



PARRAMATTA FEMALE FACTORY FRIENDS INC. NEWSLETTER – ISSUE NO: 52nd EDITION JULY-AUGUST 2023



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The Parramatta Female Factory - Augustus Earle 1826 – nla.pic-an 2818460 National Library of Australia (NLA)

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Next Meeting: Friday 18th August AGM followed by afternoon tea at 2pm.
General Meeting: 2.15pm
Venue: PFFF Rooms, 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Factory Friends,

Welcome to our mid-winter edition of the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Newsletter. As always there are great articles and information to muse over as you enjoy a cuppa and the fresh but sunny weather!

We were graced with another fantastic talk in our Speakers' Program. This time Kerry Easton, convenor of the Needlework Tools Collectors' Society presented *Tools and 'Toys' in Needlework History* and shared the place of these amazing tools from the past, which were ingenious and truly beautiful objects as well. Given the needlework that happened at the Factory and the skills of the women whose 'callings' were in this area, there were so many connections to that world that we are not aware of now. I learnt so much and I am sure there were many others in the audience who did as well...including 'toys' were equipment not playthings! It is always interesting discovering more about the world the Factory women inhabited.

Our World Heritage work continues. This month we were invited to participate as a stakeholder in a workshop hosted by Heritage NSW. There will be more about this in the next newsletter. The World Heritage application is looking hopeful, as always though, the proof will be in the pudding!

Our recent workshop *Trove – Unlocking the Treasures of the Past*, presented by Kevin Dodds was booked out. Learning how to use this amazing National Library research tool is a boon to any family historian's 'toolkit'.

We also participated in the first Female Artisan's Craft Market special event at the Factory – thank you to Anne and Wayne Mathews, Kerima-Gae Topp, Ronda Gaffey and Lorraine Henshaw for making the tours, Friends Meeting Room, merchandise sales, Herstory exhibitions and Research Centre available.

Remember if you would like to be more involved, please consider volunteering at one of our events. Member involvement at these events always makes a difference.

See you at the Female Factory!

All the best

Gay Hendriksen

President



A warm welcome to new members: Eileen Henshaw, Jennifer Follers, Denise Miel and the Western Australia Genealogy Society, Cheryl Ann Allington, Nicholas Couronne, Phillipa Crosbie, Michael Grace, Peter Grace, Marion Nichol, Robert Power, Fiona Preston, Greg Preston, Gloria Provest, Linda Rae, Tabitha Lee Trew, Melissa White and Mirna Yacoub.



The Parramatta Female Factory - Bicentenary Commemorative Wall 1818-2018

NOTICEBOARD

- **NEXT MEETING: AGM Friday 18th August 2023 at 1pm followed by a brief General Meeting and afternoon tea.**
- **For the rest of year - 2023 meetings, events and commemorative dates** see the PFFF Calendar (page 13).
- **A REMINDER that PFFF Annual Membership fees are due 1st July each year.** Payment methods are cash, cheque or EFT: Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc.
BSB Number: 663 000 Account number: 151 276 763
If you are paying by EFT, please let us know who you are and put your name on the transfer
Send cheque to Parramatta Female Factory Friends Inc. **PO Box 1358, Parramatta 2124.**
Thank you to everyone for your ongoing support. Kerima-Gae, PFFF Treasurer.

HISTORY CORNER - 200 years ago

A Milestone in the Colony - the New South Wales Act 1823 (UK).

In 1823, the governance of the Colony of NSW was to undergo quite a significant change with the introduction of *the New South Wales Act*.

Hitherto, the Governor was all powerful and there had been a history of bitterness and criticism. NSW was still a penal Colony and considered by the British government not ready for representative government.

In his report (1821), Commissioner Bigge had criticised the administration of both NSW and Van Diemens' Land which prompted changes to the justice system.

The Act repealed the New South Wales Court Act 1787 and authorised the establishment of a Legislative Council and Supreme Court in NSW and a Supreme Court in VDL. The creation of a Legislative Council provided for in the Act, is seen as the first step towards a 'responsible parliament'.

Although the members were all appointed by Britain's Secretary of State, they had the power to advise the NSW Governor in the exercise of his legislative powers. However decisions of the Governor and Council remained subject to veto by the Crown.

On 25th August 1824, a small, five -member Council, presided over by Governor Brisbane met for the first time. Members included the Colonial Secretary Major Frederick Goulbourn, the Chief Justice Francis Forbes, the Surveyor General John Oxley, the Principal Surgeon James Bowman and the Lieutenant Governor Colonel William Stewart. All the men held a public office in the Colony.

Fast forward to 2023, the Legislative Council or Upper House now comprises 42 members, who are elected every four years. Since its inception, the role and complexity of the LC has evolved over time.

Ronda Gaffey



References:

Documenting Democracy - New South Wales Act 1823 (UK); <https://www.foundingdocs.gov.au/item-sdid-73.html>

New South Wales Act 1823; [https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_South_Wales_Act_1823_\(UK\)](https://www.en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_South_Wales_Act_1823_(UK))

Image: Page 2 NSW ACT - Description: Handwritten on membranes of vellum in brown ink, sewn end to end and then rolled, Documenting Democracy - New South Wales Act 1823 (UK) <https://www.foundingdocs.gov.au/item-sdids-73.html>

25 August 1824 Legislative Council of NSW, Museums History NSW, mhnsnsw.au

For this edition once again we have dipped into that treasure trove of Colonial history, the Colonial Secretary's Correspondence (CSC). Among these papers there are numerous references to the daily operations of the Parramatta Female Factory. The letters selected here are all related to convict *Women's Work*.

The women's work was wide and varied. All manner of sewing was available and advertised on a regular basis in the newspapers of the day from the Factory's beginnings to its close in 1848. Convict women were highly skilled workers with occupations or 'callings' as diverse as embroiderer, mantua maker, stay maker, pelisse maker, waistcoat maker and general seamstress - they were able to use those sewing skills while serving their sentence. For those in 1st class, it meant they could earn a little money once their government quota was met.

Alterations and making a variety of everyday articles of clothing were bread and butter tasks at the Factory as revealed in an advertisement from *the Australian* dated Tuesday, May 12 1829.

Articles ranged from handkerchiefs and neck-cloths, all manner of undergarments - petticoats and chemises as well as household items such as sheets and pillow cases, tablecloths and napkins.

One rather curious task costing a penny a letter, was 'marking' an item of clothing - that is, marking it with the owner's initials or name.

It is also interesting to note that both plain and fancy work was available with some items being 'frilled' and others 'plain', such as pillowcases and nightdresses.

FEMALE FACTORY AT PARRAMATTA.

The following is a scale of prices, to be paid previous to the delivery of any work to the Matron, Mrs. Gordon, who is directed to receive the same.

Night dresses, frilled, 2s. 6d. ditto, plain, 2s. Night dress Caps 1s. 6d. chemises, frilled, 2s. ditto plain 1s. 6d. petticoats 2s. flannel ditto 10d. gowns, trimmed 7s. ditto, plain 4s. habit shirts 1s. caps 1s. pocket handkerchiefs, per dozen, 2s. pellicones 1s. 6d. sheets, per pair, 1s. pillow cases, frilled, per dozen, 6s. ditto, plain, per dozen, 4s. towels, per dozen, 2s. table cloths 4d. table napkins, per doz. 2s. stays from 5s. to 7s. per pair.

Shirts 3s. 6d. drawn, per pair, 8d. trousers 6s. waistcoats 1s. neck-cloth, per dozen, 1s. 6d. collars, per dozen, 4s. boy's shirts 1s. 9d. ditto frocks and trousers 2s. 6d. tippets and sleeves 1s. girls' frocks 1s. 6d. ditto petticoats 9d. chemises 8d. night caps 9d. ditto gowns 1s. aprons 6d.

Shirts 6d. flannels 6d. long frocks, from 2s. to 2s. 6d. ditto petticoats, from 1s. to 1s. 3d. pelisses 4s. cloaks 3s. hats 2s. 6d. caps 2s. 6d. marking 1d. a letter.

There were also 'special jobs' as revealed in this following letter to the Management Committee dated 3 June 1829, in which a substantial order for convict clothing for the men at the gaol is requested:

Handwritten letter from the Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, to the Management Committee, dated 3 June 1829. The letter discusses the preparation of two hundred suits for convicts, consisting of a T-shirt and a pair of long trousers of Wollen cloth woven in alternate Black and white stripes. The Black is 2 inches wide and the white is 3 1/2 inches wide. The suits are to be complete with buttons at the Collars and wrists. The letter concludes with a request for the suits to be finished as speedily as possible.

....Instructions for the preparation of two hundred Suits and consisting of a T? and pair of long Trousers of Wollen cloth woven in alternate Black and white stripes the Black 2 inches and the white 3 1/2 inches in width; and being complete with buttons at the Collars and wrists...

The letter concludes:
More clothing of this description will probably be required shortly, but as it is desirable that the suits now ordered should be finished as speedily as possible.....

The request for two hundred suits made from cloth woven in alternate black and white would also have meant a specialised task in setting the loom/s with two colours of 'woollen thread' for the weavers.

This particular order would have been quite a production.

**Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 18th October 1839.**

FEMALE FACTORY.

SUFFICIENT Needlework for the employment of the Prisoners not being at present procured, Notice is again given to the Public that Needlework of all sorts is performed at the Female Factory in the best possible manner, and at very moderate charges.

For the convenience of persons resident in or near Sydney, work is now received at Hyde Park Barracks by Mr. William Edward Rogers, forwarded to Parramatta, and returned when finished to Hyde Park for delivery, free of expense, to the parties.

The following are the prices at present established:—

| | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Shirts, from..... | 1 | 0 | to | 2 |
| Shifts | 1 | 0 | | 1 |
| Night Gowns | 1 | 0 | | 2 |
| Baby's Gowns or Petticoats | 0 | 6 | | 1 |
| Pinforens | 0 | 6 | | 1 |
| Pantaloon or Trousers | 1 | 0 | | 3 |
| Waistcoats | 1 | 0 | | 2 |
| Jackets | 1 | 0 | | 2 |
| Slop Clothing, per suit | 1 | 6 | | 2 |

And other Articles in proportion.

All Articles except Tailors' Work must be cut out, and the whole Materials furnished.

Tailors' Work may either be cut out or not, at the option of the parties, a Tailor being kept at the

Factory capable of cutting out either from measure or pattern. Measures or patterns must however of course be sent when the Work is not cut out.

Work will still be received as heretofore by Mr. Bell, at the Factory; and Mr. Bell, as well as Mr. William Edward Rogers, at Hyde Park, will give any further information that may be required.

Each parcel of Work intended for Sydney will be returned to Hyde Park Barracks as soon as finished, and the party to whom it belongs will be informed by post when it is ready for delivery.

In order to prevent disappointment, however, it is hereby notified, that positive orders have been given both to Mr. Bell and Mr. Rogers to deliver no Work until it is paid for.

Notice is also given, that Washing will be taken in at the Factory after the 1st November next.

By His Excellency's Command,
E. DEAS THOMSON.



In a later advertisement, dated October 1839, needlework was still being offered at the Factory.

It seems that a tailor was employed at the Factory with the specific task of making patterns for the items to be made. Pre-cut items for sewing were also accepted.

It is interesting to note that 'to prevent disappointment' payment was due before finished work was delivered - so no credit given! It is also interesting to note that there was a moderate increase in charges in comparing the 1829 and 1839 prices.

Women's work at the Factory included daily chores such as cooking meals and baking bread. In a letter written to the Committee of Management Female Factory a specific request is made which would have suited the skill of a Factory woman whose trade included all aspects of cooking:

Gentlemen

I am instructed by His Excellency the Governor to request that a Female Prisoner who can bake bread be lent to the Trustees of the Clergy and School Lands for one month for the purpose of instructing the girls in the Female Orphan Institution to make bread...

Here was an opportunity for a woman to escape the daily routine of the Factory kitchen perhaps, being sent 'on loan' to the Female Orphan School (FOS) to teach bread making. No doubt a woman skilled at the task would have jumped at the chance.

29/11/39
A 29/332
Gentlemen

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney 23. December 1839

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to request that a Female Prisoner, who can bake, may be lent to the Trustees of the Clergy and School Lands for one month for the purpose of instructing the girls in the Female Orphan Institution to make bread.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,
The Committee of Management Female Factory. (Signed) C. Thomson

We will never know but perhaps the woman selected by Matron Gordon may have had a child or children in the FOS, that is, a child or children forcibly removed, that is 'given up', while their mother served her 'sentence'. We hope this was the case.



References:

Mathews, Anne, Matthews, Beth, *Our Girls* - unpublished work sourced from original papers, SARNSW
The Australian (Sydney, NSW: 1824-1848), Tuesday 12 May, 1829
Letter dated 3rd June 1829, Reel 1056 page 505 CSC SARNSW
Letter dated 23rd December, 1829 Reel 1056 Page 361 CSC SARNSW
New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney: 1832-1900) Wednesday 30 October 1839 No., 464, page 120.

The Research Centre is developing well with our new furniture in place and the research group members have been busy as usual working on access to the resource. This time thank you to Kevin for providing replacement filing cabinets for vertical files.

We have been liaising with Ancestry.com sharing some of our listings material. One of the pluses is that we will have Ancestry access at our Centre in the not too distant future. We have also been liaising with the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG) regarding mutual membership opportunities and a future relationship. Both of these will augment access to resources and future collaborations.

The Babette Smith Collection has now been entered on our databases. The hardcopy publication for the Research Centre comprises 2,357 books and 1,383 authors. This includes 1,865 books in the Babette Smith Collection on general access and 114 special collection items.

The Centre was contacted by a Constance Couronne/Lasablonniere descendant from Mauritius and was responded to with some information share.

Our Research Centre Workshop Program is proving successful with a full house for *Trove – Unlocking the Treasures of the Past*. As our workshops have limited numbers, it is always a good idea to book early to avoid missing out. Our next one will be *Come and find me!* This workshop will focus on family history pathways for finding those elusive Female Factory ancestors' records.

Our Factory women's list is growing so please keep those names and stories coming in. You can give directly to one of our researchers – Lyn, Lorraine, Kevin, Janice or me or else email it to: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com and put Research Centre in the subject field. That way we can ensure they are shared with all Australians.

Don't forget as a member you are entitled to one-hour free research each year which is valued at \$25. All research inquiries are responded to by appointment. You can either request a booking through our gmail or ask a volunteer to book you in when you come to the next Friends meeting. If you don't live in Sydney you can contact us and we can provide an hour of research on an agreed direction. Looking forward to seeing you at the Research Centre.

CONSTANCE COURONNE – Some further research into Australia's youngest Parramatta Female Factory convict

Kevin Dodds Research Centre Researcher

In 1826, Lindor Couronne, Constance's grandfather, was from India and was now a slave working as a sommelier from India. He was aged 61 and was 5' 3 ¾ tall. (1) Lindor was living with his daughter Adele Couronne, a domestic slave aged 26, 4'10" tall, creole (a mix of Indian and African) and her children:

1. Bilony Couronne, a domestic slave, born 1814, aged 12 and 4'1 ¼" tall,
2. Theophile Couronne, a domestic slave, born in 1819, aged 7 and 3' 8 ¾" tall.
3. Constance Couronne, a domestic slave, born in 1823, aged 3,
4. Julie Couronne, a domestic slave, born in 1824, aged 1 ½.

Adele's sisters Claudine and Estelle Couronne were also domestic slaves.



Claudine was 18 and 4'7" tall and Estelle was aged 14 and 4'9 ¼" tall.

All the Couronne family was on a list of over 22 slaves working for Marie Julie Melanie née De Ville Lasablonniere, who lived on a large estate near Port Louis, Mauritius.

On 9 June 1826, a letter was written by Constance's paternal grandfather Morin Patron de Lasablonniere, the French Duke of Gaton, recognising that Constance was his grandchild and that his son, Gabriel Henry Isidore Lasablonniere, a French Marquis of Gudin had an affair with Adele Couronne. In the letter, he bestows the title on Constance of Viscountess Gaton, which by all accounts was never officially recognized, and it seems Constance was never to realize that she had such a title. (2)

In 1827, Constance is recognized as a slave in a census, (T71 – 595), living at the Mon Tresor (translation *My Treasure*) Estate, Grand Port, with her family and other slaves.(3)

In 1832, in the Two Yearly Slave Census, Constance's owner changed from Marie Julie Melanie née De Ville Lasablonniere (her grandmother) to Monsignor Gabriel Henry Isidor Lasablonniere by succession. Her mother, Adele, is no longer living with her and has left behind a new daughter:

5. Seraphine Couronne, born 15 April 1830. (4)

Adele is not accounted for in the Census and appears to have died. Of note, the Census now tells us that the Lasablonniere family had 25 slaves in 1830 and with the birth of Seraphine, it increased in 1832 to 26 slaves in total, with the addition of Thomi L'Ancienne whose only details are his name and that he died in service on 27 May 1833.

We now come to the letter dated 15 May 1832 by the Widow Mme. Morel, who was teaching dressmaking to Constance and her cousin Zabeth (Elizabeth Verlope, aged 12, who was also a slave to Mme. Geffrey). The letter describes the attempted murder by Constance and her cousin on 11 May 1834. (5)

It was the tea.



Constance allegedly put an emetic (6) in the tea, thinking it was arsenic. In a heated exchange following Mme. Morel's symptoms, Constance stated that Zabeth had put saliva or urine in the tea for the past four months. Constance also accused another slave, named Belise, having discussed killing Mme. Morel. However, Mme. Morel had spoken with another slave, Helene and overheard Constance and Elizabeth talking about the crime.

What followed was an official police investigation and trial – ultimately Constance and her cousin Elizabeth were convicted of Attempted Murder.

On 24 September 1832, Constance was officially removed from the Slave Census by the Registrar of Slaves C. Mylius. Of note is a clue to her birth month – stating she was 9 years and 4 months, making it June 1833 and not 1834 as has been recorded in other records.

On 14 July 1833, Constance and Elizabeth were committed for trial of attempted murder, having been investigated. On the confessions they both gave to Dr. Cox, who had treated Widow Morel and her daughter. They both admitted to using a thimble of the white powder, which was contained in a flask in the kitchen.

On 24 September 1833, before four Judges of the High Court at Mauritius, they considered the following points of law:

1. Was there an attempt to poison the person Mme. Morel?
2. Were Constance and Elizabeth the perpetrators?

3. Did they act with discernment?

Considering the Penal Code of 1832:

Article 237

Qualifies poisoning; all attempts on the life of a person with substances capable of ending life, slowly or swiftly, in any manner employed or administered, no matter the end result.

Article 238

All capable of assassination, patricide, infanticide or poisoning punishment is death.

Article 57

If it is decided that the accused, who is aged 16 or under, has acted with discernment, the penalties under the law may be modified according to the circumstances of the case.

The decision was unanimous, and they were both sentenced to Transportation for Life.

On 28 September 1833, the Chief Commissioner of Police questioned the usual procedure of sending convicts to Robben Island, off Cape Town, South Africa (a notorious leper colony) and that Constance and Elizabeth were only mere girls. However, he was chastened in a letter by the Colonial Secretary. (7)

However, the Governor of Mauritius, Lieutenant General Sir William Nicolay JKCH CB, intervened (or someone sought the ear of the Governor). The Colonial Secretary wrote a second letter to the Chief Commissioner to delay that order and look for the least frequented and least popular of the dependent islands (New South Wales prison colony).⁽⁸⁾ On 6 May 1834, the Colonial Secretary advised the Chief Commissioner that Constance and Elizabeth be shipped on the *Dart* with other prisoners at the cost of 20 pounds to be paid by the Colony:

1. Charles Cesar (1808-1838), creole, Jeweller convicted on receiving stolen goods, 7 years.
2. Bargatte or Bagatta Lascar alias Shaikh Burkbut, from Calcutta, India, groomsman, convicted of the rape of a child, 14 years.
3. Elizabeth Verlope (1821-1874), Attempted Murder, Life,
4. Constance Couronne (1825 (sic) – 1891, Attempted Murder, Life.

On 9 July 1834, the convict ship *Dart* arrived a second time from Mauritius and Constance and Elizabeth were sent to the Parramatta Female Factory until they were assigned. ⁽⁹⁾ It was the second trip for the *Dart*, having arrived on 31 December 1833. I mention this as many records show this as the one voyage.

We have read the story of Constance Couronne and her assignment to a Police Magistrate, her marriage to Robert Trudgett and her extraordinary life. ⁽¹⁰⁾ However, it seems the life of a slave would have been extremely harsh and unjust. The mortality rates have been as high as 33%, and at least 20,000 slaves died in Mauritius during the slave trade. ⁽¹¹⁾ Further questions arise about what happened to her mother, Adele. What happened to her family? Further research is still required despite the abolition of slavery on 1 February 1835.

References:

1. 1826, Former British Colonial Dependencies, Slave Registers, 1813-1834 for Constance Couronne
2. 1826, Jun 9 - Constance Couronne - given title Viscountess Gatton (translation from French to English undated.)
3. 1827 - Slave Record of Constance Couronne, aged 3
4. 1832 – Biannual Census - Slaves of Monsignor Gabriel Henry Isidor Lasablonniere Succession.
5. 1832, May 15 - A letter to Mauritian Authorities - Widow Dame Morel (typed foolscap in English)
6. Emetic: a medicine or compound from native plants that induces vomiting.
7. Letter from Colonial Secretary to Chief Commissioner dated 28 September 1833.
8. Letter from Colonial Secretary to Chief Commissioner dated 4 October 1833.
9. Letter from Chief Commissioner to Colonial Secretary / Governor dated 9 May 1834
10. <https://convictrecords.com.au/convicts/constance/constance/139232>.
11. Slavery, Health, and Epidemics in Mauritius 1721–1860, Reddi and Sookrajowa 2019
Figure 1. Photograph: Constance Couronne
Figure 2 - Old Paris Porcelain Hand Painted Floral Green & Gold Tea Cup and Saucer Circa 1830-1850.

'Tools & 'Toys' in Needlework History' by Kerry Easton - NSW Convenor of the Needlework Tools Collectors' Society

A career in science and a sideline interest in embroidery, led to Kerry's fascination with the who, how, when and why of needlework tools. Quiet stories of society and cultures lie in wait among needlework tools and the stories survive in paintings, in amazing textiles and in the beautiful sets of tools used for this work.

In this talk, Kerry revealed the remarkable array of tools used such as chatelaines, pincushions, sewing birds, thread holders, needle holders, etuis, sewing baskets, work tables old and much more.

In the 1700's sewing tools were called 'Toys' and purchased from Archimedes & Globe – Great Toy Shop. At this time there were no toys for children.



I was amazed to learn that 'equipages' now known as chatelaines, were around in the 1700's and worn as part of clothing by hooking over a belt as a decoration jewel. The toys may have included a watch, a wax seal, a pair of scissors or anything a person wanted. The chatelaines could be made of silver, gold, steel, brass and enamel. In 1861 they were hand-made with ribbon.



Sewing clamps were used in the 1800's as well as glove darners. Sewing baskets have been around since 1627 and decorative wooden boxes (Tunbridgeware) in 1800's along with the exotic Armadillo basket.

This was a wonderful and informative talk on sewing 'Toys' by Kerry. For everyone present, it was a real treat. Thank you Kerry.



Workshop - Trove Unlocking Treasures of the Past - presenter Kevin Dodds



On 15th July 2023, the Friends held a workshop called *Trove – Unlocking the Treasures of the Past*. Our Secretary, Kevin Dodds led the hands-on workshop, which had novices and casual users of Trove. Kevin has over a decade of experience and is a Top-Ranking Trove volunteer with over 10,000 edits to his credit.

The workshop attendees enjoyed the typical Friends morning tea with fresh scones, jam, dollop cream, and other treats before the final session of Advanced Searching techniques. Thanks also go to member Lorraine Henshaw for helping on the day.

The attendees filled in a survey at the end, and all enjoyed the workshop with comments such as *Very Enjoyable, and had plenty of opportunities to practice, Practical experience and clear presentation, Very clear and precise presentation manner, Very Knowledgeable, Well informed, appropriate, and enthusiastic. It was excellent. Thank You.*

Thank you Kevin.



PFFF WORKSHOPS AND PUBLIC PROGRAMS CALENDAR 2023

Friday September 29 - 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.

Friday 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.

PUBLICATIONS CORNER

All four unique PFFF publications are on sale at our Rooms, at events or by mail order - p&p is extra. To place your order - email: 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 and follow the link, 'shop'. Our latest publication in the *Herstory* series is *Herstory Parramatta & Beyond* - another 'must' for your library!

As a rather neat segue to our article, *Women's Work* and Kerry Easton's Talk, this is a reminder that PFFF have a rather unique sales item, made by member Eileen Avery. It is a Hussif or sewing kit which was an essential household item down the ages and so important for the convict women.

The kits are made with varying fabrics and contain an assortment of threads, pins and needles as well as a leather thimble!

A hussif is great way of paying homage to the women and makes a lovely gift. Cost \$10.





This month there are two quite remarkable stories to share!

Gary Carter writes: It is amazing what we find out by way of a casual chat*. Recently I learned about an incredible journey and a tale of survival which I am still getting my head around.

James McCooey, my 3x great grandfather arrived per *Isabella* in 1822. He was from Armagh, Ireland and had been transported for life for assault. By 1830, James had received his Ticket of Leave and soon after, his Conditional Pardon (CP) in February 1832, signed by Governor Bourke.

Following James' death in 1865, his CP paper, no doubt a precious document for James and the family, survived. Years later, the document somehow ended up in Claremont WA and in the possession of Andrew Barbour who found it on a rubbish tip - it was kept in a tin and after his death in 1980 it was passed onto his family who looked after it for the next 30 years. The tin and its precious cargo were then handed onto another member of the family living in the Hawkesbury who took on the task of looking for a descendant.

Serendipitously, conversations among friends and local fellow researchers led to a descendant being found and James McCooey's precious document is now in safe-keeping with Research Services, Penrith Library.



Above: James' Conditional Pardon as found in the tin.
Far right: James' Conditional Pardon SRNSW 124/1832.



Now there is another strange twist in this story. In my novel, *'Where Eels Lie Down: A Parramatta Tale'*, my hero *Harmony McCooey* (a fictionalised James McCooey), also kept odd things but this personal trait was imagined long before I knew the story of the CP in a tin! In the novel, a descendant of Harmony's, Jake McCooey, discovers a hidden box and opens it as his children look on, wide-eyed:

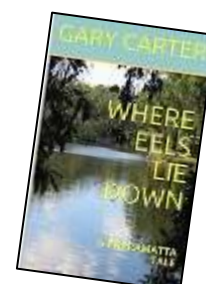
The small door built into the wall cavity had rusted hinges and a bolted clip. Jake took a crowbar and managed to get it open. As all the wide eyes looked on, Jake reached in and removed a small timber box smothered in dust. He cleaned the box with an old rag. It revealed a well-made mahogany antique with an Irish family crest embossed on the lid. Jake sat back with the box on his lap knowing they had discovered something incredibly special. The children gathered around urging him to open it.

Jake slowly opened the box with the help of a knife to cut the candle wax seal. As the audience looked on there was a sudden sense of bewilderment, two items came into view, one was a leather-bound journal, and the other was a darkened glass jar with a sealed lid and containing a liquid. Jake held the jar to the light and said with a bemused expression on his face.

"It's a thumb!"

Harmony McCooey's thumb was severed during a brutal ship encounter and kept in a small glass container of formaldehyde which a descendant discovered many years on. Now, is life imitating art or art imitating life?

*Thank you to Lorraine Stacker, (Research Services, Penrith Library) for sharing the story of James' CP journey.
Extract from Chapter 22, *Where Eels Lie Down: A Parramatta Tale*, revised 2021, Gary Carter.



Ronda Gaffey writes: Four weeks ago I had an alert message from Ancestry in my email and it was mind-boggling! A woman living in Liverpool, England had found our Gaffey/Templeton family tree online and was making contact saying we had a common line of descent.

My contact said that she and her brother had done extensive research and believed that they were descended from a Scott Templeton, son of James Templeton of Old Luce, Wigtownshire, Scotland who had been transported to NSW in 1801. Furthermore, she said that the child Scott was an infant when James was transported. Wow!

As any family history researcher is aware, some women were able to bring their children when transported however many women left children behind but here was another perspective (male) I had not given much thought to. Did our 2x great grandfather James Templeton who arrived in the Colony in 1802, leave a child or children behind?

My brother John and I have our great, great grandfather James Templeton* born in Old Luce Wigtownshire, Scotland - we are now waiting for more information before we can establish a relationship with our contact. To complicate matters (research) further there are a number of James Templetons in Wigtownshire parish records. We have found a marriage for a James Templeton and Margaret Milligan 1794 in Old Luce and marriages for four other James Templetons in the nearby Parish of Inch, so which one is our James and which James is our Ancestry contact's? It is just so frustrating when there is a delay in people getting back to you! Mind you, we are patient!

James Templeton - was the 'husband' of Sarah Scott per *Elizabeth* (1828) who left two children behind in Ireland.

STOP PRESS: A Seminar not to be missed - 23 September 2023 - From your Zoom Chair!



23 Sept
12:30pm - 6:30pm
AEST
via ZOOM

Scotland - here we come! Seminar

Program

- Chris Paton - *Discover your Scottish Ancestors*. (Recorded)
- Brian Donovan - *Scottish Records on Findmypast*. (Recorded)
- Lorne Steele-McGinn - *Jacobites, the Clearances & emigration from the Highlands*. (Recorded)
- Emma Maxwell - *Locating Scottish Burial Records*. (Recorded)
- Alistair Henderson - *The Inexhaustible Source - Scottish Deeds, the forgotten source for family history*. (Recorded)
- Lorraine Quinney - *Discover Historic Maps of Scotland*. (Live + Recorded)
- Live Q&A with all speakers
- Drawing of raffle & door prizes.

All sessions will be recorded and available for one month after the event to registered attendees.

Bookings & payment

Early Bird Price if booked by 10 September 2023:
GSQ/OFHS Members \$50
Non-members \$60
Price from 11 September 2023:
GSQ/OFHS Members \$60
Non-members \$70

Book online at www.gsq.org.au/events/
Payment may be made by:
Credit card (online, by phoning GSQ 07 3349 6072 or at GSQ)
Cash (at GSQ)
Bank transfer (note details at time of ordering) OR
Cheque by post: GSQ, PO Box 1967, Cairnsdale, QLD 1662

Genealogical Society of Queensland

education@gsq.org.au
www.gsq.org.au/events/

| 2023 | PFFF MEETINGS - DATES & | EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY |
|-----------|--|---|
| August | Friday 18 th Committee Meeting AGM | |
| September | Newsletter 15 th Committee Meeting Open Day - History Week Saturday 9 th September <u>Workshop - Friday 29th September - Come & Find Me...!</u> | Linnwood Open Day TBC NSW & ACT Assoc. of Family History Soc. Annual Conference - 18 September History Week 2-10th September History Council Conference - Factory site |
| October | Friday 20 th Committee Meeting Guest Speaker General Meeting 27th RIOT DAY - 196th Anniversary/ the Annual Thomas Keneally Lecture | Riots: 27.10.1827; 11.10.1836 |
| November | Newsletter 17 th Committee Meeting <u>Workshop - Friday 24th November - Family History First Steps</u> | Riot: 29.11.1831 Parramatta Foundation Day Festival event TBC |
| December | Friday 8 th *(2nd Friday) Committee Meeting General Meeting | Christmas afternoon tea |

REGULAR SITE TOURS - BY APPOINTMENT & AT SPECIAL EVENTS. CONTACT THE PFFF TOUR COORDINATOR 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. 1st and 3rd Friday of the month and by appointment.



Inside the Gipps Yard - on a chilly Parramatta morning!
Imagine life for the convict women confined in the single punishment cells here. Ed.