

**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.  
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 30 November-December 2019**



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 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pffriends/>  
 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:** Frank Williams  
**Treasurer/Public Officer:** Kerima-Gae Topp **General Secretary/Editor:** Ronda Gaffey  
**Committee:** Minutes Secretary: Anne Mathews **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker, Stephen Bryant, Pauline Garmonsway, Lynette Watkins, Janice Ruse-Huntington.

**Next Meeting:** **Friday 13 December - Guest Speaker at 1:00pm General Meeting at 2:00pm** followed by a Festive afternoon tea.  
**VENUE:** Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street, Parramatta.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

This season has been an eventful one in many ways. The Factory Friends have had another successful *It's a Riot* event with more people discovering the wonderful history and magic that is the Parramatta Female Factory. Thank you to all involved in volunteering for this day and thank you to a great committee working hard behind the scenes ensuring it was a great day for the visitors. We also contributed to information share at the NSW and ACT Family History Societies Conference and the Foundation Day events celebrating Parramatta history and providing great heritage insights for different audiences. Thank you to all involved for your hard work.



On a sad note this season has seen the passing of two great historians and heritage advocates – Ian Jack and Brian Powyer. The Parramatta Female Factory Friends would like to acknowledge their great work and pass on our sincere condolences to their families.

Ian Jack Associate Professor MA, PhD, FRHistS, FRAHS was a superlative historian and heritage specialist of national importance, whether through heritage assessments for historic villages like Carcoar, advocating for Thompson Square or sharing his vast knowledge of history to history enthusiasts, students or professionals with engaging seminars or papers. He was also an industrial archaeologist, longest serving Royal Australian Historical Society President, ex-member of the NSW Heritage Council, Senior Fellow of St Andrew's College, University of Sydney, accomplished musician, previously Associate Professor of History, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Head of the Department of History and Chair of the Board of Studies in Music, at the University of Sydney. He was on numerous professional and community committees. He died aged 84 years and will be missed by the heritage sector.

Brian Powyer BA (Educ), Grad Dip Ed Admin, Adv Dip Tourism, Fellow, Australian Council of Educational Leaders (FACE), Fellow, Australian College of Education (FACEL), was a history and education advocate. Following his career in teaching he became a passionate historian (particularly for Parramatta). He was past President of the Parramatta and District Historical Society, Chair of the National Trust NSW, Chair Australian Council of National Trusts and Chair of Parramatta Evening College. His support ranged from strategic support for important heritage sites and practical assistance within the heritage community. He was a partner in the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Bicentennial event, providing support through his National Trust role as well as channelling an unforgettable Governor Phillip on that occasion! He died aged 71. His knowledge, insight and support will be missed by local and NSW communities.

The legacy of Ian's and Brian's work continues through their contributions to the histories and survival of our heritage.

The Factory Friends' advocacy continues. We are reaching the finish line for our petitions and plan to present them to the Hon. Julie Owens MP to take to Federal Parliament. This will be March 8<sup>th</sup>, International Women's Day, 2020.

Lastly, continuing to acknowledge and celebrate our history, one of our patrons and Female Factory descendant Meg Keneally will be our guest speaker for our last meeting of the year, lucky Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, December. She will be talking about convict women in her fiction, *Fled*, based on Mary Bryant – a presentation not to be missed. This is also our Christmas Party, so bring a plate, drink and good cheer.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen

NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING: Friday 13 December\* 2019. GUEST SPEAKER Meg Keneally at 1:00pm: General Meeting at 2:00pm followed by Festive afternoon tea. \*Please note date change to second Friday of the month. Venue: The Parramatta Female Factory Friends' Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street North Parramatta.**

A PFFF MILESTONE !

**THIS NOVEMBER - DECEMBER NEWSLETTER IS OUR 30<sup>TH</sup> EDITION!**

*Thank you to Gay for her support, to Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews for so kindly sharing their treasure trove of research; a huge thank you to the women's descendants who have shared their family stories and to those wonderful colleagues for their suggestions and feedback.  
Ronda Gaffey Ed.*

HISTORY CORNER - GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS

200 YEARS AGO - 8<sup>th</sup> December 1819

“SATURDAY Next, the 25<sup>th</sup> Instant being Christmas Day...”

**GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS.**  
HEAD QUARTERS, PARRAMATTA,  
Saturday, 8th December, 1819.  
**S**ATURDAY Next, the 25th Instant, being CHRIST-  
MAS DAY. the same is to be observed as a Holiday  
throughout the Territory; and there will be Divine  
Service as usual at the several Churches throughout  
the Colony; the Government Gangs of Artificers and  
Labourers mustering and attending Church the same  
as on Sunday.  
By Command of His Excellency the Governor,  
H. C. ANTILL, Major of Brigade.

Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser (NSW 1803 - 1842), Saturday 8 December 1819, page 1

*Season's Greetings to All*

*& A Very Happy New Year*



The most widely known crimes committed by Factory women were crimes against *property* such as stealing clothing, livestock and money but perhaps lesser known was the class of crime known as “*forgery offences against the currency*”. This included *counterfeiting money, having counterfeit money on one’s person, using or “passing bad money” and “uttering base coins” (“uttering” suggests the intention to defraud or knowingly pass on forged money)*. (1)

Following an Act of Parliament (*The Counterfeiting Coin Act 1741 - Great Britain*), counterfeiting was regarded as an act of high treason - it was a Royal Offence and a crime against the King therefore, a capital offence (2).

The following profiles represent a sample of Factory women sentenced for “offences against the currency”. In two instances, the crime was a family affair (3).

**Mary Williams** and her 10 year old daughter **Eliza** were charged with coining - since they had 2 previous convictions for the same crime, they were sentenced to death but the sentence was commuted to transportation for Life. At her trial Mary claimed “distress” caused her to infringe the laws of her country.

**Sarah Gordon** was convicted at the Lancaster Assizes in 1816 and sentenced to 14 years. She arrived in Sydney Cove, *per Friendship* in January, 1818. Her crime was being in possession of notes knowing them to be forged.

**Mary Leonard** aged 38 and her mother **Mary Dunn** aged 70, were charged at the Middlesex Assizes with “coining 2 coins, both sixpences” and sentenced to transportation for life. There is no record of Mary Dunn’s transportation - she may have been too old, however Mary Leonard was transported with her one year old daughter *per Northampton* 1815. After disembarkation, Mary (with her infant child) was sent to the Factory at Parramatta (*the room above the gaol*) to work. (Reel 6045; 4/1732 pp157.161).

**Mary McVey** aged 40 was convicted for 7 years - her offence was “uttering base coins” with 4 previous convictions.

**Bridget Donnelly** *per Whitby* 1839, was convicted of “passing bad coins”. She was in the Factory in 1843 - she served 4 years of her 7 year sentence; received her Ticket of Leave (which is annotated - “*with money to travel to Picton*”).

**Catherine Finn** aged 80 *per Lady Rowena* 1826, was convicted of “passing bad money” and sentenced to 7 years. Catherine was one of the oldest women transported. One might surmise the reason for her crime was to be with her son who had been transported the year before *per Sir Godfrey Webster* 1825. Sadly she was never to be reunited with him. She passed away in the Parramatta Female Factory in November 1826 (4).

Georgian coins



References:

- (1) *Our Girls - unpublished work sourced from original papers* by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews
- (2) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counterfeiting\\_Coin\\_Act\\_1741](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counterfeiting_Coin_Act_1741) retrieved 5/10/19
- (3) *Our Girls - unpublished work sourced from original papers* by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews
- (4) [https://www.jenni.willetts.com/convictships\\_lady.rowena](https://www.jenni.willetts.com/convictships_lady.rowena) retrieved 5/10/19

The Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT Association of Family History Societies is always an event not to be missed! This year Sydneysiders were fortunate to have this event held in “town”, at Knox Grammar School in Wahroonga.

It was a great opportunity to catch up with fellow family history buffs and to catch up on the latest in family history research.

The PFFF stall did quite a trade in sales, meeting descendants, gathering more petitions (150 +) and in publicising our upcoming Annual Riot Day.

PFFF attendees over the three days included Gay Hendriksen, Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews. A special thank you to Frank Williams, and Anne and Wayne Mathews for getting our stock to and from the venue. Thank you also to our Parramatta & District Historical Society colleagues for your good company and to Kerry Martin who wore both her P&DHS and PFFF hat on the day!



Gay, Beth, Anne and Ronda & Kerry



Anne & Beth with Factory women’s descendant Vicki Wilson

## PARRAMATTA FOUNDATION FESTIVAL WEEKEND 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> November

*Do you remember the Parramatta Foundation Day parades in Parramatta?* This traditional local event was recently “resurrected” by City of Parramatta in consultation with Parramatta Heritage Partners and branded as the *Parramatta Foundation Festival*.

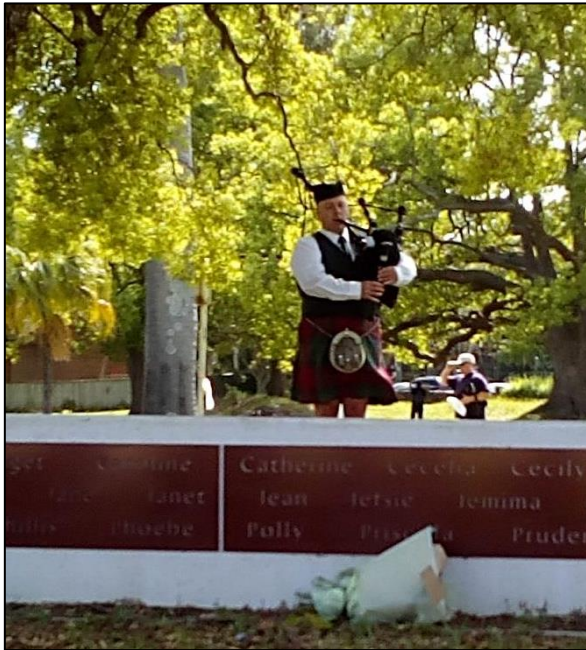
On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, the lawns of the Female Factory Precinct were transformed with numerous stalls, a talk marquee and even baby dinosaurs! PFFF had a promotion and sales stall and offered short talks and hourly tours. Our “Rooms” were also open to visitors.

Thank you to City of Parramatta Council and Frankie Lee for giving us such a terrific opportunity “to strut our stuff” once again. A huge thanks to Steve, Ronda, Beth, Heidi, Lyn, Pauline, Paul, Kaye and Cate for all your support on the day. Congratulations to all for the final petition push!

Kerima-Gae Topp



ANNALS OF THE DISTRICT SOCIETY



Riot Day began with a gathering at the Bicentenary Commemorative Wall.

We stood in silent reflection as Iain McClennan of the *Governor Macquarie Memorial Pipe Band* played a very moving rendition of *Going Home* - this was followed with floral tributes being laid. The Hon Julie Owens MP, spoke most eloquently about the convict women.

The talks scheduled for the day were fully booked. Speakers Babette Smith OAM and Cate Whittaker were warmly received and their topics refreshing and well researched. Tours were also fully booked with a number of "walk-ins". There were also visitors to the trade tables and to the Friends' Rooms where a number of old *Friends* and new, shared their stories and viewed our exhibition.

A special thank you to all our trade tablers, *Topp Tours, Parramatta & District Historical Society, Brislington House Museum, Dymocks Parramatta, NSW State Records, Friends of Old Government House*, and the lively ladies of *Convict Connections* who had travelled down from Queensland!

The day was made possible by the terrific team effort of the Committee and all our member helpers - Wayne, Christina, Alan, Beth, Kaye, Judith, Kerry, Leslie and Heidi. A special thanks to our members Kevin Dodds and Susan Soletto and, Vicki Wilson for offering to share your ancestors stories at the Wall! Ronda Gaffey



THANK YOU EVERYONE !

DESCENDANT'S CORNER:  
DEGREES OF SEPARATION

POSTSCRIPT: CATHERINE SULLIVAN  
by Ronda Gaffey

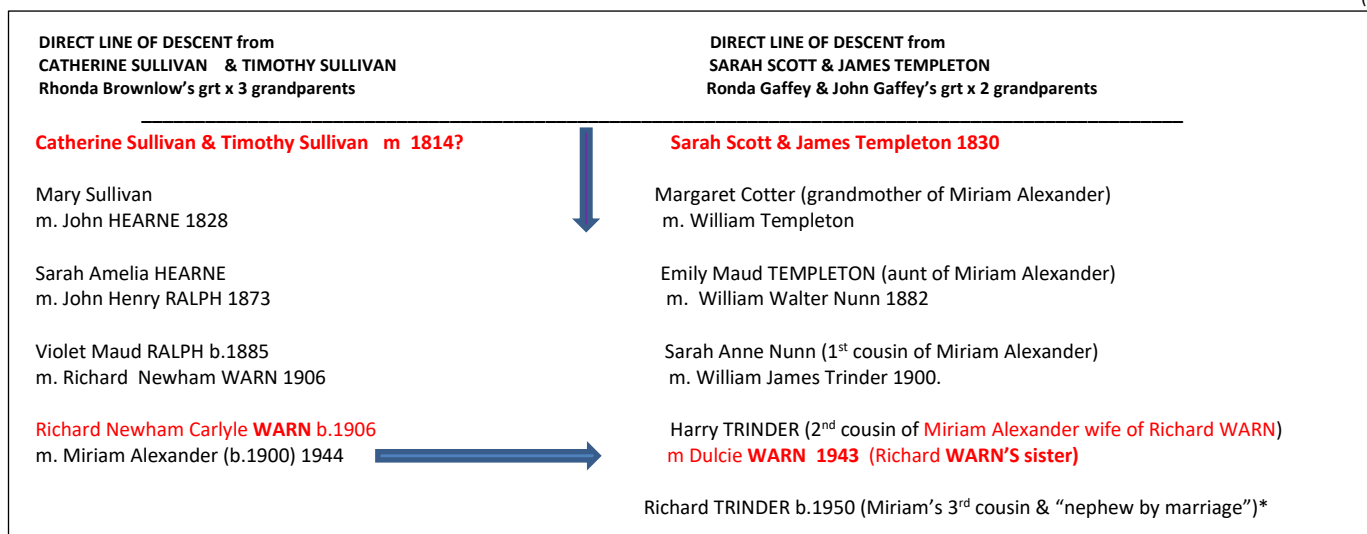
Recently, my brother John rang me to say he had further information on *Catherine Sullivan & Timothy Sullivan* (1) and that I would be intrigued. Intrigued...? I spent the weekend in a state of excitement!

John has been researching various siblings and spouses on our maternal line of descent from James Templeton (*per Hercules 1802*) and Sarah Scott (*per Elizabeth 4 1828*) and has found a fascinating merging of two families across the generations. (2)

Aunt Miriam (our mother's eldest sister), married Richard Newham Carlyle Warn in 1944. He was a direct descendant of Catherine and Timothy Sullivan through their eldest daughter Mary Sullivan wife of John Hearne and descended from Mary's youngest child, Sarah Amelia Hearne, wife of John Ralph.

Now the "plot" thickens and is even more fascinating! Uncle Richard's sister Dulcie married Aunt Miriam's 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin Harry Trinder. Dulcie and Harry Trinder had a son Richard (b.1950). So, two families are connected with John and I having a distant cousin\* who is a directly descended from Catherine Sullivan (a factory woman) and Sarah Scott Templeton (also a factory woman) - our great x 2 grandmother!

(2)



Richard Newham Carlyle Warn and Miriam Alexander 1944



Margaret Templeton, William Trinder, Sarah Trinder, Emily Maud Nunn c1910

So how do we explain this relationship? Our Aunt married *a man* whose sister married her cousin whose son is descended from her husband's great, great grandparents and, her great grandparents!

References:

(1) PFFF Newsletter September-October 2019, *Descendant's Corner Catherine Sullivan and Timothy Sullivan, page7*; article by Rhonda Brownlow.

(2) *Direct Lines of Descent* from Family History Notes: John Gaffey and additional material: Rhonda Brownlow.

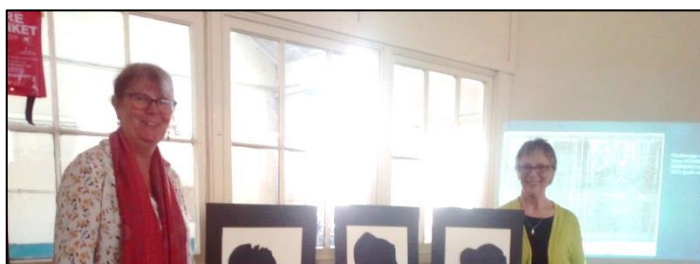
Photographs: Templeton Family Archive; photo on the right shows 4 generations of the Scott/Templeton family. William Trinder is Harry's elder brother.

Further research by Rhonda has revealed Richard Warn's grandfather was James Warn, second child of 13 - a son of John Warn and Eliza Newham. His paternal great grandfather, John Warn (convict *per Surry 1823*) married Eliza Newham daughter of Richard Newham (*per Glutton 1803*) and Mary Burnett (*per William Pitt 1806*) at St John's Parramatta in August 1826. A witness at their wedding was Mary Wade (*that Mary Wade I wonder?*)

DESCENDANTS' CORNER - GUEST SPEAKER VICKI WILSON - PFFF

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

The recent talk "*Female Factory Ancestors*,



*Putting Flesh On Their Bones*”, by Vicki Wilson was a treat for the Friends.

Vicki, a well-known and much respected researcher, was warmly welcomed as our inaugural speaker at the Friends’ Rooms at the Parramatta Female Factory site.

Vicki’s talk was based around her research into the lives of her three Female Factory women.

Vicki set the context by recapping the story of the first and the second Factory. Then we were introduced to her forbears. The three silhouettes Vicki has created, brought the women to life as we learned of their lives - Mary Rourke, (aged 20 *per Elizabeth 4 1828*), Mary Ann Delahunt (aged 17 *per Mariner 1825*), and Honor Cavanagh (aged 72 - *per Roslin Castle 1836*).

Mary Rourke spent time in 3<sup>rd</sup> class; received her Certificate of Freedom in 1840 and between 1837 and 1857, had acquired a considerable property portfolio. Honor Cavanagh was the mother of Mary Rourke and had been transported at 72 years of age - her crime was the theft of poultry. Sadly she passed away in the Female Factory Hospital six weeks after arriving in the colony. Mary Delahunt was a ‘sempstress’ from Dublin and transported for theft of calico.

Vicki detailed the importance of primary sources and recommended a number of important resources for female convict research which include the *Joan Reece Index* (available online) and a resource which might be new for some, *The Irish Gift* which was a Bicentenary gift from the People of Ireland to the People of Australia. This set of records can be accessed in the National Library in Canberra <sup>(1)</sup>. There are also copies in the State Library NSW and at the Society of Australian Genealogists in Sydney.

The beauty of this resource is that it covers some transportation registers, petitions for clemency/mitigation of sentence and has been used to put more *flesh on the bone* for Vicki who said, “*it is a veritable treasure trove*”.

Vicki concluded saying that researchers must never underestimate the NSW State Archives and Records at Kingswood. There are 500 kilometres of linear records which represent over 14 million records. There is something there for all of us and it is free!

Thank you Vicki for a most informative and engaging talk.

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And speaking of *Degrees Of Separation* - I was excited to learn that Vicki’s ancestor Mary Rourke, was on the same ship as my great great grandmother Sarah Scott! Maybe they knew each other? Maybe their paths crossed - they were both in the Factory at the time of the 1828 Census. <sup>(2)</sup>

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Ronda G

References:

(1) <https://www.nla.gov.au/app>eresources>item>, National Library Canberra (index)

(2) *Elizabeth 1828 From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross the worst and most turbulent* by Suzanne Voytas, published Sydney 2010, pages 347, 361.

