



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Factory Friends,

Welcome to 2023. This year is looking promising for Factory activities and the move to World Heritage. It was lovely to catch up with those who made it to the Christmas party and I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

There are still the wonderful talks and tours to attend. You can drop in to the Research Centre and see where we are up to with our resources or simply relax in the rooms and enjoy the Herstory exhibition spread over the two Friends' Rooms. You can do this on the 3rd Friday of the month between 10am and 2pm.



In addition to our program, there will be open days at the Rooms and a series of four workshops during the year ranging from first steps to Trove, Colonial crafts and handy hints for tracing your Factory ancestors.

As the Friends love to be social, we will be developing occasional excursions, discovering more about the world of the Factory women. These will range over time from cemetery visits, special localities such as the Rocks, historic homes, museums and special exhibitions. If they are in Parramatta, we will finish with a cuppa at our Friends' Rooms. As these events come up, you will see them promoted on the Newsletter and on social media.

Part of our advocacy planning is promoting World Heritage far and wide. So if you have a little time then please write to your local members to support the State and Federal contribution to the application for World Heritage. We will be sending you information soon on who to send your letter to and key points to include.

We have recently received generous donations from Jill Finch OAM of Prospect Heritage Trust which will help support our activities. Thank you to Anne Mathews for organising this and Kevin Dodds for delivering the goods.

If you haven't been to the Factory recently, then do come and visit the new Rooms and see the changes around the site. The conservation work has really made a difference.

If you would like to be more involved in PFFF, please consider volunteering at one of our events at Heritage Week or Riot Day. Member involvement at these events always makes a difference.

Check out our calendar of events and mark your diaries so you don't miss out on our regular celebrations.

See you at the Female Factory.

All the best

Gay Hendriksen  
President



Entrance to the Friends' Rooms and the PFFF Research Centre - opposite the Gipps Yard Wall.

## NOTICEBOARD

A warm welcome to new and returning members: Margaret Allen OAM, Bob Crosbie, Leigh Scully, Anna Bruest, Gloria Nichol, Warren Nichol, Jane Houselander, Sarah Doueih, Sue Cross, Amanda Guan, Suzanne Rowe, Susan Tracey, Paul Wheeldon, Joanne Winter and Dr. Gerard Adolphe.

- **NEXT MEETING: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023.** Guest Speaker - Kerima-Gae Topp at 1:00pm - topic: *The Australian Female Factories* followed by afternoon tea. General Meeting at 2.15pm.
- PFFF's **International Women's Day** observance is **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023** from 9.00am. The PFFF Research Centre and Members' Room will be open - call in, grab a coffee, meet other members, browse the library, share your research, book a tour (bookings at the Rooms, on the day), check out our sales table and bric a brac stall.
- **The Australian National Trust Heritage Festival** is on 10<sup>th</sup> April - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023 - look out for an exciting program of talks and tours being offered - see National Trust website for details.
- For all 2023 meetings, events and commemorative dates see the PFFF Calendar, page 12. The **PFFF Workshops** commence this year (see page 7) so watch out for bookings opening.

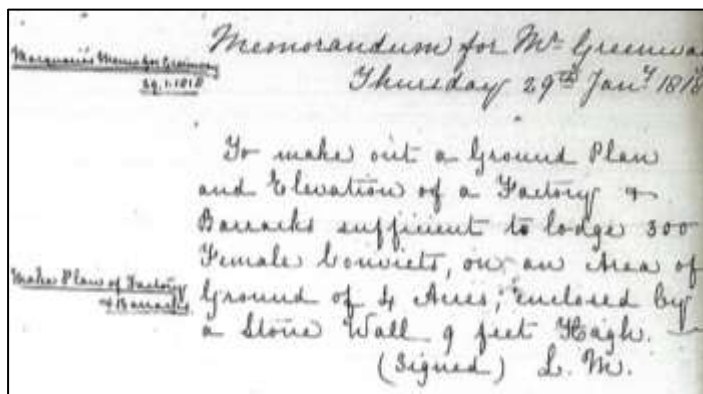
## HISTORY CORNER - January 1818

Ronda Gaffey

In a Memorandum dated Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1818, architect Francis Greenway was given instructions by Governor Lachlan Macquarie to 'make out a Ground Floor Plan and Elevation of a Factory & Barracks to lodge 300 Female Convicts, on an area of Ground of 4 Acres, enclosed by a Stone wall of 9 feet high...'<sup>1</sup>

Within a few months, the tender was advertised and work commenced. The first stone was laid by Governor Macquarie on the morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> July 1818. The build took another three years to complete and on 1<sup>st</sup> February 1821, the first convict women and their children moved into the 'new' Barracks.

Thousands of women passed through the Factory gates, most either waiting for or returning from assignment, some, both convict and 'free', seeking the 'lying-in' Hospital and others sent to spend time 'under punishment'.



2.

The women defied all odds - the nine feet walls could not contain them and were raised; the capacity of 300 proved inadequate with the number of ships and women arriving over the ensuing years. At one stage up to 1200 convict women plus their children were housed at the site - the 'Factory and Barracks' had exceeded all planning and expectation.

Though the main Barracks has gone, there is still much to see and celebrate. The convict women's narratives keep unfolding, the sandstone walls defy time and the Female Factory footprint of the four acres set aside in 1818, are as discernible as they were 200<sup>+</sup> years ago, as well as the later 1830's additions of the Gipps Yard and walls.

### References:

<sup>1</sup> Bigge's Appendix, Bigge Report Vol 133 pp3328-9 - supplied by Anne Mathews.

<sup>2</sup> Image from: *Elevation of the Factory* - Standish Lawrence Harris, Report & Estimate of the Value of Improvements which have taken place in the Public Buildings of Sydney, Parramatta, Windsor, Liverpool and Campbelltown, between the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1822 & the 24<sup>th</sup> December 1823 inclusive, and an Expose of the present state of Public Buildings in New South Wales, 1824: Collections of the State Library NSW.

Mary Connell features in the late Babette Smith's much acclaimed book, 'A Cargo of Women'.<sup>1</sup> Like many convict women, she experienced a number of assignments and time in 1<sup>st</sup> class at the Parramatta Female Factory as well as time in Newcastle and the Hunter Region. She finally settled in rural NSW and lived to the great age of 98.

Mary Connell was born in Cork, Ireland in 1810. By 1828 was convicted of *Theft*: simple larceny, at the Old Bailey. Her crime was shoplifting a pair of half-boots valued at 3s., from the shop of John Edwards, a bootmaker. Mary was seen with the goods after leaving the shop and was subsequently arrested. She was sentenced to seven years transportation.



The ship *Princess Royal* left England on 7 November 1828 and arrived in Sydney Cove on 9 May 1829 after a voyage of 123 days - no deaths were recorded. One hundred women (their ages ranging from 15 to 48) and seven children were landed. The ship's Surgeon Superintendent Dr. Andrew D. Wilson reported all the women had disembarked in the early morning on 12 May, following the muster on board by the Colonial Secretary Alexander McLeay. The women were assigned directly from the ship with the exception of two women who were reported to be in a state of bad health.<sup>3</sup> The arrival of a 'cargo of women' was noted with much expectation:

*The Princess Royal has brought a fresh re-enforcement of women to the colony - On the whole these are the best sorts of cargoes just now if nuptial intercommunication of the sexes was but properly encouraged...*<sup>4</sup>

Mary is described as: 19 years of age, 5ft. 4" tall, ruddy complexion, brown hair and hazel eyes.<sup>5</sup> She was a working woman - a straw bonnet maker by trade, a skill which would have been of use during her time in the Factory where straw plaiting was one aspect of manufacture.

5.

|      |              |                |      |      |   |   |    |       |    |    |
|------|--------------|----------------|------|------|---|---|----|-------|----|----|
| 1479 | Mary Connell | Princess Royal | 1829 | 1810 | 5 | 4 | d. | Ruddy | d. | d. |
|------|--------------|----------------|------|------|---|---|----|-------|----|----|

On arrival Mary was assigned to James Rooke in George Street, Sydney but with the failure of this assignment, she was returned to 1<sup>st</sup> class at the Parramatta Female Factory. From 1829 to 1833 Mary was assigned on at least four more occasions. In 1830 she was sent to Newcastle but then returned to Parramatta shortly after; in November 1831 she was sent to D. Ryan, Sydney; a year later in June 1832, Mary was assigned to John Cobb\*, Hunters River; in June 1833 she was returned to the Factory at Parramatta once more.<sup>6</sup>

In November 1834, there is a record of marriage between Mary Connell and John Smyth (Smith).<sup>7</sup> John was transported for stealing money and arrived on 16 October 1832 per *Dunvegan Castle*. He had been assigned to Colonel Thomas Shadforth (of the 57<sup>th</sup> Regiment) who owned a property *Ravenswood*, at Mulgoa in NSW.<sup>8</sup>

#### References:

- <sup>1</sup> Smith, Babette, *A Cargo of Women - Susannah Watson and the convicts of the Princess Royal*, second edition published Allen & Unwin 2008, page 97.
- <sup>2</sup> Photograph: Mary Connell, courtesy descendant Keith Hayden.
- <sup>3</sup> Willetts, Jenni, *The Princess Royal*; [freesettlorfelon.com/convict\\_ship\\_princess\\_royal\\_1829.htm](http://freesettlorfelon.com/convict_ship_princess_royal_1829.htm) accessed 2/1/23
- <sup>4</sup> Extract from *The Australian* (Sydney NSW 1824-1848) from article, *Princess Royal*: [freesettlorfelon.com/convict\\_ship\\_princess\\_royal\\_1829.htm](http://freesettlorfelon.com/convict_ship_princess_royal_1829.htm)
- <sup>5</sup> New South Wales, Australia, Gaol Description and Entrance Books: 1818-1930 entry for Mary Connell 1829 [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) accessed 1/1/23
- <sup>6</sup> Mathews, Anne, Matthews, Beth, *Our Girls*, unpublished work sourced from original papers, State Archives NSW.
- <sup>7</sup> BDM NSW records ([ancestry online](http://ancestry.com)) show a marriage for Mary Connell and John Smith in 1834 at Cobbitty, near Narellan, NSW accessed 3/1/23
- <sup>8</sup> A Dictionary of Biography Vol 21967 - entry for Thomas Shadforth accessed 3/1/23

\*John Cobb was a free settler with holdings in the Hunter Valley - his main property was *Minimbah* which comprised 2000 acres - he maintained six convict assignees.



Mary received her Certificate of Freedom (CoF) in 1835 - it is dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September. John received his Certificate of Freedom in 1837.

In the years following their marriage, Mary and John moved to Yass and later to Goulburn. They had ten children.

Little is known about John in later life, however Mary died in 1908 aged 98 and is buried at the Church of England Cemetery in Wellington NSW. She is in an unmarked grave.<sup>9</sup>

Mary was truly a pioneer woman whose early life in the colony was unsettled with multiple assignments and relocations as for many convict women; she met and married a Ticket of Leave man and then spent the rest of her life in the country raising her large family. At her death, Mary had been in NSW for almost 80 years. She would have seen many changes in the Colony; she would have witnessed the growth of inland towns and some extraordinary events including the coming of Federation, the new century and another era, the Edwardian era.

Postscript: \*It is possible that Mary left a child behind when she was transported - in the ship's indent she is noted as: *single family*<sup>1</sup> which may indicate she had a child, however none is recorded with her on the voyage to NSW. Seven women came with their children including Babette Smith's ancestor Susannah Watson who had her son Thomas with her.

The additional information on Mary's CoF adds to her profile as a straw worker. Under general remarks, *a burn* is noted on the back of her left hand and the forefinger of her right hand is *disfigured*. Perhaps this is evidence of her work as a straw bonnet maker or a childhood accident. A tattoo with the initials *ES*, is noted on the inside of her left wrist - maybe a child left behind or a loved one.

#### References:

<sup>9</sup> Smith, Babette, *A Cargo of Women - Susannah Watson and the convicts of the Princess Royal*, second edition, published Allen & Unwin 2008, page 97.

<sup>10</sup> Image: Certificate of Freedom for Mary Connell, dated 23 September, 1835 State Archives NSW.

<sup>11</sup> BDA online - Ship's Indent - Princess Royal 1829, entry for Mary Connell accessed 3/1/23

<sup>12</sup> Extract from: The Proceedings of the Old Bailey - London's Central Criminal Court, 1674 to 1913 - transcript ref: t18280911 - 354 for Mary Connell 11<sup>th</sup> September 1828 accessed 3/1/23.

Additional information kindly supplied by Mary Connell's descendant, Keith Hayden.

1907. MARY CONNELL was indicted for stealing, on the 8th of July, 1 pair of half-boots, value 3s., the goods of John Edwards.

CHARLOTTE SAUNDERS. I am the daughter of John Edwards; he is a shoemaker, and lives in Bath-street—I was there on the 8th of July, and saw the prisoner come to his shop; she asked if we had any second-hand shoes—after being told we did not sell them, she went away; when she was gone, a young woman gave me information—I went out, and saw the prisoner twenty yards or more from my father's house; I went after her to the end of Providence-street—there I saw her stop and take a pair of boots from her pocket-hole, and put them into her apron; I followed her till she came to Worship-street, and then I went into the office, and spoke to a gentleman, who took her with the boots—he was called away, and Eagles took them.

THOMAS EAGLES. I received the boots and the prisoner.

**GUILTY. Aged 19.**  
**Transported for Seven Years.**

12.

10.

**CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM.**

No. *35/1063*  
Date: *23 Sept 1835*

Prisoner's No. *29/221*  
Name *Mary Connell*  
Ship *Princess Royal (12)*  
Master *Harwood*  
Year *1829*  
Native Place *Cork*  
Trade or Calling *Straw Bonnet maker*  
Offence *Shop Lifting*  
Place of Trial *Middlesex*  
Date of Trial *11 Sept 1828*  
Sentence *7 yrs*  
Year of Birth *1810*  
Height *5 feet 3 1/2 inches*  
Complexion *Fair ruddy & healthy*  
Hair *Brown*  
Eyes *Dark Grey*  
General Remarks *Small scar over left brow ES tattoo inside left wrist. Mark of a burn back of left hand, nail of forefinger of right hand disfigured.*

The Research Centre is shaping up well. The research group has been busy listing all the books and responding to inquiries. Also, we have been lucky to have more cabinet donations for vertical files.

There is research news relevant to members. This year research inquiries will be fee related at \$25 for an hour research with further research by negotiation.

The good news is that all members are entitled to one hour free research. You can book an appointment and one of our researchers will spend time with you researching. If you don't live in Sydney, you can contact us at [parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com) and we can provide an hour on an agreed direction.



The Research Centre is conducting workshops this year, so if you want to develop or brush up on your family history skills, explore factory women's crafts or use Trove better, put these dates in your diary and look for when the bookings open as spaces will be limited.

**March 18 - Ancestry 101.** This is the *Who, What, When, Where, Why of Ancestry!* Whether you have already started or if you are a new, this workshop will lay down some rules for you to follow to help you use the RIGHT way of using Ancestry.

**May 20 - Patchwork Lives.** Learn how to do basic patchwork techniques that the convict women used in the making of the 'Rajah Quilt'. Bring your own fabrics or order a kit – price to be advised.

**July 12 - Trove.** While it may be a treasure trove of information, the National Library of Australia's digital collection has now changed and some people find using Trove difficult. This workshop will cover how to access all the various digital collections and how to use the inbuilt tools to help you put them into a collection.

**September 30 - Come and find me if you can!!!** Researching Female Factory women can sometimes be elusive. This workshop covers useful methods, means and links to help your Female Factory specific family history.

**November 24 - Family History First Steps.** Are you just starting out on your family history journey? This workshop will give you some hints and tips to find your way through what sometimes can feel like an unending maze.

We have added personnel to our research group so when you come to visit you may be assisted by Lorraine, Janice, Lyn, Kevin or I. We also have John, a member about to start some research remotely.

If you have research experience and would like to contribute remotely (this would be PFFF copyright) you would be welcome to contact me for a chat. If you prefer to be a room host (a welcoming face, doing look ups on our hard copy list and no research required) on our event days, you can also contact me to discuss your role. I look forward to seeing you in the Research Centre.

Photographs - PFFF Research Centre. Research Team members, Gay Hendriksen, Lorraine Henshaw and Lyn Watkins.

Committed to Bristol Gaol.—Mary Forrester, for stealing a metal tea-pot from Joseph Perrett.—Thomas Bishop, for stealing 10 pounds weight of bras from George Farmer and Joseph Baker.—Selina Jones and Margaret Evans, for stealing a stuff pelisse from the person of Eliza Wowles.—Elizabeth Cobley, for stealing 24 books from Samuel C. Edwards.—Alice Maddix, for stealing 10 lbs. of meat from Jas. Lasbury.—Thomas Passmore, and Mary Stedman, for stealing 2 silver spoons, a bonnet, and 2 aprons, from Rufus White; and — Stedman, for receiving part of the same, knowing it to have been stolen.

**Selina Jones** was born in 1808 in Bristol, Gloucestershire, England and was a shoebinder and housemaid. Her parents were George Lewis Jones and Mary Battle. Mary was George's second wife as his first wife Elizabeth Watkins died shortly after giving birth to Selina's brother George Jones in 1805. Selina had seven brothers and sisters in all.



At the age of 17, Selina was caught with her friend (co-offender Margaret Evans) for Larceny (stealing a stuff pelisse from a person<sup>1</sup>) and tried at Bristol Assizes in April 1826 for stealing a cloak. She was sentenced to seven years - to be transported to the distant shores of the NSW Colony.

Selina departed England on board the *Grenada*, the ship's fourth and final voyage to NSW. Elizabeth Fry visited the ship before it sailed, and it is recorded that she went on board, tended to many women with words of hope and read from the Psalms. They were to need hope as six women and two children died on the voyage despite the presence of the ship's Surgeon.

On Friday 2 February 1827, the *Grenada* arrived in Sydney with only 82 women of the 88 who sailed from England, 65 were immediately assigned whilst in the dockyard, such was the shortage of women. It was reported in the newspapers 'that an unfortunate 17 were sent to the Parramatta Female Factory for want of masters and mistresses'. Selina, it appears, escaped the clutches of the Factory and was assigned to a Mr. S. Hervey at Parramatta.

The Convict Indent gives a detailed description of Selina: She was 17 years old, a Protestant who could read and write, born in Bristol, unmarried and only 4'11". She had sandy hair, grey eyes and a fair complexion but was highly pock-pitted and had a few scars on her face.

On 20 September 1827, Selina sought permission to marry a **John Spinks** which was granted by the Colonial Secretary. The marriage was performed by the Rev. Samuel Marsden on 5 November 1827 at St. John's Church, Parramatta.

3.

| No. | Names        | Age | Date of Permission | Ship        | Intended to | Sea | Clergyman       |
|-----|--------------|-----|--------------------|-------------|-------------|-----|-----------------|
| 590 | John Spinks  | 18  | 1827               | Morley (3)  | Same as     | Sea | Rev. S. Marsden |
|     | Selina Jones | 19  | Septem 20th        | Grenada (4) | Same as     | Sea | Parramatta      |

**John Spinks** and his twin sister **Catherine Spinks** were born in Mt. Nugent, Cavan, Northern Ireland and both had arrived in the colony as 11-year-olds with their mother **Ann Spinks**, a convict, per *Morley* (1820).

<sup>1</sup> Selina Jones, Bristol Mercury, 13 Feb 1826

<sup>2</sup> a fur-lined pelisse – a fur or silk lined overcoat for women to wear over their attire to keep them warm in winter.

<sup>3</sup> Application for Permission to Marry – 20 September 1827

John and Catherine were not convicts, however they were indentured as property of the Crown and would have been made to work in the Colony. John was sent to learn the craft of a currier (tanner) as his master was a Mr. Brown of Sydney. John gained the reputation as a skilled leatherworker and later, he had his own shop in Maitland's main street – a tannery and leather goods store.

Catherine Spinks was a house servant to John Macarthur and later married a convict Daniel Roberts (per *Atlas* 3 1816). They had seven children, moving to Bathurst after he sold his hotel *The Duke of Wellington*, in Parramatta. He was the Postmaster at O'Connell until he retired.

**Ann Spinks** née Grant, Selina's mother-in-law, was also a convict, (she came out on the same ship as Selina) was admitted to the Parramatta Female Factory and was charged a number of times with stealing and or receiving and returned to gaol each time.

Ann was also sent to Newcastle Gaol and Moreton Bay Gaol. Her husband Henry Spinks, a convict, came out later on the *Hooghly* in 1834. It appears he never met up with his wife before she died in Fairy Meadow in 1836, although it appears his son and daughter-in-law (John and Selina) met him once in Sydney at a christening. Henry Spinks died in Sydney in 1880.

**John and Selina Spinks** moved to Wallis Plains (Maitland) and commenced a family there - they had eight children: Henry William Spinks 1828-1913, Thomas Albert Spinks 1829-1906, John Spinks 1829-1888, Sarah Anne Spinks 1832-1919, George Spinks 1835-1901, Robert Spinks 1837-1923, Susana Mary Spinks 1840-1912 and William Spinks 1842-1911.

Selina's husband John died on 23 September 1842 and was buried in the Glebe Cemetery, Maitland (as was Francis Greenway). Selina was now left with eight children all under 14 years of age. However, it did not take long for her to meet and marry **Bartholomew Carey** (my paternal 3x grandfather). He was born on 25 January 1813, in Sligo, Ireland. He was convicted of *Manslaughter* and only received seven years transportation. He arrived per *Lady McNaughton* in 1835.

In 1842, Bartholomew was working in the Maitland area and had served his sentence. He was a nailer and was building residential houses and timber buildings in the Patricks Plain (Singleton) area. Bartholomew and Selina married on 17 February 1843 at Maitland, NSW. They had four children all born at Singleton: Annie Carey 1845-1883, James Martin Carey Sen. 1846-1936, and Bartholomew Carey Jnr. 1849-1862 and Ann Carey 1851-1885.

Bartholomew Carey Sr. died 25 April 1875 at Singleton, NSW. Selina lived until she was 91 and died at Singleton, NSW. Both are buried at Queen Street Cemetery. At the time of her death Selina had 66 grandchildren and over 63 great grandchildren.



---

#### References:

- \*Ancestry.com.au
  - \*AusCemindex & Findagrave online
  - \*Biographical Data Base (BDA) online
  - \*Convict Records online
  - \*Free Settler or Felon online
  - \*State Library NSW online - access to British Newspapers
  - \*State Records online
  - \*Personal File on Family History
- Photograph: Selina Carey/Spinks née Jones © Private collection used with permission.

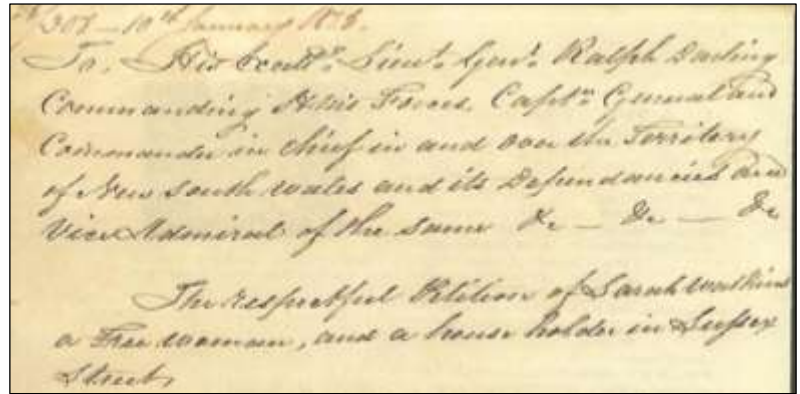


There are some intriguing serendipities this month - and with Parramatta connections!

Alice Kershaw writes: Doing family research you never know what you will find. Recently I was browsing *the Colonial Secretary's Letters Received* online and found a reference to my 4x great grandmother Sarah Watkins\* - I paid my \$25 and obtained the correspondence which consisted of an envelope, notes made by two men in the Superintendent of Convicts Office and two interdepartmental officers.<sup>1</sup> The reference was to an application made by Sarah for a Government servant and a William Watkins was recommended.

From the two letters I deduced that Sarah was a householder (? owner of land) in Sussex Street, Sydney and that the William Watkins recommended as a servant, was no relation.

I have also found Sarah listed as a carter which was an unusual trade for a woman. She was one of three women with a carter's licence in Sydney.<sup>2</sup>



With regard to Sarah holding land in her own right, where do I go? The records of 1819-1828 are not good. Now, for some more digging!

\*Sarah arrived per *Canada* in 1810 and was free by servitude by 1817 when she married John Ellison (a 3<sup>rd</sup> Fleeter per *Albemarle* 1791) at St. John's Church, Parramatta in 1817. John owned 50 acres of land known as *Ellison's Farm* with stock of seven horses at Parramatta. He also held pub licences for the *Jolly Sailor* in George Street, Parramatta (1817) and also the *Lord Albemarle* and the *Bird in Hand* at some stage.<sup>3</sup>

Both Sarah and John are buried at St. John's Cemetery in Parramatta - Sarah died on 25 February 1832 aged 45 and John died later that year, on 8 September 1832 aged 66.<sup>4</sup> There is a substantial sandstone tombstone which suggests the Ellison's prospered in the colony. They left a family of ten children.



5.



6.

#### References:

<sup>1</sup>Colonial Secretary's Correspondence Letters Received 1828 - 28/308, State Archives NSW.

<sup>2</sup>List of Carters - Mitchell Library, State Library NSW.

<sup>3</sup>Carter, Gary John, *About that Shout* - The History of Pubs in Parramatta, published 2017, pp56-57,

<sup>4</sup>Dunn, Judith, *The Parramatta Cemeteries: St. John's Parramatta*. Parramatta and District Historical Society, 1991.

<sup>5</sup>Photograph: Jolly Sailor Inn c1830 - from Parramatta Heritage Collection.LSP00703

<sup>6</sup>Photograph: Grave with Tombstone for Sarah and John Ellison - findagrave online - St. John's Cemetery, Parramatta accessed 12/1/23

## An Interesting Discovery...Eliza Sommers

Kerima-Gae Topp writes: While doing research for a 5-Day Tour I was conducting to the Gunnedah-Narrabri area, I stopped in the small village of Breeza, some 45kms south-west of Gunnedah on the Kamilaroi Highway. To my delight there was a large mural, located in a small park, which commemorated the final three years of the life of bushranger Ben Hall.

What is the Hall connection with Breeza? Apparently, Ben Hall's father, Ben Hall Snr. worked for some time on Breeza Station and there is much debate as to whether Ben Hall Jnr. was born on the station (a local historian says 'Yes') but others say he was born in the Maitland area.

Further research, as my curiosity about one of our best-known bushrangers was in 'full flight'. The Hall family had also lived in the Murrurundi area, which in the mid-1800s was considered the northern limit of settlement, genuine frontier territory. There, Ben Hall Jnr. had assisted his father on their freehold farm and had attended the local school for about two and a half years.

Ben Hall Jnr's. parents had both arrived in Australia as convicts, being transported for minor stealing offences and they first met each other as convicts. Ben's mother, Eliza Sommers, had arrived 13<sup>th</sup> January, 1830, per *Asia*, being transported for seven years for stealing silk. She was placed in the Parramatta Female Factory, awaiting assignment and met Ben Hall Snr. when he came to Parramatta. Ben Hall Snr. received his Ticket of Leave in August 1832 and Eliza was granted her freedom in 1834. They were married, in the same year, in St. John's Church, Parramatta by the Rev. Samuel Marsden. Oh, the Parramatta Female Factory connection had me so excited, thus more research.

Ben Hall Snr. had been born in Bedminster, England in 1805, Elizabeth (Eliza) Sommers, in Dublin, Ireland in 1807. Ben Hall Jnr. was their 4<sup>th</sup> child. Apparently in the early 1850s, after moving to the Forbes area for some years, Ben Hall Snr. and family returned to the Murrurundi area and Eliza died there 16<sup>th</sup> August, 1869 and is buried in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery.

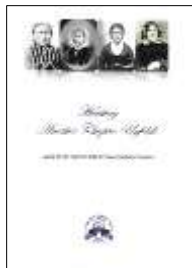
I love showing my tour passengers any connection with the Parramatta Female Factory thus a stop at this cemetery was a 'must' inclusion in my tour. But I added a bit of a 'tease' on entering the cemetery with my tour group, as I told them there was a mother of a famous bushranger buried in this cemetery and could they find her headstone.

I knew in the area where we would enter the cemetery were numerous graves belonging to a Kelly family. Thus as I expected, many thought they had found the family of Ned Kelly but 'No' they were not from this area. Looking further they found the headstone marked 'Elizabeth Hall' and here (below far right) is my group enjoying their find and the connection with the Parramatta Female Factory.



## PUBLICATIONS CORNER -

All four PFFF publications and specialised products are on sale at our Rooms, at events or by mail order - p&p is extra. To place your order - email: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com) (Write 'Book Order' in the subject line). Check out our sales corner when you next visit our rooms, or check online at: [parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au](http://parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au) and follow the link, 'shop'. Our latest publication in the *Herstory* series, *Herstory Parramatta & Beyond*, is another 'must' for your library!



## STOP PRESS!

### A CONVICT WOMEN'S SEMINAR DAY AT MAITLAND - SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023

For further information contact:

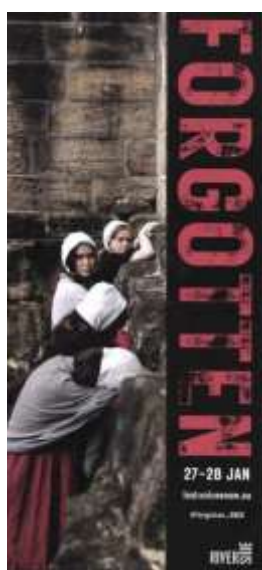
The Secretary, Maitland & Beyond Family History -

email: [mdgs01@tpg.com.au](mailto:mdgs01@tpg.com.au)

### A SPECIAL THEATRICAL EVENT - 'FORGOTTEN' at RIVERSIDE THEATRE PARRAMATTA -

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

Relive the 1827 uprising at the Parramatta Female Convict Penitentiary when acclaimed playwright \*Cate Whittaker's inspiring play, 'Forgotten' returns to Riverside's Lennox Theatre after its sell-out success in 2019.



Performances are:

2pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

8pm Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

2pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023

8pm Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Bookings: online <https://riversideparramatta.com.au>

Phone: Riverside Box Office: 8839 3399

And something rather special to note!  
PFFF member  
Heidi Garmonsway is playing the role of  
her 4x great grandmother,  
Matron Ann Gordon in 'Forgotten'.

Best wishes from all of us! Ed.

\*Cate Whittaker is a PFFF member.

**Information Pack**

**Maitland & Beyond Family History**

is presenting a Female Convict Seminar to raise awareness of the female convicts who were sent north to Maitland and the Hunter Valley. We are commemorating the lives of these ordinary women who were torn from their homelands and families, to be sent beyond the seas, to forge a new life, in a new colony, under extraordinary circumstances. Some succeeded. Some didn't.

**We have lots to share:**

- \* Maitland & the Hunter Valley Female Convicts' Transportation Story.
- \* Some of their stories;
- \* Our Maitland Female Convict Bonnet Project.
- \* Our Beautiful Bonnets Display and more.

**DATE:** Sunday 5 March 2023

**TIME:** 8.30am to 9am Registrations

9am to 3pm Seminar

3pm to 4pm Afternoon Tea and Mini Gaol Tour

Maitland Gaol has offered to conduct a Mini Tour of the Gaol at the conclusion of the seminar. If you wish to attend please include payment with your registration.  
*Booking Essential for tour*

**COST:** \$50, includes Seminar, Morning/Afternoon Tea, and Lunch, Bottled Water Coffee Van On Site. Plus Gaol Tour (if applicable)

**RSVP:** Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February, 2023 (Limited Numbers)





| 2023      | PFFF MEETINGS - DATES &                                                                                                                                                                                                          | EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January   | Newsletter 20 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                            |
| February  | Committee Meeting<br>Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker<br>General Meeting                                                                                                                                                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb. 202 <sup>nd</sup> Anniversary - occupation of the<br>new factory 1821<br>Riots: 3.2.1831; 24.2.1843                   |
| March     | 50 <sup>th</sup> Edition - PFFF Newsletter<br>17 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting<br><u>Open Day - PFFF International Women's Day event - Friday<br/>10 March</u><br><u>Workshop: Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March - "Ancestry"</u> | March: Linnwood House Open Day<br>Riot: 7.3.1833<br>8 <sup>th</sup> March - International Women's Day                                      |
| April     | Committee Meeting<br>Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Guest Speaker (ANTHF EVENT)<br>General Meeting                                                                                                                                      | Australian (NT) Heritage Festival<br>10 <sup>th</sup> April - 14 <sup>th</sup> May<br>50 <sup>th</sup> Edition PFFF Newsletter March/April |
| May       | Newsletter 19 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting<br><u>Open Day - National Trust Heritage Festival TBA</u><br><u>Workshop - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May - "Patchwork Lives"</u>                                                    | DPIE Open Day/National Trust Heritage<br>Festival Event (ANTHF) TBA                                                                        |
| June      | Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting<br>Guest Speaker<br>General Meeting                                                                                                                                                    | AGM PREPARATION                                                                                                                            |
| July      | Newsletter 21 <sup>st</sup> Committee Meeting<br><u>Open Day - Macquarie Anniversary Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July</u><br><u>Workshop - Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July - "Trove"</u>                                                | July 9 <sup>th</sup> 205 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Gov. Macquarie<br>laid the foundation stone for the new<br>Factory.                   |
| August    | Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting<br>AGM                                                                                                                                                                                 | History Week TBC                                                                                                                           |
| September | Newsletter 15 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting<br><u>Open Day - History Week Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September</u><br><u>Workshop - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September - "Come &amp; Find<br/>Me."</u>                            | Linnwood Open Day TBC<br>NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Soc.<br>Annual Conference - 18 September                                       |
| October   | Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting<br>Guest Speaker<br>General Meeting<br>27 <sup>th</sup> RIOT DAY - 196 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary/<br>the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture                                                | Riots: 27.10.1827; 11.10.1836                                                                                                              |
| November  | Newsletter 17 <sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting<br><u>Workshop - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November - "Family History First<br/>Steps"</u>                                                                                            | Riot: 29.11.1831<br>Parramatta Foundation Day Festival event<br>TBC                                                                        |
| December  | Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> *(2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday)<br>Committee Meeting<br>General Meeting                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                            |

REGULAR SITE TOURS - BY APPOINTMENT. CONTACT: TOUR COORDINATOR [parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com)  
 COMMITTEE MEETINGS 11AM. BI-MONTHLY GUEST SPEAKER 1:00PM. FOLLOWED BY AFTERNOON TEA. GENERAL MEETINGS 2:15PM.  
 PFFF RESEARCH CENTRE IS OPEN 9am. 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month and by appointment.