



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 31 SUMMER EDITION 2020**



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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 21 February - Guest Speaker at 1:00pm General Meeting at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea.
VENUE: Parramatta Female Factory Friends Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street, Parramatta.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

Welcome to the new year of 2020. Looking forward to a fruitful new year.



First I would like to acknowledge the historic time of natural disaster that we are all experiencing in some way. Our thoughts are with those who have lost loved ones and homes.

Admiration goes to the great fire-fighters, emergency services, defence forces and the many support volunteers. Daily we have been also witnessing the pain and the courage of those who have experienced the fire disasters directly. What has also come shining through is the open heartedness and generosity of fellow Australians in the time of crisis.

This year we will continue with our advocacy through presentation of our petitions, and maintaining a keen awareness of plans for the site by the State Government. Tours will continue to be offered on the third Friday of the month and the speaker program will also feature. A new offer for the Friends relates to the Female Factory Friends Resource Centre. As part of the history and heritage coordination for the Friends, I will be convening this group on the third Friday of the month from 9am to 11am and assisting in the development of resources and sharing information about the Female Factory and the Factory women. If you have time and inclination you are welcome to participate in this. It may be as simple as registering books or digital resources or sharing your stories.

On this note, if you have books, CDs and magazines that you think may be a relevant resource for researching the family history, social history or site history, please feel free to donate. It may be Colonial context, Colonial life or object information, spinning or weaving or a book on a particular Female Factory woman. If you bring items in we can review them for inclusion relevance.

One event to ensure you put in your diaries will be the International Women's Day commemoration and petitions acknowledgement. This is planned for March and you will be advised soon concerning the details.

Our first General Meeting will be February 21st. I look forward to seeing you there.

Gay Hendriksen

NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING: Friday 21 February 2020. Guest Speaker** at 1:00pm: **Lorraine Stacker**, local historian, author and librarian, will be speaking about the Emu Plains Farm and the Factory women. **General Meeting** at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea. **Venue:** The Parramatta Female Factory Friends Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street North Parramatta.
- **The Friends Resource Room is open 9am-11am every 3rd Friday of the month** - see Calendar page 7.
- Following the success of her play *Forgotten*, **Cate Whittaker** has a new play, ***The Lost Voice of Ann Bronte*** which is based on the lives of the Bronte sisters - from **31 January to 2 February** at the Tom Mann Theatre, Surry Hills: - For details: <https://www.trybooking.com/580331>

HISTORY CORNER - BEGINNINGS OF AN EXTRAORDINARY LEGACY

On August 8 1838, five Sisters of Charity sailed from Dublin, Ireland bound for the Colony of NSW. They arrived **31 December 1838**. They were a religious order of nuns founded by Mother Mary Aikenhead. Their focus was to provide ministry for the convict women and their children at the Parramatta Factory, teaching the faith, providing education and attending the poor. They also had nursing skills and applied these to their daily work ⁽¹⁾.

Sister Mary John Baptist de Lacy, Sister Mary Lawrence Cater, Sister Mary Francis Xavier Williams, Mother Mary John Cahill and Sister Mary Francis de Sales O'Brien, began their daily morning and evening visits to the Factory in **late January 1839**. Their ministry continued at the Factory until 1847 ⁽²⁾.

For many Factory women, the Sisters were fellow country women who would have offered a source of comfort and kindness. After three months the impact of their visits was noted:

... they received instruction with respect and attention & before 3 months had elapsed we had the consolation of hearing from Her Excellency the Lady Gipps, and from the Superintendent [sic] that cursing, blasphemy and hitherto the daily use of improper language was much diminished... ⁽³⁾.

At the time of the Sisters' arrival, there were at least 800 women in the Factory of whom an estimated 500 were Catholic ⁽⁴⁾.

These women were the first religious/nursing sisters to arrive in the Colony and their legacy, begun in Parramatta, is a significant one. Sr Mary John Baptist de Lacy, who remained in Sydney, went on to establish St Vincent's Hospital at Woollloomooloo Heights which was the first Sisters of Charity Hospital ⁽⁵⁾.

Today, there is a memorial to the Sisters of Charity at the Parramatta Female Factory site which is located in the 2nd class yard (right of the blue gate), close to the external wall of the Gipps Yard ⁽⁶⁾. Their legacy includes the iconic St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst.

5.



6.



References:

1. Pioneer Sites Blog, 175th Anniversary of the Sisters of , 4 May 2014; <https://pioneersites.wordpress.com/> retrieved 2/10/19
2. Ibid
3. Extract from: *The Annals of the Sisters of Charity in Australia*, written by Sister Mary John Baptist de Lacy
4. Ibid
5. Image: 'Tarmons' - the first Sisters of Charity Hospital at Woollloomooloo (now Potts Point).

In June 2019, the **Sisters of Charity Heritage Centre and Archives** opened - it is located in a converted convent at 1 Rockwall Crescent, Potts Point - for further information and opening hours: <https://www.sistersofcharity.org.au>

Ann Entwhistle was tried at the Lancashire Assizes and sentenced to death for “*machine breaking*” on 8th August 1826. Ann was accused of “*destroying shuttles with a piece of iron*” at Helmshore Mill in Lancashire. She was found guilty and sentenced to death however she was given the Royal Mercy and her sentence commuted to transportation for Life.

Ann embarked on the ship *Harmony 1* on 4th June 1827 with Mary Hindle*. The ship arrived in NSW on 27th September.

The Muster Roll has Ann as “46, reads, Protestant, single; three children; a weaver; sentence, rioting”. She was “4 feet 8¾; ruddy and pock marked complexion; dark brown to hazel eyes; scar on forehead over right eyebrow; first finger of right hand crushed” (1).

On arrival Ann was to be assigned as a *laundress* to Gregory Hazard (Harold?), Sydney - a printer and book binder of Princes Street.

In 1828 Ann was returned to 1st class at the Parramatta Female Factory as “unsuitable”. She was also punished at one stage for “taking, without permission, bread, out of the dining hall” (2).

Ann was in the Factory at the time of the 1828 November Census and then on 2nd December 1829 was once again returned from an assignment - “given up by mistress” to 1st class at the Factory (3).

In 1830 Ann was out of the Factory system, marrying John Butcher (aka John Arnold). In the Marriage Register of St John’s Parramatta, the marriage of Ann and John is noted as: *John Butcher age 56 years William & Ann, parish Parramatta Ann Entwhistle, age 40 years, Harmony, also of Parramatta married in this church by banns with the consent of the Governor this 12th day July in 1830. The marks of John x and Ann x. In the presence of John Bishop and ? Bishop, both of Parramatta* (4).

Ann was granted her Ticket of Leave in February 1836. John Butcher died in 1838. Shortly after, Ann re-married Richard Birking (also written as Broking/Birkin). A Conditional Pardon was granted to Ann in 1843, 16 years after her transportation. Richard Birking died in 1855 and Ann died in 1868, aged 87 (5).

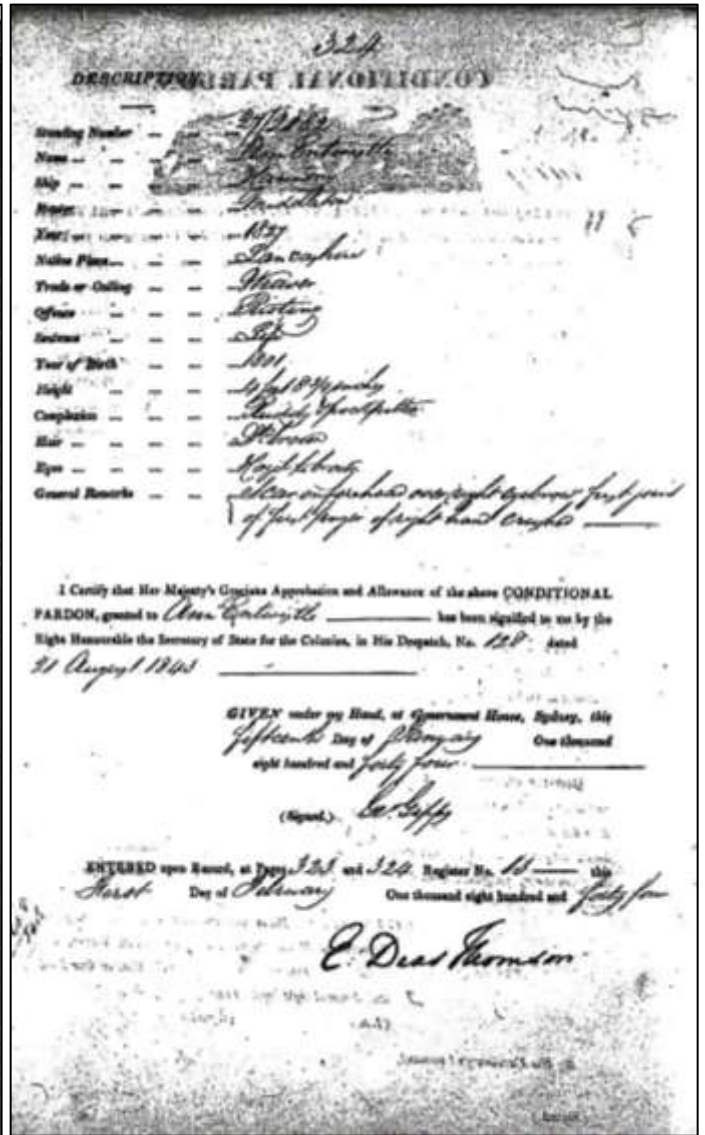
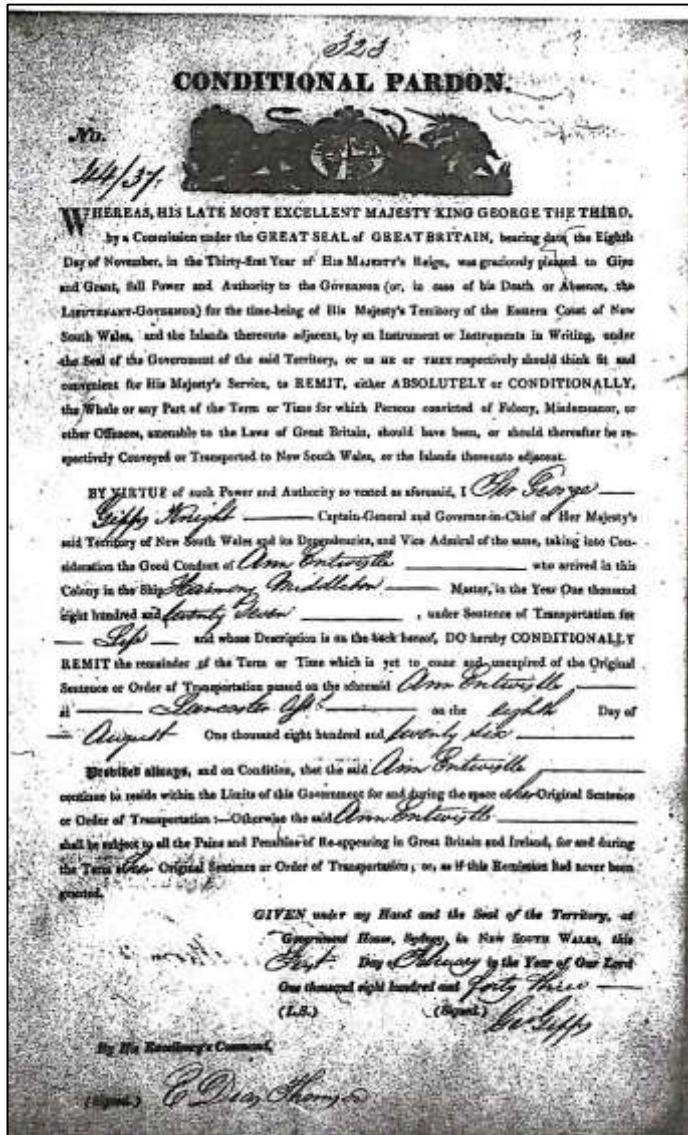


References:

1. Muster Roll *Harmony 1825*, quoted in *Our Girls - unpublished work* sourced from original papers, State Archives & Records NSW by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews
2. *Sydney Gaol and Entrance Book*, SR Reel 2278, State Archives & Records NSW
3. *Sydney Gaol and Entrance Book*, SR Reel 851, SARNSW
4. *Parish Register, St John’s Parramatta*; Marriage entry for Ann Entwhistle and John Butcher
5. *The Quarterly Newsletter of the Entwhistle Family History Association, Twistle Times*: Issue 42, June 2010 retrieved 2/1/2020
6. Photographs: Helmshore Mill - now a Textile Museum
7. Ann Entwhistle in the *New South Wales, Australia, Convict Register of Conditional Pardons 1788-1870*, pages 323, 324, SARNSW.

*Mary Hindle was sentenced for “rioting” at Lancaster with Ann Entwhistle; she was never granted a pardon despite petitioning the Governor; she took her own life in the Parramatta Female Factory in 1841.

It is interesting to note that Ann, a weaver by trade, was not sent to work at the Female Factory initially - it is also intriguing to note her hand injury, most likely a “work injury”. Like many women transported, Ann (a widow), left 5 children in England - it is reckoned she had three dependent children, aged 9, 7 and 5 years of age at the time of her transportation (5).



GUEST SPEAKER: PATRON MEG KENEALLY

Meg was warmly welcomed as guest speaker for the Christmas meeting and began by saying how often she was asked, "Why write about history?" Meg went on to say that the question reveals an ignorance of what history is - history reverberates now - it is who we are.

In her talk, Meg spoke about her interest in and love of writing about "stropky" women and referred to her current novel based on the story of two of her favourite convict women, Charlotte Badger and Kitty Hagerty who were sent to Van Diemen's Land per Venus only to mutineer and head for the Bay of Islands!

Meg said the convict women were "demonised", regarded as an "inconvenience" and "hidden" away behind the Factory walls and yet they retained a spirit (as exemplified by the riots) and were a wonderful precursor of Australian character.

Meg concluded saying she often despairs about contemporary issues but often looks back to the women's stories and there is hope.

Ronda Gaffey

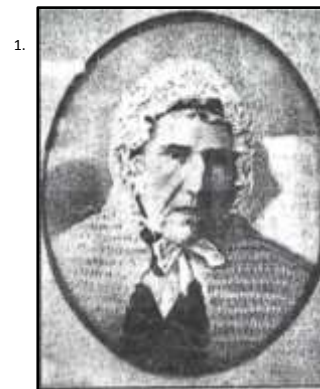


Meg & Gay

DESCENDANT'S CORNER - MARY LAWRENCE - A FIRST FACTORY
WOMAN & PIONEER

By D.L MacQuillan

Mary Lawrence was born to John and Elizabeth Butt in Blandford, Dorset about 1786. She was convicted in Dorset Assizes on 4th August 1813; her offence, "*larceny of a gold watch, chain and key, the property of Mr Courtin...*" She was sentenced to death however this was later commuted to transportation for seven years.



Mary embarked the ship *Broxbornebury*, departing England, February 1814. The ship carried 129 female prisoners; two deaths occurred on the voyage of 156 days; the ship arrived in NSW 28th July 1814.

The General Muster of NSW 1814 shows that Mary was assigned to Mary Reibey on arrival. Records of female convicts in the colony 1810-1816, also show Mary was in "the public factory", which would have been the *first* factory, the "factory above the gaol" at Parramatta (Public Records Office -PRO 60).

Mary married George Davis (per *Earl Spencer* 1814), on 13th April 1818 at St Phillip's Church Sydney. A witness at the wedding was Amelia Major, another woman from the ship *Broxbornebury*. At the time of their marriage, Ann and George were already parents of two children, Hannah, born in 1815 and George born in 1818.

Mary was issued a Ticket of Leave in 1816. George was issued with a Certificate of Freedom in 1821. The couple had two more children; James born c1819 and Elizabeth born c1821. The General Muster of NSW for 1825 shows George and Mary and four children living on *Alloway Bank*, the Bathurst property of John Piper. Two more children were born - William, in 1826 at South Creek and the last child, Thomas, was born in Yass in 1829 where George worked as "superintendent" on the property of Samuel Terry (2).

In 1839 George took up a land grant at Murrumbateman Creek which he called, 'Gounyan'. George died in 1867 aged about 82 and Mary died in 1889 aged 103. Both are buried on the property 'Gounyan'.

Mary, a 'Factory' woman, is truly a pioneer of note:

"I remember Mrs Davis driving a gig behind her wool team. She used to camp with the men when they brought in the wool, she was very gypsy looking..."

(3)

She was a woman of indomitable spirit and indeed a 'founding mother' having an estimated 23,000 descendants by 2014 - the Davis Bicentenary year. 'Gounyan' was worked by 7 generations of the Davis family until it was sold in the 1990s (4).



(5)



(6)

References:

1. "Granny Davis" as depicted in an old picture in the museum of the Yass and District Historical Society - from *The Canberra Times* (ACT: 1926 -1995) article, LIFE STYLE PEOPLE, 02 June 1971, page 22; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/131809912> retrieved 20/12/19.
2. Davis Family History by descendant Mrs D. L MacQuillan from *Our Girls - unpublished work sourced from original papers* by Ann Mathews and Beth Matthews
3. Un-named publication - *Mary Yeo Collection*, Mitchell Library NSW.
4. *Davis: George and Mary Ann, Members Listings*; Yass & District Historical Society Inc.; <https://www.yasshistory.org.au/meminterest> retrieved 2/1/20
5. Photograph: George Davis and Mary Davis (nee Lawrence) - courtesy Mrs D.L MacQuillan.
6. Photograph: Headstone - Davis Family, cemetery Gounyan Creek; from *The Canberra Times*, (ACT: 1926-1995), article, LIFE STYLE PEOPLE, 02 June 1971, page 22; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/131808812> retrieved 20/12/19.

2020 CALENDAR - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020	PFFF MEETINGS & EVENTS	
January	Newsletter 17th Committee Meeting *	26th Australia Day
February	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * 21st Committee/General Meeting	199th Anniversary - women transferred to the "new" Factory 1st Feb 1821. Riots 3rd 1831, 24th 1843
March	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * SPECIAL EVENT 8th TBC Newsletter 20th Committee Meeting	SPECIAL EVENT - INT'L Women's Day - WH petition presentation TBC 7th 1833 - riot
April	PFF Site Tours 3 rd Friday * National Trust Festival 17th Committee/General Meeting	National Trust Festival 18th April - <i>Our Heritage For the Future</i>
May	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * Newsletter 15th Committee Meeting	19th May NT Festival ends
June	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * 19th Committee/General Meeting	
July	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * Newsletter 17th Committee Meeting	9th 202nd Anniversary of Governor Macquarie laying the foundation stone for the <i>new</i> factory
August	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * 21st Committee/AGM/General Meeting	
September	PFF Site Tours 3 rd Friday * Newsletter 18th Committee Meeting NSW & ACT Family History Conference - Newcastle	Linnwood Open Day History Week 5th -13th FH Conference
October	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * 16th General Meeting Friday 23rd RIOT DAY	27th 1827 riot - 194 th Anniversary 11th 1836 riot
November	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * Newsletter 20th Committee Meeting	29th 1831 Riot 1st Nov - Parramatta Foundation Day
December	PFF Site Tour 3 rd Friday * 11th Committee/General Meeting & Christmas Party (2nd Friday)	

***PLEASE NOTE** the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Resource Room will be open 9am - 11 am every 3rd Friday of the month commencing 21st February 2020.

STOP PRESS ! ROUTE 900 - PARRAMATTA'S FREE SHUTTLE BUS ROUTE

Please note the route changes, from 1 February 2020.

The Parramatta Female Factory site and the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Rooms located at 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta, are a short walk from the Parramatta Leagues Club bus stop.

