



**PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC.  
NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 47 SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 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)

**Patrons:** Meg Keneally & Thomas Michael Keneally AO  
**President:** Gay Hendriksen **Vice President:** Frank Williams  
**Treasurer/Public Officer:** Kerima-Gae Topp **General Secretary:** Kevin Dodds  
**Committee:** Judith Dunn OAM, Ronda Gaffey, Janice Ruse Huntington, Anne Mathews Lynette Watkins.

**Next Meeting: Friday 21 October 2022. Guest Speaker - 1pm.**  
**PFFF General Meeting - 2:00pm.**  
**VENUE: Building C103, 'the Matron's Quarters', 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Factory Friends,

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and an historic and sombre moment. Thoughts of condolence go to His Majesty, King Charles III and his family. The ripples of this event will be felt for some time to come. King Charles will no doubt also fulfil his role with commitment and honour.



On a positive note, the Parramatta Female Factory Friends are in our new rooms which comprise the original 1821 meeting room and the storage and supply areas. It is a meaningful and much more practical location for our community work. Thank you to all the helping hands for this massive undertaking which all happened in one day from 8:30 to 6pm. In particular I would like to thank Steve Bryant, Kevin Dodds, Lyn Watkins, Pauline Garmonsway, Anne Mathews, Eileen Avery, Janice Ruse Huntington and her husband John, Lorraine Henshaw and Judith Dunn. Of course this means all our meetings are now in these great rooms.

The recent meeting with Minister Griffin and Heritage NSW was positive and presented a positive sense for the first steps within Government to ascertain possible World Heritage.

Since March we have participated in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Sydney Living Museums. This is proving to be a positive channel of communication and ensures a possibility of giving useful advice to ensure the elements of our Charter come to fruition and are not lost in the Government implementation of adaptive reuse of the Parramatta Female Factory site.

The next 'It's a Riot Day' is well on the way with planning. Don't forget to put the date aside - Friday the 28<sup>th</sup> October, to come and celebrate. It will include commemoration, a Scottish piper, tours, displays, spinning demonstrations, memento and book sales. The research centre will be open and there will be a special event as part of the day - the launch of our fourth publication *Herstory - Parramatta & Beyond*.

The Factory site is looking the best it has for a very long time with significant conservation undertaken. There is still more to happen but the main range and some of the walls have had conservation applied. There is some signage and an interpretation wall for the precinct.

Although great progress has been made, there is still a great deal more to do. World Heritage is our main aim at this point, as well as ensuring appropriate reuse and interpretation. So there is still significant advocacy work for us.

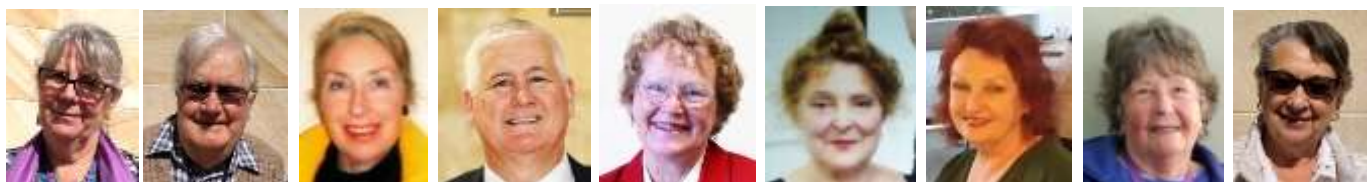
We have had our AGM and as President, I would like to welcome the following to the Committee roles: Vice President Frank Williams, Treasurer Kerima-Gae Topp and General Secretary Kevin Dodds. Committee members are Judith Dunn OAM, Ronda Gaffey, Membership Secretary Janice Ruse Huntington, Anne Mathews and Minutes Secretary Lyn Watkins. The future for the Friends looks bright with the commitment by these members.

I look forward to seeing you all at our new rooms at our Riot Day and in the coming year.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen  
President

## INTRODUCING YOUR PFFF COMMITTEE FOR 2022 - 2023



From Left to Right:

Gay Hendriksen (President/Research Centre Convenor), Frank Williams (Vice President/Community Liaison), Kerima-Gae Topp (Treasurer/Public Officer), Kevin Dodds (General Secretary/Technical/WHS Officer); Committee members: Judith Dunn OAM (Site Watch), Ronda Gaffey (Publicity/Newsletter), Janice Ruse Huntington (Membership Secretary), Anne Mathews (Tour Coordinator), Lyn Watkins (Minutes Secretary). Committee members also fulfil other roles and take on a range of responsibilities from stock keeping to research and event organisation.

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## ANOTHER MILESTONE REACHED - A NEW HOME AT LAST!



PFFF members celebrate our relocation following the AGM, Friday 19 August 2022.



The PFFF Removalists enjoying a well - earned break!

## NOTICEBOARD

### Dates for your Diary:

- **THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING** is: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022 at 2pm. Guest Speaker at 1pm: Kevin Dodds will be speaking on *Convicts & the Law*. Bookings are through Eventbrite - details will be sent soon.
- **IT'S A RIOT!** The 195<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1827 October Riot will be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta. This year, the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture will be delivered by Adjunct Associate Professor Dr. Carol Liston AO. Bookings will open on 1<sup>st</sup> October. More details soon.
- **A FINAL REMINDER THAT PFFF ANNUAL FEES** (\$10 individuals; \$25 groups) are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> July each year. Payment to: Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. BSB: 633 000 Account: 151 276 763 - pay by EFT, by cheque or, in person at the next meeting. Postal address: Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. PO Box 1358, Parramatta 2124. Thank you everyone for your ongoing support and for the generous donations too. Kerima-Gae Topp, PFFF Treasurer.

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## HISTORY CORNER - BUILDING C103

Ronda Gaffey

'The Friends' are making history again! How truly satisfying it is to be housed in one of the three identified 'exceptional' heritage buildings within the very core of the Parramatta Female Factory site and at the heart of the convict women's narrative.



Photograph: The Matron's Quarters - courtesy Gay Hendriksen.

Building C103 (known as the Matron's Quarters - Female Factory Southeast Range) was constructed between 1818 and 1821. During the Factory period, the building provided room for stores, a meeting room and accommodation for the matron and storekeeper.

Over the 200 years of occupation there have been a number of external and internal additions in response to different functional requirements. Until recently, when C103 was tenanted by NSW Health, the building housed a library, two lecture theatres and administration.

Today, the original form of the building and surviving fabric are evident despite the later additions. Its intrinsic and tangible heritage value contributed to the site's National Heritage listing in November 2017.

It is rather special to be able to walk in the women's footsteps and wonder at what was said within these walls, what did the women say when they arrived, what words did matron have for the women in her charge, what did they say when she met a prospective husband in 'the meeting room' or on their release?

*Mary Marzagora and her husband John arrived within a day of each other in 1816. In their early years in the colony, their life became quite unsettled as Mary made repeated attempts to live an independent life.*

Mary Marzagora was born in Liverpool, England about 1789. Mary, a seamstress, aged 26, was convicted at the Warwick Assizes on 1 April 1815 on an indictment for disposing of a forged bank note. She was sentenced to transportation for Life.

Mary was one of 103 female convicts embarked the ship *Mary Anne 1* which was making its first voyage to the Colony. The ship departed England in July 1815 and arrived in Sydney Cove on 19 January 1816 - there was one death on the voyage. Mary's two daughters accompanied her (Maria born in 1804, Mary Ann born in 1808).

Mary's husband John (a looking glass maker by trade) arrived 18 January 1816 on the ship *Fanny* with their two sons (William born in 1809 and John Edward born in 1812).<sup>1</sup> There were two children born in the colony (Thomas born in 1816 and Amelia born in 1827) and possibly a third child, Francis.\*

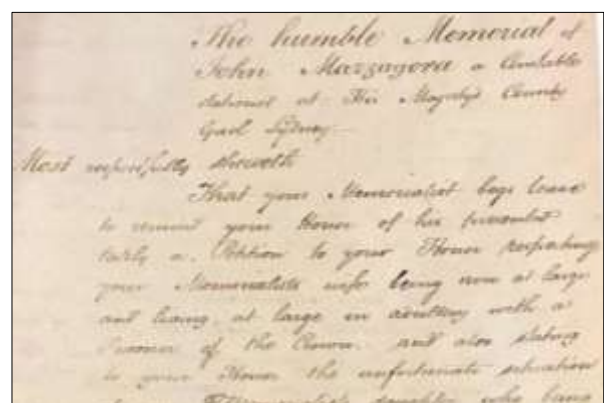
By 1821, John was working as a constable/turnkey at H.M. Sydney Gaol with his wife and two children living 'on stores'.<sup>2</sup> Three years later, in 1823, Mary's and John's marriage ran into problems. We hear John's voice in two petitions (dated 17 October 1823 and 23 December 1823), in which he writes in great detail about Mary's alleged infidelity and his hurt and suffering caused by her behaviour.

In the October Petition, John states that he and Mary had lived together 'on the most affectionate of terms...and in the course of such felicity had 4 children' and now, to his dismay, his wife was in 'connexion' with a William Innes.<sup>3</sup>

It seems that Innes, a former lodger, was removed in due course from Sydney and 'sent up country' by the Magistrates. This was not quite enough for John for he asked that Mary be sent to the Factory. However, the magistrates ordered that Mary return to John to whom she was assigned. In this case, the customary plea of a husband to send a non-compliant wife to the Factory, was refused!

Mary returned to John, but only for a few days before they agreed to a separation with John allowing Mary and a child she had with her, 'part of his furniture for their mutual comfort also on the conditions of her future good conduct'.<sup>4</sup>

This was not the end of their troubles for John never let up on Mary. They were living in close proximity and John, often passing the house where she lived, noticed all the comings and goings. In the December Petition, John complained that he and his wife were separated, however Mary was living in adultery with Thomas Random (also a former lodger) in Castlereagh Street, Sydney.



References:

<sup>1</sup>Convict Musters: 1823, 1824, 1825; SARNSW.

<sup>2</sup>Colonial Secretary's Index, 1788 - 1825, John Mossagora, Constable. On list of persons victualled from H.M. Magazines. Reel 6016; 4/5781 p60. SARNSW.

<sup>3</sup>Colonial Secretary's Index, 1788 - 1825, John Marzagora, Memorial dated 17 October, 1823: Reel 6059; 4/1773. SARNSW.

<sup>4</sup> ibid

Mathews, Anne, Matthews, Beth, *Our Girls* - unpublished work sourced from original papers, SARNSW.

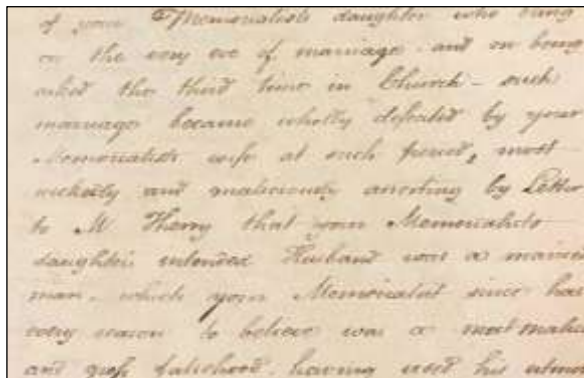
\*Francis is listed with the family on the 1822 Muster as aged seven and born in the colony.

At this stage, John threw every insult at Mary stating that he was: *deeply stung by information of...his wife's most adulterous, nefarious, treacherous, diabolical and disgraceful conduct.*

Affronted and embarrassed, John asked once more that Mary be sent back to the Factory as: *the stigma from the conduct of his wife to be a burden on him and his family...*

It seems John was also put out that Mary had written to M.Therry, (Fr. J.J. Therry?) claiming that her daughter's husband-to-be, Thomas Eagan, was a married man.<sup>5</sup>

It is possible that Mary was acting to protect her daughter, or she was mischief-making to peeve John. He certainly thought Mary had invented the story for: *the sole purpose of annoying and rendering him as miserable as possible.*

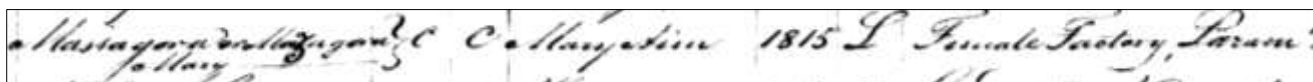


Having been rejected by his wife and possibly left with children to care for, John was no doubt feeling angry and betrayed, but what was Mary's story?

Mary's 14 year old daughter Mary Ann, who had accompanied her mother to Sydney, died sometime in 1822 - was this loss something which caused her to leave her husband seeking distraction or comfort elsewhere? Did her son Francis also die around this time? One might also suggest that John, a proud and determined man may have been somewhat overbearing and difficult to live with. Was this another possible reason for Mary's wish not to live with him?

John was a man seeking justice and was not backward in lobbying the Government, writing other petitions - for example, in 1822 he was a signatory to a Petition from the ordinary constables of Sydney complaining about the diminution of their rations <sup>6</sup> and in 1825 he wrote requesting that his son-in-law Thomas Eagan be given some indulgence to enable him to support his wife (his and Mary's daughter Maria).<sup>7</sup>

It seems that Mary was returned to the Factory. In the Muster of 1825, she is noted as in the Parramatta Factory and their children William and Thomas, are living with their father in Sydney.<sup>8</sup> In 1826, Mary was still in the Factory and requested a pass to travel to Sydney, promising to be 'no more trouble'.<sup>9</sup>



By 1828, Mary and John appear to have sorted out their differences and were living together in George Street, Sydney with a daughter Amelia aged one and their son William aged 19. John and Mary were 41. John's occupation is recorded as 'a dealer in curiosities'. They are listed as *John and Mary Massagorah*.<sup>10</sup>

A handwritten table with several columns. The first column contains names: "Mary", "William", and "Amelia". The second column contains dates: "1822", "1823", and "1823". The table appears to be a record of family events or correspondence.

References:

<sup>5</sup>Colonial Secretary's Index, 1788 - 1825, entry for John Marzagora, Memorial dated 18 December, 1823: Reel 6059; 4/1773. SARNSW.

<sup>6</sup>Colonial Secretary's Index, 1788 - 1825, entry for John Marzagora, Memorial 1822, Reel 6055; 4/1760 p43c. SARNSW.

<sup>7</sup>Colonial Secretary's Index, 1788 - 1825, entry for John Marzagora, Memorial 24 March, 1825, Reel 6063; 4/1785 p169. SARNSW.

<sup>8</sup>New South Wales and Tasmania Convict Musters, 1806 -1849 - NSW General Muster M-Z > 1825, entry for Mary Massagora, SARNSW.

<sup>9</sup>Colonial Secretary's Papers. Bundle 4/1890 Letter 26/2671 dated 08.05.1826. SARNSW.

<sup>10</sup>1828 New South Wales, Australia, Census. SARNSW.

\*There is no entry for Francis in the 1823 and 1825 Musters or the 1828 Census - one assumes he was deceased.

There is a further reference to Mary being sent to 3<sup>rd</sup> class at the Female Factory in 1829, having been charged with being 'drunk and absenting herself' from her husband.<sup>11</sup>

In the years that followed, Mary and John appear to have lived a comfortable life in Sydney Town. John had a business in 'natural curiosities' in George Street and later, in Cumberland Street, Sydney.



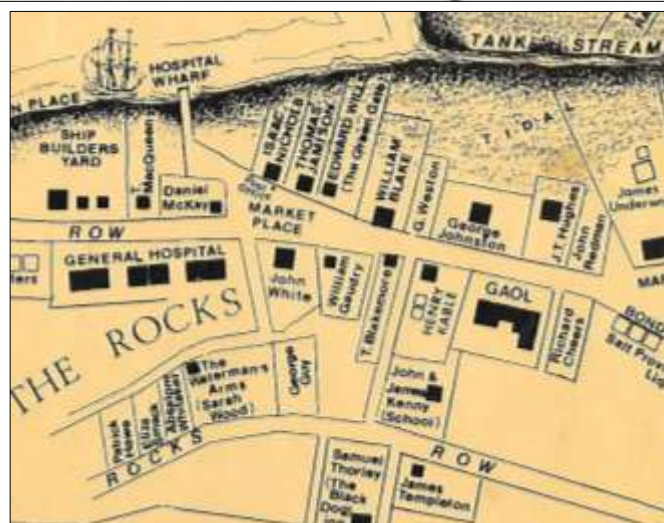
Tragically, John Marzagora died 24 October 1837 as a result of an accident - his gun discharged soon after he boarded a coach at Parramatta where he had been hunting for 'stock'.<sup>12</sup> He was aged 51.

Mary was the signatory for Probate on John's estate - dated 21 November, 1837.<sup>13</sup> She was a widow for only three months before her death. Mary died 4 February 1838, also aged 51 years.

*The complete and unique collection of live and stuffed Birds, Skins, scarce and valuable Shells, Natural Curiosities, Paddles, Clubs, Spears, &c., the Property of the late Mr. John Marzagora,*  
**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**  
**BY W. HESBLEWHITE,**  
 On the Premises, 39, Cumberland-street, near Church-hill, on WEDNESDAY next, the 28th instant, at eleven o'clock precisely.

*and Effects of the said deceased do not exceed the value of two Hundred Pounds;*  
*Given at the Suburbs of Sydney this 21st day of November 1837.*  
*Mary Marzagora*  
*Hand of Mary Marzagora*

**W. HESBLEWHITE** has received positive directions to sell on the day above-mentioned, the whole of the well-known Stock of the late Mr. Marzagora, comprising an excellent assortment of Stuffed Birds in the best condition, in cases of various descriptions and sizes; an extensive collection of Skins, Shells, and various Natural Curiosities, affording to connoisseurs a favorable opportunity of obtaining choice specimens.



Mary and John were buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery and later, were re-interred.<sup>15</sup>

References:

- <sup>11</sup>Sydney Gaol Description & Entrance Books, 1825 - 1832 Reel 851, 4/6431, SARNSW.
  - <sup>12</sup>Inquest Notice: The Sydney Gazette, 26 October, 1837.
  - <sup>13</sup>Extract; Probate Packet for Estate of John Marzagora - signed, 'hand of Mary Marzagora' - SARNSW.
  - <sup>14</sup>Notice of Sale - property of the late John Marzagora, Sydney Herald, 26 March 1838.
  - <sup>15</sup>Johnson, K.A. Comp. Gravestone Inscriptions, NSW Volume 1. Sydney Burial Ground. Elizabeth and Devonshire Streets 'The Sandhills' (Monuments relocated to Bunnerong) compiled by Keith A. Johnson & Malcolm R. Sainty n.p. the compilers, 1973. p65, No.1174.
  - <sup>16</sup>Map showing lower George Street and Rocks Row (later Cumberland Street) where Mary and John lived. H.M. Goal is in High Street (later George Street) - Map from James Meehan's 'Plan of the Town of Sydney, 1807' by Bryan Thomas 1979.
- John's and Mary's surname appears in various records as: *Marzagora, Massagonia, Massagora, Mazzagora, Merzagora, Massagorah.*

It has been an extremely busy time for the Research Centre Team.

We have received 40 boxes of books (right) at the rooms that comprise the Babette Smith Bequest. We have also received donated shelving, convict clothing reproductions and architectural models.

The team has also been to the State Archives participating in the History Week tours with some onsite research added on.

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




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MARY JORDON (McIlvane, McAvane, McIlveen) & THE TROUBLE WITH WEDDINGS  
Kevin Dodds - researcher, PFFF Research Centre

*Mary Jordan was a determined woman and lucky to meet a committed man who not only married her and took on her four children, but together, they brought seven members of their extended families to the Colony.*

In 1799, Mary Jordan was born at Lisburn, Northern Ireland (about 8km south of Belfast). Mary married a George McIlvane or McAvane, most probably in County Antrim, Ireland about 1820 - they had three children.

By 1832, Mary appears to have moved from Ireland to England without her husband so it is not known whether he died or they both went to England and then separated. It is a fact that many Irish immigrants started to flow into Lancashire as the demand for labour increased in cities such as Liverpool and Manchester.

In August 1832, Mary McAvane was convicted of stealing shoes and was tried at Salford (Lancaster Quarter Sessions) on 27 August 1832 and sentenced to seven years transportation. It was not the first time Mary had been convicted as she had one previous conviction and had been sentenced to one month in gaol.

Mary is described as: 5 feet 2; a ruddy and freckled complexion; chestnut eyes and brown hair. There was a scar on the back of her fourth finger of her right hand and a small scar below her chin. Mary could read and write and was a laundress by occupation.

Mary sailed on the female convict ship *Diana*, departing Woolwich, England on 4 December 1832. According to the ship's Medical Journal:

*Mary McAvane...Convict; disease or hurt, hepatitis. Put on sick list, 8 March 1833, at sea. Discharged, 24 March 1833. 'Of bilious temperament', with symptoms of acute hepatitis. The following month she was back on the sick list with catarrh.*

On 25 May 1833, Mary arrived in Sydney Cove. She was 34 years of age with one male child and two female children with her.

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Hillsborough Castle and Gardens, Lisburn, Northern Ireland is the official residence of the Royal Family whilst in Ireland. It was the site where the King Charles III proclamation was read to the people of Ireland - flowers adorn the gates in the thousands. ©\_ Irishnews.com



One year after arrival, on 2 April 1834, Mary gave birth to William McIlveen (aka McAvane) - he was baptised on 4 May 1834. Mary was at the Parramatta Female Factory with her three other children at the time of his birth. The father is not indicated on the Baptism Certificate.

Mary McAvane had been assigned to a Mr. William Burnett of the Australian Agricultural Company who had a shop in Elizabeth Street, Sydney. On 24 November 1834, Lawrence Brown, also assigned to Burnett, submitted an application to marry Mary, which was granted. This is unusual because the application notes that on arrival Mary stated she was married and Lawrence had been married back in England with six children. However, the marriage did not go ahead.

So who was William McIlveen's father?

1. It is possible that he was Lawrence Brown's son hence Brown's application to marry Mary.
2. It is possible that William Burnett was the father of William. He was assigned a number of convicts, mostly male and from reading his letters to the Editor of the Sydney Gazette, he appears to be supportive of the just treatment of prisoners and swore affidavits, principally about the unjust horsewhipping of John Abbott by Sir Edward Parry. To make such an allegation publicly, was serious and further cements the idea that it would be against his general nature to father a child with a female convict.

It appears Mary was getting impatient and Lawrence, because of Mary's insistence or his promises, made a second application to marry on 9 February 1836. It was granted but again, they did not marry.

These two applications to marry in 1834 and 1836 seem to be an offer by Lawrence Brown to make good on a promise to marry Mary McIlvane as most likely they were a couple and he was the father of William. Although promising to marry her not once but twice, he never followed through with the marriage which the following account may explain.

Lawrence was married back in England to a Mary Power and they had six children. Unbeknown to Lawrence, Mary Power was able to find the fare and sailed to the NSW Colony on the immigrant ship, *Margaret* with her children in 1837. For Lawrence, who may have been living with Mary McIlvane, it would have been quite a surprise when his first wife appears on the scene with six children.

With the arrival of his wife Mary Brown, Lawrence left Mary McIlvane to be with her and their children. Lawrence and his family then moved to the Tamworth District. He died in 1842 at Weabonga near Tamworth and is buried in Weabonga Cemetery, NSW.

So what of Mary McIlvane and her brood of four children?

On 5 September 1837, Phillip Cahill submitted an application to marry Mary McIlvane which was refused because she was in the Parramatta Female Factory with her children, and he had not obtained permission from the visiting Magistrate. However, on 23 Sep 1837, Phillip Cahill submitted another application to marry, which was granted. Phillip stated he was a bachelor and Mary stated she was a widow, although some records suggest her first husband George was still alive and living in Ireland where he died about 1848.

Phillip had previously submitted an application to marry a Mary Ann Corker, convict on the *Pyramus 1* on 6 June 1834 and again on 5 July 1834 - both were granted but for some unknown reason he did not marry her. Was he another cad? Mary Ann Corker did not wait for Phillip and found a better offer. She ended up marrying a James Coombes in 1836 at Bathurst where they lived and raised a family.

On Phillip Cahill's second application to marry Mary McAvane, it is stated that Mr. Love, to whom Mary and Phillip were assigned, would keep them on until Phillip obtained his Ticket of Leave. So, it appears that Phillip waited for his TOL, which would have given him some freedom to move about the colony and start his own business and to raise a family.

In 1836, Phillip Cahill obtained his TOL (36/1174) with the stipulation that he was allowed to remain in the District of Parramatta. Records also suggest they were working in the Windsor area at some time.

At long last, Mary McIlvane married Phillip Cahill on 4 October 1837 at St. Patrick's Church, Parramatta and they stayed in the Parramatta area.

Mary received her Ticket of Leave on 28 August 1838 and her Certificate of Freedom on 17 July 1840.

In 1844, Phillip Cahill was given a Conditional Pardon on the recommendation of William Love; F Watkins; C. Crooker; T Wilkinson MA.

It appears that both Phillip and Mary were fairly industrious and perhaps frugal because they had raised enough money to live well and through correspondence, had discussed paying for and bringing out members of each of their families to Australia to start a new life.

In 1855, Phillip and Mary Cahill are recorded in *the Deposit Journals* as having paid on 23 May 1855 for the fares of:

1. George McIlveen aged 19. George was the son of Samuel and Eliza McIlveen. Samuel McIlveen was the son of Mary Cahill (née McIlveen aka McAvane).
2. Catherine McIlveen aged 18 (the wife of Mary Cahill's grandson) and Mary McIlveen, an infant and great grandson of Mary Cahill.
3. Alice Jordon (her brother John's daughter), born 1834, aged 18 when the deposit was paid but aged 22 on arrival. Alice is described as a general servant and reads and writes. She was an Irish Presbyterian and was living in Lisburn, Antrim, Northern Ireland with her parents John (Mary's brother) and Jane Jordon.

George and Catherine with daughter Mary arrived on 22 April 1856 at Sydney on the immigrant ship the *Maitland*. They all went to live with Phillip and Mary Cahill at 136 Cumberland Street, Sydney.

Mary Cahill, with her extended family in Australia, would have been overjoyed and it was now Phillip's turn to bring out some of his relatives with the money they had saved.

Phillip and Mary Cahill are recorded in *the Deposit Journals* as having paid the fare of a Catherine Jordan. The deposit date was 13 Jan 1862, (deposit paid by Mary Cahill) but, Catherine Jordon declined to come.



Fig.1

The next to arrive in 1866 was Edmund Cahill - the deposit date was 17 October 1865, when Edmund was aged 20 years old (deposit paid by Mary). Edmund, born in 1845 in Cork, Ireland, arrived on the 15 March 1866 on

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Fig.1 136 Cumberland Street was a historic building demolished and replaced with the building on the far left in 2009. Above is a picture of 138-140 Cumberland Street in 2010 © Google.

the immigrant ship *Africana*. He was a butcher, could read and write, was a Roman Catholic and came from Cashel in County Tipperary, Ireland.

The next to arrive in 1868 was Bridget Cahill. She arrived on 31 July on the immigrant ship *Devonport* and was noted as 23 years old, however the deposit was actually paid back on 24 April 1854 by Phillip when Bridget would have been only nine years old. Little is known of this Bridget because she actually came out with another cousin who was also called Bridget.

The second Bridget Cahill was 24 years old, could read and write and was trained and qualified as a National Teacher in Ireland. She was Roman Catholic and was born in Kilkenny. She was from Longhill, County Limerick, Ireland. It appears Bridget wanted to start a new life in Australia, leaving behind her father Patrick who was still living in Kilkenny - her mother had since died. This time the two women went to live with their uncle and aunt at 63 Princes Street, Sydney.

However, this extended family happiness was short lived as Mary died on 28 August 1868, at her home in 63 Princes Street, Sydney - Simon Jordan is recorded as her father. Mrs. Mary Cahill was buried at the Petersham Cemetery (now defunct).

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Postscript: A search of Trove indicates that a William McIlveen lived in the Tamworth and Nundle region and was a publican of at least two hotels and had a shop in the area. He appears to have been respectable and sat as a member of a jury presiding over a Coroner's Inquest (a murder of a 17 year old girl).

William was charged later in life with causing 'Grievous Bodily Harm' by pushing a man into a fire - the victim was seriously burned. Witness accounts stated that the victim was drunk and was assaulting William.

It is interesting that William followed Lawrence Brown (possibly his biological father) to the same area of NSW. Later, William McIlveen moved from the Tamworth district and lived on a farm called "Sunnyclime" near Gilgandra where he died on 20 December 1869. The cause of death was a tetanus infection resulting from his work skinning cattle.

Immigrant George McIlveen died in 1887 and his wife Catherine died in 1886. They are buried with their children, Annie Margaret McIlveen (1874-1875), Margaret McIlveen (1876-1876) and Ernest David McIlveen (1880-1880), at Rookwood Cemetery.

It is unknown what happened to Mary McIlveen who was an infant in 1856 upon arrival.

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Online References:

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- Biographical Database Australia - [bda-online.org.au](http://bda-online.org.au)
- Convict Records - [convictrecords.com.au](http://convictrecords.com.au)
- Free Settler or Felon - [FreeSettlerorFelon.com](http://FreeSettlerorFelon.com)
- Immigration Records - [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)
- Parramatta Female Factory Friends - Female Convict Database
- Trove - [trove.nla.gov.au](http://trove.nla.gov.au)
- Australian Cemeteries Index - [austcemindex.org.au](http://austcemindex.org.au)
- Births, Deaths and Marriages - [bdm.nsw.gov.au](http://bdm.nsw.gov.au)
- Family Search - [Familysearch.com](http://Familysearch.com)
- Google Maps - [googlemaps.com](http://googlemaps.com)
- Irish News - [Irishnews.com](http://Irishnews.com)
- State Archives, NSW - [records.nsw.gov.au](http://records.nsw.gov.au)



McIlveen family headstone -  
The Old Wesleyan Section,  
Rookwood Cemetery.

There are two rather fascinating Serendipities for this month! Ronda Gaffey writes:

A few weeks ago, Anne Mathews asked if I was available to do a tour for a group of six. I asked for the name of the contact person and was a little taken back - it was a name from the past or was it? Um...maybe...but there can only be one 'K....K....'

On the Thursday before the scheduled tour, I was at an ex -colleague's retirement function at my old school and there was 'K....K....' with her husband who was my Faculty Head Teacher when I started there in 1981 and whom I had not seen since my retirement in 2014. After a few minutes quick catch up I asked, "Are you by any chance booked for a tour of the Parramatta Female Factory tomorrow?" "I am indeed," was the reply. "And are you the tour guide 'Ronda', Anne mentioned in her email?" "None other!" I replied. There were broad smiles all round!

The tour was rather special since the group were associated with the Sisters of Charity through their Parish Church at Liverpool - taking the group to the Sisters of Charity Memorial was truly a highlight of the tour.

Now that KK and I have reconnected, we have a few long lunches lined up!



Postscript: Mary Marzagora - a serendipitous find!

Following on from Anne and Beth's research recently, I was doing various name searches and found a rather intriguing website and what a find it was! <sup>1</sup> Next thing, I found myself thoroughly absorbed in the story of early schooling for catholic children in the colony and there was more!

I found a reference to *Francis Marzagora* and *William Marzagora* enrolled as students in 'the Higgins and Muldoon School', in Sydney in 1822. A footnote to the list states that the boys were enrolled for the first term and fifth term - further, that being enrolled for the fifth term meant they were in the first term of St. Mary's School which was the first school on the St. Mary's Cathedral site in Sydney.

In 1822 when the school was established, there were 60 pupils. The teachers were paid a penny per week for every child in attendance; daily class rolls were kept and open to public inspection during the hours of instruction.

The school was established by convicts Andrew Higgins (per *Daphne* 1819) and Robert Muldoon (per *Almorah* 1820) who were in the employ of Father J.J. Therry. There are numerous references to letters from Therry to the Colonial Secretary requesting payment for the teachers. Payments were invariably approved.

Andrew Higgins was associated with catholic education for many years - in 1834 he is listed as being on the Committee of St. Mary's School with Fr. Therry. <sup>2</sup>

For me, it was interesting to find a reference to a boy who was possibly Mary's son Francis who has been so elusive - to find him and his brother William in another context was exciting - pioneer pupils indeed!

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References:

<sup>1</sup>Website hosted by and written by Frank Murray: <http://www.frankmurray.com.au>

*My Early Pioneers and Their Lives*. Roll Call of the First Five Terms 1822 - 1823 - Students at the Higgins and Muldoon School, Sydney in First Term (April 1822) to Fifth Term (August 1823), 2015.

<sup>2</sup>Colonial Secretary, Goulburn, F. to Fr. Therry; Reel 6009 4/3505 p189) SARNSW.

