



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 41 September - October 2021**



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



Female Penitentiary or Factory, Paramatta [i.e. Parramatta] - watercolour 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:** Lynette Watkins, **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker, Anne Mathews, Janice Ruse Huntington, Judith Dunn OAM, Kevin Dodds.

Next Meeting: Friday October 15 2021. **Guest Speaker:** 1.00pm followed by PFFF General Meeting at 2:00pm.
VENUE: via ZOOM.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

Welcome to your spring edition of the Newsletter. Firstly, I hope you are all keeping well with the current COVID-19 environment. For the Friends this has meant no recent visits or tours. We are still having meetings but now via zoom.



We are still not opening the rooms and the committee decided to put this Year's *It's a Riot* on-line. This will still be on 29 October so mark your calendar for that day, 10:30 to 12:30pm. There will be some lively speakers with interesting topics ranging from crimes to a personal interpretation of factory women's lives by descendants. There will be a short video sharing Parramatta Female Factory Friends' relationship to the factory and its history. There will also be the inaugural Tom Keneally Seminar and Lecture Series which will feature a different speaker each year with a variety of formats presented. This year it is an 'in conversation' with Tom Keneally AO and Meg Keneally, our Patrons.

Our advocacy at the moment has been taking the form of letters and objection response regarding an application for a café in an historic building on the footprint of the original dining room. The Friends' objections are the same as our advocacy strategy. The core of it is that the Female Factory should be conserved and interpreted according to its highest significance, the Female Factory Period as well as size capacity decisions.

Welcome to our new committee: Kevin Dodds (committee member), Judith Dunn (committee member), Ronda Gaffey (general secretary), Janice Ruse Huntington (committee member), Anne Mathews (committee member), Kerima-Gae Topp (treasurer), Lyn Watkins (minute secretary), Cate Whittaker (membership secretary), Frank Williams (vice president) and myself as president.

We have a number of active subcommittees including advocacy, constitution review, world heritage and research centre. Subcommittees are developed as need rises. Any questions or contact regarding these areas are best via the PFFF email. There are also a number of ex-officio positions, public officer - Kerima-Gae Topp; tour coordinator - vacant; publicity officer and newsletter editor - Ronda Gaffey; site monitor - Judith Dunn; work health and safety officer - Frank Williams; tearoom coordinator - Pauline Garmonsway; technical officer - Kevin Dodds; incoming talk program officer - shared by Janice Ruse Huntington and Lyn Watkins and research centre coordinator - me. Any questions relating to these areas can also be directed through our PFFF email.

You can see from the above that we have a very active committee, one of the reasons we have been such an active group.

I look forward to being able to catch up with you all when we are finally allowed to return to our rooms.

All the best
Gay Hendriksen
President

THE 1827 RIOT

Join us in this 194th Year
of commemoration!

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. A *ciril* (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.

An Elopement Extraordinary!!! Sydney Gazette & Advertiser (1803-1842) Monday 29 October 1827, p2

NOTICEBOARD

*** NEXT MEETING: FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 2021**

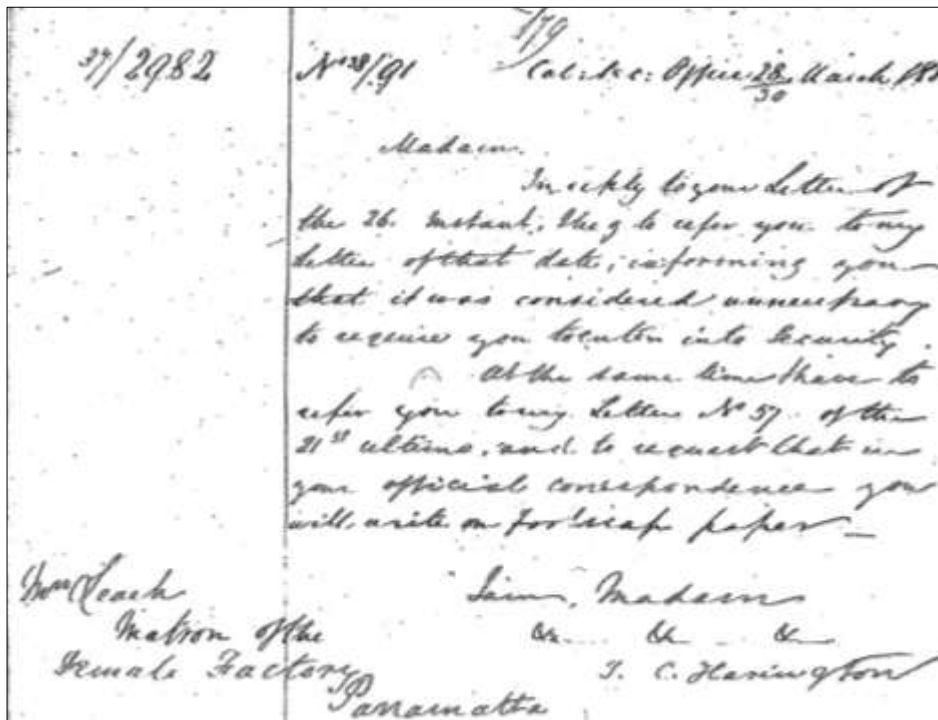
GUEST SPEAKER: JUDITH DUNN OAM - 'LOOK BEYOND THE OBVIOUS' 1:00pm. This will be followed by a General Meeting at 2pm. Venue: via ZOOM - please book through email parramattafemalefactory@gmail.com the link will be sent just prior to the meeting. Please let your friends know. New members are welcome.

*** FINAL REMINDER:** PFFF annual fees are due July 1st each year. Payment is by direct deposit: BSB: 633 000 Account: 151 276 763 - please ensure your name is on the EFT. Payment by cheque to: Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. and mailed to P.O Box 1358, Parramatta 2124. Many thanks for your ongoing support.

*** A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - ANNUAL RIOT DAY - FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2021** will be held this year via zoom, commencing at 10.30am. Bookings are now open. The link will be sent shortly before the event.

*** THE PARRAMATTA FOUNDATION FESTIVAL** sponsored by the City of Parramatta, is scheduled for 30/31 October 2021. More details coming soon.

HISTORY CORNER... A BUREAUCRATIC COLONIAL WORLD! by Ronda Gaffey



Julia Leach would have been under such pressure as Matron - in March 1838 the Factory was 'full' and she had her critics (the press and Mr. John Clapham, Factory House Steward and Storekeeper) to contend with. A month or so into her tenure, a letter from the Colonial Secretary's office which was written in such a terse manner, would not have helped her confidence. In the letter dated March 1838, Mrs. Leach is taken to task and a request is made:

that in your official correspondence you will write on foolscap paper...

It would seem that a colonial bureaucratic standard had not been met. A shortage of paper was not unusual in the Colony - was there a shortage of foolscap paper at the factory - why was foolscap paper a requirement*? Or does the letter demonstrate a little bureaucratic power play with the newly appointed Matron, Mrs. Leach?

Research: Anne Mathews - source: Letter to Mrs. Leach Matron, Parramatta Female Factory dated 28/30 March 1838, 37/2982, 38/91, Colonial Secretary's Papers, State Archives and Records NSW (SARNSW)

*Foolscap writing paper measured 8" x 13" (203 x 330mm). A4 is slightly smaller.

'OUR GIRLS' - MARY CORCORAN by Anne Mathews and Beth Matthews

Mary Corcoran's narrative is one of numerous twists and turns. She was a serial colonial offender yet was appointed to positions of trust at the Parramatta Female Factory. She was caught up in the 1843 riot and she was involved in court proceedings with Matron Bell and Mr. Bell. She became a woman of property and had an unexpected connection to the Sisters of Charity in Parramatta.

Mary Corcoran was born in Carrick-on-Suir, Tipperary, Ireland. She was tried and sentenced in Wexford in October 1830 for stealing coal and transported for seven years. Mary and 186 women embarked the female convict ship *Hooghley* which left Cobh, Cork, Ireland on 24 June 1831. The ship arrived in Port Jackson on 27 September 1831. The women were 'landed' on Wednesday 5 October - 71 women were sent onto the Factory.¹

In the ship's indent Mary is described as a native of Waterford, Ireland; aged 23; a housemaid and nursemaid; Roman Catholic; single; can read and write; eyes, bluish grey; hair, light brown; complexion, ruddy, freckled; height 5'4.²

From the time of her arrival in September 1831 until 1836, Mary was convicted at least 15 times and was assigned and reassigned from the Factory at least 12 times. She was charged numerous times with being drunk and abusive, for being absent without leave, for insolence, neglect of work, for disorderly conduct and improper conduct.

Mary was returned repeatedly to the Parramatta Factory. In August 1832 she was assigned in the Hunter region, in April 1833 she was despatched to Bathurst only to re-offend and be brought back to Sydney. Her punishment was unrelenting - in December 1831 she received a month in the Factory; again in late January for six weeks, in June 1832, 14 days in solitary confinement, in August 1832, six weeks in 3rd class and in October 1832, another ten days in solitary confinement.³ Mary's last assignment was in June 1838 when it was noted that she was 'never to be assigned'. Shortly after, Mary is recorded as being resident in the Parramatta Female Factory as 'help in the laundry'. By June 1838 she is noted as being 'in charge of the laundry' with the further notation that she was 'well behaved'.⁴ Mary had finally come to the end of the cycle of assignment, punishment and reassignment which had characterised her life since her arrival in the Colony.

The turnaround in Mary's life may have been due to a number of factors - she was liked by Matron Bell and given an opportunity to work at the Factory and a decision was made by magistrates to try another tack. Mary received her Certificate of Freedom on December 17 1838.

Mary was appointed turnkey (a paid position) on 13 January 1839. Her position would have been one of trust with duties that included checking on the women, locking up at night, and ensuring 'lights out'.

39/16
Madam,
In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 2^d instant I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency approves of the employment of the individual named in the margin as turnkey at the Female Factory, Parramatta with pay at the same rate as her predecessor Mr. Sullivan from the 18th December 1838.
I am &c
S. C. 16
The Matron of the Female Factory Parramatta

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.
No. 38/1094
Date, 17 December 1838
Prisoner's No. 424/31
Name Mary Corcoran
Ship Hooghley 3
Master Rees
Year 1831
Native Place Waterford
Trade or Calling Housemaid
Offence Stealing coal
Place of Trial Wexford
Date of Trial October 1830
Sentence Seven years
Year of Birth 1807
Height 5 feet 4 1/2 inches
Complexion Ruddy & freckled
Hair Light brown
Eyes Bluish grey
General Remarks

Delivered to Mr. Bell Magistrate the Female Factory 17th December 1838

Fig.1 Letter to the Matron of the Parramatta Female Factory dated 13 January, 1839 No: 39/16 Colonial Secretary's Papers SARNSW

Fig.2 Certificate of Freedom for Mary Corcoran - No: 38/1094, Certificates of Freedom 1823-1869 SARNSW

Mary was appointed as sub-Matron in February 1840. This was a more substantial position at the Factory with a salary of £75. She was in this position when the 1843 February riot occurred.^{Fig.3}

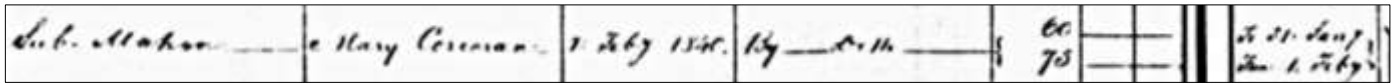


Fig.3 New South Wales of Australia, Returns of the Colony 1822-1857 SARNSW

There are two letters which document the sequence of events in great detail - a serious disturbance in 3rd class was reported to the Governor by the Police Magistrate Gilbert Elliott at 3am on the morning of Saturday 18 February:

Sir,
 I am very sorry to have to report to your Excellency a very serious disturbance that took place at the Factory last night at 6 o'clock. When the women were mustered three of them were absent. M^{rs} Corcoran after considerable time found them concealed upon the top of the roof of the 3rd class sleeping room. She ordered them to come down, upon which they commenced pelting her with brickbats, a woman named Dempsey held open the door into the 3rd class sleeping room and let all the women out, who commenced meowing calls...at this time the nurses were to be let out to come to the assistance of M^{rs} Corcoran and the others...They succeeded to get the women back to their bedrooms and afterwards putting the three women and Dempsey in the cells.

At this time I was sent for and found all the women on my arrival tucked up in their rooms...



Fig.4

Police Magistrate Elliott arrived but all was not what it seemed. The women broke out again - they got into the 3rd class yard and tried to break open the yard gates with a view to escape or freeing the women in the cells. Due to the violence, the Military and Police were sent for. The women continued to yell and to throw stones at the gates of the yard. Finally, with the assistance of the Military, the women were returned to their bedrooms. The Military were posted at the various gates. The Chief Constable received a severe injury from the blow of an iron bar on the chest and Mrs. Corcoran had the cut of an axe on her hand. There was further disturbance to come:

Police Office
 Parramatta Sunday 19 February 1843

Sir,
 I am sorry to be obliged to report to your Excellency's notice the spirit of insubordination among the women in the Factory has not yet subsided, it is killed but certainly not quelled - the women were quiet all after your Excellency was there and went to bed in an orderly manner. This morning they made a slight demonstration by yelling and behaving in a disrespectful manner to M^{rs} Bell who immediately sent for me. M^{rs} Corcoran tells me from what she can learn they are planning another disturbance, she said that it was arranged that the first class should commence on Monday night and that if they did not- that the 3rd class would attack them. We shall be on the watch and be ready for the first symptoms.

The cells of the Factory are all full, and I have sent twelve women to the cells in the gaol...one woman overpowered M^{rs} Corcoran...and ran to the other cells to try and break open the doors...they have passed the word along the cells to try and break open the doors by constant hammering with the hoops of their tubs...they have continued hammering all day and making a desperate noise and broken all the tubs...

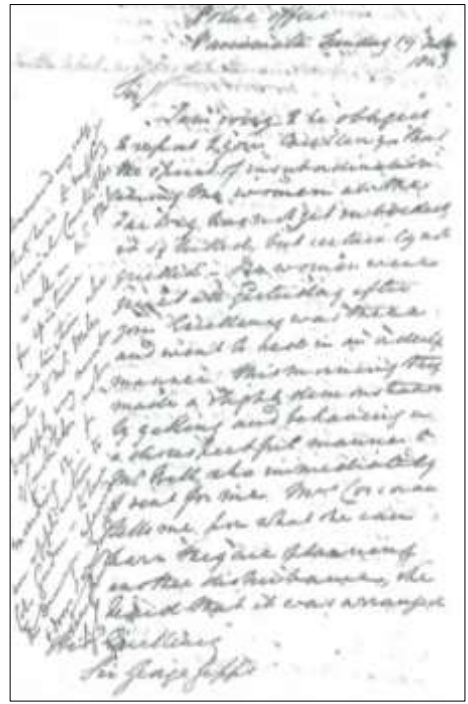


Fig.5

Fig.4. Letter from Gilbert Elliott, Police Magistrate, Police Office Parramatta to Governor Gipps, dated 18 February 1843: No 43/1347 Colonial Secretary's Papers SARNSW
 Fig.5. Letter from Gilbert Elliott, Police Magistrate, Police Office Parramatta to Governor Gipps, dated Sunday 19 February 1843: No 43/1336 Colonial Secretary's Papers SARNSW

Elliott concludes saying that ten of the ‘worst’ women had their hands tied behind their backs and once this was achieved by the constables, the women quietened down. All the women held in the cells were put on bread and water. The letters demonstrate the alarm felt by the authorities, their tactics, including a visit by Governor Gipps to calm the situation, and the women’s spirited and sustained resistance. The noise, the mayhem caused and the threat to both sides would have been considerable. Mary was in the thick of it.

Later in 1843 Mary Corcoran was suspended from her position as sub-Matron and was subsequently embroiled in a dispute which eventually led to an inquiry into her conduct and that of Matron Bell and Mr. Bell.⁵

Mary left the Factory and lived the rest of her life in Parramatta. She had accumulated enough money to purchase four houses, the rents of which were given to the early Sisters of Charity at Parramatta. She was considered a benefactor and was highly thought of for her generosity.⁶

It would seem that drink was Mary’s undoing and she was irrepensible - there is an account of a gig accident in Church Street which led to a night in the watch-house. The article is entitled: THE EX SUB MATRON OF THE FEMALE FACTORY

William Herbert, an unfortunate ticket-of-leave holder, was placed at the bar, charged with drunkenness, and, in company with Mary Corcoran, the late sub-matron of the Penal Seraglio at Parramatta, carriculing a gig through the town, at the imminent jeopardy of not only their own lives, but those of all other of Her Majesty's lieges with whom they might come in contact ; horse, gig, Corcoran, and Herbert, had all to be impounded by the police, the two former in the market-place, and the two latter in that receptacle for biped cattle—the watch-house, otherwise our worthy Coroner would have had some score of inquests to have holden.

Hawkesbury and Agricultural and General Advertiser (Windsor, NSW: 1844-1846) Thursday 11 July 1844 page 3

Mary Corcoran died on 6 April 1875. The informant of her death was a Thomas Corcoran, noted as a ‘friend’ - one wonders if Thomas was a relative, a de facto husband or whether having the same family name was simply a coincidence. It appears that he was living in Elizabeth Street at the time of Mary’s death, perhaps with Mary.⁷ There is no marriage record for Mary or record of any children. She is buried at St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Parramatta. Her grave is substantial with a sandstone and Celtic cross headstone. It is surrounded by a decorative iron railing.

Mary Corcoran is an intriguing woman. Her colonial life was one of turmoil yet she emerges as woman of spirit and generosity. She endured such dislocation but her tenacity and survival is to be commemorated.

NSW DEATH REGISTRATION TRANSCRIPTION	
NAME	Mary Corcoran
DATE OF DEATH	April 4 1875
PLACE	Elizabeth Street, Parramatta
RANK OR PROFESSION	No entry
SEX AND AGE	Female, 77 years
CAUSE OF DEATH	Dysentery, indolent
CERTIFICATION	John Waugh
DATE LAST SEEN	April 11 1875
FATHER	Unknown
OCCUPATION	Unknown
MOTHER	Unknown
INFORMANT	Certified by Thomas Corcoran, Ward, Elizabeth Street, Parramatta
REGISTRATION	Registered 22 June 1875, Parramatta, signed by the registrar
DATE OF BURIAL	6 April 1875
PLACE OF BURIAL	Roman Catholic Cemetery, Parramatta



References:

- ¹ Free Settler or Felon? Convict ship Hooghley 1831, by Jenni Willets from https://www.freesettlerorfelon_convict_ship_hooghley1831.htm; retrieved 6/9/21
- ² Entry for Mary Corcoran, Convict Indent & Ships Musters 1831-1833 SARNSW
- ³ Letters dated from 12.01.1831 to 17.12.1836, Bundle 4/2610 1, Colonial Secretary’s Papers SARNSW
- ⁴ *ibid*
- ⁵ Genealogy Society of Queensland, GQS Blog ->family histories ->Brawl at Parramatta Female Factory Oct 2 2017 by Sue Bell; <https://www.gqs.blog.gsq.org.au/brawl-at-female-factory-parramatta/> retrieved 1/9/21
- ⁶ KIT, Keep in Touch, Newsletter Sisters of Charity Collection Edition, September 2013 (03)
- ⁷ Death Registration Transcript, transcribed by Laurence Turtle; <https://home.primus.com.au/turtle> 19/8/21

Fig 8 Photograph: Grave of Mary Corcoran, St Patrick’s Cemetery, Parramatta. Australia and New Zealand, Find a Grave Index 1800s; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/144449407/mary-corcoran> retrieved 2/9/21

Mary Corcoran’s Grave, St. Patricks Cemetery, Parramatta

RESEARCH ROOM MUSTER

Welcome to the latest Muster. As with all our lives COVID-19 has affected our research room activities. No access means that sorting the hardcopy files and books has not progressed. Also inquiries activity is working on current requests, no new ones (perhaps COVID is a time people are doing their own research). Our workshops have been postponed but will resume when safe to do so.

The researchers have been busy regardless, on a number of fronts. Barry Lance has been working on data entry relating to our book list for consistent searchable information, CIP and referencing. Lyn Watkins and Janice Ruse Huntington are working on collating a factory women's list.

Kevin has been developing well researched posts on Facebook – this last reporting month's topics included midwifery, mothers of the nation and spinning. If you want to increase your information, sharing online on our Facebook page is a great place to start.

I have been working on staff lists and timeline. If you have a factory woman or staff name or research you are happy to share, feel free to email them to our PFFF email with 'research room' in the email subject.

Gay Hendriksen Coordinator – PFFF Research Centre

A Wild Irish Rose - Eliza Rowe by Kevin Dodds

Fig. 1



Whilst researching I came across an interesting story involving a female convict on the ill-fated *Elizabeth* which is written in great detail by Suzanne Voytas in her book '*Elizabeth 1828: the worst and most turbulent: from Celtic Cross to Southern Cross*'. I understand the book is currently just out of print and will need to be purchased second hand, borrowed from a library or hopefully, it will be reprinted.

Independent research has uncovered the following story about Eliza Rowe who was born 1807 in Dublin, Ireland and was actually a nurse by occupation. Eliza is described as 4' 11" tall, fair complexion, light brown hair with blue eyes. Eliza was charged with *felony, larceny of money* and was convicted at Dublin City Court. She was sentenced to seven years transportation and sailed on 27 August 1827

on board the *Elizabeth* (4), arriving on 12 January 1828. Upon arrival Eliza was sent to the Parramatta Female Factory.¹

It did not take long for Eliza, who was also called Elizabeth, to get into trouble. The following is a list of her disciplinary offences (not actual crimes but sufficient for punishment within the Parramatta Female Factory).

- On 11 February 1828, Eliza was charged with *disobedience – insolence to a monitor* (a monitor is either a paid employee or a female convict acting under the direction of the Matron) and the punishment was three days in a 3rd class solitary cell on bread and water.²

¹ Convict Indents & Ship Musters 1813-1828

² Excel Spreadsheet on Female Convicts at the Parramatta Female Factory 1821-1848 (PFFF Inc.) and derived from Punishment Record from Joan Reese – Colonial Secretary's Papers 1826 – 1895 SARNSW

Fig.1 Rose of Tralee. Photograph © by Ken Curtis 2020

- Immediately upon release on 13 February 1828, Eliza abused the Matron and was sent straight back to the 3rd class solitary cell on bread and water for another 24 hours.³
- On 17 March 1828, Eliza was charged with *infamous language*, the punishment was 48 hours in a 3rd class solitary cell on bread and water.⁴
- On 6 April 1828, Eliza was charged with *infamous language at breakfast*, the punishment was 24 hours in a 3rd class solitary cell on bread and water.⁵
- On 7 May 1828, Eliza was charged with *abusing the monitor*, and the punishment was 24 hours in a 3rd class solitary cell on bread and water.⁶
- On 24 January 1829, Eliza was charged with *swearing and improper conduct* and this time the punishment increased. Eliza was sent back to 3rd class for two months and would have been picking oakum or breaking sandstone rocks for road base.⁷
- On 30 October 1830, Eliza had by this time had been sent on an assignment, however, had absented herself from her master's residence and was found in a drunken state. She was charged with *absenting and drunkenness* and was sent back to 3rd class for one month hard labour as before - it was noted that upon her release from 3rd class, that Elizabeth should be returned immediately to Government Service.⁸
- Again on the 14 February 1831, Eliza was found in a drunken state and was charged with *drunkenness*. She was sent back to the Parramatta Female Factory, on the punishment of 3rd class for six weeks with the condition that she was returned to Government Service, 'by the desire of her master'.⁹
- On 17 August 1831¹⁰, Eliza was found in a drunken state in Sydney and was charged with *drunkenness* (and described by the Sydney Herald as a 'lushey and losing her centre of gravity' and was sentenced to the Parramatta Female Factory on the punishment of 3rd class for six weeks.¹¹

Police Incidents.

Mary Fox, drunk, and giving her master a hard chase to capture her, which he did on giving the view holloo; to prevent herself being bagged, she stamped up five bob.

Eliza Rowe, lushey, and losing her centre of gravity, six weeks to the 3d class of the factory.

For some reason or another, Eliza seemed to avoid further punishment from August 1831 until her release from the Parramatta Female Factory.

On 19 March 1832, Eliza and Thomas aka William Barlow, applied for Permission to Marry at Parramatta before Reverend Samuel Marsden at St John's Anglican Church, and this was granted.¹²

Later in March 1832, Eliza and Thomas, aka William Barlow, were married by Banns at Parramatta before Reverend Samuel Marsden at St John's Anglican Church. The witnesses were a Joseph Snape (who was connected with the church, possibly a Warden and a regular witness to marriages) and Sophia Gore (a convict who sailed on the *Wanstead* 1814) of Parramatta.

On 22 November 1833, Eliza received her Certificate of Freedom No. 33/1302.¹³ It was published in the NSW Government Gazette on 10 December 1833.¹⁴

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.	
No.	33/1302
Date	22 Nov 1833
Prisoner's No.	266
Name	Eliza Rowe
Ship	Elizabeth (4)
Master	Hook
Year	1828
Native Place	Dublin
Trade or Calling	Domestic
Offence	Stolen Money
Place of Trial	City of Dublin
Date of Trial	27th March 1828
Sentence	7 mo imprisonment
Year of Birth	1804
Height	4 feet 11 inches
Complexion	Fair
Hair	Light Brown
Eyes	Blue
General Remarks	Wife of Thomas Barlow

³ ibid
⁴ ibid
⁵ ibid
⁶ ibid
⁷ ibid
⁸ ibid
⁹ ibid

¹⁰ The Sydney Herald on 22 August 1831 in reference to 17 August 1831

¹¹ NSW Government, Gaol Description and Entrance Books, 1818 – 1930 (Eliza Rowe)

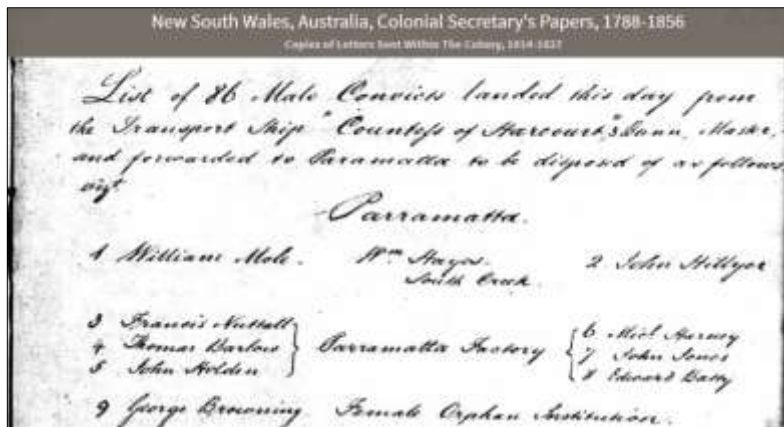
¹² Permissions to Marry 1826-1851, Church Register: NSW Parramatta St John's CE Marriage

¹³ Certificates of Freedom 1823-1869

¹⁴ 12 Dec 1833 - CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING - TROVE (NLA.GOV.AU)

Thomas Barlow¹⁵, aka William Barlow, was born 1791 at Manchester, Lancashire, England and convicted at the Lancaster Quarter Sessions on 19 January 1824. He sailed on the ship *Countess of Harcourt* on 16 March 1824 and arrived in Sydney on 12 July 1824.¹⁶ He was immediately assigned to the Parramatta Female Factory to work as a labourer.¹⁷ This is most probably how Thomas and Eliza met.

Thomas received his Certificate of Freedom on 21 July 1831.¹⁸ Thomas Barlow died on 31 December 1872 at the Parramatta District Hospital, Parramatta, New South Wales.



Now this is where a mystery begins. Thomas and Eliza had been together now for nine years and stayed in the Parramatta area until 1841 - it can be assumed that Thomas was working and Eliza must have been working as well. I am assuming they had been saving money to buy land in the Jamberoo area in the Illawarra region and that is where Eliza gives birth to her first child William Thomas.

Thomas and Eliza Barlow had two boys:

1. **William Thomas Barlow** was born 3 May 1841¹⁹ at Jamberoo, New South Wales and baptised in May 1842 at a church in the Wollongong District. William moved to Albury and died on 10 March 1930 at Albury, New South Wales and is buried in the Albury Pioneer Cemetery. William Thomas Barlow married Annie May Rose and they had eleven children.
2. **George Barlow** was born 16 April 1844 in Sydney, New South Wales and was baptised in Camden on 28 April 1844. George lived with his parents as they moved to Jamberoo/Gerringong area. George appears to have been either destitute or infirmed as he was admitted into the Liverpool Asylum on 4 Dec 1899. George died in 1899 at Parramatta, New South Wales.

On 2 April 1844, Eliza Barlow was arrested for drunkenness at Parramatta and was sentenced to 3rd class at the Parramatta Female Factory for 96 hours in a solitary cell (possibly on bread and water) however the sentence had expired whilst she was in the police cells and Eliza was released without further punishment.²⁰

You can see from the above birth of George and the arrest for drunkenness that Eliza was nine months pregnant with George when arrested. There can be no doubt that something had befallen Eliza to bring her to such a state. It can only have been something so traumatic that it affected her physical and mental well-being as to why she would be found drunk at this late stage of her pregnancy.

The turmoil does not end there, as it appears that George may have been baptised twice – firstly at Camden, which suggests some short sojourn between Sydney and Jamberoo and secondly, some records suggest George may have been baptised Catholic as well. It could be that a second George Barlow existed and was baptised in the same year but other family historians have concluded it is the same George Barlow. Again, why change religion - more

¹⁵ THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (TNA) : HO 11/5, P.118

¹⁶ NSW, Australia Convict Ship and Muster Rolls and related records, 1740-1849 SARNSW

¹⁷ NSW Colonial Secretary's Papers, 1788 – 1856 SARNSW

¹⁸ NSW Certificate of Freedom, obtained from Ancestry.com

¹⁹ NSW BDM Ref. 1348/1841 V18411348 26A

²⁰ Eliza Farmer - Admission to Female Factory, NSW Gaol and Description Records, SARNSW

speculation? Family historians go on to suggest that the family were pioneers in the Jamberoo to Gerringong area until William Thomas and his wife moved to Albury.

Nothing further can be found on Thomas and Eliza Barlow, and it would be possible that they may have passed away on a farm in the Jamberoo (Illawarra district) without official records of their deaths.

In conclusion, Eliza was no doubt a strong willed and determined woman who 'spoke her mind'. Was it the separation from her family in Ireland? Was it the death of Ann Russell (also on the *Elizabeth* 1828) who died on her first day in the Parramatta Female Factory, having been so weak, she was carried there by cart from the ship?

We cannot even begin to imagine how difficult their lives must have been. One thing is certain, we must never forget their suffering, we must never forget their legacy and we must never forget their contribution to Australia.

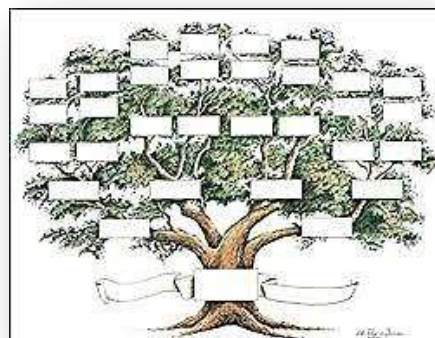
SERENDIPITY - THE UNEXPECTED FINDS!

by Janice Ruse Huntington

For many years I have had a friend from England with whom I worked in various family history contexts.

She later returned to England but maintained an interest in my Wood family (from Warwickshire) and their family tree, though we were not related.

My research was pre-internet and I was a newbie to all the technical revolutions so when my friend came to Australia some years ago, she offered to put my tree on Ancestry (of which I was a member). But, she registered under her own Ancestry account which meant I had no control over my family information, I was only a guest (later, editor). I was not pleased!



Meanwhile, via Ancestry, I was contacted by a DNA 'verified' cousin. This cousin was also searching around on Ancestry and had found my friend's site featuring MY FAMILY. My cousin found our mutual ancestor and presumed it was my website. She was upset that she thought she had found me, but instead she had found someone, unrelated.

Following this my friend was inspired to look at her own (unrelated) site and found the same Wood connection! It seems that after all these years that with my friend doing me a favour, the three of us are actually related!

WARNING - never let anyone however helpful their intentions, take control over your family tree. Serendipitously, I was lucky this time.

Ronda writes: Janice wants to look at my family tree - there is a *Gaffey* on her family tree! Ummm....watch this space!



Let's hope we are back in business soon!
Thank you to all our contributors and to the PFFF team for their support. Ed