



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC. NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 58 JULY-AUGUST 2024



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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/Tour Coordinator:** Kevin Dodds **Committee Site Watch:** Judith Dunn OAM, **Editor/Publicity Officer:** Ronda Gaffey, **Membership Secretary:** Lorraine Henshaw

Minutes Secretary/Guest Speaker Co-Coordinator: Lyn Watkins, **Guest Speaker Co-Coordinator:** Janice Ruse Huntington

Next Meeting: PFFF AGM **Friday 16th AUGUST 2024 at 1pm**
followed by afternoon tea at 2pm. **General Meeting at 2.15pm**
Venue: PFFF Rooms, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Factory Friends,

Welcome to our winter edition of the Newsletter as the chilly weather makes itself known.

Our advocacy for World Heritage continues. We have advised the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, Heritage NSW and Dr. Andrew Charlton MP of our concerns regarding potential impact on the World Heritage application, particularly future management of the site, museum interpretation and the current threat to the buffer zone for the Factory. Also noted was our requirement for future accommodation for our group. Our Vision and Advocacy document was completed recently which will be used as an important advocacy tool.



The current local developments have been of interest to the media, particularly Albert Street which is within the buffer zone of the Female Factory. Parramatta's Federal member, Dr. Andrew Charlton MP has been advocating for the protection of our early heritage in Parramatta, including the Female Factory and recently gave an address in Federal Parliament regarding this.

On a social note, we had our second 'Friends only' morning tea which enlivened the Rooms with chatter and discovery of more family history connections. This is proving to be a great initiative organised by Lorraine Henshaw, PFFF Membership Secretary - it is where new and old members can get together and enjoy the Factory in a different way. There was also a wonderful bus trip to see the amazing Rajah Quilt at the National Gallery of Australia. All reports were that it was a great day and the quilt is really a masterpiece in its own way! Thank you to Lyn Watkins for organising the day and to Kerima-Gae Topp.

Our next big event will be Riot Day which will be 25th October this time. It will also include the official opening of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Research Centre and Babette Smith Collection. As usual we will need assistance volunteers on the day so if you are interested please email us on parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Factory tours continue to increase reflecting the increase of interest by the general public and family descendants. Our talks continue to engage with the latest by our secretary, Kevin Dodds on *punishment*.

The Factory Friends continue to engage the community and protect the Factory and of course, the success is our membership.

All the best and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Gay Hendriksen
President PFFF

In Remembrance - Major General Lachlan Macquarie CB
(1762 - 1824) - Fmr. Governor of NSW.

The 1st July 2024 marked the 200th Anniversary of Lachlan Macquarie's death.
He died age 62, in London and was buried on the island of Mull, Argyle and Bute, Scotland.

Today, the Macquarie Mausoleum is a place of homage and visited by many Australians. The site is managed by the National Trust of Australia.



A warm PFFF welcome to new members: Heather Garnsey OAM, James Garnsey, Scott Kable, Bruce Allen, Marlane Fairfax, Michelle Duddington, Gaye Lee Saunders, Sharon Murphy, Luanne Fagan, Clarissa Regan, Anne Therese Taylor, Janet Pezzutto, Victoria O'Keeffe, Peter Fallows, Lee McRae and Warren Davison.

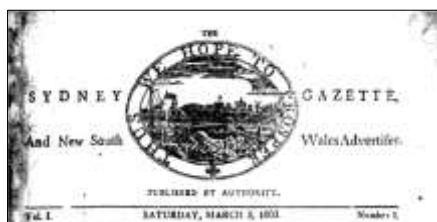
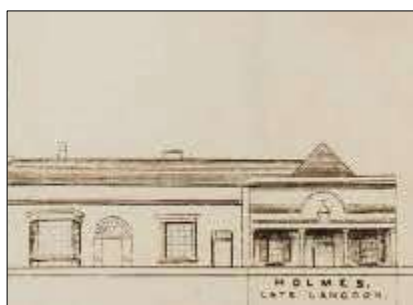
NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING: PFFF AGM Friday 16th AUGUST 2024** at 1pm followed by afternoon tea - General Meeting at 2.15pm.
- **WORKSHOP - Friday 23rd August - 10am-1pm:** 'The Home Curator - Caring for your Family History Collection' with Gay Hendriksen (see page 7 for details).
- **IT'S A RIOT 2024 - ANNUAL RIOT DAY - 197th Anniversary of the October 1827 riot! Friday 25th October 2024.**
- **REMINDER** - PFFF Annual fees (\$20) are due on July 1st each year - thank you for your ongoing support. Parramatta Female Factory Friends - BSB: 633 000 ACC: 151 276 763. Please add your name and 'Membership' to the EFT **or** post cheque to PO Box 1358, Parramatta 2141 **or** pay at our Rooms.

HISTORY CORNER - 1824 A COLONIAL FREE PRESS

Ronda Gaffey

These days family historians are fortunate to have access to so much material online and where would we be without *the Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser* (1803 to 1842) and other Colonial era newspapers.



In 1824 George Howe moved his *Sydney Gazette* from premises in Lower George Street, Sydney and later in October that year, its rival *the Australian* (1824-1848) began publication.

The Australian was owned by two lawyers, Robert Wardell and William Charles Wentworth. Wardell was editor and Wentworth wrote the occasional editorial provided the working capital. *The Australian* championed the Emancipist cause in NSW and was effectively the first independent newspaper in the Colony - it was said to herald the beginning of 'freedom of the press' in Australia, something which is fiercely defended today.



With the publication of *the Australian*, Government censorship of *the Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser* was ended by Governor Brisbane.

References:

The Australian (1824 newspaper) - Wikipedia online;

Images: Houses in Lower George Street showing George Howe's premises far right;

The Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, masthead 3rd March, 1803;

Stained glass window; 'The publication of the first Australian newspaper, the Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser, 1803'; Mitchell Library Reading Room, State Library NSW, depicting George Howe, photograph: David Fisher.

In our reading and research we find a number women who died in the Parramatta Female Factory - perhaps the most well documented Factory deaths are Mary Hindle who died by suicide (1841) and Mary Hamilton who died of starvation (1826). Records show that death within a short time of arrival and premature death of convict women was not uncommon. There are also a number of women who, once placed in the Parramatta Female Factory, never left. Some women should never have been transported, either because of their age, their physical condition and mental capacity; there were some who were 'broken' by the system which separated them from 'kith and kin' and never recovered. The profiles presented here are a sample of these lives, so unfairly 'cut short' after transportation.

Susan Agnew was a native of Armagh, Ireland - she was tried at the Easter Assizes in 1823 for stealing and was transported for seven years. She was aged 52 when she arrived in Sydney Cove per *Almorah*, on 20th August 1824.

The image shows a handwritten document titled 'Muster Roll of Female Convicts' on the ship 'Almorah'. It lists the arrival of Susan Agnew on 20th August 1824. The document is divided into two main sections: a list of convicts and a section for the ship's master, Boyd. The convict list includes names, ages, and other details. Susan Agnew is listed as a married spinster, 5 feet 4 inches tall, with hazel eyes, brown hair, and a freckled complexion. The ship's master section includes a description of the ship and the arrival date.

Muster Roll of Female Convicts		Boyd Master	
Name	Age	Arrived in Sydney Cove on Friday the 20 th of August 1824. By Frederick Goulburn Esq. Excellency.	
Susan Agnew	52	Arrived in Sydney Cove on Friday the 20 th of August 1824. By Frederick Goulburn Esq. Excellency.	

¹Muster Roll - *Almorah* - showing entry for Susan Agnew.

In the ship's Muster Susan is described as: Married; spins; 5 feet 4 inches tall with hazel eyes, brown hair, fair and freckled complexion and the remark - weak intellectually (?).¹

On the General Muster List of NSW, 1823/24/25, Susan Agnew was in the Female Factory, Parramatta. On 28th August 1826, she was confined to the cells for 'Striking Monitress'. Again on 17th September she was confined to a cell for 'Rioting'; on 28th September she was confined to a cell for her 'Riotous Conduct'. On 29th October 1827, Susan was in 1st class of Female Factory, with a punishment of 24 hours in cells for 'Insolence to the Monitors'. On 20th March 1828 she was again confined in a cell for 12 hours for being 'Insolent to Overseer.'

From the time of her arrival until her death in 1830, Susan's life was unsettled and she appears to have fought the system, being confined in the cells on at least six occasions for unacceptable conduct. From the remark in the Ship's Muster, she may have suffered a mental illness. Susan died in the Parramatta Female Factory in 1831. The cause of death we can only surmise. Susan was buried in an unmarked grave at St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta. As was the custom, her effects were sold at public auction.³

References:

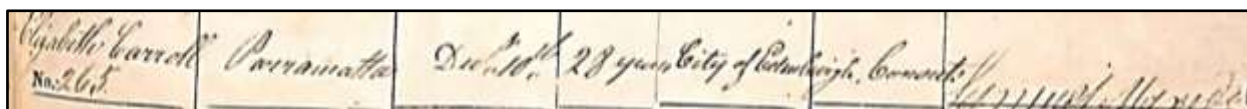
Our Girls - unpublished work sourced from original papers; SARNSW;

¹Muster Roll - *Almorah* 1824 ancestry.com;

²Colonial Secretary's Papers - Reel 7024/1791; Reel 2278; SARNSW;

³Colonial Secretary's Papers: letters 31/3003; SARNSW.

Elizabeth Carroll was born about 1800 in Waterford, Ireland. She was convicted in Kilkenny in August 1827 - her offence was 'stealing a clock.' She was sentenced to transportation for seven years. Elizabeth embarked the ship *City of Edinburgh (1)* which departed London on 13th June 1828. The ship carried 80 female prisoners and after a voyage of 119 days arrived in NSW on 12th November 1828.



Entry for Elizabeth Carroll - Burials, St John's Parramatta Parish Register - online.

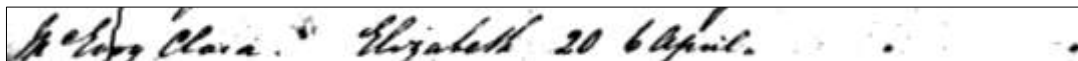
In the ship's Muster Elizabeth Carroll is described as: Age 28, no education, catholic, married with one child, a farm servant. She was 4 feet 10¾ inches, with a ruddy complexion, brown hair and eyes. The Colonial Secretary's Papers show Elizabeth Carroll per *City of Edinburgh*, died in the Female Factory in 1831 - her effects were also sold at public auction. Elizabeth died within three years of arrival - she was 31.

Again, the cause of death is unknown - she was small of stature and had been a farm servant - she also left a child behind. She is buried in an unmarked grave. The Rev. Samuel Marsden was the officiating Clergy.

Clare McEvoy (aka Clara) was born about 1808 in Dublin. She was convicted in Dublin on 15th May 1827; her offence was 'stealing plaid'. She was sentenced to transportation for seven years, with two previous convictions. Clare embarked the ship *Elizabeth 4*, departing Cork 27th August 1827. After a voyage of 138 days, she arrived in NSW on 12th January 1828.⁴

In the ship's Muster Clare is described as: No education, catholic, single, a nurse girl. She was 4 feet 8½ inches tall with a freckled complexion, dark brown hair and brown eyes. The ship's surgeon recorded her general conduct as good.⁵

Records show Clara McEvoy per *Elizabeth* died 6 April 1828 in the Parramatta Female Factory.⁶ Clare (aka Clara) was 20 years of age. She had been in the Colony only three months.

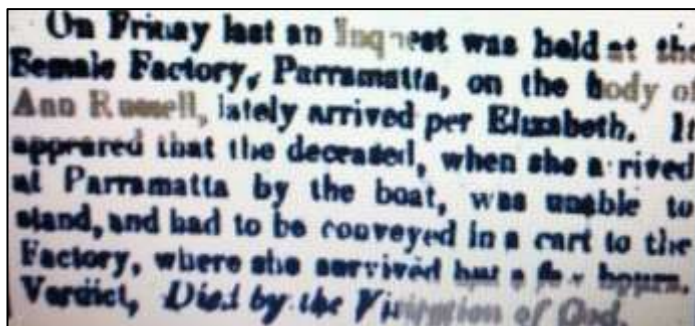


Register of Convict Deaths, showing entry for Clara (Clare) McEvoy - Colonial Secretary's Papers, SARNSW.

Ann Russell also embarked *Elizabeth 4*, arriving in Sydney Cove on 12th January, 1828. In the ship's Muster she is described as: Aged 35, single with one child, catholic, farm servant; former convictions 2; education none; 4 feet 11½ inches tall with a dark, ruddy complexion; dark brown hair. Ann was transported for seven years - her offence was *vagrancy*.⁷

Ann's death was truly tragic - her case is one where perhaps she ought not to have been allowed to embark. She was small of stature too as were many of the Irish women and no doubt had experienced a hard life.

8.



Ann was transported to Parramatta by boat and being unable to stand, she had to be carried to the Female Factory in a cart. According to the newspaper report, she died within a *few hours* of arrival. The cause of death: *Died by the Visitation of God*.⁸

References:

⁴Elizabeth 1828 From Celtic Cross to Southern Cross The worst and most turbulent; Suzanne Voytas, pub., Brookvale 2008, p271; ⁵Ibid; ⁶Ibid p. 272, ⁷p351; ⁸The Sydney Gazette & New South Wales Advertiser, article; 30 Jan., 1828.

Under the Vagrancy Act 1824, it was a criminal offence to 'sleep in any deserted or unoccupied building, or in the open air, or under a tent, or in a cart or waggon, not having any visible means of support'. The term generally implied homelessness and no visible means of support.

In the 19th C, the term, 'Died by the Visitation by God' meant a sudden or unexplained death; later it meant, 'natural causes'.

Mary Bishop was born in Hampshire, England in 1789. She was 40 years old when she was tried in Portsmouth on 11th July 1828 - her offence was 'house robbery' (stealing a bed). With two previous convictions, Mary was sentenced to transportation for seven years. She was described as: 5 feet 1½ inches tall, with a ruddy and freckled complexion, sandy grey hair, hazel eyes, two moles on her right cheek with a scar on her right hand and little finger. She arrived in Sydney Cove per *Princess Royal* on 9th May, 1829.⁹

<i>Princess Royal 2^d from England</i> <i>Muster Roll of 100 Female English Convicts</i> <i>Superintendent, arrived in Sydney Cove 9th May 1829</i> <i>Health - All Well - Conf. Colonial - Healthy</i>				<i>Shewell, Commandant</i> <i>for Ship Princess Royal</i> - <i>Arrived Sydney Western</i> <i>Muster held on board the said Ship 12th May 1829. By the</i> <i>Superintendent</i> <i>Number 100 being the original</i> <i>Number embarked, one of which</i>			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Height</i>	<i>Color of Hair</i>	<i>Color of Eyes</i>	<i>Color of Complexion</i>	<i>When Sent</i>	<i>By whom</i>
<i>Bishop Mary</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>5 ft 1 1/2 in</i>	<i>Ruddy</i>	<i>Hazel</i>	<i>Freckled</i>	<i>11th July 1828</i>	<i>By the Court</i>

On arrival, Mary was assigned to Isabella Ryan in Sydney, however the assignment was short-lived because in December, she was sentenced for two months in 3rd class at the Female Factory, Parramatta for drunkenness and neglect of work.¹⁰

Mary did not appear in the Surgeon's hospital list during the voyage, however she died in April 1830 in the Female Factory hospital, Parramatta. Her death occurred one year after her arrival...she was 41 years of age.

We have to wonder about Mary's previous life - she was a widow with six children. She had two previous convictions which suggest a life of hardship and 'distress'. Mary was short of stature and her occupation was noted as 'all work'. It is possible Mary Bishop died of a 'broken heart' - her losses too much to bear.

After her death, her clothes were sold - these included, 1 gown, 1 petticoat, 1 shift, 1 shawl, 1 pr. stockings, 1 pr. shoes, 1 handkerchief (old), and a black widow bonnet. She had a number of clothing items compared to other convict women - her clothes fetched the sum of 15/6 pence which was more than most convict clothes' auctions at the time.¹¹

12.

PAGE 27						
Burials in the Parish of Saint John Parramatta in the County of Cumberland in the Year 1830						
Name	Abode	When Buried	Age	Ship's Name	Quality or Profession	By whom the Ceremony was performed
Mary Bishop	Parramatta	Wed 14 th May	41 y	Princess Royal	Housewife	Wm. Gate

These women left much behind; they survived multiple journeys; some endured months of incarceration in County goals or in Newgate, then embarked the treacherous voyage to NSW, and their last journey - to the Parramatta Female Factory. The toll on mind, body and spirit is evident in many of these deaths.

References:

- ⁹Convict Ship Muster - *Princess Royal*, ancestry.com online;
¹⁰*Princess Royal A Cargo of Women*, Babette Smith, pub., Allen & Unwin 2008; pp201, 247; ¹¹Ibid;
¹²Entry for Mary Bishop - Burial, St. John's Parish Register - online;
 Additional research: John Gaffey, Ronda Gaffey.



All the women described here are in unmarked graves - it is through our research and writing that we remember them. Ed.

At the recent PFFF Member's Morning Tea, a family treasure, a small leather bound book, drew much attention...

The book is entitled "SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE, A Manual for Prisoners" - it is dated Dec 1836 and is a fifth edition.

The book came into my hands via my mother who had accepted it from her sister-in-law Helen Chadwick née Martin, who married Claude Chadwick in 1947 after she met him whilst working with the Land Army during WW2.

They lived on a property on Mt. Vincent, Running Stream which is near Ilford in the Central West of NSW. Claude's family were descended from several convicts. There were numerous convicts working and making their way in the Mudgee district and many descendants are still there today.



The book belonged to Claude's grandmother, Hannah Farrar in 1845, as she has written her name and year (very neatly) on the inside cover. Hannah Farrar was born to Ann O'Neil in 1832, probably in Gulgong. Whilst Ann O'Neil was not a convict, her father was and had worked for John Blaxland. He finally gained his freedom and was able to have his wife Sarah, née Morning, join him in Sydney from Ireland with the family which included Ann aged 10.

By the age of 15 Ann found herself pregnant and in 1832 she married John Farrar - a Yorkshire man and a convict who arrived in the colony in 1819. We wonder if John was aware of the pregnancy and did he know Hannah was not his child. Suffice to say they lived and worked in the Gulgong and then the Rylstone area and had a number of children until John died c1851*. After John's death, his widow Ann married Robert Redman, a convict who arrived in 1829. When he died in 1869, she married again to William Newman. Unfortunately, Ann died in Newington Asylum in 1896.

Going back to Hannah. She must have used the book to record her children as you would in a family Bible. On the second page she has recorded her first child - "born 28th Dec a quarter after 3 in the morning 1847" (Eliza Ann) then, "second child 29th March 1850" (Sarah Jane); "third child born 17th July 1852" (Thomas); "fourth child 2nd August 1854" (Joseph). She did not enter the names of the children however we do know the names. She went on to have more children making a total of 12 - they all lived at "Flatlands", Rylstone. There is another name written in indelible pencil - "Homles Shanklin" which was the name of her husband or was it her 11th child with the same name? The correct spelling is "Holmes" but this is how it appears in the book.

On the 4th page Hannah writes her name again, "Hannah Farrar 27th Dec, Caswell Creek 1843, New South Wales". I think this is "Carwell" which is near Rylstone.

The book is a very direct book written by the Rev. Duke Yonge A.M. - it is full of good advice and I would imagine he was wanting to instruct the prisoners to amend their ways and to think long and hard as to how they were brought to imprisonment and how to approach death: *Every man knows that it is appointed unto all men once to die...*

*We wonder if John was aware of Ann's pregnancy at the time of their marriage as DNA has shown that a John Freeman, a convict was Hannah's biological father.

The Rev. Duke Yonge (1750-1823) was an Oxford graduate in medicine and then studied for the priesthood - he was a country vicar who wrote several devotional and inspirational books.

Photograph book cover: Kevin Dodds; courtesy, Lyn Mews.

Our Research Centre continues to develop well with great additions to anyone's research on the Female Factory and the associated social histories. One of these was a recent digital addition of an original book brought in by one of our members Lyn Mews: *Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge – A Manual for Prisoners* (see page 7). If you have an original item and want to share do let us know. For the Centre, even a digital copy can be useful and help our researchers fill in the gaps.

We are getting closer with our preparations for the official opening of the Research Centre in October on Riot Day.

The Dewey decimal cataloguing project and digital records additions are continuing well. The vertical file resource has made a steady start.

Our next Research Centre Workshop is *The Home Curator* which will show how to care for your special family history objects or your other special collections. So often family history items lose their provenance or just don't survive intact. With this workshop you will learn how best to care for your objects, so they survive into the future.

Don't forget If you have a resource, an object or have research you would like to share related to the Female Factory women, the site or the world the Factory women inhabited, please contact me at parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com with *Research Centre* in the subject field. This is the same one as where you can share information about your ancestors.

Our Factory women's list continues to grow so please keep those names and stories coming in. You can give these directly to us at the Research Centre or email information to: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com and put *Research Centre* in the subject field. That way we can ensure they are shared with all Australians.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Friends' Rooms, including the PFFF Research Centre.

ADVERTISEMENT - WORKSHOP FRIDAY 23rd AUGUST 10am - 1pm

**at the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Rooms
'The Home Curator' - Caring for your Family History Collection'
Presenter: Gay Hendriksen**

Whether you are a family historian, a private collector or just have special objects you want to know how to care for, there is something in this workshop for you. Learn about organising, preserving and sharing to a professional standard, ensuring your collection of papers or photos or objects, survive. Bring along small items (or images if items/s too large) for professional advice and clues to the best ways to identify and care for them.

**BOOKINGS: EVENTBRITE: <https://bit.ly/4cwMegQ> Cost: \$15 (plus booking surcharge).
Places are limited, so please book early.**



Imagine this... **Adelaide de la Thoreza** was a daughter of a Spanish Nobleman who was politically outspoken. As a cherished daughter she is sent to a convent. Her father falls into "disgrace" after the Spanish "Trienio Liberal" (a period of three years of liberal rule) and the restoration of the absolute king, Ferdinand VII. She flees with her parents to avoid reprisals, travels to France and Italy. Her father is killed then her mother dies so Adelaide becomes an orphan. She moves to London and is living with a wealthy lady. She is victim of a conspiracy plotted by a jealous woman for the love of a man and is finally, falsely indicted and sentenced to transportation.

Is this the stuff of Victorian melodrama or truth... a fanciful story of embellishment by an imaginative local minister... or a true record of a woman's oral history... or her creative effort? This story reached far and wide in 19th century Colonial NSW and the early 20th century, from Richmond and Windsor to Dungog to Albury and into Victoria to Beechworth, largely due to a newspaper serialisation of the Rev. Cameron's account, including the origins of a poem thought to be Adelaide's but later found to be Robbie Burns.ⁱ Adelaide's name does not appear on any Spanish records nor do some of the individuals in her story as transmitted. Thoreza is not a Spanish surname, but this may be about Spanish pronunciation where z is pronounced with a 'th'.

99
Fifth Session, 1829.

Before Mr. Recorder.

1286. ADELAIDE DE THORAZA was indicted for stealing, on the 28th of April; 6 sheets, value 15s., the goods of Martha Davis.

MARTHA DAVIS. I live at No. 15, Finsbury-street, Finsbury-square. I am single, and am a dress-maker—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 bed-room; a butcher came to me to ask for a sum of money which I did not owe—I then went and searched the prisoner's box; I found a sheet and a night-gown 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 both the sheets were gone—this was on the 28th of April; I never saw the corresponding sheet; the officer produced some duplicates, by which we found six sheets; I knew them to be mine, as I had assisted to spin them, and made them up myself.

SOBANNAN PERRY. I live at No. 7, Camden-court, Grub-street, Chiswell-street. I had known the prisoner for about a fortnight before she went into this service; she brought me a pair of sheets and a bolster one evening, some months before she was taken up—she said she was tired, that the bailiffs had come into her mistress' house, and she had got a bed out and pawned it—she had a pair of sheets and a bolster in her apron; she asked me to go and pawn them on her mistress' account—I pawned them in my own name, at Mr. Upsall's, in Barbican; Christopher Deer advanced me 8s.—I gave the 8s. to her.

CHRISTOPHER DEER. I am in the service of Mr. Upsall, of Barbican. I know Perry by visiting the shop; I cannot speak positively to her pawning these sheets, though I have reason to suppose she did, by her name and address being on them; I gave this duplicate—they were afterwards claimed by Davis.

MARTHA DAVIS. These are my sheets, they are marked with my name; the prisoner had no authority to pawn them—I never authorised her to pawn a bed; I had an excellent character with her.

THOMAS BROOKS. I am a pawnbroker. I have four sheets pawned at two different times, one pair on the 19th of February, in the name of Ediz Wilson; No. 8, Camden-court, a lodger, for 3s.; I did not take them in—this duplicate was given; I do not know who pawned them—the other pair was pawned on the 2d of March, in the name of Wilson; I suppose the person who took them in did not rightly understand the name; I do not think Davis swore to these because they are not marked.

JOHN BEE. I am an officer. I was sent for to take charge of the prisoner—she was not at first accused of stealing sheets, but was afterwards; I found two duplicates of Mr. Brooks', Whitecross-street; and one other duplicate on her.

COURT to MARTHA DAVIS. Q. Look at these four sheets, and tell me what reason you have to claim them as yours? A. I made up part of them—some of them were kept in a cupboard and some in a box, they are both kept locked; I never sent the prisoner to take the sheets out; I always do that myself.

GUILTY. Aged 22. Transported for Seven Years.

7 P

Adelaide De Thoreza aka de la Thoreza or DeThereza, was a convict woman who claimed to be of noble birth and shared her story with the Rev. James Cameron.ⁱ

Adelaide was a Spanish convict according to the available records. No birth certificate has been located to date however her birth in Madrid was identified by the Rev. Cameronⁱⁱ and in convict recordsⁱⁱⁱ.

Her birth date can be determined as circa 1808 from her headstone. She did live in London and was tried at the Old Bailey^{iv}. Adelaide de Thoreza was indicted for stealing on the 28th of April and sentenced to transportation for 7 years.



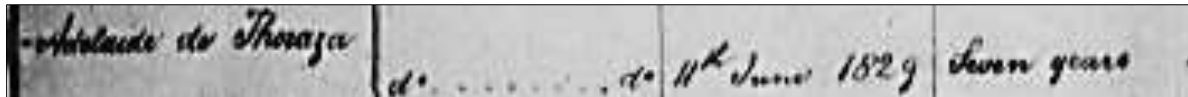
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MARTHA DAVIS. I live at No. 15, Finsbury-street, Finsbury-square. I am single, and am a dress-maker - the prisoner was a servant at my house for fifteen months and a fortnight; she was there I believe at the time the sheets were stolen - she was the only female servant in the house; it was her business to mind the bedding and the bed-room; a butcher came to me to ask for a sum of money which I did not owe - I then went and searched the prisoner's box; I found a sheet and a night-gown 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 both the sheets were gone - this was on the 28th of April; I never saw the corresponding sheet; the officer produced some duplicates, by which we found six sheets; I knew them to be mine, as I had assisted to spin them, and made them up myself.....

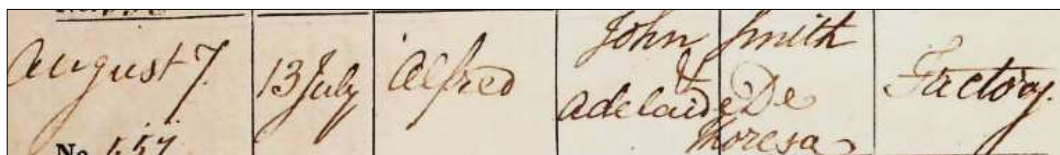
COURT to MARTHA DAVIS. Q. Look at these four sheets, and tell me what reason you have to claim them as yours? A. I made up part of them - some of them were kept in a cupboard and some in a box, they are both kept locked; I never sent the prisoner to take the sheets out; I always do that myself. GUILTY. Aged 23. Transported for Seven Years.^v

Adelaide embarked the ship *Lucy Davidson* in London on 20th June 1829 and arrived in NSW on 29th November 1829. In the ship's Muster she is described as: 23 years, read & writes, protestant, native place Spain, housemaid; she was 5 feet ½ inch tall with a ruddy complexion, light brown hair, hazel eyes. She was assigned from the ship to Juan Baptiste de Arrieta. He was Spanish and possibly a contractor to the British Army during the Peninsular War. He had been granted land at Cow Pastures near Camden Park.

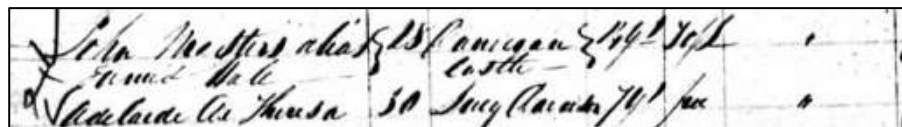
Adelaide became pregnant while assigned. As a result, Arrietta returned her to the Female Factory at Parramatta where her son Alfred Smith was born. Adelaide claimed that the father was a fellow servant who had drowned. She gave the child up to George and Ann James.



Adelaide de Thoreza, Indent detail 1829.



Birth for Alfred Smith, son of Adelaide de Thoreza - Parramatta Female Factory, 13th July 1830; father's name given as John Smith.



Successful marriage application, 1836.

In July 1836, after serving her sentence^{vi}, Adelaide married ex-convict John Masters, a painter^{vii}. They settled in Richmond and opened a confectionery shop. They had two children, Adelaide and Thomas. Then they moved to Windsor. At some point the two separated, with John Masters returning in later life.

John Masters died 19 Mar 1869 age 61-62 and Adelaide died in 1877 age 69.

They are buried beside each other. Adelaide has the unusual epitaph:

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



Bibliography

Sue Ballyn, *The Biography of Adelaide de la Thoreza: Fact or Fiction?* Coolabah, No.20, 2016, ISSN 1988-5946, Observatori: Centre d'Estudis Australians / Australian Studies Centre, Universitat de Barcelona, Australian Studies Centre, Barcelona University;
Ballyn, Susan and Frost, Lucy, *A Spanish Convict in Colonial Australia (1808-1877) Who was Adelaide de la Thoreza?*, Arts Grafiques, 2018;
Cameron, Rev. James, *Adelaide de la Thoreza – A Chequered Career*, Sydney, 1878, Foster and Fairfax, 1878;
Image: Headstone - Adelaide Masters - <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/122168674/adelaide-eliza-masters>
St Peter's Anglican Church Richmond, NSW.

21 JUNE General Meeting - Guest Speaker - Kevin Dodds

TOPIC: PUNISHMENTS FOR FEMALE CONVICTS IN THE FEMALE FACTORY & BEYOND Lyn Watkins

This was a very interesting and informative talk by Kevin Dodds with lots of facts and interesting data.

Between 1780 and 1800, England passed 2,700 Acts related to crime. In 1688, 50 of those crimes had the death penalty however by 1815, 215 crimes were a capital offence - death by hanging.

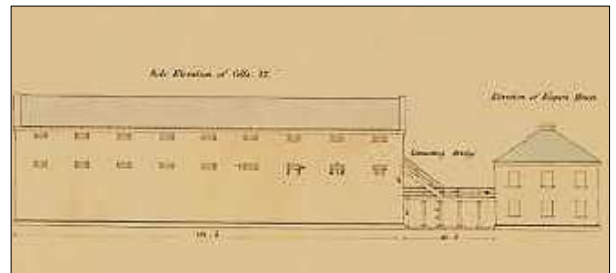
Punishment was harsh and late in the 18th century and early 19th century, it included 'branding' prisoners which entailed branding the prisoner with letters on the fingers or hand e.g., T for Thief; F for Felon; and M for murder.

Over the years, punishment in the Parramatta Factory evolved - in 1821 there was one class in the Factory however by 1826, three classes were established to better manage the women and separate them according to their behaviour and status - 1st Class, 2nd Class and 3rd Class. Third Class meant hard labour, e.g., breaking rocks into small stones for road base, or picking oakum – removing tar from rope and breaking it down into the small strands of fibre.

There were 958 offences that the female convicts could be charged with - these included: *being insolent to master, being pregnant, complaining, laziness and not fit for service.**

In 1838 there was a new solitary cell block commissioned by Governor Gipps at the Parramatta Female Factory. Here the common punishment was time in isolation on bread and water. It is recorded that over 4,000 convicts were sentenced thus.

After listening to Kevin's talk, I am so pleased to be living in this era, as I would have been in the Factory many times just reading the above five crimes*.



'Gipps' single cells - diagram by H.W. Lugard R.E c1840.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL (NATIONAL TRUST) - OPEN DAY 18th May AT PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY & INSTITUTIONS PRECINCT



ARTS & CULTURAL OPEN DAY - NORTH PARRAMATTA - SATURDAY 25th May.



Jeanette Moles and Eileen Avery - PFFF Catering Team at Matron Gordon's pop-up café.



Above: Pop-up artisan stalls and entrance to Friends' Rooms with PFFF's new banner, sign-posting and supporting Parramatta Heritage.
Right: A couple of galahs spied checking out the mural (feathered rels)!



FF site Mural - by Christina Huynh



Well done 'the Friends' who were 'on deck' for two fabulous Open Days at the Parramatta Femle Factory site hosted by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) - thanks to our hard working volunteers!

OUT & ABOUT - Viewing the Rajah Quilt, CANBERRA

Lyn Watkins

On Tuesday 18 June, thanks to Kerima-Gae Topp (and her bus) *the Friends* had a lovely trip to the National Gallery in Canberra to view the exhibition, *A Century of Quilts* which featured the wonderful Rajah Quilt. It was a chilly start but it turned out to be a lovely sunny day.

This quilt was made on the voyage to Tasmania by the female convicts on the ship *Rajah* (1841) using sewing supplies provided by *The British Ladies Society for the Reformation of Female Prisoners* formed by Elizabeth Fry.

It was magical to see what lovely fine work was done by those women considering the conditions and equipment they had at that time. The techniques of *broderie perse** and *paper piecing* are still used to this day.



(L) PFFF and the Rajah Quilt - photograph: Kerima-Gae Topp
(Above) - the Rajah Quilt - photograph: Lyn Watkins.

*Quilting techniques - *broderie perse* is a French term meaning 'Persian Embroidery' - it is where motifs such as birds and flowers are cut from fabric and appliqued onto a solid piece of fabric to make a scene or central design. *Paper piecing* is the technique of using paper patterns as templates which fabric is stitched onto.

Thank you to PFFF Membership Secretary Lorraine Henshaw for organising a special morning tea for members and thank you to Eileen Avery and Jeanette Moles for making the 'tea room' so welcoming - there were fresh camellias on the tables, as well as fine bone china cups and, tea was served from a silver tea service! Thank you also for the rather lovely treats we could all enjoy on such a frosty morning.

The Research Centre and Member's Room was abuzz with chit chat with people sharing their passion for this special place and the many personal connections to it.



At the end of the day, there was a lovely gesture by Eileen - a camellia was laid for each of 'the girls' at the Commemorative Wall! Well they had to share...and we were lucky to 'souvenir' a few for home!



SERENDIPITY - a concept by Janice Ruse Huntington

Lyn Watkins writes: Apart from the three female convicts in my direct line of descent (*Honora Harrington per Duke of Edinburgh, 1828, Margaret Brandon per Burrell 2, 1832 and Elizabeth Fellows per Fanny 2, 1833*), I have discovered that Spanish born convict, *Adelaide de la Thoreza**, is an ancestor of my stepmother, Lillian Bromage, née Masters. All four women spent time at the Parramatta Factory.

Ronda Gaffey writes: I wonder *who* has paid homage and *to whom*...? Occasionally there are flowers left at the Female Factory Commemorative Wall. On the recent Heritage Festival Open Day, I noticed there was a small posey of fresh pink roses and camellias tied with a mauve ribbon...the Factory women are not forgotten...

*see Adelaide's profile - page 9; Ed.



2024	PFFF MEETINGS - EVENTS	
July	Newsletter 19th Committee Meeting	July 9th 205th Anniversary - Gov. Macquarie laid the foundation stone for the <i>new</i> Factory.
August	Friday 16th Committee Meeting AGM <u>Friday 23rd AUGUST - Workshop: The Home Curator - Caring for your Family History Collection - Gay Hendriksen</u>	
September	Friday 20th Committee Meeting <u>Saturday 28th September Workshop TBC: Philippa Crosbie</u> <u>September Members' Only Morning Tea TBC</u>	Linnwood Open Day TBC NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Soc. Annual Conference - TBA History Council NSW History Week 7th - 15th September
October	Friday 18th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting 25th RIOT DAY - 197 th Anniversary Event featuring The Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture - Assoc. Prof. Hamish Stewart Maxwell	Riots occurred: 27.10.1827; 11.10.36
November	Newsletter 15th Committee Meeting <u>Friday 8th Nov: Workshop: Ancestry Master Class - Kevin Dodds</u>	Riot occurred: 29.11.1831 Parramatta Foundation Day Festival TBC
December	Friday 13th Committee Meeting General Meeting	Christmas afternoon tea (note date - 2nd Friday)

Monthly Committee meetings 11am - 1pm . Bi-monthly guest speaker 1:00pm. followed by afternoon tea.

General meeting at 2:15pm.

PFFF Research Centre is open Friday 10am - 2pm, by appointment.

Regular site tours - by appointment. Contact: Tour Coordinator parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com

Endnotes: Adelaide de la Thoreza (page 8-9)

ⁱ A number of articles transmitting the Reverend Cameron version of the Adelaide Thoreza story include:

Bong Ree article author The Globe and Sunday Times War Pictorial Sat 9 Sep 1916, pg. 18

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/100575161?searchTerm=thoreza>; Windsor and Richmond Gazette, Fri 11 Aug 1933

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/86051420?searchTerm=thoreza#>

Controversy of authorship of a poem purported to be by Adelaide include: in *the Riverina Herald* Fri 29 Jul 1887 pg. 2

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114654299?searchTerm=thoreza>; *The Argus* Melbourne, Tues 9 Aug 1887 pg. 9

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/7872699?searchTerm=thoreza>; Dungog Chronicle: Durham and Gloucester Advertiser Tues 5 Sept 1933 pg. 5

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/141144536?searchTerm=thoreza>

ⁱⁱ Cameron, Rev. James, Sydney, 1878, Foster and Fairfax, 1878, pg. 6

ⁱⁱⁱ Certificate of Freedom, State Records Authority of New South Wales; Kingswood, New South Wales, Australia; Series Name: Butts of Certificates of Freedom; Series Number: NRS 12210; Archive Roll: 996

^{iv} <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18290611-289>

^v <https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/record/t18290611-289>

^{vi} Certificate of Freedom, State Records Authority of New South Wales; Kingswood, New South Wales, Australia; Series Name: Butts of Certificates of Freedom; Series Number: NRS 12210; Archive Roll: 996

^{vii} Newspaper article where son Thomas Mathew Masters is written about as oldest residence of Windsor. Masters' father was an Englishman, John Masters, the artist, and his mother a Spanish woman, Adelaide de la Thoreza

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/247310779?searchTerm=If%20you%20go%20to%20historic%20Windsor%20for%20the%20Back-to-Windsor%20celebrations%2C%20look%20up%20Thomas%20Matthew%20Masters%2C>