



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 43 SUMMER EDITION 2022**



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Female Penitentiary or Factory, Paramatta [i.e. Parramatta] - watercolour Augustus Earle 1826 – nla.pic-an 2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

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Next Meeting: Friday 18th FEBRUARY 2022. Guest Speaker: 1.00pm followed by PFFF General Meeting at 2:00pm.
VENUE: PFFF Rooms, Gipps Yard, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

Welcome to 2022 and wishing each of you all the best as we prepare for another busy year.



As you know the news was heartening last year regarding the funding for the North Parramatta Precinct conservation, as was the undertaking to present a museum business case this year. Our position regarding this news is reserved optimism. It is great news but action needs to follow words. Our undertaking over the next two years is to ensure these public commitments are honoured.

There is also a great calendar of events again this year, including the Australia (National Trust) Heritage Festival, and our annual *It's a Riot* event, COVID dependant of course.

We are also planning a fourth book publication this year and would like to open entries up to the membership. The criteria for inclusion will come out soon, so watch this space for more information.

If you have visited the Female Factory in the last few months, you will have noticed that the northern range is enclosed behind covered fencing while conservation work is occurring. While this makes moving around the site less aesthetically pleasing, long needed repairs are being done, including removing the roller shutter door from the Greenway Hospital building.

This year we are looking forward to moving to our new rooms in the Greenway Matron's Quarters/meeting rooms building. We are hopeful this will occur following the conservation of the hospital building.

Once again change is going to be shaping our year and our activities. Looking forward to going on this year's journey with you.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen
President

A GOOD NEWS STORY:

On Thursday 1 December 2021, Minister Don Harwin MLC announced the NSW Government's unequivocal support for World Heritage and a Museum at the Factory site.

Right: Screenshot from the Ministerial News Conference - Channel 7 News
- to view: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHsgpfZr4Yo>



A WARM WELCOME TO NEW PFFF MEMBERS:

Janette Burton, Laura Egan-Burt, Julie Gleeson, Jenny Meaney, Chris Meaney, Pam Mulholland, Lyn Mews, Melissa Paris, Haidee Roper, Annette Taylor and Frederick Santos.

NOTICEBOARD

*** NEXT GENERAL MEETING: FRIDAY 18th February 2022. GUEST SPEAKER: Cate Whittaker - topic: 'Elizabeth Fry and the Parramatta Female Factory' at 1:00pm.** Venue: 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta. **Please note that COVID protocols in place at the time, will apply. See the attached flyer for details; please share with your family, friends and networks. BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL:**

EVENTBRITE: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/elizabeth-fry-the-parramatta-female-factory-tickets-253770182447?aff=eand>

HISTORY CORNER

200 YEARS AGO - 12th FEBRUARY 1822
THE GOVERNOR BIDS FAREWELL...!

by Ronda Gaffey



1.

In the hours leading up to his departure from the Colony, Governor Lachlan Macquarie was busily putting his affairs in order - various Government papers were duly delivered to the incoming Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane then at noon, Gov. Macquarie and his family departed Government House Sydney.

The following extract is from Macquarie's journal in which he describes this momentous occasion²:



At noon, Mrs Macquarie (attended by Sir Thomas Brisbane), our dear boy, and myself, set out from Government House accompanied by those Gentlemen who came to take Leave of us, as well as an immense concourse of the other Inhabitants of Sydney, who followed us through the Domain and the Place of Embarkation; manifesting by their melancholy looks, and by every other possible demonstration [sic], their sincere and undisguised regret at our departure from the Colony.

Taking leave of those friends who thus attended us, we embarked on board the Government Barge...at the Private Stairs...From thence we were rowed through the Ships in the Cove, which were all manned with Colours displayed, and many of them saluting in honour of the occasion; the Battery Saluting at the same time with 19 guns. The new Fort (named Fort Macquarie) and all the Rocks on Bennelong's Point, as well as Dawes Battery - and the Rocks on the Western side of the Harbour, were covered with Men, Women and Children, and a vast number of Boats were also sailing or rowing in the Harbour full of People, cheering us repeatedly as we passed along through them. - This was to us a very grand and gratifying Sight - but at the same time a most affecting Scene, and could not be viewed by Mrs Macquarie or myself without the deepest emotion, after a residence of upwards of Twelve Years amongst these poor attached People!

At 1pm on Tuesday 12 February, Governor Macquarie and his family embarked the ship *Surry* however they had to anchor at Watson's Bay for more favourable weather conditions, then on Friday 15 February, they were underway:

*At 8 a.m. weighed anchor and made sail out of the Harbour, and by 9 we cleared the Heads of Port Jackson...
At 4pm we lost sight of the Light House and the Heads of Port Jackson...*

The Macquarie's arrived in Deptford, England on 5 July 1822.



¹Governor Lachlan Macquarie, Mrs Elizabeth Macquarie, Lachlan Jnr. (miniature portraits 1810) Mitchell Library State Library of New South Wales

²Extract: Macquarie, Lachlan *Journal describing the return journey to Britain* [February - July 1822]; <https://mq.edu.au/macquarie-archive/lema/1822/1822feb.html> retrieved 4/1/22

³Image: *Dawes Point and Fort Macquarie* (constructed 1817-1821, architect Francis Greenway) ML SLNSW

⁴Image: *View of the Heads*, Lycett, Joseph c1822 ML SLNSW

Among the extraordinary narratives of transportation is that of Constance Couronne and Elizabeth Verloppe, two slaves from Mauritius. Both girls have featured in PFFF publications*, however since that time more information has come to light, especially in regard to Elizabeth. We have also added a little more about Constance.

The first records for Constance and Elizabeth, said to be the youngest female transportees, are found in the English Slave Registers. In 1832, Constance is listed with her siblings, daughters of Adele Couronne. The three older siblings are noted as domestics - the younger ones, including Constance are noted as 'petite bande' (small group), indicating their youth and there are no allocated duties. In the Register, they are listed as the property of Gabriel Henri Isidor Lasablonniere, a plantation owner¹.

Annee RECENSEMENT BIENNAL. 1832.
 ETAT fourni par *Monsieur Gabriel Henry Isidor Lasablonniere*, pour l'habitation dite *MAISON VERLAPPE*
 Quartier de *Port Louis* - plante en (en *canon*) - des Esclaves appartenant à ledite Habitation
 dont *La Petite Succubon* - en *Bois de la*
 ci-dessus la propriété de

NOM	RENOM	COLOR.	EMPLOI	AGE	Taille pieds - pouces	PAYS	MARQUE	PARENTS	MUTATIONS
<i>Thérèse</i>	<i>Couronne</i>								<i>Mort le 17 Mars 1833</i> <i>Mélanie 27 - 1833</i>
<i>Philippine</i>	<i>Couronne</i>	<i>Blanche</i>	<i>Domestique</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils d'Adèle Couronne</i>	<i>Existence 17 Mars 1832</i>
<i>Yvonne</i>	<i>Couronne</i>	<i>Blanche</i>	<i>Domestique</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils d'Adèle Couronne</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Constance</i>	<i>Couronne</i>	<i>Blanche</i>	<i>Domestique</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils d'Adèle Couronne</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Julie</i>	<i>Couronne</i>	<i>Blanche</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils d'Adèle Couronne</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>M. Julie</i>	<i>Couronne</i>	<i>Blanche</i>		<i>18</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils d'Adèle Couronne</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Edith</i>	<i>Couronne</i>	<i>Blanche</i>	<i>Domestique</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils d'Adèle Couronne</i>	<i>18</i>

Annee RECENSEMENT BIENNAL. 1832.
 ETAT fourni par *M. J. Giffey*
 appartenant à la Propriété de *M. Giffey*
 de Esclaves personnels

<i>Nicolas</i>	<i>Verloppe</i>	<i>Blanche</i>	<i>Domestique</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils d'Elizabeth Verloppe</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Elizabeth</i>	<i>Verloppe</i>	<i>Blanche</i>	<i>Domestique</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils de Nicolas Verloppe</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Thérèse</i>	<i>Verloppe</i>	<i>Blanche</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils de Laurent Verloppe</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Laurence</i>	<i>Verloppe</i>	<i>Blanche</i>	<i>Domestique</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Canon</i>		<i>Fils de Thérèse Verloppe</i>	<i>18</i>

In the 1832 Register, Elizabeth (Verloppe) aged 12, is also listed with her brother and sisters - their 'owner' is noted as *Emile Giffey*. Elizabeth and her siblings are listed as house servants and living in Port Louis².

Timeline of Events³

- 11th May 1832, an incident occurs in the household of Madame Morel
- Constance and Elizabeth are accused of attempted murder of Madame and her son, by poisoning
- 24th September 1833, tried in Port Louis, Mauritius and found guilty of attempted murder of Madame Morel, and later sentenced to transportation for life being too young for a capital punishment

¹ Former British Colonial Dependencies, Slave Registers, 1813-1834 - *Constance Couronne*, Mauritius, Flacq and Grand Port, Plantation Slaves; ancestry.com

² Former British Colonial Dependencies, Slave Registers, 1813 - 1834 - *Elizabeth Verloppe*, Mauritius 1832 Port Lewis, Personal Slaves; ancestry.com retrieved 1/1/22

³ Pybus, Cassandra *Convict Women's Press Inc.* 2016; Richman, Lesley *Constance and Elizabeth*, published privately 2018; Matthews, Beth, Mathews, Anne, *Our Girls* unpublished work, sourced from original papers, State Archives & Records New South Wales

*Matthews, Beth, Mathews, Anne, *Herstory - Lives of the Parramatta Female Factory Women* Book 1, Parramatta 2017, pp. 24-25; Edwards, Jo (descendant), *HISTORY-HER STORY-OUR STORY Commemorating 200 Years at the Parramatta Female Factory*, PFFF Parramatta 2020, p.24
 Additional research, Ronda Gaffey

- 1834, embarked the brig *Dart* which was carrying a cargo of sugar to Sydney - 2 male felons also transported
- 9th July 1834, arrive Port Jackson - sent to Hyde Park Barracks
- 9th July 1834, an application for a servant is made to the Matron of the Parramatta Female Factory by Marcia Wilson, daughter of First Police Magistrate Henry Wilson
- 11th July 1834, Constance and Elizabeth sent to Parramatta Female Factory by request of the Sheriff
- 14th July 1834, Constance and Elizabeth assigned to the Wilson household in Millers Point Sydney
- 1840, Henry Wilson petitions for Pardons for Constance and Elizabeth
- 1841, Nereus Verloppe petitions for mitigation of sentence for daughter Elizabeth and his niece Constance
- Constance lives with the Wilson family in Sydney until 1839 and Elizabeth until 1840
- 1839 Marcia Wilson marries and Constance goes with her to Kelso, NSW.
- 16th September 1840, Elizabeth aged 18 and Jean (John) Laramie, aged 23, a native of the Isle de France (came free per *Bright Planet* 1839) - marry at St. James Church, King Street, Sydney - Magistrate Wilson is a witness. Elizabeth's surname is given as *Nery* - possibly taken from her father's first name, *Nereus*. (NSW Register of BDM (1840.174 vol.24)
- 3rd March 1841, Constance aged 16 marries Robert Trudgett aged 31 - with permission of the Governor, Constance's surname is written as *de la Sablonniere*
- 1845, Constance receives her Ticket of Leave and in 1848, receives her Conditional Pardon.
- 1851, Elizabeth receives her Conditional Pardon some 17 years after her arrival.

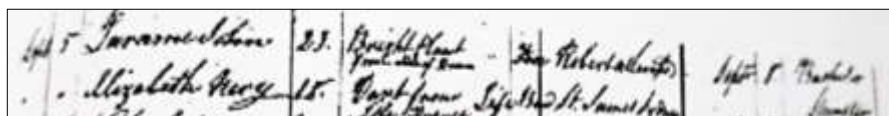
The narrative of Constance and Elizabeth is both poignant and moving. Their loss, the separation from their families, the sentence of life at such tender ages, their incarceration, banishment to a world away and the ship voyage of three months, would have been overwhelming. In the *Dart's Indent* the two female prisoners on board were named simply, *Constance* and *Elizabeth*. Their vulnerability is unimaginable.

(181)										NEW SOUTH WALES, 1834.						
LIST of FEMALE CONVICTS, by the Brig DART, GRIFFIN, Master,										arrived from the MAURITIUS						
Name	Age	Education	Religion	Single, Married, or Widowed.	Children.		Native Place.	Trade or Calling.	Offence.	Tried.		Index No.	Sentence.	Former Conviction.	Height.	Complexion.
					Boys.	Girls.				When.	Where.					
Elizabeth	12	None	Roman Catholic	Single			Mauritius	Laundress, needlewoman	Attempt to poison	Port Louis	24 September, 1832	1	Life	None	4 9	Black
Constance	9	None	Roman Catholic	Single			Mauritius	Needlework and embroidery	Attempt to poison	Port Louis	24 September, 1832	2	Life	None	4 4	Black

Constance is recorded as age nine, no education, Catholic, native place Mauritius, trade - needlework and embroidery, 4 foot 4 inches, black complexion, black hair and eyes. Elizabeth is recorded as age twelve, no education, Catholic, single, native place Mauritius, trade - laundress and needlewoman, 4 foot 9 inches, black complexion, black hair and eyes⁴.

From the time of their arrival, concern was expressed for their care. Marcia Wilson would either have read about or heard about the young girls. Her application to the Matron of the Parramatta Female Factory for a servant, is dated 9th July and within five days of their arrival in the Colony, the young girls were assigned to the Wilson household:

The convicts alluded to in your letter of the 11th instant named in the margin hereof being received into Hyde Park Barracks...The two female prisoners Elizabeth and Constance having been applied for by Mr Wilson. I have permitted they be taken into the gentleman's family until his Excellency, the Governor's further pleasure is made known. They are both...very young and it would be I think advisable to assign them together⁵.



Marriage Banns - John Laramie and Elizabeth Nery - St. James' Church, Sydney

⁴ Convict Indent, the Brig *Dart* 1834, State Archives NSW Series, NRS 1188 Item [4/4018] Microfilm - 0691

⁵ Letter to the Principal Superintendent of Convicts, 14th July 1834; Richman, Lesley *Constance and Elizabeth*, published privately 2018, Chapter 9 p.47

The girls were with the Wilson family for at least six years. They may well have lived at *Spencer Lodge*, Millers Point which was a rather grand brick and shingle town house once occupied by the Wilson family⁶.



Over the years, Wilson wrote petitions for the mitigation of the girls' sentences. He supported the girls' marriages when they were assigned to their husbands.

Both women lived productive lives. Constance was some distance away in the 'bush' working on the land with her husband and caring for a large family of eleven children. Robert died 1890. Constance passed away in 1891, aged 67.

Constance may or may not have been aware of her parentage and her connection to nobility - in a 'warrant' dated 9th June 1826 signed by her grandfather *Morin Patron de Lasablonnierre Duc Gaton*, Constance is acknowledged as a daughter of his son *Gabriel* and *Adele Couronne*. Constance was entitled to the courtesy title *Viscountess Gaton* but had no other rights or claims⁷. Such a connection did not give her protection nor prevent her transportation.

In comparison to Constance, Elizabeth lived 'in town' for the rest of her life. John Laramé advertised as a cook, confectioner, grocer and publican, working at various addresses and venues in Sydney. At one time he had been employed at Government House - the Laramé family had a Vice-Regal connection⁸!

JOHN LARAME,
LATE COOK AND CONFECTIONER TO HIS
EXCELLENCY SIR CHARLES FITZ ROY,
BE G S to inform the inhabitants of
Sydney and its vicinity, that he has
this day resigned his situation at Government
House, and taken a house of Mr. Broughton,
where he intends carrying on business as
Confectioner, and hopes by strict attention to
meet a general share of patronage and sup-
port

John died in 1861 aged 46⁹. In 1863, Elizabeth is listed as a *grocer* in Bourke Street Sydney, possibly continuing in John's business after his death¹⁰.

Laramé, Elizabeth, Mrs., grocer, 364 Bourke-
street

Laramé, E., boarding house, 300 Palmer st.

Elizabeth died in 1874 at 300 Palmer Street, Woolloomooloo, age 52¹¹. Records show she ran a boarding house at this address from 1864 until her death. Of her six children, only her daughter Julia and a son George survived into adulthood. Julia Laramé lived at 302 Palmer Street with her brother George (a boot maker) for a number of years after their mother's death¹². Julia died in 1912¹³.

THE FRIENDS of the late Mrs. ELIZABETH
LARAME, relict of the late Mr. John Francis
Laramé, are respectfully invited to attend her Funeral, to
move from her late residence, 300, Palmer-street, off Ox-
ford-street, THIS (Friday) AFTERNOON, at half-past 3
o'clock for the Necropolis. Rhynie and Co., 719, George-st.

Young Constance and Elizabeth grew into womanhood, nurtured within the Wilson family. There was concern for their welfare and they were cared for. Constance had a more settled life whereas Elizabeth appears to have moved any number of times with her husband as they set up in numerous businesses in Sydney Town. They and their husbands were enterprising; they became respected members of their community and they thrived in the colony despite such extraordinary loss and separation at such tender ages.

The story of Constance and Elizabeth has been lovingly researched by their descendants and we believe these 'girls' ought to be well remembered and their lives commemorated by us all.

⁶ Top right: Painting, Martens, Conrad - *Spencer Lodge, Millers Point* (1850); with permission, Caroline Chisholm Collection & Research Library, Sydney Living Museums

⁷ Gregory, Margaret, descendant notes, cited in *Convicts from other Places, Convict Connections*, [www.convictconnections.org.au/main/articles/convicts-from-other-places/October 7, 2016](http://www.convictconnections.org.au/main/articles/convicts-from-other-places/October%207,%202016) retrieved 2/1/22

⁸ Advertisement dated 1849: Richman, Lesley, *Constance and Elizabeth*, privately published 2018 Chapter 11 p.63

⁹ NSW Births Deaths Marriages: Reg:1662 ancestry.com retrieved 3/1/22

¹⁰ Sands Directories: Sydney and New South Wales, Australia 1858 -1933, entry for E. Laramé 1864, ancestry.com retrieved 3/1/22

¹¹ NSW BDM Reg: 1505 ancestry.com retrieved 3/1/22

¹² Sands Directories: Sydney and New South Wales, Australia 1858 -1933, entries for George and Julia Laramé 1856 - 1912 ancestry.com retrieved 3/1/22

¹³ NSW BDM Reg: 13905, ancestry.com retrieved 3/1/22

RESEARCH ROOM MUSTER

Welcome to a new year with the Research Room. As with all our lives COVID-19 has affected our research room activities, however work has continued.

The research group has been busy working through new acquisitions. Our latest contributions include family history magazines and CDs. The CDs are part of the project of developing digital resources for our future Research Centre visitors. Other research moves on steadily including research for our social media posts. Thank you again to the City of Parramatta Local Studies Library for their donation.

Janice Ruse Huntington and Lyn Watkins continue with the women's listings. Barry Lance is working on our resource lists. Kevin Dodds is researching for our social media posts and building up our You Tube channel. I am continuing to work on staff lists, timeline and digital transfer of CDs.

If you have any site, factory woman, staff name or research you are happy to share, please contact me via gmail, as for all our research centre inquiries with 'research room' in the email subject.

Gay Hendriksen Coordinator – PFFF Research Centre

FACTORY FOCUS - 'Head Shaving'

Head shaving was a form of punishment at the Parramatta Female Factory and commenced when the 3rd Class Penitentiary was opened in 1826. The punishment was for those women sent to 3rd Class or those in other classes who had committed an infraction against the rules of the Parramatta Female Factory. A female convict was selected to conduct the cutting of other female convict's hair and head shaving occurred once a week. It was a humiliating process and the women actually rioted on one occasion when the Rev. Marsden was in attendance.



Hair was sometimes collected and made into wigs so that women could attempt to escape. It is known some hair was sown onto bonnets to make out escaping convicts had hair, however, troopers found out about this and would ask them to remove their bonnet to reveal a shaven head. It is also believed that the Matrons were collecting and selling hair prior to 1837. Some hair was collected by other inmates and sold to ladies of the colony so they could have wigs made.

Hannah Fox (nee Levy) was one of many female convicts who had their head shaved often. According to records, Hannah, the daughter of Moses Levy and Deborah Barnett, was born in 1802 in Whitechapel, London, England. Hannah had been living in Madeira most of her childhood and married a Thomas Fox in London, England. They had one child. Hannah was described as 4 ft. 9 ¾ in., fair complexion, brown hair with brown eyes.

On 7 December 1826, Hannah (24) a dressmaker-seamstress by occupation, was convicted at the Old Bailey of *passing bad notes* and with two prior convictions, was sentenced to seven years transportation. Hannah was not the only black sheep of the family - her brothers Solomon Levy, (per *Marcus of Wellington* 1815) and Samuel Levy, (per *Lord Hungerford* 1821) had also been transported. Solomon would become famous, but that is another story.

Hannah had two sisters, Margaret (Fanny), married with 11 children and Susan Levy, married with three children. Both had remained in England. Hannah's other four brothers (free settlers) came to Australia – Abraham Levy, Isaac Levy, Phillip Levy and Barnett Levy. Barnett was the first Jewish businessman arriving free in the NSW Colony in 1826. Could her brothers have helped her? On 6 August 1827, Hannah arrived in Sydney on the *Princess Charlotte* and was immediately assigned.

On 1 October 1827 Hannah was *given up* by her Master and returned to the Parramatta Female Factory. It is unknown what she did wrong but she had her head shaved.

On 13 October 1828 Hannah was again judged to be *unfit for service* and was returned to the Factory and had her head shaved.

On 6 March 1830 Hannah was arrested by police and was charged with being *absent without leave*. She was returned to the Factory and had her head shaved for the third time. She spent one month in 3rd Class.

On 10 December 1833 Hannah received her Certificate of Freedom.

Kevin Dodds Researcher – PFFF Research Centre

References:

Domestic Intelligence, 'The Sydney Monitor', Wednesday 1 June 1831, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article32075555/4294383>, viewed 21/1/22
Riots and Actions - Parramatta Female Factory (parramatta-female-factory-her-story-our-story.com viewed 21/1/22
Parramatta Female Factory - The Female Factory Online viewed 21/1/22
PARRAMATTA_FEMALE_FACTORY_HISTORY_FAST_FACTS.pdf (parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au) viewed 21/1/22
HERSTORY - An Exhibition of the Parramatta Female Factory Women - Sydney (weekendnotes.com) viewed 21/1/22
Punishments (femaleconvicts.org.au) viewed 21/1/22
<https://www.bda-online.org.au/> viewed 21/1/22
Australia, Convict Index 1788-1842
New South Wales, Australia, Convict Indents, 1788-1842
NSW Census, 1828
Convict Indents & Ship Musters 1813-1828
Certificates of Freedom 1823-1869
NSW State Archives: Reel 851, 4/6430; Reel 851, 4/6431; Reel 851, 4/6432, Sydney Goal Entrance Books
Ancestry.com

The factory riot of 1833, attended by Marsden, was inspiration for Cliona Molins and Rosie McDonald in composing one of the songs, *Shower of Stones*, featured in the PFFF's Bicentenary Song Suite CD. Copies are available for sale. Editor.

BI-MONTHLY SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME: GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Lesley Potter
'Midwives at the Female Factory'

by Janice Ruse Huntington

It was a delight to welcome Dr. Lesley Potter, a retired registered nurse, midwife and author as guest speaker to the PFFF December meeting. Lesley has a particular interest in historical research of the colonial era, especially healthcare, nursing and midwifery practice.

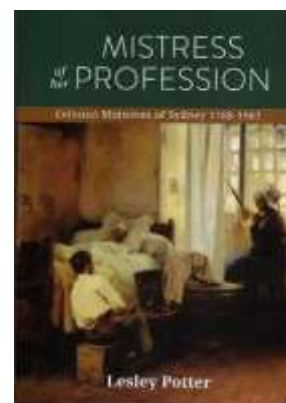


After the arrival of the First Fleet, the first general hospital was built in 1803, but by 1824, the Parramatta Female Factory offered the first dedicated women's health service with a lying-in hospital for both convict women and free. By 1829, all female convicts came to the Factory Hospital for medical care.

Lesley gave an interesting talk on the history of the individual midwives working at the factory from 1822 until 1839 - women such as Mary Jones (White), Mary Mumford and Mary Anne Neale. Lesley also raised some of the quandaries she would like to see resolved with further research.

Thank you Lesley for a thoroughly informative presentation on such a fascinating topic. It was also most gratifying that Lesley's talk attracted other former midwives.

Lesley continues her work, adding to our understanding of colonial medical history and is always keen to know of any information others might have.



Lesley has published two books:
Mistress of her Profession; Colonial Midwives of Sydney, 1778-1901 and
Born in Glebe: Mothers, Midwives and Medical Men 2020.

Image: Cover - *Mistress of her Profession Colonial Midwives of Sydney 1778 - 1901*, Potter, Lesley Anchor Books Sydney, Australia 2017.

SERENDIPITY - THOSE UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS !

by Janice Ruse Huntington



There are always surprises and, some are very close 'to home', in fact within *the Friends!*
Please share your serendipity and email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Kevin Dodds writes:

Last year I was talking to Janice Ruse Huntington and Lyn Watkins about our efforts in family history and Lyn happened to mention that some of her ancestors were from Singleton. I said, 'So are mine.' Lyn asked if I had heard of the Waddell family. I said, 'Yes, they married into my father's family'.

I had my ancestry app on my phone so I looked it up and as it turns out we are related by marriage through my 2x great grandmother Ann Dawes (paternal side). Her nephew Herbert Dawes married *Florence Waddell*. Florence is the great granddaughter of William Waddell who is Lyn's 2x great grandfather. The Waddells are one of the pioneer families of Singleton and are connected to the Dawes family whose patriarch was twice wounded in the Napoleonic Wars before coming to Australia.

It gets stranger. In the same conversation, Janice said she is related to First Fleet farmer James Ruse and the Kiss families. My ears pricked, so back to the ancestry app confirming what I already knew - my 2x great aunt Martha Evans (maternal side) married a *John Joseph Kiss* who Janice pointed out, is a grandson of James Ruse. 'So we are related as well!'

We just looked at each other in amazement, three strangers who had not met before, who happen to join the Parramatta Female Factory Friends and then happen to chat about family history, only to find out we are related...what are the chances of that happening?

Just one big happy family!

PS: In 2019, Ronda and I discovered we are connected through marriage - her maternal aunt's husband, Richard Warn is a direct descendant of *Catherine Sullivan* (a Parramatta Factory woman) and *Timothy Sullivan* as I am...
My 2x great aunt Martha Evans who married John Joseph Kiss, a grandson of James Ruse, is a granddaughter of Catherine Sullivan and Timothy Sullivan.



Anne Euphemia Dawes
(Kevin's 2x great grandmother)



Richard Dawes Snr.
(Kevin's 3x great grandfather)



William Waddell
1803-1895



Elizabeth (Munro) Waddell 1810-1880
(Wm. and Elizabeth, Lyn's 2x great grandparents)

Family Photographs - courtesy Lyn Watkins and Kevin Dodds

2022	PFFF MEETINGS - DATES	EVENTS & ANNIVERSARIES
January	Newsletter 21 st Committee Meeting	
February	Committee Meeting Friday 18 th Guest Speaker General Meeting 12.30 Commemorative Wall Event/ Macquarie Tribute	1 st Feb. 201 st Anniversary of the occupation of the <i>new</i> factory 1821 Riots: 3.2.1831; 24.2.1843 Gov.Lachlan Macquarie leaves the Colony 15 th February 1822 <i>per Surry</i>
March	Newsletter 18 th Committee Meeting	Sunday 13.3.22 Linnwood Open Day/Stall 6 th March <i>Female Convict Seminar</i> - East Maitland Riot: 7.3.1833
April	Committee Meeting Friday 22 nd Guest Speaker (AHF EVENT) General Meeting	Australian (NT) Heritage Festival Event/Speaker 1 st April - 31 st May - ' <i>Curiosity</i> '
May	Newsletter 20 th Committee Meeting	31st May Australian (NT) Heritage Festival ends
June	Friday 17 th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting	AGM PREPARATION
July	Newsletter 15 th Committee Meeting	July 9 th 204 th Anniversary - Gov. Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the <i>new</i> Factory.
August	Friday 19 th Committee Meeting AGM	Sunday 10 th August Linnwood Open Day
September	Newsletter 16 th Committee Meeting	Sunday 14 th Sept Linnwood Open Day NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Societies Annual Conference - ' <i>Riding the Waves of History</i> ' 16 th , 17 th , 18 th September HistoryWeek2022 ' <i>Hands-on-History</i> ' 3-11/9
October	Friday 21 st Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting 28 th RIOT DAY - 195 th Anniversary/ Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture	Riots: 27.10.1827; 11.10.1836
November	Newsletter 18 th Committee Meeting	Riot: 29.11.1831
December	Friday 9 th *(2 nd Friday TBC) Committee Meeting Guest Speaker	Christmas afternoon tea

SITE TOURS BY APPOINTMENT - CONTACT TOUR COORDINATOR parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

COMMITTEE MEETINGS 11AM. BI MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKER 1:00PM. GENERAL MEETINGS 2:00PM FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA.

PFFF RESEARCH CENTRE OPEN 9am. 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.