

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 23 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2018**



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 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parramattafemalefactoryfriends/>
 Petition: <https://www.change.org/p/parramatta-female-factory-federal-petition-for-world-heritage>



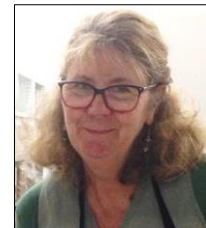
The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 – nla.pic-an 2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

Patrons: Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Keneally AO
President: Gay Hendriksen **Vice President:** Heidi Brown
Treasurer/Public Officer: Kerima-Gae Topp **Secretary/Newsletter:** Ronda Gaffey
Committee: **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker **Minutes Secretary:** Kerry Martin
 Pauline Garmonsway, Lynette Watkins, Frank Williams, Stephen Bryant.

Next Meeting: Friday 19th October 2018 GENERAL MEETING at 2:15 pm.
 Please note - **no guest speaker** for this meeting.
 The Coach House, Hambledon Cottage corner Gregory Place and Hassall Street,
 Harris Park.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Well, Spring has sprung and we are getting closer to our annual *It's a Riot* to be held on October 26. This is usually our key annual event and is always a great opportunity to connect with the wonderful Female Factory site, meet other 'Factory Tragics' (I know I am one of these) and you will be able to meet descendants...perhaps long lost relatives.

There will be tours and some descendants sharing their ancestors' stories, information trade tables, Herstory display and an opportunity to just relax. Although there are light snacks and refreshments, don't forget to bring your picnic!

Our new Committee has hit the ground running, getting this event ready for you. We are also going to embark on a new publication. This one will include the amazing speeches and the seminar program from the Bicentennial.

Also at the event there were some ancestor stories shared. We want to include these and add the women's stories relating to our members, so if you are a member who has a factory ancestor and would like to send us their story and your connection (about half a page as a guide) we will include them in the publication. Please send your story by the end of October in a word format. You can email them to parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com with Bicentennial Story in the subject line. The publication will also include a short film of the Bicentennial and information on the factory women in an accompanying CD.

We recently participated in the Linnwood House Open Day and the NSW and ACT Family History Conference.

Our petition is now over 7000. If we all encourage more signatures, this may be the year we can present to Federal Parliament!

A warm welcome to our new members, *Linda McDougal, Jo Edwards, John Parmenter and Karren Smith, Peter McCall, Bill Samuels, Margaret Dale Hendriks, Mary Dunham, Maureen Harris*. We look forward to meeting you soon.

See you all at the *It's a Riot!*

All the best

Gay Hendriksen

President



The Bicentenary Commemorative Wall

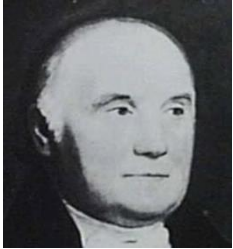
Photograph: Bob Cook.

NOTICEBOARD

- **FOR YOUR DIARY: Friday 19th October - General Meeting at 2:15pm. Please note - there is no guest speaker at this meeting.**
- **FINAL MEETING DATE for 2018 is Friday 14th December.**
- **ANNUAL RIOT DAY is Friday 26th October, 2018.**
- **A REMINDER - PFFF MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS** are due July 1st every year. Please send a cheque to Treasurer PFFF PO Box 1358, Parramatta 2124 or direct deposit: Parramatta Female Factory Friends BSB: 633 000 Account: 151 276 76 - remember to put your name on deposit! Thank you for your continued support.

HISTORY CORNER -

An Interesting Connection to the First Factory and the “New” 1804 - 1818.



Perhaps a lesser known ‘participant/player’ in the construction of the Parramatta Female Factories, is Samuel Terry (per *Earl Cornwallis* 1801). ⁽¹⁾

Samuel Terry, convicted for theft of 400 pairs of stockings, went on to become quite the entrepreneur. By the time of his death in 1836, he was one of the wealthiest men in the Colony being referred to as ‘the Botany Bay Rothschild’. ⁽²⁾

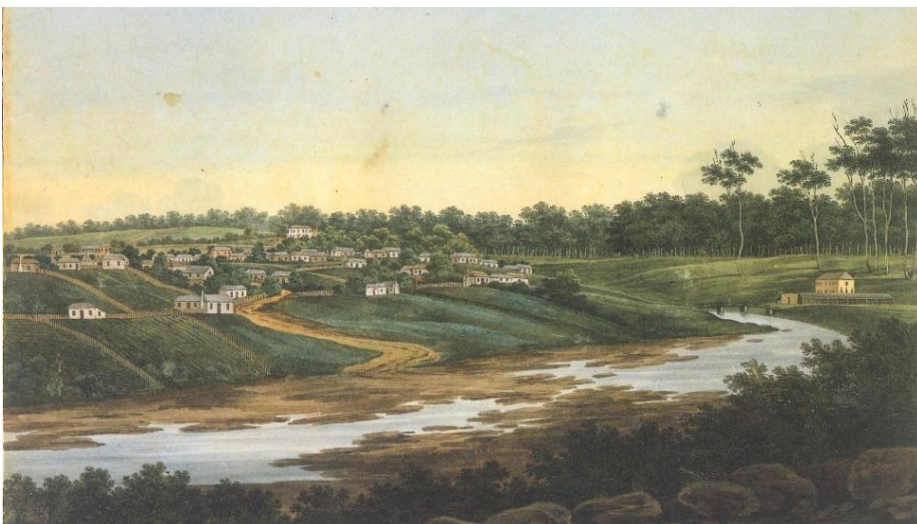
While still under sentence of seven years, Terry was a self-employed stone mason working in Parramatta. Terry had been assigned to a stonemason gang (under the direction of Rev. Samuel Marsden) constructing the gaol and first Factory which was begun in 1804. At some stage, he had been flogged for neglect of duty ⁽³⁾.

Later in 1818, Samuel Terry emerges as a ‘player’ in the construction of the Macquarie commissioned Factory. By this time he had considerable land holdings and business interests and came forward as a guarantor for Messrs. Payten & Watkins, the contractors for the build of the ‘new’ Factory. ⁽⁴⁾

Initially the build was plagued by disputes and Terry pulled out, however it proceeded with Watkins giving his own surety. One reason for Terry pulling out may have been due to failed tenderers getting to him about the questionable success of the construction. ⁽⁵⁾

References:

- (1) Samuel Terry (1776? -1838) by Gwyneth Gow - Australian Dictionary of Biography: <https://www.adb.anu.edu/biography/terry-samuel-2721/text3833>; retrieved 4/9/18 (2) *ibid* (3) *ibid* (4) *A Forger's Progress The Life of Francis Greenway* by Alasdair McGregor, published by New South, University of New South Wales Press Ltd, UNSW Sydney NSW 2014 page 284 (5) *ibid* (6) A view of Parramatta 1796 - 1809 (showing the gaol and the first Factory - the room above the gaol), unsigned watercolour, Dixon Library, State library of NSW.*
Portrait: Samuel Terry, n.d. Randwick Library Services POO\POO061

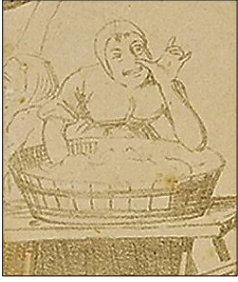


(6)

*Following Gay’s talk on the Parramatta Female Factory at the State Library in June, items on display included the iconic, detailed watercolour of the gaol and “first factory” ⁽⁶⁾ - seeing this original work from the Library vaults, was such a spine tingling moment and quite emotional!

Ronda Gaffey

“OUR GIRLS” - LIFE IN THE FACTORY BY BETH MATTHEWS & ANNE MATHEWS



The Colonial Secretary's Correspondence is a treasure trove of information which sheds so much light on life in the Parramatta Female Factory. There are numerous letters requesting work to be done and various goods to be supplied for the daily functioning of the establishment.

Wood was a much needed commodity. It was used for cooking, for laundry and for heating and a considerable quantity was approved for supply on a daily basis for use in the Factory Laundry as the following letter (dated 16th/17th February 1842) indicates:

42/709 N^o 42/48 Colonial Secretary's Office Sydney 16th February 1842

Sir

In reply to your letter of the 11th ultimo. I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency approves of an additional one thousand pounds of wood being drawn daily from the Contractor for the use of the Laundry at the Female Factory, Parramatta commencing from the 1st January last.

I have &c
To Dear Sir

Signed

The District Justice
Female Factory
Parramatta

Approval has been given for “an additional one thousand pounds of wood being drawn daily for use of the Laundry” (the equivalent to 453.529 kilograms). (2)

At one stage 12 tubs were in operation at the factory and throughout its life, the factory laundry was a consistent source of income and place of punishment, with a woman being ‘put to the tub’! (3)

Maintaining the wood supply was critical to the daily operation of the Factory and quite a challenge as this earlier letter from Matron Julia Leach (dated February 19 1838) shows:

Her concern is with the increase in numbers of women in 3rd class and she requests their “immediate employment” and further comments, “their idleness so extreme ...with the greatest difficulty they have been prevailed upon to cut up sufficient wood to keep the coppers going”. (4)

38/170 Female Factory Parramatta Feb 19 1838

Honoured Sir

May I beg your kind consideration as regards immediate employ ment for 12 women whose number is now rising so rapidly and their idleness so extreme, it is with the greatest difficulty they have been prevailed upon to cut up sufficient wood to keep the coppers going - were we fully employed doing various things about the premises would rather be considered an indulgence - my fear is their idleness will get to so great a height some meal will not be prepared and I am apprehensive of what a scene would then take place and am anxious to prevent

I am,
Honoured Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
Julia Leach

Laundry was taken in at the Factory from settlers as well as government establishments. In a letter dated 14th January 1839, it was determined that “the best means of washing the Hospital bedding” was at the Female Factory, “the articles will be delivered at the Factory and taken away again by the Military”. All goods were securely delivered and, securely returned by the military! (5)

Enduring Women's Work

In ships' indent, “washing” is a common occupation, and there are many variations with women stating they were a “washer”, “laundress”, “washerwoman”, did “all work” or “washes”. (5)

On the female convict ship *Elizabeth*, at least 50 women of the 194 women on board gave their occupation thus. Most were to spend time at the Parramatta Factory, some possibly on laundry duties! (6)

34/1
38/13.919 N^o 39/20 Colonial Secy's Office Sydney 14th Jan 1839

Sir

Referring to your Report of the 14th November last, under Blank Cover, or a Communication from the Barrack Master with a Report thereon from the respective Officers of Ordnance, relative to the best means of washing the Hospital Bedding, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to inform you that he approves of the washing being done at the Female Factory and to request that you will instruct the latter accordingly.

The articles will be delivered at the Factory, and taken away again by the Military. -

I have &c
J. C. H.

The District Justice
of the Female Factory
Parramatta

References:
 (1) Extract of cartoon *Ways or Means or The Last Shift* - Ed. Winstanley, Dixon Library, State Library NSW
 (2) Colonial Secretary's Correspondence, Reel 1059, State Archives & Records New South Wales
 (3) *Our Girls* - unpublished work by Anne Mathews & Beth Mathews sourced from original papers SARNSW
 (4) Colonial Secretary's Papers re Female Factory 1838, container 4/2401.1, SARNSW
 (5) Colonial Secretary's Correspondence, Reel 1059, SARNSW
 (6) *Elizabeth 1828 The worst and most turbulent - from Celtic Cross to Southern Cross* by Suzanne Voytas published 2010 Brookvale, Sydney (the ship *Elizabeth* arrived in January, 1828).
 Research: Anne Mathews

DESCENDANTS' CORNER - THE WATTS' FAMILY LEGACY - JAN NEAVES



(1)

Recently Jan Neaves, a great x 3 granddaughter and descendant of Ann Watts (nee O'Brien per Hooghly 1831) sent further information to add to Ann's profile. Jan wrote: "Irish convict Ann O'Brien was returned to the Parramatta Female Factory by her employer in 1833. Her crime, pregnancy! Confined to the 3rd class dormitory. Devastating!

With the help of William Watts' employer, Ann O'Brien and William Watts were married and began their large family. Their first child was born two months after their marriage.

Now 185 years later - some unexpected news - Ann and William's great grandson Roy Watts, descended from their son Alfred, is to be honoured in a surprising way.

Ann and William's grandson Henry Hilton Watts and his family lived in Glenfield. In 1929, his son, Roy Mervyn Watts attended Hurlstone Agricultural High School where he excelled. Roy graduated from Sydney University in Veterinary Science and rose to the position of NSW Director General - Department of Agriculture (1966 - 1980) and was awarded Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 1980.

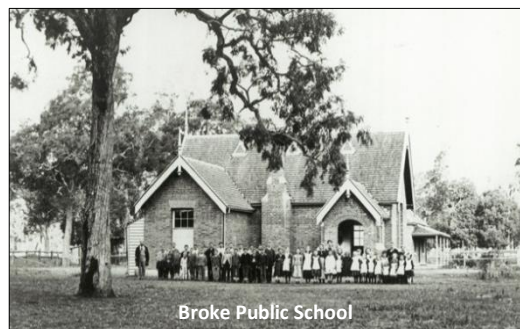


(2)

Recently I learned of a decision made by the State Government to sell the Hurlstone School agricultural land for housing. The school is to be renamed, Roy Watts High School.

Two generations of the Watts family have supported the establishment of schools in Warkworth (near Singleton) and Broke. Ann and William's first son George was involved in petitioning the Government for the establishment of a public school in Broke. It seems a fitting reward.

I am proud to have discovered Roy is my second cousin and to include him on Ann O'Brien's family tree.* Jan Neaves



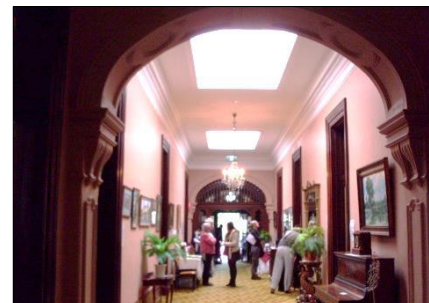
References:

- (1) Photograph: Ann O'Brien - with kind permission the Watt's family
- (2) Photograph: Roy Mervyn Watts AO (1916 - 2001): article *Hurlstone Alumni - Roy Watts*; sourced from <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/macarthur/October 12 2017>
Photograph: Broke Public School, Photographic Collection NSW State Archives and Records.

Notes:

*Ann O'Brien features in the PFFF publication, *Herstory - Another Chapter Unfolds* and in PFFF Newsletter No: 15 May - June 2017.
Hurlstone Agricultural High School was established in 1923 - the old "Hurlstone" is to be moved to Richmond. The new Roy Watts High School will remain selective and co-educational. It is to be renamed in 2023, its Centenary year.
Broke Public school was established in 1878. A Provisional School was established in 1871.

OUT AND ABOUT - SUNDAY 9th SEPTEMBER OPEN DAY AT LINNWOOD HOUSE



Once again, it was great to be "Out and About" with a stall at *Linnwood House*. It is always special to be at this lovely historic house and always satisfying to share the history of the Parramatta Female Factory with a widening public, promote sales and collect a few more petition signatures. Thank you to Anne Mathews for support at the event and to Dorothy Warwick of *Friends of Linnwood House* for the stall and for including us in their online advertising for the Open Day.

Ronda Gaffey

COMMEMORATING THE 1827 OCTOBER RIOT

"The action described by authorities as a riot had its origins in the life of the factory over the previous 12 months and was a culmination of distress over working and living conditions". (1)

TIMELINE:

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

References:

- (1) Gay Hendriksen, *It's a Riot or is it?* from *Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* page 17/18, published Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. 2015.
(2) The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser (NSW 1803 - 1842) Wednesday 31 October 1827 page 2; (3) *ibid*
(4) *Conviction - The 1827 Fight For Rights at Parramatta Female Factory* by Gay Hendriksen published 2016.
(5) The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser (NSW 1803 - 1842) Monday 29 October 1827 page 2.

(5)

<p>ELOPEMENT EXTRAORDINARY!!! Early on Saturday morning, a rush was made by a number of the damsels domiciled within the walls of the Factory, at Parramatta. It appears that they succeeded without observation in opening a passage through the outer wall, and when, at breakfast time, the muster-roll was called, about two hundred, it is said, principally of the third class, were found wanting.</p>	<p><i>A civil (to wit, a party of constables), and a military force was immediately called into action. Parramatta was in an uproar. Nothing was sacred from the prying eyes of the searchers. The very sanctum sanctorum of every dwelling-house in the town was invaded. Numbers were captured in the course of the day, but upwards of one hundred, we are informed, are missing at the moment we are writing.</i></p>
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POSTSCRIPT: A REQUEST FOR WARM CLOTHES

In a letter written by Matron Elizabeth Fulloon to the Colonial Secretary (dated June 21st 1826), a particular and pressing need is highlighted.

Her request is for the supply of 300 woollen jackets and woollen petticoats for the prisoners - she states that she has a quantity of Indian cotton jackets and petticoats however they are "too thin" for the women to wear in "the cold weather". Given the lack of warm clothing supplied for the women, Matron Fulloon has been obliged to allow the women to wear their own clothes in breach of regulations. She concludes her letter with the comment "that an immediate supply should be made". Her immediate concern is for the women's welfare.

It is interesting to note that this letter was written a month before the Grand Jury* visited the Factory and reported on conditions there.

Management issues, including the supply of clothing and shoes, were ongoing and possibly exacerbated by the number of women held in the Factory at certain periods, when accommodation exceeded capacity.

367th - 21st June 1826

Sir

I enclose herewith
June 21st 1826

I beg leave to enclose to you
a Requisition for three hundred
woollen jackets, and three hundred
woollen petticoats, for the Prisoners
in the Factory - I have a quantity
of India Cotton jackets & petticoats in
store, but they are too thin for
this cold weather, and the women
are so indebted for clothing that
I am obliged that they wear
their own clothes: it therefore
becomes necessary that an immediate
supply should be made -

I am Sir,
your Obedt Servt
Elizth Fulloon
Sup^{nt}

Alex^r Macleay Esq
Col^l. Secretary
Sydney

(1)

(1) Colonial Secretary's Correspondence Bundle V 1 1893 State Archives and Records New South Wales
Research: Anne Mathews
*the Grand jury comprised 12 magistrates - Hannibal Macarthur was Foreman.



ADVOCACY CORNER

The Friends' advocacy continues: Much has been achieved and now we are so close to our target of 10,000 World Heritage Petition signatures required for the Federal Parliament. Let's make it a huge last push - friends, family, extended family, Facebook network, clubs and every possible network!

The Parramatta Female Factory Friends - Charter

1. Protect and preserve the Parramatta Female Factory Site (1) and its provenance according to the Burra Charter.
 2. Advocate UNESCO (2) World Heritage status for the Parramatta Female Factory site.
 3. Ensure that the Parramatta Female Factory site is listed and remains on local, state and heritage national registers.
 4. Work in conjunction with other organisations for major future planning and strategic opportunities including a focus on the Parramatta Gaol, Roman Catholic Orphanage/Girls Industrial School and the 1835 Kings School sites.
 5. Advocate the establishment of a joint national and state statutory authority as custodian and manager, which will:
 - a) Develop and manage the Parramatta Female Factory site as a cultural, tourism and learning place of international significance.
 - b) Manage, conserve, interpret and promote this site for the people of Australia in accordance with the guidelines of the Burra Charter and at the highest possible professional standard.
 - c) Raise awareness of the value of and risks to the Parramatta Female Factory site.
 - d) Undertake and promote historical research in order to share the historical value of the 1818 Female Factory site and pass on the heritage of equality of this irreplaceable site to future generations.
 - e) Manage and promote the site in the spirit of equality as a meeting place where all can access, share and understand our history and our Australian identity, past and present. Provide staff and budgets to conserve and maintain the site in accordance with 5. a) To e).
- (1) The Parramatta Female Factory Site includes: The Convict Female Factory Footprint, which is the 1818 Governor Macquarie site; the 1820's Governor Brisbane third class additions; the Governor Gipps courtyard and cells additions.
- (2) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisations.

Our Vision

The vision for the Parramatta Female Factory is a World Heritage Site which acknowledges its past and evolving history as the most significant convict female site still in existence.

Intrinsic to this is access for all to the identity, history and meaning that makes the Parramatta Female Factory a key aspect of Australian history and identity.

