a *Writer in Residence Program*. If you are interested in knowing more, please email me at the Factory Friends email.

These activities underscore our dedication to advocacy, operational excellence and public engagement, as we continue to pursue our goals and support our community.

Wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year
Gay Hendriksen,
President



A warm PFFF welcome to new members:

Deborah Cameron, Brenda Haire, Melissa Paris, Ruth Boydell, Jennifer Warren, Lesley Richman, Sandy Brodine, Roslyn Kos, Sally Beath, Walter Phelps, Robert Cook and Raymond Allen.

NOTICEBOARD

- **Dates for your Diary: Next General Meeting and Christmas Afternoon Tea - 1pm Friday 13th December 2024, followed by General Meeting at 2:15pm.**
- **Meetings for 2025: Every second month beginning February 2025. Our first meeting: Friday 15th February: Guest Speaker at 1pm followed by Afternoon Tea and General Meeting at 2:15pm.**

HISTORY CORNER - 175 Years Ago

Ronda Gaffey

On Wednesday 30th October, a significant commemoration, *Cumberland 175*, took place at the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct, North Parramatta.

By the end of 1848, the Parramatta Female Factory had closed and its transition had begun. Old, sick and infirmed convict women stayed on to be cared for under the new 'Asylum' regime. The last Factory Matron, Mrs. Elizabeth Statham, was re-appointed and remained in the position until her death in 1864. She was succeeded by Mrs. Jane Burn who served as Matron of the *Parramatta Lunatic Asylum* for the next 27 years. Both women were responsible for managing female staff, patients and areas set aside for women.

It is significant that 175 years ago, in December 1849, the repurposed 'old' Factory was gazetted as the *Convict, Invalid and Lunatic Establishment* and so began the provision of mental health care in the Colony which continues on site today with the Cumberland Hospital East Campus providing a wide range of services.

Congratulations to all our 'Health neighbours' - what a milestone.



Then: Francis Greenway's - Matron's Quarters, Admin & Stores and Asylum Ward 1 with Factory clock c1890 Above: Now

A 19thC fountain in situ.



Asylum Ward 1 - c1900



Asylum Ward 1 - Bicentenary Day 2018

Photograph: Bob Cook

References:

Pulse, article, *In Honour of International Nurses' Day*, 12 May, 2024; Parramatta History and Heritage: Jane Burn, Matron of the Parramatta Lunatic Asylum 1864-1892; [www.https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](https://historyandheritage.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au).



Opening Ceremony



Laying
Floral Tributes
&
Tours





It's A Riot!



A Character Vignette



Congratulations to all PFFF members and volunteers: the Reception team, the Sales and the Catering teams, the Research team, to our tour guides, 'the Stocks' wranglers, performers, photographers, the Riot Day Sub-Committee and the Committee - a stellar job, well done! Thank you to Planning & Development NSW personnel, Professor Dr. Hamish Maxwell Stewart, St. John Ambulance, Cunneen Signs, the NSW Corps of Marines, Pipers of Distinction - Piper Bill Wright, MBE Printing, Parramatta Leagues Club President and CEO and volunteers, to all our guests and supporters, for contributing to such a memorable day!



The Friends were delighted to welcome Professor Dr. Hamish Maxwell Stewart to present the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture, at its recent Riot Day on 25 October.

Hamish is the current Project Lead of Heritage Studies and Digital Humanities at the University of New England and has had a long association with the University of Tasmania where he taught for over twenty years. He has been involved in many Australian Research Council projects specialising in the linkage and analysis of Tasmanian convict records and the study of collective protest by workers to protect their rights. He was therefore an excellent choice as speaker on this important occasion in the PFFF calendar.

We were treated to a fascinating demonstration of what can be learned from archival records when they are digitised, linked by name and place and then studied in detail. Tasmanian convict records lend themselves to this kind of analysis as the experience of each convict can be extracted from their surviving Conduct Register and then layered with other relevant historical information such as birth, death and marriage records and property information.

This work has allowed researchers to challenge the traditional view that female convicts were primarily transported to Tasmania to provide breeding stock for the expanding colony; in fact, the analysis shows their role as cheap and readily available servants was much more important. The data also reveals that female convicts were punished more often than their male counterparts. Over 84,000 charges were brought against 13,676 female convicts in Tasmania, with 61% relating to misdemeanours during assignment, especially absconding, being absent and out after hours or refusing to work. A surprisingly small 6% were charged with crimes against property or persons.

Data analysis has also shown that women were twice as likely to be sentenced to time in solitary confinement as men and the effect of this on life expectancy and birth rates has been studied. Recent findings are that every day spent in solitary confinement reduced a woman's life expectancy by ten days. Convict women also gave birth to fewer children than would be expected in this period.

Being Riot Day, Hamish also demonstrated the way Tasmanian convict women rebelled against the demands of their masters and mistresses. Assigned female servants, for example, protested about being expected to work on Sundays with clear evidence that Sundays and Mondays were the days on which they were most likely to abscond. They also collectively protested against poor rations and harsh treatment such as having their hair closely cropped.

Finally, he showed a comparison of statistics for Tasmanian convict abscondments compared with those for NSW. While this study only covered 1833-1836, it revealed that female convicts were more likely to abscond than men in both colonies. NSW female convicts who absconded far outnumbered their Tasmanian counterparts in this period.

The audience was left pondering how much more could be found out about the Female Factory inmates if similar analysis work was undertaken with NSW convict records. The challenge is greater as surviving records for this Colony are more numerous and disparate, and do not so easily lend themselves to the linkage work achieved in Tasmania. Nevertheless, there is enormous potential for similar studies which would unlock opportunities for a new understanding of the convict experience, especially with the adoption of quickly evolving AI technology.

Hamish concluded by showing how this is already being used to provide a visual interpretation of what our convict ancestors may have looked like.



From time immemorial the Parramatta River has been sustaining; it has been a rich food source and a meeting place and provided a means of trade and transport. In the Colonial period, the river supported numerous aspects of Factory life. For the Factory women, the river would also have been a familiar arrival point, possibly an absconding route, and a place of respite.



Map c1844; W.Meadows Bonnyrigg, showing The Government Domain (now Parramatta Park), the Female Factory, Roman Catholic Orphan School and Rev. Samuel Marsden's land. *Heritage Snapshot* UGNSW 2016.

A River Location

Macquarie's location for the 'new' Factory was questioned by Commissioner Bigge. He also reported the Factory was too elaborate and said that a walled enclosure of an acre and a half at the old Gaol Green site (Prince Alfred Square today) with timber buildings and a work room, would have been sufficient. Instead it was:

*A large commodious handsome stone built Barrack and Factory, three storeys high, with wings of one storey each for the accommodation and residence of 300 Female Convicts, with all the requisite Out-offices including Carding, Weaving and Loom Rooms, Stores, Quarters for the Superintendent, and also a large kitchen garden for the use of the Female Convicts....the whole of the Building and said Grounds, consisting of about 4 acres...*¹

The Factory was built on the river with a view to the Governor's Domain and Government House. No doubt Governor Macquarie took some satisfaction in riding down to inspect the 'new' buildings and then later, looking across at another of his 'successful' commissions.

A Means of Transport

For the women being sent to the Factory from Sydney Cove, the river provided a means of transport. For example, following the failure of an assignment to a Mrs. Macintosh of Kent Street, Sarah Scott per *Elizabeth* was in *Darlinghurst Gaol*, awaiting return by water transport to first class at the Factory...²

Travelling by 'water transport' to the Factory may have been preferable because the women could see where they were going in contrast to travelling in the 'Black Van' which was windowless and so disorienting those inside. The following two reports give a glimpse into this aspect of 'factory life':

A batch consisting of thirty five damsels was forwarded by water to Mrs Gordon's Villa on Tuesday, the Van having gone on a trip to Bathurst; they appeared highly delighted with the new mode of transport, as it afforded them full use of their eyesight... Domestic Intelligence - Thursday 15 August 1833 p.157³

32 of the fair sex were wafted in the gondola from Sydney Gaol to Gordon's Villa on Monday, the usual mode of transport being otherwise engaged... Domestic Intelligence - Thursday August 29 1833 p.157⁴

Imagine what the women would have seen as they *wafted* their way up the river - numerous boats laden with crops and livestock; beyond the mangroves and windmills dotted along the banks, they would have seen numerous small farming settlements such as Kissing Point. To any traveller, the occasional inn would have been of great interest and no doubt, a stopping off point. Certainly for the women, an inn or two would have been a distraction. For example,

'irregularities' in a delivery of women to the Factory via the 'steam boat' were noted with some irritation as the following letter written from the Factory Committee to the Colonial Secretary, indicates: ⁵

...On Tuesday last Eleven women arrived at the Factory...all more or less in a state of Intoxication, the Conductor James Cavanagh, the constables unknown...

On Tuesday last Eleven Women arrived at the Factory under the above described circumstances in a state of Intoxication. The Conductor James Cavanagh the Constables unknown

Yours Obedient Servant

The Landing Place in Parramatta

Once the women reached Parramatta, they would have alighted at the 'Landing Place'* and then escorted to the Factory, walking across the old wooden bridge and past the Men's Gaol, (Prince Alfred Square). In later years they would have crossed the new stone bridge in Church Street (built by David Lennox c1838), so familiar to us today.



The Landing Place, Parramatta - G.W Evans c1809, SLNSW.



The river crossing - Gaol Green



The Lennox Bridge, Parramatta c1839.

The River, a Pump & Factory Functioning

The river provided a much needed water supply to support a core function of the Factory - providing a laundry service for the Colony. Such a service required a steady supply of wood and water to feed the 'coppers' and 'tubs'. It is likely water was carted from a 'dam' area in the river, which was a tedious and back breaking task. It is thought that there was a well on site and a pump which would have made life easier. At some point a pump was installed but it was delayed until such time as a plumber could be 'spared to put it up' - clearly it was not a priority at the time. ⁶

Madam,

I beg to inform you that the Pump ordered from that Establishment with the intention of the present & I think can be done to put it up.

Yours Obedient Servant

Further reference to the pump is made some years later in a letter from the Factory Matron recommending that the *Twelve women constantly employed at the Pump* are given First Class rations. Obviously it was thought their hard work could be rewarded however the Colonial Secretary replied, asking why the *same women* should be employed working the pump... ⁷

Yours Obedient Servant

A Regime of Cleanliness - From Ship to Factory

From the outset, women were mindful of regulations which focused on *Orderly Conduct and Cleanliness*. For women transported, the ships' surgeon clearly laid out his rules for maintaining a regime of general cleanliness and personal hygiene. For example, the surgeon of the ship *Lord Sidmouth* included the following rules: ⁸

3rd

Cleanliness being especially necessary for the health and comfort both of the convicts and passengers ...persons shall make or fold up blanket and pillow in a tight roll for being stored on deck...then make their portions of the sleeping places and the deck as clean as shall be judged by the Surgeon and Supt who will inspect them every morning before breakfast...any deviation will be met with the severest punishment...

7th

The surgeon thinks it necessary ...that in order they may appear clean and decent they shall be allow'd two washing days every week i.e. Tuesday and Friday, but it is all the same strictly forbid they should make any waste of the fresh water.

From 1826 new Factory regulations required all inmates to bathe weekly however the women had access to a single trough.⁹ Ablution facilities were wholly inadequate given the population of the Factory was always in excess of the 300 for which it was intended, so the nearby water source would have been welcome.

There is some speculation that convict women worked under supervision on the river in the shallow water around the flat rocks - perhaps it was here that they could do their own washing and wash when the solitary trough proved inadequate.

Today, now that the vegetation has been cleared, we can stand and stare down at those ancient rocks and wonder at the secrets they hold and listen for the women's chatter...

References:

¹Lachlan Macquarie; Appendix to the Report of Major General Lachlan Macquarie in J.T. Bigge Report of the Commissioner of Inquiry into the State of the Colony of NSW - House of Commons 1822; ²*Journey to the Antipodes & Freedom* - Sarah Scott - privately published J.R & R.Gaffey; ³Judith Dunn *Colonial Ladies Lovely Lively and Lamentably Loose - Crime Reports from the Sydney Herald relating to the Female Factory Parramatta 1831-1833* pub. Judith Dunn OAM FPDHS; ⁴*Ibid*; ⁵letter dated 29th August 1834 Colonial Secretary's Correspondence: 4/2234-5, SRNSW; ⁶Reel 1055, letter dated 24th December 1826 to Matron Raine, Colonial Secretary's Correspondence, SRNSW; ⁷Reel 1059 Colonial Secretary's Correspondence, 28th Sept 1838, SRNSW; ⁸*A copy of the rules and regulations to be observed on board* - Surgeon Superintendent Robert Espie RN. *Lord Sidmouth* departed England 11th September 1822, article by Noela Vranich in *Herstory Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* Book 1 pub. PFFF 2016; ⁹Annette Salt, *These Outcast Women The Parramatta Female Factory Women 1821-1848* chapter *Grey Light and Green Air* p77 Hale & Iremonger, 1984. *The Landing Place' was located next to where the Gasworks Bridge is today.



A View to the Female Factory from Wistaria Gardens - the flat rocks and the stone steps (? convict period) and terracing from the "Asylum" years can be clearly seen following preparation for the 'riparian' corridor on the banks of the river on the Factory side. (And if you look closely, you can see a Factory woman or two, at work on the flat rocks! Ed).
Photographs: Anne Mathews.

PFFF RESEARCH MUSTER

Research Muster Coordinator Gay Hendriksen

Well, what a red letter day for the Research Centre, launched on Riot Day by Dr. Andrew Charlton MP, Tom Keneally and Meg Keneally. There was a brass plaque unveiling and purple ribbon cutting to mark the Launch. Of course there is so much work yet to do as we continue to improve our Centre and the resources. The Research Centre includes elements of archives, museum and library as well as a number of different formats of resources from books to microfilm, microfiche, digital records and online aspects.



Photography: Bob Cook, Ray Allen & Wal Phelps.



The Launch also included the beginning of sharing the Society of Australian Genealogists initiative at the Research Centre - *Ironclad Sisterhood* convict women's records. This was introduced in the Research Centre by Andrew Redfern, a project manager of this great initiative.

Our last two Research Centre workshops were well attended. A *Colonial Craft* Workshop 1 focused on straw plaiting and braiding - as well as being a learning activity, this was a great craft circle of sharing stories. The recent *Ancestry Masterclass* gave insight into how to make the most of this family history tool.

Our Factory women's list continues to grow so please keep those names and stories coming in. You can give these directly to us at the Research Centre or email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com and put 'Research Centre' in the subject field. That way we can ensure they are shared with all Australians.

I thought I would add a 'candlelight' on research recommendations each newsletter. These are resources you can either find in hardcopy form at the Centre and access online. This time I recommend the book: *Convict Maids - The Forced Migration of Women to Australia* by Deborah Oxley. This book is a must read for anyone wanting to know more about convict women. The research is impeccable and provides in-depth information and insights. Digital resource link:

<https://updates.timsherratt.org/2024/08/26/more-datasets-added.html>

This resource, developed by Tim Sherratt, combines 10 Australian GLAM organisations (galleries, libraries, archives and museums) with some great family history resources.



I am looking forward to seeing you at the Friends Rooms including the PFFF Research Centre and Babette Smith Collection, where we can help you help yourself in your history and family history discovery, provide advice or offer a research service!

Two Mothers from the *Brothers*

Janet Pezzutto and Pete Fallows

In February 1827 the Brothers (2) ship arrived in Sydney, having left Cork, Ireland on a trip that lasted 122 days. On board were 161 convict women, including Isabella Allison and Jane Taaffe, who were two of only thirteen prisoners who boarded with children. Nearly 200 years later, descendants of Isabella (Janet Pezzutto) and Jane (Pete Fallows) met at the Parramatta Female Factory Friend's morning tea. These are their stories.



Isabella's and Jane's names on the Parramatta Female Factory Commemorative Wall.

Isabella's story

Isabella Allison (a.k.a. *Ellison*, being married when boarding *Brothers 2*) was born in 1804 in Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. She was convicted in 1825 of pick-pocketing and transported to NSW for seven years. Whilst awaiting transportation, she was held in Cork Penitentiary. There is no record of Isabella disembarking with a child in NSW. I can only assume that the child had died on the voyage. The *Brothers* sailed on 3rd October, 1826, arriving 4th February 1827.

Isabella was described as five feet two inches tall with dark brown or ruddy complexion, brown hair, dark hazel eyes and a mole under one eye. Her trade was country servant, her religion was Protestant. On arrival she was assigned to *Mr. Thompson of Sydney*. Isabella must have fallen pregnant within weeks of her assignment as her child Sarah Ellison was born in the Factory on 6th June 1828.

On 8th March 1830, a Ticket of Leave was granted, but she had to remain in the District of Sydney. She was described as being of good conduct and in the First Class at the Factory. I feel that Isabella would have been desperate to be released, as her child, Sarah, would have been only two years old and possibly she would have

been admitted to the orphanage from three years of age. Her Certificate of Freedom was granted on 16th April, 1832. She applied to marry Emmanuel Jeyne (later known as Jay) in May 1830, but was refused (possibly) due to her already married state. She was again refused permission to marry in 1833 by the Reverend Marsden. She finally married Emmanuel in 1834. By this time, they had two more children, with four more to follow. Isabella and Emmanuel are buried in Maclean, Northern NSW. Both graves are unmarked. However, I feel privileged that now 200 years later, Isabella is receiving the recognition she truly deserves.

Jane's story

Cecilia Jane Taaffe (née Evers) was born in Dublin, Ireland around 1802. In October 1825 she was convicted of stealing money and a pocket book and was sentenced to seven years' transportation. By this time she was married with one child. A second child was born while she was in prison in Dublin or Cork, and this child was transported with her. Her husband, William Taaffe (also written as Taafe), and her first child were to remain in Ireland. However, they had other ideas, and in order to join his wife in the Colony, William stole a pencil case and he too was sentenced to seven years' transportation. William was transported on the *Countess of Harcourt* (4) under the alias of *William Stewart* and arrived in Sydney in June 1827. If he had committed a more serious crime or had the authorities known he deliberately wanted to be transported to Sydney, he may have been taken to Van Diemen's Land instead. Their first child was then placed in the Male Orphan School in Bonnyrigg.

Jane, as she was known, was described as 5 ft. 2 in, of fair complexion, light brown hair and hazel eyes. Although she was assigned to a free settler on arrival in 1827, Jane is recorded in the NSW census of 1828 as being in the Parramatta Female Factory. There is also a record of her in 1827 being sentenced to solitary confinement for seven hours for "complaining without cause". Jane could not read or write and signed her name with a cross. Whether or not she participated in the riot of 1827 is not known, but she would have had her child with her, as he was under three years of age at the time.

William and Jane did meet again in the Colony, and by 1829 Jane was given a Ticket of Leave and allowed to remain in the Parramatta district. She applied for William to be released but was initially denied, possibly complicated by the fact that he was still using the assumed surname of Stewart. A petition was needed where witnesses had to swear before a magistrate that they had attended William and Jane's wedding in Dublin. By 1832 both William and Jane received their Certificates of Freedom, were living in Maitland, and had retrieved their first son from the Orphanage.

Over time Jane had more children and lived in Maitland, Richmond and Sydney. Some of her children, notably her eldest two sons who were transported with their parents, also had trouble with the law as adults. Jane died in Sydney in 1859 and was buried in Camperdown Cemetery, but her legacy continued with eight children and more than 30 grandchildren.

A PFFF connection

Janet Pezzutto is Isabella's great-great-granddaughter, while Pete Fallows is Jane's great-great-great-grandson.

*Janet and Pete met at the PFFF's morning tea in July, nearly 200 years after their respective ancestors were transported to Sydney on the ship *Brothers* (2).*

It was quite serendipitous that they met. There were other spare tables at the morning tea, but Pete and his wife Ann Fallows headed to the table where Janet and her husband John Pezzutto were sitting. It was almost as if Isabella and Jane had a hand in setting this up – as both convict women were among the few on board their ship who had children with them. They would undoubtedly have known each other at the time.



Pete & Janet - Riot Day 2024



Make two loops...hold them tight...then place one loop inside the other and pull tightly...and so began a most absorbing workshop so deftly facilitated and led by crafter Lyn Watkins.

There was much chatter covering a wide range of topics, from remembering life pre-television, numerous grandparents' stories and pondering the lives of the convict women who lived behind these walls. There were Factory women's descendants who shared their stories and other participants sharing their family history 'journey'.

It was so enjoyable, sitting around the table as we worked the 'straw', occasionally stopping to rest our tingling fingertips! There were moments of reflecting on women in the past working in a circle, perhaps mending or quilt making or embroidering. Thank you Lyn for such a well prepared workshop, for your enthusiasm, the lovely models you had to inspire us and for sharing your skill.

GUEST SPEAKERS' PROGRAM -

Lyn Watkins

Friday 18th October: Bunyip Music with Alan Foster - History As Told in Folk Songs



Having spent many years as a 'folk singer', Alan has combined his long term interest in 'old songs' with his more recent interest in Australian history. The result is a unique look at history through the eyes of those experiencing it at the time.

Alan's presentation, based on Australian history and songs arising from events of the 19thC, included the folk song, *Curry Lassies and Lads*, which is about one of the Factory women, *Molly McGuigan*. Another song, *Jerilderie Letter* was written about Ned Kelly's father. There were many more songs that connected to people present.

Thank you, Alan, for such a fascinating and entertaining presentation.

RESEARCH CENTRE WORKSHOP - Friday 8th November - ANCESTRY MASTERCLASS with Kevin Dodds

Kevin Dodds from the Friends, ran a 'booked out' *Ancestry.com Masterclass* with participants saying it was an enjoyable session, a lot was learned and some wanted to stay all day!



Comments about what was liked best about the day included:

inclusiveness, easy teaching approach, content, take home print out, no need to take notes; presentation was both clear and very relevant. Content was clearly presented, [had] the ability to actually work within the website to build my family tree. Morning tea and friendly atmosphere and key insights were explored. Location, helpful organisers, a very knowledgeable presenter.

Based on participant feedback, Kevin hopes to run two classes next year - another Beginner class, *Ancestry 101* and a class for those with a good knowledge of Ancestry called, *Ancestry - Going Deeper*, so keep a look out for the 2025 Workshop Calendar coming soon.

SERENDIPITY -

concept by Janice Ruse Huntington

An intriguing intersection 200 years on!

Dr. William Redfern arrived in the Colony in 1815 and Ann Gordon arrived in 1813. Their paths may not have crossed but in the small world of Colonial Sydney they would have heard of each other, no doubt! It is still a small world! (Ed)



Heidi Garmonsway writes: I was lucky enough to run into an old friend from my amateur theatre days at Riot Day this year, Andrew Redfern. I hadn't seen him since the late 1990s! Turns out the 4x great grand daughter of Matron Gordon was chatting with the 3x great nephew of Dr. William Redfern!



Photographs: Left: Matron Ann Gordon, Heidi Garmonsway.
Right: Andrew Redfern, Dr. William Redfern.
Photograph from 1990's - Heidi and Andrew (underlined in green).



STOP PRESS!

Congratulations to Gary John Carter on the publication of his most recent book. Gary is an avid researcher whose focus on Parramatta and its social history comes alive in this book about the city's "Firsts".



The book follows a timeline from Aboriginal resistance, to first steps in farming and commerce by convict and free, the first female factory, the first recorded horse race, the first piano and piano lessons, the first pilot's licence, the first Hollywood stars, Parramatta's zoo and World War 2 air-raid shelters, to the city's first Hindu temple.



Gary's book is on sale at the PFFF Rooms and at events. \$40. \$5 from each sale is donated to PFFF.

OUT & ABOUT

Judith Dunn OAM

The 175 years' Anniversary of Mental Health at the North Parramatta Precinct - Cumberland Hospital East Campus, held on Wednesday 30th October, was attended by PFFF members Judith Dunn OAM, Lorraine Henshaw, Kevin Dodds, Lyn Watkins and Cheryl Bates OAM (PFFF member and President Parramatta Branch National Trust).

Judith writes: There were great exhibits and photos from the Museum. There were three short and snappy speeches by the General Manager Mental Health, Jason Sevil followed by Chief Executive Officer Graeme Loy who made a point of thanking Dr. Terry Smith for his work at the hospital, especially his work in gathering artefacts for the museum. He said that by doing this Terry had "Saved the soul of the hospital". The last speech was by Professor Greg de Moore who started at Cumberland as a very young doctor. He said he was looking forward to the future and new buildings - the next phase in mental health.

It was a very pleasant morning meeting many friends from heritage circles and Cumberland staff.



Photographs: Judith Dunn OAM - Speeches, Morning Tea in the Shelter Shed; PFFF members Lorraine, Kevin and Lyn.

PARRAMATTA FOUNDATION DAY - Saturday 2nd November

Kevin Dodds



It was all hands (volunteers) on deck for the Parramatta Female Factory Friends as we were able to contribute to the Annual Parramatta Foundation Day 2024 held at the Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct.

Despite some light rain, nothing dampened the spirits of all who came to witness history come to life across this heritage site. There were large and enthusiastic crowds lining up for free rides and tours throughout the day. Highlights were the horse and carriage rides and the all-day engaging talks on the city's Colonial past from local historians. There was also a book launch and signing.

People of all ages joined in - from kids loving the petting zoo to adults captivated by historical tours and traditional blacksmith demonstrations.



Photography: RG

The event also featured lively music, art and craft and diverse food stalls, topped by the Friends' Matron Gordon Tea Room's famous scones with cream and jam.

The mix of stalls and activities made for a vibrant enjoyable day for the community to celebrate Parramatta's heritage.

Thanks to the City of Parramatta and the organisers and to all the PFFF volunteers and colleagues who made the day such a success.



The Launch of The Settlers' Muster Book 1800 - Digital Edition

Cheryl Bates OAM

On Wednesday 23rd October, Associate Professor Carol Liston AO launched the Digital Edition of the Settlers' Muster Book 1800. The Muster documents a point in time when NSW counted inhabitants who were able to travel to a Muster location.

Parliament are custodians of many rare and fragile items and several are now available on **Parlimento**, the NSW Parliamentary Archives new image database. High-resolution images are available to download.

Check Parlimento at – <https://images.parliament.nsw.gov.au/>

The Muster Book was honoured with inclusion in the UNESCO Australian Memory of the World Register in 2021 (Ed.).



AND THE LAST WORD FOR 2024 - FROM THE EDITOR:

This 60th edition of the bi-monthly Parramatta Female Factory Newsletter is a truly bumper issue and heralds yet another milestone!

Since its inception (the first edition being published in January 2015), the PFFF Newsletter has provided an important means of keeping members aware of 'Factory' issues, related activities and events as well as promoting member's research.

Since 2015, the basic formatting has remained unchanged. There is always a lot to tell and share - from the President's Report and History Corner to the treasure trove of research undertaken by 'Factory tragics' and family historians. In the 60 editions so far, we have published over 100 women's profiles and reported at least 30 talks related to the convict women and Colonial history as well as the opportunities taken, to be 'out and about' spruiking the cause! One column which gives me great pleasure and which draws much comment is 'Serendipity' - I am always amazed at how small that 'Colonial' world still is! It is always fascinating to learn of those momentary encounters and links with the past in the present!

As editor, chief copy 'wrangler' and creator, I am especially proud of our achievement and thank the editorial team and all the contributors - thank you for your research, your interest and your support.

Yours truly

Ronda

Ronda Gaffey



2025	PFFF MEETINGS - DATES &	EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY
January	Newsletter 18th Committee Meeting	
February	Committee Meeting Friday 17th Guest Speaker General Meeting	1st Feb. St Brigid's Day - 204 th Anniversary of the occupation of the <i>new</i> Factory 1821 Riots: 3.2.1831; 24.2.1843
March	Newsletter 21st Committee Meeting <u>Workshop: TBA</u>	National Seniors' Week (Tues. 18th - Mon. 24th March March: Linnwood House Open Day Riot: 7.3.1833 Sat. 8th March - International Women's Day Mon. March 17th St Patrick's Day
April	Committee Meeting Friday 18th Guest Speaker - ANTHF Event General Meeting	Australian (National Trust) Heritage Festival Fri. 18th April - Sun 18th May
May	Newsletter 16th Committee Meeting <u>Open Day - 18th May - National Trust Heritage Festival</u> <u>Workshop TBA</u>	DPHI Open Day/NT Heritage Festival Event Sun.18th May at Factory site. TBC
June	Friday 20th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting	AGM PREPARATION
July	Newsletter 18th Committee Meeting <u>Open Day - Macquarie Anniversary Wed. 9th July</u> <u>Workshop TBA</u>	Wed. July 9th 207th Anniversary - Gov. Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the <i>new</i> Factory.
August	Friday 15th Committee Meeting AGM	History Week (16th - 24th August)
September	Newsletter 20th Committee Meeting <u>Workshop TBA</u>	Linnwood Open Day TBC NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Soc. Annual Conference
October	Friday 17th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting 24th RIOT DAY - 198th Anniversary Event The Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture	Riots: 27.10.1827; 11.10.36
November	Newsletter 21st Committee Meeting <u>Workshop TBA</u>	Riot: 29.11.1831 Parramatta Foundation Day Festival
December	Friday 12th Committee Meeting General Meeting	*(2nd Friday) PFFF Christmas Afternoon Tea

