

DAVID HELMERS

AUSTRALIAN HISTORY

OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE

JAMES BOLAND 1811 - 1876



Boland Family

^{Back row}
Ada Edward Florence Michael

2nd row

Ellen Bill Daddy Vince Ma Jim

3rd row

^{ETHEL}
May Linda Dinah Harold.

75⁰
h

The family of Michael and Mary Boland. Back row Ada, Edward, Florence, Michael ; 2nd row Ellen, Bill, Michael Boland, Vince, Mary Boland and the centenarian James ; front row Ethel, Linda, Dinah and Harold.

About 20 klms north of the city of Maitland lies a picturesque area of land known as Lambs Valley. Surrounded by cliffs and staggering mountains is the home of Brian Boland, a descendant of the first settler in the area James Boland, who acquired the land in the mid 1830's. After talking with Brian and his brother Peter, their kind help and the availability of personal family records, the story of James Boland's deportation to Australia, as well as a remarkable story of Captain Thunderbolt was told.

James Boland was born in the County of Clare in 1811. Very little is known of his history in Ireland but for his crime James Boland was arrested in 1832, tried and found guilty and given a life sentence in March that year for punishment of his attack on the house of Patrick Glynn. The following petitions were put forward on his behalf, to plead his innocence of the crime.

1. From his Parish Priest. "I certify that I have known James Boland, now a convict at Cork, from his infancy, and that he has conducted himself in the most correct and inimpeachable manner.
April 25th, 1832 Thomas McInerney P.P. Feakle."

2. From his fellow parishoners of Feakle.

"County of Clare. The undernamed inhabitants and land holders of the parish of Feakle in said County Maketh Oath and said that they have known James Boland, lately convicted of Whiteboyism at Galway and now in Cork under sentences of transportation, from his infancy and that he was well a conducted and industrious boy. That they have known him to take land on last May, and to be annoyed (harmed) on that account. That they have read his Father's Petition and consider it to be true, and to the best of their opinion and belief that the said James Boland is innocent.

Sworn before us at Tulla, 26th April, 1832.

? Halony, Anthony Morory, James Holony, Mick Houlahan, Pat McMahan, Michael Houlahan, John Rogers."

3. From his Landlord.

" I certify that James Boland with his brother Michael Boland with his other partners, became my Tenants from 1st May last on the Lands of Fahy in County Clare; being recommended to me in the strongest manner by Barry O'Hara Esq. and I consider them to be honest, quiet and industrious young men, otherwise I would not have let them any part of my property, since they became my tenants I have found them anxious and willing to pay me rent, tho' I believe they were annoyed and much injured by persons who were disappointed in not getting their holding.

Loughrea, John Laphill, J.P. County of Galway."

4. From his Father.

"To his Excellency the most noble the Marquis of Anglesey, Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland. The petition of Francis Boland humbly herewith that Petitioner is seventy years old that he is the unfortunate father of James Boland one of those persons who had lately been tried at the Galway Assizes for an attack on the house of Patrick Glynn in the month of August last. That, James Boland the Convict resided in the County of Clare, Parish of Feakle at a distance of ten miles from Glynn's house and never did he know or see Glynn in all of his life until he was made prisoner on the 12th February last, nor did James Boland the Convict know any of his fellow prisoners and convicts before his imprisonment. That, said James Boland was engaged that very time in building a dwelling house for himself on a farm called Fahyhallowan, which he had taken the May previously from Mr. Lopdille whose Certificate accompanies this petition and that he has taken a marked object for annoyance from others on that acct but could feel no possible interest in that abominable system of

Whiteboyism. That the misfortune and infatuation of impeaching, said James Boland cannot be accounted for in any way other than thro' a similarity of dress with one of the offending party. That the wretched Petitioner rest all his hope and reliance on the tender feelings, humanity, and benevolence of his Excellency to extend the prerogative of his mercy to said James Boland the only support of an aged Father and Mother and as in duty bound Petitioner will ever pray."

The court at Galway had no mercy for James and deported him as a convict in April 1832 to arrive in Sydney in February 1833.

Upon arriving in Sydney in 1833 he was assigned to William C. Wentworth to work on the Luskintyre Estate. In the 30's and 40's Wentworth owned Luskintyre Estate, Hunter River area and practically the whole of Lambs Valley to the north. C. Dixon's map, July 20th 1837, shows the Lambs Valley portion of Wentworth's estate as being 9760 acres.

In 1842, on the Saturday 21st May, in the Hunter River Gazette, James Boland's name appeared in the "Tickets of Leave Granted" section of the paper. Acquiring his freedom, James Boland married Bridgette Savage at St. Joseph's East Maitland, on the 20th October, 1844.

Living at Luskintyre James and his wife Bridgette had a large family of ten, consisting of five sons and five daughters. He held his job on Wentworth's Estate as a shepherd. As the fences were few and far between the flock was shepherded on the wide pastures as was commonly done in the day to protect them from the depredations of dingos, wild blacks and wild whites. James remained for some years as a shepherd with the entire satisfaction of his employer, being shown by the fact that when Wentworth liquidated his assets in the mid Hunter in order to concentrate on larger interest elsewhere, he rewarded the faithfulness of his servant by presenting him with a square mile of the pick of Lambs Valley together with a flock of sheep.

In 1857 tragedy struck, with the Boland homestead at Luskintyre being engulfed in the flood, resulting in the drowning of his daughter, she was buried in the Estate burial ground in the shadow of the present Luskintyre House.

The Boland family afterwards moved to Broke where for some time James held a Licence to retail produce of the Local Vineyards before the family returned and settled in the area of the present homestead in Lambs Valley.

James Boland died on 16th October, 1876. The Coroners inquest read as follows.

Accidental Inquest - Coroners Inquest.

"On Tuesday morning an inquest was held at a Rutherford Inn, West Maitland, before Mr. Pearse, Coroner and a Jury, on the body of Mr James Boland, an old and respected resident of Luskintyre.

At the inquest Dr. Strides evidence was to the effect that the deceased died from swelling of blood to the head, caused by a fall of severe concussion with some hard substance. The jury found verdict accordance with the medical testimony."

His grave can still be seen in the Catholic Cemetery at Lochinvar. It reads "Sacred to the memory of James Bowland, Native of the County of Clare, Ireland who departed this life leaving a sorrowful wife and ten children to mourn the loss of a kind husband and affectionate parent - 16th October, 1876 - Aged 65 years"

May his soul rest in peace, his race of life is run
May he enjoy his Savior's Love now his race is run"

~~John J. Gallen~~
~~James + Joseph~~

Michael Ryan C.C.

No. I, James Boland
a Member of, or hold Communion with, the Roman Catholic Church.

do hereby declare that I am

Bridget Savage

I,
a Member of, or hold Communion with, the Roman Catholic Church.

do hereby declare that I am

I, John Kavanaugh of East Martiney Minister of the Catholic Church
do hereby certify, that James Boland of East Martiney
and Bridget Savage of East Martiney were joined together in Wedlock
by me, on the 20th day of October 1874 at East Martiney
in the Presence of

Witnesses,

James Boland and Bridget Savage
of East Martiney

No. I, John A. Gardner
a Member of, or hold Communion with, the Roman Catholic Church.

John Kavanaugh C.C.

do hereby declare that I am



NEW SOUTH WALES

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act, 1973

MARRIAGES

Number: 2617 of Vol. 93.

I, James Boland, X his mark do hereby declare that I am a Member of, or hold Communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

I, Bridget Savage, X her mark do hereby declare that I am a Member of, or hold Communion with the Roman Catholic Church.

I, John Kavanagh of East Maitland Minister of Roman Catholic Church do hereby certify that James Boland of Luskenytre and Bridget Savage of East Maitland were joined together in wedlock by me, on the 28th day of October, 1844, at East Maitland in the presence of David Cremen of East Maitland and Anne Cremen.

Witnesses { David Cremen Anne Cremen

Parties { James Boland Bridget Savage

John Kavanagh C.C. Minister

I, John Brettell Holliday, hereby certify that the above is a true copy of particulars recorded in a Register of Roman Catholic Marriages kept by me

Issued at Sydney, on 28th August, 1979.

J. B. Holliday Principal Registrar



mla

BRIDGET SAVAGE.

Left Portsmouth 26th October 1841.

Arrived Sydney 6th March 1842.

Came Free on the "PALISTINE."

"PALISTINE" Master Alexander Sims, from Portsmouth via the Cape of Good Hope.

BOUNTY IMMIGRANT, BORN HOUSTOWN COUNTY LIMERICK

AGE: 26 years.

CALLING: Cook.

RELIGION:

EDUCATION: Read & Write.

PLACE: Limerick.

BY WHOM IMPORTED: Grant Jamieson Esq.

BOUNTY: £19.

WENT TO: Mr Weddeburn of Sydney at the age of 26 yrs. as a house servant.

WAGES: £15, with rations.

TERM: 1 year.

PALISTINE NO.: 60.

UNMARRIED FEMALES

UNDER PROTECTION OF: Dennis O'Connell & Wife.

PLACE: Houstown Limerick.

MOTHER & FATHER: Maria & John (father alive).

STATE OF HEALTH: Good.

RELIGION: Catholic.

EDUCATION: Read & Write.

Now, over 140 years later, Brian and Peter Boland still own the same pastures and more, of Lambs Valley, the same land their Great Grandfather acquired four generations ago.

THUNDERBOLT

While talking to Brian and Peter I was told of the story of Thunderbolt. The story these two highly reputable horsemen were told over the years. The story was not just of Thunderbolt but of how there is serious doubt whether Thunderbolt or Frederick Ward ~~was~~ ever captured.

Ward was born in Windsor in 1835 and started life as a groomer and horse breaker for his father. He worked at Tocal a few Kilometres from Bolands" place, where he started his career as a Bush ranger by stealing 15 horses from the station. Ward was not off to a good start though, he was soon caught and in Maitland Court in 1856 was sentenced to ten years hard labour at Cockatoo Island. In 1863 he escaped with a fellow inmate named Frederick Britten. It is said in the book "Bushrangers Country" by Alan Sharpe "They scrambled to shore at Balmain, shook hands and parted" and lived separate lives . But, an unanswered question still lingers, that is simply "who was who and who got shot"?

Frederick Ward supposedly lived until 1870 with a flourishing career of dazzling horsemanship, fast movements and a lot of bushranging, eluding police for seven years, but he was still a thief who broke the law. He did have the sympathy of the majority of the people and did have the honour of never once shedding blood but there is a lot of controversy surrounding his own supposed death.

Alan Sharpe says that Constable Walker shot Ward on the 24th May 1870. The account says Walker first shot Ward's horse in the creek so he could not make an escape. Ward came towards him only to receive a bullet in the chest. Dropping his loaded firearm, which he chose not to fire, Walker finally used the butt of the revolver to kill the already fatally wounded man.

Ward's body was that day taken to Uralla, where William Monckton identified the body. Monckton rode with Captain Thunderbolt when he was a boy. The body was buried that day.

The other account is by Allan M. Nixon in "100 Australian Bushrangers". He says that Walker shot Ward first in the shoulder, causing him to fall into the creek, while his horse ran off. Walker then struck Ward on the back of the head and left the body face down in the creek. Walker then returned the next day with a party of mounted troopers, only to find him still alive, so the trooper pierced his head with another bullet. Also upon further examination, Ward's revolver was unloaded.

To make things even more complicated, in 1937 William Monckton made a Statutory Declaration that the body, which he identified in 1870 was that of Frederick Britten. The two stories I have been told are that after the shooting, Ward heard of Britten's death and that Monckton had lied to the police, and had taken full advantage of the situation or that Britten and Ward were one and the same person. I also have been told that Ward later returned to Lambs Valley and was seen by James Boland years after the Uralla shooting. He also supposedly had a son named Harry (Dusty) Miller (Died - 1952, buried at Scone). To find more about Miller I asked one Jim Walsh, aged in his 70's, and who was the leasing hand on the Bi-centennial Drove and who was apprenticed to Miller as a stockman, if this was possible, much to little avail - he could not prove or deny the question, but simply stated "that he was so Good in the saddle he was known as Thunderbolt's Son" Harry Miller is the son of John Miller of Wellington,

N.S.W. who was, according to the story, which is logical and possible, and I believe after all my research Frederick Wordsworth Ward was Captain Thunderbolt.

Material used: Allan Nixon - 100 Australian Bushrangers 1789 1901
Published 1982

Alan Sharpe - Bushranger Country
Published Richmond - 1980

As well as much helpful information from Brian Boland,
Peter Boland and the Department of Births, Deaths and
Marriages.