



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.  
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 45 JUNE - JULY 2022**



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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:** **Membership Secretary:** Cate Whittaker **Minutes Secretary:** Lynette Watkins  
 Judith Dunn OAM, Janice Ruse Huntington, Kevin Dodds

**Next Meeting: Friday 17 June 2022. Guest Speaker at 1:00pm**  
**GENERAL MEETING at 2:00pm followed by afternoon tea.**  
**VENUE:**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear Friends

This season is shaping up to be busy in a number of ways.

The Parramatta Female Factory Friends are still actively advocating for World Heritage. Following on from Minister Harwin's enthusiasm for World Heritage Status, there has been interest in the Female Factory from the Minister for Heritage, the Hon. James Griffin MP. Watch this space.

The fourth Factory Friends' book is well on the way with expected publication later in the year. Tours have been running despite the challenges of major conservation works.

We had a very successful Australian Heritage Festival talk by Christine Yeats on colonial military, including the military in Parramatta and the Factory and how to research your colonial military ancestors.

At the end of May, the Friends are participating in the Department of Planning Environment (DPE) Heritage Festival event with tours and information offers. If you have not yet had a chance to tour the Factory, this is a good opportunity with our well-informed guides. Also the research centre group will be on hand with Factory information and Female Factory women's history information. There will also be a sales table.

There has also been a generous book gift offered to the Friends by Babette Smith's son. You will discover more about this in the coming months.

There has been a massive amount of conservation work at the Factory site. The dreadful roller shutter door and mock convict additions have all gone from the hospital and it is beginning to show its original form. The bitumen in the main spine of the buildings has been removed. Although it has at times looked like a building site, the end result will be a conserved Female Factory. It has been a part of our Charter to support the conservation so it is heartening to see it finally on its way.

We are also preparing for our move to our new rooms, the Greenway designed Matron's Quarters and Meeting Rooms range. We are hopeful this will be by August.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen President

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A Warm Welcome to new members for 2022-2023: *Patricia Grove, Andrew O'Dowd, Sara Powter, Debbie Holmes, Greg McDonald, Vicki Miles and Roger Irving.*

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The Greenway Matron's Quarters -



work has begun on new paving and garden beds!

## NOTICEBOARD

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- **Sunday 29 May 2022**, 10am - 4pm, an **AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL EVENT** is being held at 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta, at the **National Heritage Parramatta Female Factory and Institutions Precinct**. PFFF will be there with our sales, information and research table so please drop in and say hello!
- **Next General Meeting is Friday 17 JUNE 2022**. Guest Speaker, **Margaret Betteridge** at 1:00pm - topic: *Interpreting Contested Histories*. General Meeting 2pm - 3pm followed by afternoon tea.
- **A reminder - PFFF ANNUAL FEES are due 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022**. Our Treasurer will be in touch soon.

### HISTORY CORNER - 200 years ago

by Ronda Gaffey



Portrait John Thomas Bigge 1819?/  
watercolour portrait after Thomas Uwins  
PM153 SLNSW.

On 19 June 1822, John Thomas Bigge's Report of the Commissioner of Inquiry on the Colony was published in London. The document is perhaps one of the most extraordinary and intriguing primary sources for any historian.

Bigge was appointed as a Royal Commissioner on 5 January 1819 with the instruction to investigate all aspects of the colonial life and its administration,

Access to this document is online and well worth a read.  
Be prepared to defend our Gov., Macquarie!



Bigge Report - State Library of NSW.

### WORK IN PROGRESS - FEMALE FACTORY SITE - late May 2022.



Left: The Greenway Hospital - with a veranda now added.  
Above: The Hospital as seen from the Drying Yard - paths now laid.

Adelaide de Thoreza aka Thereza/Thoraza

Adelaide de Thoreza was born in Madrid, Spain in 1808. Years later she was living in London and working in the household of a Miss Davis. After 15 months and two weeks in her employ, Adelaide stood in the dock accused of theft.

Adelaide was tried at Old Bailey and indicted: *of theft (simple larceny) on 11 June 1829 for stealing on 28 April 1829, 6 sheets, value 15s, the goods of Martha Davis, a dressmaker of 15 Finsbury Street, Finsbury Square.* In her evidence Miss Davis states:

*...the prisoner was a servant at my house for fifteen months and a fortnight; she was there I believe at the time the sheets were stolen - she was the only female servant in the house; it was her business to mind the bedding and the bedroom...*

*I searched the prisoner's box; I found a sheet and a nightgown belonging to me - I knew the sheet was mine, it had been worn a little, but was not dirty - it was a sheet from her own bed, but it was mine; I examined her bed soon after, and/or sheets were gone - this was on the 28<sup>th</sup> April; I never saw the corresponding sheet; the officer produced some duplicates, By which we found 6 sheets; I knew them to be mine, as I had assisted to spin them, and made them up myself..<sup>1</sup>*

There was no defence from Adelaide. Was it an admission of guilt or did she require an interpreter which she had no access to? Adelaide was found guilty and sentenced to seven years transportation on 11 April 1829<sup>2</sup>.



Finsbury, London c1820.

In the ship's Muster, Adelaide is described as: *age 23, single, reads and writes, protestant, native place Spain, housemaid; no previous convictions, 5 foot 0 ½ inches, ruddy complexion, light brown hair, hazel eyes*<sup>3</sup>.

Adelaide was in the *Middlesex Gaol Delivery* and would have been in Newgate for about two months before she embarked the female convict ship, *Lucy Davidson* which left England on 20 July 1829 with 101 convict women. The journey lasted 132 days and two deaths were recorded. The ship arrived in Sydney Cove on 29 November 1829 but was forced into quarantine due to an outbreak of whooping cough on-board. Most women were assigned from the ship, the remainder being sent to the Parramatta Female Factory<sup>4</sup>.

Within a few weeks of arrival, a number of women were given up and returned to the Factory.

It seems that Adelaide was treated with consideration by the authorities since her first assignment was to a fellow countryman and Spanish-speaking settler - John Baptist Lehimas D'Arietta (aka D'Arrieta)<sup>5</sup>. Senor D'Arietta came free per *Duchess of York* in 1821 and after a short time in Van Diemen's Land, arrived in Sydney in 1823. As a free man, his land grant was a considerable 2000 acres at Cowpastures, Camden. The Arietta estate was known as 'Morton Park'.

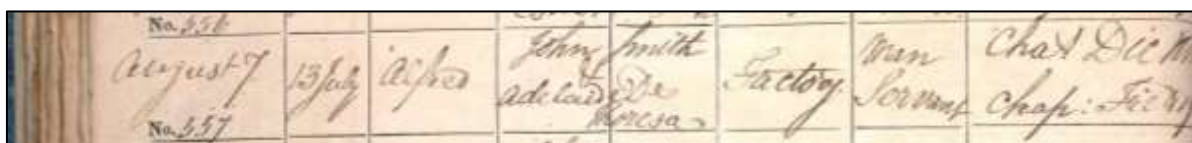
D'Arietta may well have 'requested' Adelaide to be assigned to him - they not only shared a language but he was married to a much younger woman and may have seen Adelaide as a companion for her. His wife, Sophia was 21 years old with an infant daughter - D'Arietta was 51 at the time of Adelaide's assignment<sup>6</sup>.

Adelaide would have been astounded by her surroundings having moved from the urban density of London to the vastness of Camden and its country estates. With such a sizeable property, D'Arietta had eight convicts employed in 1825 and 13 convicts in 1828 (ref: 1825 Convict Muster and 1828 Census).



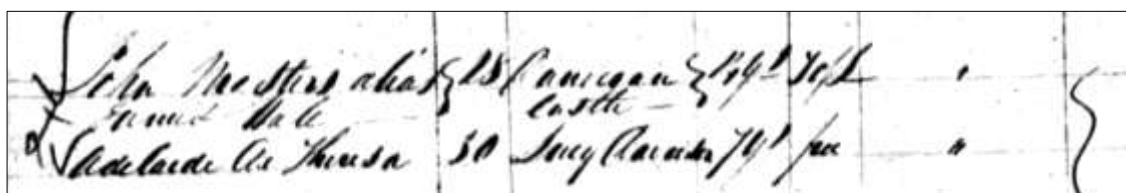
1824 Cowpastures - watercolour by Joseph Lycett, State Library of NSW.

Whilst at D'Arietta's, Adelaide fell pregnant - the father was thought to be a fellow convict servant George Smith - Adelaide was returned to the Parramatta Female Factory where she gave birth to her son Alfred who was baptised at St. John's Church, Parramatta on 7 August 1831 - he is registered as the son of Adelaide De Thoresa, resident in the *Factory* and John Smith, *a man servant*<sup>7</sup>.



The child was later relinquished to a couple, George and Anne James which was unusual since convict children once weaned were sent to an orphan school. There is some speculation that D'Arietta was the child's father and he had organised an adoption placement for him<sup>8</sup>.

Following Alfred's birth, Adelaide was assigned to William Cox of Hobartville, near Richmond NSW. It was here that she met the Cox's butler John Masters. Permission to marry was sought and granted<sup>9</sup>. Adelaide was aged 30 and John aged 28.



They married at St. Peter's Richmond on 8 September 1836<sup>10</sup>. John Masters was an *apprentice to a solicitor* and had been transported for *forgery*. Adelaide had two children with John Masters: *Adelaide Eliza Masters* born Richmond, 8 January 1838<sup>11</sup> and *Thomas Mathew Masters* born Richmond, 23 May 1843<sup>12</sup>.

Adelaide and John Masters lived in the Richmond area for some years where they owned a shop selling various wares and confectionary. At some stage they moved to Windsor where John Master worked as a painter and

Adelaide's relationship with John Masters soured because of his drinking - they separated and John ended up living in Maitland.

Adelaide received her Certificate of Freedom on 4 July 1836. She was someone who was fondly remembered. Her three children had a daughter named *Adelaide*.

She died on 8 May, 1877 at Richmond. Her son Thomas, was informant of her death, said his mother was born in Spain, and that her father was *Julian De La Theresa*, his 'rank' was not known. On her death certificate, her three children of the marriage to John Masters include Alfred Smith. Once *given up*, he was acknowledged as one of the family. Adelaide Masters was buried at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Richmond. Her epitaph may well be *her voice*... a life of promise and expectation yet thwarted in so many ways...

**CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.**

No. *574*  
 Date, *4 July 1836*  
 Prisoner's No. .... *6579*  
 Name..... *Adelaide De Thoraza*  
 Ship..... *Lucy Davidson*  
 Master..... *Wilmaw*  
 Year..... *1829*  
 Native Place..... *Spain*  
 Trade or Calling .. *maid*  
 Offence..... *stealing hats*  
 Place of Trial..... *Middlesex Ct*  
 Date of Trial..... *11 June 1829*  
 Sentence..... *seven years*  
 Year of Birth..... *1806*  
 Height..... *five feet one & 1/2 inches*  
 Complexion..... *ruddy*  
 Hair..... *light brown*  
 Eyes..... *blue*  
 General Remarks... *none*

*Adelaide left to leave 1834  
 dated 14 March 1836*



In Memory  
 of  
**ADELAIDE MASTERS**  
 DIED DECEMBER 26 1877  
 AGED 69 YEARS  
 At Rest

*I have lived to prove there is darkness  
 in the brightest dream and sorrow in  
 the deepest joy*

Headstone and epitaph - the grave of Adelaide Masters.  
 Source: findagrave.com/memorial/12216674

Certificate of Freedom for Adelaide De Thoraza: SRNSW.

References:

- <sup>1</sup>Old Bailey Proceedings - online retrieved 2/4/2. <sup>2</sup>ibid.
  - <sup>3</sup>Convict & Ships Musters - Ancestry online retrieved 2/4/22.
  - <sup>4</sup>Willetts, Jenni, *Convict ship Lucy Davidson, Free Settler of Felon?* retrieved 2/4/22.
  - <sup>5</sup>Colonial Secretary's Papers 8/C36/6 574 SRNSW.
  - <sup>6</sup>Ballyn, Susan, *Frost, Lucy, A Spanish convict, her clergyman biographer and the amanuensis of her bastard son* - uTas retrieved 6/5/22.
  - <sup>7</sup>St John's, Parramatta, Baptisms, 1790-1916, for Alfred Smith Vol 02, Baptisms, Ancestry.com online. <sup>8</sup>ibid. <sup>6</sup>
  - <sup>9</sup>New South Wales, Australia, *Register of Convict Applications to Marry 1826-1851*, p68 Ancestry.com retrieved 6/5/22.
  - <sup>10</sup>NSW BDM: Marriage for Adelaide de Thoraza and John Masters: Ref: #252/#592.
  - <sup>11</sup>NSW BDM: Baptism, Adelaide Eliza Masters: Ref: FHL No: 993952, Ancestry.com retrieved 2/5/2.
  - <sup>12</sup>NSW BDM: Baptism, Thomas Mathew Masters: Ref: FHL No: 993972, Ancestry.com retrieved 2/5/22.
  - <sup>13</sup>NSW BDM: Death for Adelaide de Thoraza: Ref: #8544, Ancestry.com retrieved 2/5/22.
- Mathews, Anne, Matthews Beth, *Our Girls - Adelaide de Thoreza* - unpublished work sourced from original papers, SRNSW.  
 Gaffey, John, *Adelaide de Thoreza/Thoraza JBL D'Arrietta/Sophia D'Arrietta* - research notes.  
 Frost, Lucy, *Adelaide de Thoreza (1806?-1877)*, *Edges of Empire Biographical Dictionary*, eoe.convictwomenpress.com.au retrieved 24/4/22.

It has been an extremely busy time for the Research Centre Team. After lots of transfer of books from the City of Parramatta Local Studies Library donations, the team has been sorting through what we have in preparation for the new rooms. The team has also been to State Archives in relation to our research plan to augment our information and collections.

The Research Centre Collection is about to get a massive boost as a result of a bequest by the late Babette Smith OAM. There will be 30 boxes of books specialising in convict women and colonial life gifted to the Parramatta Female Factory Friends, such a generous gift from her through her son, Joshua Smith. This is also a generous gift and legacy for the community through the Friends.

We still respond to research inquiries but this has slowed down while we sort through what promises to be a great resource.

### ANN THEW (a ringleader in the 1831 Riot at the Parramatta Female Factory)

by Kevin Dodds

In 1814, Ann Thew was born at Liverpool, Lancashire, England to parents Edward and Jane Thew.

In early 1829, Ann was employed as a servant by schoolteacher William Martin in Bull and Mouth Street, London, England.

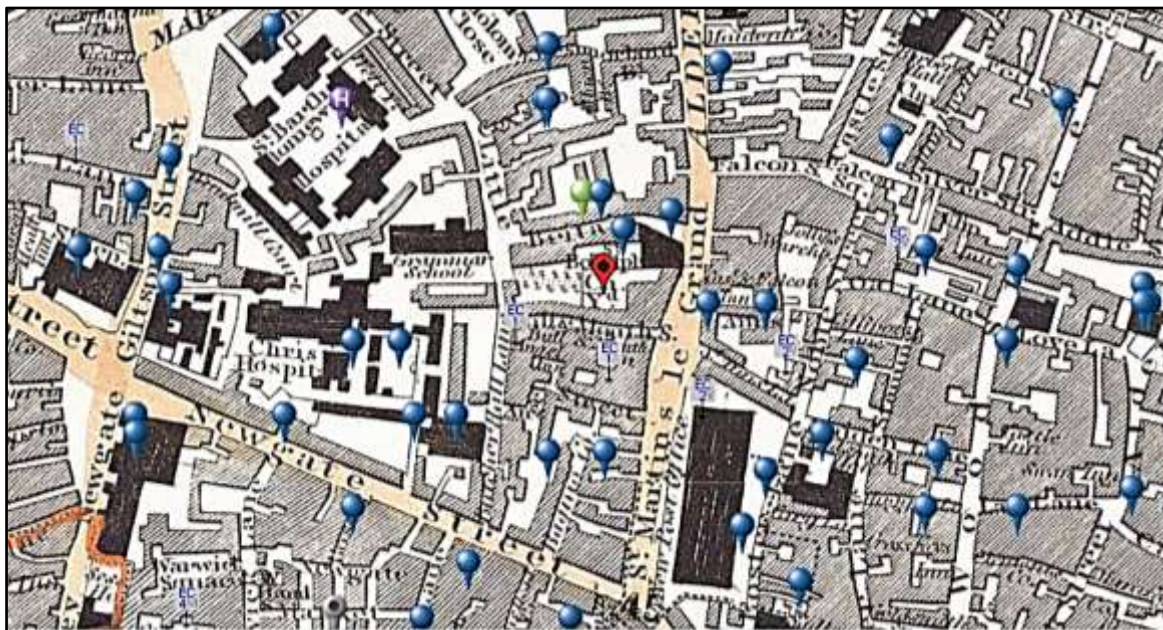


Figure 1 – Bull and Mouth Street (named after the Inn) was then between St Martin's Le Grand and Little Street, London – very close to the Grammar School. Image: Old London Town © Unknown

On 13 February 1829, Ann was only 15 when she was arrested for stealing: *1 cloak, value 7s; 1 gown, value 1s 6d., and 1 pair of shoes, value 1s 6d, the goods of William Martin, her master.* On 9 April 1829, Ann was tried at the Old Bailey, London, England and was sentenced to life, but this was commuted to seven years transportation.

On 10 July 1829, Ann was transported on the convict ship, *Lucy Davidson*, a class E1 ship of 363 tons built at Southampton in 1818, with Capt. Wiseman with 99 female prisoners. Surgeon John Osborne, six free women and 17 children were also on board.

Ann Thew is described as: 4' 11" with a ruddy freckled complexion with light brown (flaxen) hair, hazel eyes with the following marks and or scars - small dark mole on left cheek, T.V. (brand) scar on right shoulder, with no education, C of E (Protestant) and single.

The female convicts on the *Lucy Davidson* were not well received in the Colony. In January 1830, the *Sydney Monitor* printed the following:

*The women who were landed from the Lucy Davidson, are so very troublesome, being continually brought before the Police Office that the Magistrates are of the opinion, they are the most evil-disposed crew that have been landed in the Colony for many a day.*

Also from the *Sydney Gazette*:

*The female prisoners by the Lady Davidson have turned out but a profitless shipment. Most of the Magdalenes were assigned to service in Sydney and by far the greater portion of those, we are told have been returned by their masters to government as incorrigibly bad characters.*

On 29 November 1829, the *Lucy Davidson* arrived in Sydney with a number of sick female convicts as there was an outbreak of whooping cough on board. The ship was quarantined until early December 1829. On 9 December 1829, a number of the female prisoners were assigned and distributed to applicants as servants.

Ann was assigned to Mr. George Gurney (or Gurner) from Sydney. On 13 August 1830, Ann was returned from Mr. George Gurner from Sydney and transferred to a Mr. John Jones of Erskine Street, Sydney.

By late August 1830 – Ann had absconded for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time and was sentenced to 3<sup>rd</sup> class at Parramatta Female Factory for six weeks and to have her *head of hair shaved*.

In January 1831, Ann was arrested and charged with *Absent without leave* and again sentenced to 3<sup>rd</sup> class with the condition of: *Solitary Confinement in a cell for 14 days on bread and water*.

On 3 February 1831, Ann was involved in the Riot in the 3<sup>rd</sup> class penitentiary and was charged and sentenced to 3 years hard labour in the Penal Colony of Newcastle (a gaol).

In August 1831, a letter was received by the Colonial Secretary advising the Governor of Ann Thew's transfer:

*The Honourable, The Colonial Secretary, etc, etc, etc. Factory 13th August 1830. Sir, In reply to the second paragraph of your letter of the 10th Instant. We have the Honor to inform you, that the Transfer of female Prisoners from one Service to that of another person received from the Principal Superintendent of Convicts, is dated the 20th January last," Ann Thew of Lucy Davidson from W Gurner to Mr John Jones No 5.- Erskine Street Sydney." We have the Honor to be Sir, Your Obedient Servants for the Committee L Sorbyer.*

On 20 October 1831, Ann made an application for permission to marry John (Thomas) Light, aged 24, a convict per *Midas*. On 12 November 1831, Ann and Thomas Light married by Banns with consent of Governor at Newcastle Christ Church, Hexham, Newcastle, NSW. The ceremony was performed by Charles Wilton Witnesses were Rebecca Markham and John Kennedy, of Newcastle, NSW.



Thomas and Anne had three children:

Walter Light was born on 23 August 1832, at Ravensworth, NSW, Caroline Light was born on 23 March 1834, at Ravensworth, NSW and George Light Jnr was born on 17 December 1836 also at Ravensworth.

It appears that Ann Light, died shortly after George's birth or even whilst in childbirth and is possibly buried at Ravensworth, NSW.

Figure 2 – Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle, NSW.

On 28 February 1834, Thomas Light received his Ticket of Leave.

Thomas was ordered to remain in the Patrick's Plains District. When Caroline was baptized four months later, the family were still at Ravensworth as Thomas lists his occupation as *Overseer for J Bowman Esq.*

On 28 October 1840, Thomas was issued a second ticket. The original was returned *mutilated and cancelled*. He was ordered to remain in the Scone District. In February 1841, for good behaviour, Thomas received his Conditional Pardon.

Thomas Light and his children moved north to the Murrurundi area and Doughboy Hollow, where Thomas was employed on a cattle station. Doughboy Hollow is today known as Ardglan, a small settlement between Willow Tree and Murrurundi on the western side of Nowland's Gap. In the early days it was a camping ground for teamsters and drovers and the dreaded haunt of bushrangers.\*

On 10 July 1841, Thomas Light requested permission to marry Ann Adamson (Ann Light née Thew must have died before 1841). Permission was refused as Ann Adamson was thought still to be married to a Mr. Joseph Butler.

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\*Here, in 1863, Peter Clarke was shot dead by bushranger Peter Wilson. Subsequently, Wilson was overpowered by Clarke's brother and father and handed over to the local trooper. After a short trial, Wilson was hanged the following day at Maitland Gaol. Peter Clarke is related to me through my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother's sister's husband's brother.

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References:

NSW Births Deaths and Marriages – online Family History Database:

Children of Thomas Light and Anne née Thew – Walter BDM Ref: 724/1832 V1832724 16, Caroline BDM Ref: 899/1834 V1834899 18, William Spencer Light 1868/12019.

George Light 1871/6141.

Ancestry Records:

A general search of [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

Old Bailey Records:

A search of Anne Thew on [www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)

Parramatta Female Factory Friends:

PFF Database of Female Convicts.

Photographs:

Map: Old Central London (copyright unknown).

Image: Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle (copyright unknown).

State Archives:

Reel 851 4/6431 Sydney Gaol Entrance Books.

Reel 851 4/6432 Sydney Gaol Entrance Books.

Colonial Secretary's Papers – August 1831.

Tickets of Leave Index.

Conditional Pardons Index

St John's, Parramatta (Marriages) Index.

Trove:

Sydney Gazette – January 1830 (Article on the arrival of the *Lucy Davidson*).

The Sydney Monitor - January 1830 (Article).

GUEST SPEAKER: Christine Yeats - 'Do You Have a Soldier in the Family?'

by Janice Ruse Huntington and Lyn Watkins

The aim of having guest speakers at the General Meetings is to provide members with a variety of information on the lives and times of those involved in the Parramatta Female Factory and the local Parramatta area.

Christine Yeats, a well-respected historian and archivist gave us a twist by presenting a talk on the military presence in the Colony, those on the other side of the high walls. Excellent clues were given for those wishing to trace an ancestor in this profession.

The 57<sup>th</sup> (West Middlesex) Regiment of Foot served in the Colony from 1825 and was involved in quelling the 1827 Riot at the Parramatta Female Factory. Christine mentioned a particularly interesting archaeological find at the Factory site also - a button from a soldier's uniform!

Christine also had copies of her book, *Unlock the Past Handy Guide - Convict Records of NSW the human stories of the transportation system* which was a bonus for family historians attending.

Those in attendance found the talk really interesting and it was most educational for researchers and those interested in colonial times. Thank you Christine for sharing your fascinating research.



Citizen Soldiers - Sydney, mid 19<sup>th</sup> Century

