



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 32 MARCH - APRIL 2020**



Contact: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com or PO Box 1358 Parramatta 2124
 PFFF website: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
 History: parramattafemalefactories.wordpress.com
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pfffriends/>
 Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/parramattafemalefactoryfriends/>



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: TBC - Friday 19th June with 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,

What a year 2020 has been so far! In so many ways we are at an extraordinary juncture in our history.



Through the challenges of the fires and the Coronavirus, COVID-19, Australians have shown some of the best qualities of who we are. It is also a significant reminder of how historic events help shape who we are and the nature of life around us.

Our thoughts are with those who have had the greatest challenges as it is, with the daily challenges that accompany our lives and responsibility to ourselves and others to stay safe and enact safe health practices.

In order to play our part, I would like to advise you that Friends meetings and activities have been cancelled up to and including the end of May, with a review in May as to the next steps. The Friends rooms will remain closed during this time period. However to ensure progress on Friends activities, future events and advocacy, the Committee held an online meeting on Friday and will continue to meet in this safe way until it is safe and possible to do otherwise.

On the bright side, our commemoration and celebration day for handing over the Petition to Federal Parliament for World Heritage was very successful, despite being locked out...of prison...with the Blue Gates locked for half the event!!! There were over 270 participants. Great speeches were given by Tom Keneally, Meg Keneally, John Pilger and Julie Owens MP. It was a jubilant, heartfelt and very positive atmosphere. Julie Owens MP has accepted the petitions to take to Parliament. We will advise of the progress as they reach the next stage. Thank you to all those who promoted our petition and to those who signed our petition.

We continue to promote our Factory stories and what we do and recently participated in the Open Day at Linwood House. The Committee has already started planning the 2021 Bicentennial of the women in the Factory. The original date was 1st February 1821. We are looking to celebrate it on the 21st of February 2021 (if life in our times allows it), starting with a walk from the first Factory to the second.

Meanwhile, enjoy your extra time at home, perhaps a chance to catch up on your favourite reading or perhaps your family history or other favourite at-home activities.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen

NOTICEBOARD

- **MEETING scheduled for April 17 is CANCELLED due to COVID-19 protocols.**
- **NEXT MEETING Friday 20th JUNE 2020 IS TO BE ADVISED: GUEST SPEAKER at 1:00pm: General Meeting at 2:00pm, followed by afternoon tea. Venue: The Parramatta Female Factory Friends Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street North Parramatta 2124**

STOP PRESS! A NEW PFFF PUBLICATION: SPECIAL PETITION EVENT PRICE \$40

The PFFF Bicentennial Book *History-Herstory-Ourstory* is now available.

A *wafer* is also available for \$25 - this contains a pdf version of the book, Female Factory women lists, videos and photographs of the 2018 Bicentenary Event. For further information, please email:

parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Please put *Bicentennial Book* in subject line.



Thank you to everyone who has so generously contributed to this publication - a special thank you to Editor - Gay Hendriksen.

HISTORY CORNER - "...standing a little way off from the town in a low sandy flat of short underwood" was "one of the most pretentious" buildings of Parramatta, "the Female Factory..."

PARRAMATTA having been made— at a very early date—the centre of convict population, and the seat of Government, a number of substantial and roomy buildings were erected there, such as gaols, penitentiaries, hospitals, barracks for military, etc. Among these, one of the most pretentious, which always attracted the notice of visitors to the town, was the 'Female Factory.' This building was projected by the Rev. Samuel Marsden—the senior chaplain—and from its inception has been praised, and also roundly abused (chiefly the latter) by all who have written on the subject. One of the earliest references to it is by a surgeon in charge of convict ships. 'Crossing the bridge, and walking about a quarter of a mile to the left, you come to the Female Factory, surrounded by a twelve-feet-high wall, which,

however, some of its liberty-loving inmates occasionally find no great difficulty in clambering over.' It was built about 1820, and the original structure is thus described: 'Among the other buildings that attracted my attention was the Female Factory—a splendid edifice of white squared stone, standing a little way off from the town in a low sandy flat of short underwood. It is in



Extract: *Illustrated Sydney News* (NSW: 1818-1894) Page 18 - PARRAMATTA - Past and Present PEN AND PENCIL SKETCHES BY ROAD AND RIVER (with sketch of Female Barracks at Parramatta), <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article37071356>, retrieved 14/3/2020).

A SPECIAL EVENT - SATURDAY 7 MARCH 2020
PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY COMMEMORATION
& UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE PETITION PRESENTATION



CONGRATULATIONS PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS
- 11,000 SIGNATURES SAY IT ALL!

Following the petition of 10,000+ signatures for National Heritage Listing to State Parliament in 2016, it has been a remarkable PFFF achievement collecting 11,000 for UNESCO World Heritage listing.

This achievement has been possible with the supreme effort of so many individuals - both PFFF and community members. Petition signatures have been collected from fellow organisations, from numerous group tours and talks, at conferences and dinners, on publicity stalls, on buses, at Open days, on Riot Days, on Foundation Day, with members doing the rounds with a clipboard; petitions have been left at Hambleton Cottage, State Records NSW, at Julie Owen's office in Parramatta and so many sheets have arrived through the post. Every signature has counted!

THANK YOU EVERYONE FOR YOUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT



PHOTOGRAPHS: Courtesy - INERTIA PHOTOGRAPHY by LONNA





THANK YOU - FROM PAULINE GARMONSWAY

On the 7 March we were late gaining access to our Rooms but eventually when we did, Kaye Weaver , Eileen Avery and I set up morning tea as fast as we could. In my haste I forgot the stirrers until I saw a gentleman stir his cup with the arm of his spectacles so I apologise to him and all those who came before!

I would like to thank all the Friends and supporters who gave us donations towards the morning tea which was a tremendous help. Thank you to Kerima-Gae for the fridge, installed by Steve and extra tables sourced by Lyn; thank you to Wayne Mathews for delivering the cakes from Anne and for the three packets of biscuits, a large loaf of bread, cartons of milk and more biscuits which came from unknown sources. Thank you for making this part of this special event so successful!

Pauline Garmonsway
PFFF Catering Coordinator



'OUR GIRLS' by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

THE REMARKABLE MOLLY MORGAN
(1762 - 1835) per Neptune 1790



(1)



The Neptune

The narrative of convict **Molly Morgan** (aka Mary Jones/Mears/Hunt) is most extraordinary - she was a *Second Fleeter*, she was a bigamist and transported twice, she was a Factory woman for a brief period, an innkeeper, a generous benefactor and very early pioneer of the Hunter River/Maitland district.

MOLLY MORGAN - TIMELINE

- **1762** born **Mary Jones** (known as Molly) in Ludlow, Shropshire, England - mother Margaret Jones, father David Jones, farm labourer and rat catcher - first child Mary born out of wedlock
- **1785, 25th June** aged 22, marries William Morgan carpenter and shipwright
- **1789, 8th August**, tried at Shrewsbury Assizes for theft of hempen yard found at the Morgan's house; William "escapes" - Molly survives suicide attempt
- **1789** sentenced to transportation to NSW
- **1790** embarks ship *Neptune* (John and Elizabeth Macarthur also aboard)
- William Morgan in Colony - reunited with Molly briefly
- **1794 November 9th** Molly escapes to England from Sydney aboard *Resolution* with Capt. John Locke
- **c1797** living in Plymouth, Devon as a dressmaker with her two children, Mary aged about 12 and James aged about 9
- **1797** bigamous marriage to Thomas Mears (Meares/Meyers/ Mares), brass founder
- **1803 10th October** at Croydon Sessions, is charged with burning husband's house down
- **1804 24th June** arrives in NSW per *Experiment*, assigned to N. Nepean
- **1806 Muster** noted as working in Factory at Parramatta
- **c1809** acquires land and cattle at Parramatta - living with Thomas Byrne
- **1814 29 April** sentenced to seven years for milking a stolen cow - sent to Newcastle per *Endeavour*
- **1819** Ticket of Leave granted - sent by *Governor Macquarie* to Wallis Plains, Maitland, under a *convict settler experiment* - land grant given
- **c1820** establishes the *Angel Inn* - in heart of what was to become west Maitland - Thomas (aka Joe) Hunt is later named licensee
- **1820** - survives flood
- **1822 5th March**, aged 60, marries Thomas Hunt aged 30, at Christ Church Newcastle - receives her Certificate of Freedom
- **1823 November**, receives grant of 159 acres from *Governor Brisbane*
- **1827** gives 100 pounds to build local school
- **1828** noted as one of the largest land owners on the Hunter River
- **1828 November Census** notes Thomas and Mary Hunt 40 acres cleared; 40 acres under cultivation with 24 horses and 337 head of cattle, Maitland

- **1830** moves to Anville Creek- buys a further 203 acres
- **1835 27th June** dies at Anville Creek, Greta NSW (23 kms north- west of Maitland). (2)



View of High Street, West Maitland in 1855 showing social interaction centred on the hotel which displays a swinging hanging sign. If this view of High Street is looking (Dickson's Store is on the riverside) then the hotel is likely to be the Angel Inn. Engraving from the Illustrated Sydney News 31 March 1855, page 142 (4)

Molly Morgan was remarkable woman - she had her portion of luck and survived against all odds:

- She survived the notorious sea voyage of the ship *Neptune* - on which 158 convict lives were lost. *Neptune* also carried **John and Elizabeth Macarthur** as far as the Cape where they transferred to the ship *Scarborough* (such was the *horror* of their voyage thus far).
- She was one of a few convicts to escape the colony and then be re-convicted and re-transported.
- She was the only female among the group of "6 well behaved Convicts..." selected by Governor Macquarie to settle land in the Hunter (5).
- She supported numerous convicts having any number assigned to her. Her husband Thomas (transported for life *per Fortune* 1811), was one of her assignees.

- She accumulated considerable wealth, she survived floods, worked the land and managed a considerable stock of horses, sheep and cattle, yet at the end of her life, her one remaining property was mortgaged.

It is thought that irregularities in sales and land transfers caused countless legal difficulties and erosion of her monies over time (6).

Her death was recorded in *the Sydney Gazette* and the following tribute, rare for an early convict-settler, was published in the metropolitan newspaper *the Australian*:

On the 27th June 1835, at her residence, Anville (Anvil) Creek, Hunter's River. Mrs Mary Hunt, better known by the name of "Old Molly Morgan", aged 64 years. She was at one time possessed of a most valuable property in Maitland, during which she was in the constant habit of lending the most valuable assistance to all who asked for it - the settlers of the years 1820-1826 have reason to remember her, as many without the aid as rendered by her, would not have borne themselves through the trying seasons of that period while many from her ignorance of accounts fattened themselves on her goodwill. The writer of these remarks, often favoured by her, only regrets that the latter days were not those of enjoyment of the comforts of life to which she was entitled from the various acts of kindness she had evinced to all around her..."*

Today her story lives on - there is a *Molly Morgan Drive* in East Maitland and the *Molly Morgan Motel* in Maitland with a restaurant called *the Angel Inn*. The geographic names "*Molly Morgan's Hill*" and "*Molly Morgan's Ranges*" indicate the area in which her property was located.

Molly Morgan (aka Mary Hunt) left a truly indelible mark as an early convict pioneer. Like so many convict women, she had a remarkable life and she is well remembered.

(7)



References:

1. Mary Jones' signature on her marriage certificate (*Walter Allen Wood Research Papers, A6632, University of Newcastle Cultural Collections*, from *The Infamous Molly Morgan* - article, *Hunter Living Histories* compiled by Jude Conway, <https://hunterlivinghistories.com/201609/29/molly-morgan/> retrieved 20/1/2020
 2. *Molly Morgan*, article from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Molly_Morgan retrieved 25/1/2020
 3. Image: *Newcastle, New South Wales, looking towards Prospect Hill c1816-1818* by Joseph Lycett; <https://downloads.newcastle.edu.au/library/cultural%20collections/images/Lycett1816details3.jpg>; retrieved 22/1/2020
 4. Image/caption from *The Infamous Molly Morgan* - article: *Hunter Living Histories* compiled by Jude Conway
 5. Extract from *Lachlan Macquarie Journal*, dated 30th July 1818, retrieved from <https://www.lib.mq.edu.au/all/jpurveys/1818.html> 21/1/2002
 6. *Early Settlers of Wallis Plains, School Education Kit - Teachers' Manual* page 12 sourced from: *Bound for Wallis Plains - Maitland's Convict Settlers* by Cynthia Hunter. Project assisted by funding to Royal Australian Historical Society through Heritage Branch of NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, March 2015 retrieved 22/1/2020
 7. *Sketch: View of East Maitland from the River* from: *The Architecture of High Street Maitland; An Architectural Science and Research Thesis* by K.D. Charlton 1961, *Architecture Diploma Course Newcastle, College University of NSW*
- Morgan, Molly (1762-1835)* by Elizabeth Guildford, *Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 2 (MUP)*, 167 <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/morgan-molly-2480>; retrieved 25/1/2020
"Our Girls" unpublished work by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews - sourced from original papers, State Records and Archives NSW (SAR)

*There is some discrepancy with Molly's age - the obituary has her as aged 64 - at her death in 1835, she was most likely 73.

OUT & ABOUT - LINNWOOD HOUSE OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 8th MARCH



Lyn and I “manned” a publicity stall at the recent Open Day at historic *Linwood House* in Guildford.

It seemed strange not having our petition clipboards but we had lots of advocacy chats with those who stopped by, a few sales and interest in site tours. And, we captured a new member and a renewal.

One find of the day was on a second hand book stall - a quarto facsimile of the first 37 editions of *the Sydney Herald* (est.1831). References to the women of the Factory leaped out at us as we browsed the abscondment notices and police reports!

Thank you Lyn for your support and thank you to Dorothy Warwick of *the Friends of Linnwood*.

Ronda Gaffey

GUEST SPEAKER: LORRAINE STACKER

At the February meeting, members were treated to a fascinating talk by Lorraine Stacker, a well-known historian and author who recently retired from her long-held position as Librarian Special Collections, Penrith Library.

The topic of the talk was *The Emu Plains Government Agricultural Establishment* (also known as *the Government Farm*). Lorraine began by giving an overview of the history of the farm which was established by Gov. Macquarie to take the high number of surplus convicts and new arrivals.

From 1818 to 1832, the Farm had a number of Superintendents - the first was Richard Fitzgerald, an emancipated convict. He was respected highly by early governors, especially Macquarie who referred to him as “this excellent man” (1).

The Farm played an important economic role in the Nepean district providing a source for the sale of goods, the employment of clearing gangs and individual assignment to settlers. Most importantly it provided food for the colony (2).

At one point (1823), the farm employed around 500 men (3). The men were housed in huts near to where St Paul’s Church is today. In May 1822, an initial 24 women were sent from the Factory at Parramatta - they were volunteers and employed in doing “light field work” and, many marriages ensued! Between 1st May 1822 and 31st December 1824, there were a number of women discharged from Emu Plain Farm on account of “marriage” (4). Lorraine commented that she was not so confident that all these marriages worked out!

The Farm closed in 1832 and very soon after the land was surveyed for a town. Many of the streets were laid out tracing the streets and paddocks of the Farm (5).

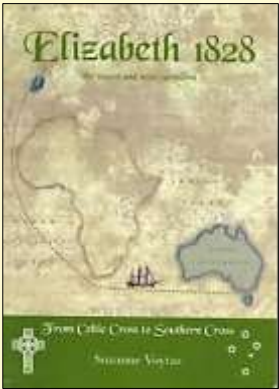


Thank you Lorraine for such a detailed and fascinating look at a lesser known female convict story. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and passion for the convicts of the "Plains of Emu".*

1. *Emu Plains Convict Farm*, Penrith City Local History p1, by Lorraine Stacker; <https://penrithhistory.com/places/emu-plains-convict-farm/>
2. *Emu Plains Convict Farm*, Penrith Library Local History p2 by Lorraine Stacker <https://penrithhistory.com/places/emu-plains-convict-farm/>
3. *The Sydney Gazette & NSW Advertiser* (NSW 1803 -1842), 13 November, 1823 p2
4. *Emu Plains Establishment. Marriage - Prisoners*, the Australian (Sydney, NSW: 1824-1848), Thursday 21 April 1825, p3
5. *Emu Plains Convict Farm*, Penrith City Local Library p2, by Lorraine Stacker; <https://penrithhistory.com/places.emu-plains-convict-farm/> retrieved, 2/3/2020

*Lorraine is author of: *Chained to the Soil on the Plains of Emu: A History of the Emu Plains Government Agricultural Establishment 1819-1832*. Published by the Nepean Historical Society, 2000.

STOP PRESS! ATTENTION RESEARCHERS & DESCENDANTS -
ELIZABETH (4) 1828



→ TO 2028

January 2028 will be the 200th anniversary of the ship's arrival.
To celebrate this occasion I have decided to completely revise the original book.
Since the first version was printed back in 2010, so much more has been found.
The revision will provide an opportunity to update details and include all the new additional information.
The e-book formatting will also allow for the photos and other items to be placed with the appropriate person.
Due to computer failures all previous researchers emails have been lost and possibly many have changed.
Therefore I appreciate if the researchers and descendants of the ladies and their children, as well as any new researchers, please contact me -

Email: suzanne.voytas@bigpond.com
Postal: PO Box 450, Narooma. 2546
103 Rainforest Pkwy, Narooma. 2546
0422 303 746
Facebook page to be setup shortly.