

HENRY EVANS (c1814 - 1869)

Henry Evans was born at Gloucester, England in c1814. Like many fellow Englishmen at that time, Henry became entangled in the web of hardship and poverty and found himself on 27 June 1836 appearing before the magistrate at Worcester Quarter Sessions, charged with stealing brass. Within a year, Henry was to set foot as a convict on the shores of the fledgling colony of NSW. Henry was one of the 200 male passengers that arrived in NSW via the convict ship "Lloyds" on 17 July 1837. The ship, from England, was under the control of Edward Garrett, Master, with David Watson as the Surgeon Superintendent on board.

Convict Indent on arrival:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Reads/Writes</u>	<u>Religion</u>
Evans Henry	23	Reads and writes	Protestant
<u>Single/Married</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Native Place</u>	
Married	1 male	Gloucester	
<u>Trade or Calling</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Tried: Where</u>	
Horse shoer/blacksmith	Stealing brass	Worcester Quarter Sessions	
<u>Tried: When</u>	<u>Sentence</u>	<u>Former Conviction</u>	<u>Height</u>
27 June 1836	7 years	None	5 ft 3 in
<u>Complexion</u>	<u>Hair</u>	<u>Eyes</u>	
Ruddy	Light brown	Hazel grey	

Particular Marks or Scars

Lost 2 front teeth, left side of upper jaw, five moles left side of neck, another back of right side of neck, bird and horseshoe inside lower left arms.

The fate of Henry Evans first wife and his child is unknown. Family tradition recalls that he left two sons in England, so it is assumed that the younger son was born after the trial. Soon after his arrival in NSW, a census was taken of all the convicts in the colony. Henry Evans per ship "Lloyds" had been assigned to Samuel Blackman at Cobbity Prison. It appears that after a short time with at the prison, Henry moved to the Goulburn property 'Rossiville' where he was under the employ of Captain Francis Nicholas Rossi as a blacksmith and wheelwright.

Captain Rossi's story is outlined in Stephen J. Tazewell's publication "Grand Goulburn":

The Rossi Family

Francis Nicholas Rossi was born on the island of Corsica in 1776.

He was the descendant of an Italian nobleman's family who had enjoyed high status in Corsica for several centuries.

Rossi was only a young man when the Corsicans rose in rebellion against the new order of Revolutionary France.

In the uprising they were assisted by the British at which period Rossi became acquainted with them. At 18 he was granted a commission in a British former regiment of Corsican patriots.

On the failure of the revolt Rossi chose to leave Corsica with the evacuating British rather than face the wrath of the French. It has been claimed that Napoleon Bonoparte's father had once been employed by the Rossi family in a lesser position.

Rossi reached no degree of prominence during the next couple of decades, but in this period he had become a British Officer and was known to have served in many far-flung segments of the empire. It is known that when stationed in Gibraltar he was sent on important dispatch missions which established for him many useful friends of high army posts.

He was in Mauritius as an aide to the Governor, about 1811. His later career from this point shows him as performing little disposed 'secret services' for the British Government.

It has been suggested from sometime later that he had been sent to Europe to spy on the Prince Regent wife, Princess Caroline, whom George (later George IV) was most anxious to divorce. When the regent succeeded to the throne in 1820, he refused to allow Caroline to be crowned queen, much to the disgust of many of his subjects. Caroline was then placed on trial in the House of Lords, with every detail of her intimate but indiscreet life thrown open to the nation -- much to George's delight. A witness of some considerable mystery was one 'Theodore Majocchi' or 'Majorca' who in no uncertain manner totally stripped Caroline of her reputation.

It has been repeatedly asserted, and without some foundation that this character and Nicholas Rossi were one and the same. It remains an unsolved mystery.

Captain Rossi was back in Mauritius in 1823, where he established a useful connection with the acting Governor Ralph Darling later to become the Governor of New South Wales.

After his return to England in 1824, Captain Rossi was, in 1825, appointed Police Superintendent for NSW on a salary of 600 pounds per year. Many interpret his appointment as a reward for his supposed services in connection with the king's divorce. Rossi arrived in Sydney early in 1825, and soon was seeking an increase in pay, as he stated the cost of living was 'far above that of his homeland'. At the end of 1825, Governor Brisbane was succeeded by Sir Ralph Darling, and Capt. Rossi's appeal was more sympathetically received though not for some time satisfied. Meanwhile now well established he set out to reorganise the entire NSW Police Force.

The city of Sydney was rife with serious crime. He increased the size of the force, had the men placed in uniforms, official badges, and armed. He also set about obtaining discipline and enlisted a more desirable type of man.

Apart from all forms of lawlessness, the depredations of bushrangers had reached the very doorstep of the city. No traveller was considered safe on the road from Sydney to Parramatta.

So intense were the operations of the bushrangers, that Rossi was charged to clear up the menace. His competence in this degree was aptly demonstrated in February, 1826, when he established the ring-leaders met at Haslam's Inn on the Parramatta Road. Surrounding the inn with his armed men, he waited well into the night and secured the surrender of the leaders after a short encounter of firearms and hand weapons.

Brought to trial, they were convicted and hanged in George Street, Sydney on March 7, 1826. Nine other farmers and accomplices were convicted and sent to Norfolk Island.

The most successful coup was not without reward. Governor Darling sent a most praiseworthy report of the proceedings. In 1828, Captain Rossi received a grant of 2560 acres of land at Goulburn. At this period he appears to have suffered from bad health, and he complained again of his low pay. On the ground of ill health, Governor Darling removed him from his post of Police Superintendent. The British Colonial Office did not approve and ordered the Governor to return Rossi to his Police post at his old pay.

However, despite his complaints of poor pay, Rossi seems to have lived very well, and both his Sydney home and his growing mansion at 'Rossville', Goulburn developed an air of considerable substance. On June 26, 1827, Capt. Rossi was appointed magistrate, which no doubt considerably increased his social standing. His zeal and efficiency in his police work was such that by 1830, his force had grown to 103 men.

With the growth of Sydney and his force, Rossi requested assistance, and in 1831 Charles Windeyer a name now well-known was appointed assistant superintendent and magistrate.

Further favour followed Rossi in October, 1832 when he received a grant of 6.5 acres 'on the new road to the Valley of Rushcutter'. A year later he sold this for 200 pounds. However he was far from well received in many quarters. His peculiar foreign accent, particularly in court proceedings, made him the butt of his enemies -- particularly the newspapers of the day. His association with Governor Darling, who was in no way popular, also raised hackles.

When Darling was recalled in 1832, many considered Rossi might lose his position but, with the advent of Governor Bourke, he was found to be both dedicated and efficient.

When Capt. Rossi retired in 1835, he established in less than 10 years a disciplined well-trained police force, and had earned the esteem and respect of a large majority of Sydney's citizens. Captain Rossi spent the remaining 16 years of his life on his Goulburn estate of 'Rossville'. His hospitality to visitors became a byword to all ranks.... Francis Nicholas Rossi died at 'Rossville' at the age of 75 years on November 26, 1851 most highly esteemed and respected. He is buried in the Rossi vault in old St. Saviours Cemetery.

HENRY EVANS (c1814 - 1869)
ELIZA CROKER BROWNING (c1824-c1855)

Henry applied for his Ticket of Leave to remain in the Carcoar District and it was granted in April 1841. It appears at that time that he was living in the Kangaloola area. Kangaloola was a square block of land comprising 640 acres, a few km northeast of Binda (near Crookwell). Originally the land was granted to a government official named Rusden. The Kangaloola Creek ran southwest diagonally across the block eventually flowing into the Crookwell River. In the northern half of the block, the Thalaba Creek runs eastward into the Kangaloola Creek, and in the southern half, the Diamond Creek runs westward into it.

The Kangaloola Creek was a particular interest from an official point of view as it was the boundary between Land Districts and just about everything else official, so if you were born, married, died, or voted etc on the south of the creek you did so in the Goulburn District, but if you did the same on the north of the creek you were in the Carcoar District.

It appears that Henry was living at Kangaloola area when where he met ELIZA CROKER BROWNING who had migrated with her mother and step-father Mary Ann and William Roberts, to Port Phillip from Plymouth aboard the "Lysander" arriving on 22 October 1841.

Mary Ann Roberts was born in Cornwall, England, to John Croker and Elizabeth Cutten in c1793 and married William Roberts on 26 February 1836 - her marriage to Browning predated that. It is very likely that Mary Ann Roberts (formerly Browning), nee Croker, was a sister to another Kangaloola resident John Croker.

An interesting story appeared in the Goulburn Herald on 4 December 1852 relating to the death of the same John Croker at Tuena on 21 November 1852 (see later section in the book).

Henry applied to marry 18 year old Eliza Croker Browning on 11 October 1842 and was refused - no doubt because he was subject to Government guardianship and as his Ticket of Leave was still in force and as far as they were concerned he was already married.

After his sentence expired, Henry did marry Eliza, on 3 November 1843 in C of E Church, Goulburn with the consent of her mother who was then living at Kangaloola.

Henry resumed his blacksmiths trade, moving to Blakeney's Creek, Fish River. On 9 October 1850, Henry, who was residing at Kangaloola again, bought 30 acres on Little Plains Creek ** north of Burrowa and subsequently moved there to begin farming.

"Little Plains" was originally a squatters run of 28,000 acres gazetted in 1848 by John Nicholson Jnr.

While living at "Little Plains", as he called his property, Henry established a blacksmiths shop at Burrowa and was to continue his trade. After some years as the blacksmith at Boorowa, Henry Evans purchased 30 acres of land on Little Plains Ck, a branch of Gunnary Ck in unnamed parish, in the County of King. The land purchase was made on 1 November 1951 for the sum of 30 pounds. In the contract, Henry gave his address as Kangaloola.

According to the NSW Births, Deaths and Marriage Index, Henry and Eliza produced quite a large family

Children of Henry Evans and Eliza Croker Browning:

<u><i>Child</i></u>	<u><i>Birth Date</i></u>	<u><i>Place of Birth</i></u>	<u><i>Spouse</i></u>	<u><i>Marriage Date</i></u>	<u><i>Place of Marriage</i></u>
<i>Emily Caroline Evans</i>	<i>28 January 1843</i>	<i>Run-O-Waters (near Goulburn)</i>	<i>James Croker</i>	<i>10 March 1862</i>	<i>Frogmore</i>
<i>Henry Evans jnr</i>	<i>16 August 1845</i>	<i>Fish River</i>	<i>Jane Amelia Roberts</i>	<i>17 January 1876</i>	<i>St John's Church, Burrowa</i>
<i>Mary Ann Evans</i>	<i>19 July 1847</i>	<i>Fish River</i>	<i>James Murray</i>	<i>2 May 1870</i>	<i>Frogmore</i>
<i>Elizabeth Eliza Evans</i>	<i>4 May 1849</i>	<i>Little Plains Creek, Frogmore</i>	<i>James Meldrum</i>	<i>21 March 1865</i>	<i>Numby, Fish River (Reids Flat)</i>
<i>Lydia Evans</i>	<i>8 June 1851</i>	<i>Little Plains, Gunnary Creek</i>	<i>James Gorham jnr</i>	<i>17 April, 1873</i>	<i>St John's Church, Burrowa</i>
<i>John George Evans</i>	<i>8 April 1853</i>	<i>Little Plains, Gunnary Creek</i>	<i>Harriet Beven</i>	<i>21 June 1882</i>	<i>St Thomas Church, Bevendale via Dalton</i>

On 25 June 1855 Henry acquired a further land parcel of 29 acres 2 roods 16 perches next to his original holding.

Somewhere between 1853 and 1855, Eliza Evans (nee Browning), was to die, apparently in childbirth.

HENRY EVANS (c1814 - 1869)
JOHANNA BUTLER (c1835-1906)

At King's Plains, near Bathurst, Henry was to marry for the 3rd time on 20 June 1856.

His young bride was **JOHANNA BUTLER** who arrived with her sister Mary Ann in the colony of NSW in c1854 to join their father William Butler.

Henry and Johanna returned to Little Plains Ck where Henry continued his occupation as a blacksmith and farmer.

Henry and Johanna produced a family of eight children:

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | William | b | 1857 at "Little Plains" |
| 2. | Calvin (Christopher) | b 1 Sept | 1858 |
| 3. | Mary Jane | b 12 Aug | 1860 |
| 4. | Caroline (Kate) | b 21 Oct | 1862 at Frogmore |
| 5. | Francis | b 16 April | 1864 |
| 6. | James (Augustine) | b 15 April | 1866 at "Little Plains" |
| 7. | Charles Alfred | b | 1867 at "Little Plains Ck" |
| 8. | Henrietta Francis Susannah | b | 1869 at "Little Plains Ck" |

However, towards the end of 1869, Christmas celebrations were soon followed by a series of tragic events for Johanna who was pregnant at the time.

Firstly on 29 December 1869 their son Francis was accidentally drowned in Little Plains Ck, aged a tender 4 years of age.

A dejected and depressed Henry Evans took his own life some six days later on 4 January 1870.

His death certificate stated that he took his own life by "cutting own throat, temporarily insane, suffering from delirium tremors".

Henry Evans died on 4 January 1869 aged 55 years (54 years on headstone). According to his death certificate, he had spent 33 years in NSW which matches with his arrival in NSW as a convict in 1837.

In a will dated 13 March 1861, Henry Evans left his property to his children as follows:

1. Lot 53 (Parish of Bala - No 32)
29 acres 2 roods 16 perches left to John George Evans
2. Lot 38 (Parish of Bala - No 31)
30 acres left to William Evans
3. 1 acre town lot on the corner Farm St and Queen St, Burrowa
Allotment 1 Section 14 Lot 11
to be shared equally between
Mary Ann Evans and Mary Jane Evans (under 21 years)

Executors to the will were: Thomas Bell Gibbons
George Cooke
Johanna Butler

Both Gibbons and Cooke had died before Henry, leaving Johanna as the sole executor.

Henry Evans personal estate was insufficient to discharge his personal probate debts.

To pay probate debts, the above parcels of land were sold by Johanna Evans to her father William Butler of Phils Ck for the purchase price of £71/18/6.

Later on 10 February 1876 as a "Deed of Gift", William Butler handed the land back to his daughter Johanna (now Barton).

Henry Evans Crown Grant of 29 acres 2 roods 16 perches (the inheritance of John George Evans), was later sold on 18 June 1883 by John George Evans to Joseph Barton for a purchase price of £750.

The following article appeared in the Boorowa News 22 September 1977, relating to the life of Henry Evans

When Bushrangers Rode The Gunnary Flats

BOOROWA BLACKSMITH AND THE BEN HALL GANG

Boorowa blacksmith Henry Evans was roused from a sound sleep by a loud hammering adjoining the 'smithy' at Gunnary, one night during the 1860's.

The bearded stranger at the door wanted three horses shod, as he and his friends were in a hurry to continue on their way.

Used to being disturbed at odd hours by travellers calling at his lonely farmhouse Henry quickly agreed to the stranger's requests, and throwing on some clothes he hurried out to the blacksmith's shop.

Henry's twelve year old son, awakened by the noise and sound of strange voices, followed his father out to the 'smithy' and stood shyly in the shadows, watching the proceedings.

By the flickering light of the 'slush lamps' (a primitive lighting device fashioned out of a tin filled with mud into which was embedded a piece of rag liberally smeared with mutton fat) the blacksmith made preparations to shoe the three horses.

BEN HALL

The stranger's two companions appeared, and as Henry Evans set about stoking up the forge, the smallest of the trio offered to operate the bellows.

As the man moved his arms up and down to perform the task, his travel stained coat was lifted up, and the boy watching from the shadows saw that the stranger had a brace of large pistols in his belt. He was Johnny Gilbert the notorious bushranger, and his companion was the equally notorious Dunn and Ben Hall.

It seems likely that Henry Evans knew who his clients were, but he didn't ask any questions.

When the three horses were shod, the bushrangers amply rewarded the blacksmith with three and a half sovereigns, a princely sum for the job, as his usual charge was two shillings.

PIONEER BLACKSMITH

So the three men mounted their horses, and rode off into the night, the clatter of hooves dying away in the distance.

Perhaps they were heading towards Boorowa where they were well known, and often used to drink in the Commercial Hotel.

No doubt Henry Evans rolled the sovereigns around in his hand, and considered he had been well rewarded for the loss of sleep that night.

This early incident was recalled recently by that pioneer blacksmith's grandson, Mr Cecil Evans of Farm Street, a quiet courteous man of eighty-four, who has an almost inexhaustible fund of stories of the early days.

CAPTAIN ROSSI

He told us how his Welsh born grandfather came to Australia with the famous Captain Rossi, a fiery personality whose protracted legal battles with the Bishop of Goulburn, Mesac Thomas hit the headlines during the 1890's.

Captain Rossi had a large property at Goulburn in the early days, employing a big labour force, including many convicts.

Henry Evans, a skilled man, was employed as a blacksmith, making ploughs and other agricultural equipment, and no doubt he also assumed the duties of a farrier.

He later left Captain Rossi's employ and took up land at Blakeney Creek, and then came to Boorowa during the 1840's to become the town's first blacksmith.

"LITTLE PLAINS"

His blacksmith's shop was near the river at the northern end of Farm Street, close to the old Shamrock Hotel, which was near where Laurie Berry's residence now stands.

According to Mr Evans, Brial Street was the main street in the town in those days, and it was originally called "Bridle Street".

He said that his father, son of the pioneer blacksmith, had told him that he could remember the old "Queens Arms" Hotel being built.

This building used to stand near the business premises now occupied by Mr Bill Smith in Brial Street. After some years as a blacksmith in Boorowa, Henry Evans acquired some land at Gunnary, and settled there, establishing the property known today as "Little Plains", which has been owned by the Barton family for many generations.

POLICE PURSUIT

Here he continued his blacksmithing business, and it was here that the bushrangers Dunn, Gilbert and Hall, called on that night to have their horses shod.

It seems that Henry Evans knew the bushrangers well, as he had been acquainted with them before they took to the bush and became outlaws.

He would tell the story of how a squad of Police had been doing a lot of shooting in the bush around Gunnary one day, and had later called at the 'smithy' to ask if he had seen any sign of the bushrangers, whom they claimed to have been chasing.

At sundown, Gilbert came to Henry's abode to get some food, and when he was asked about the police pursuit he said he had seen nothing of the police all day.

TRIBE OF BLACKS

From this incident it was deduced that the police were afraid to face the bushrangers, and had made a commotion to warn of their approach.

Mr Evans said his grandfather used to get on well with members of a large tribe of blacks which lived in the area in those days.

It appears that he used to make tomahawks for them, for which they would pay him with sheets of bark stripped from trees, a popular roofing material at that time.

Henry Evans was married twice, and fathered six children in his first marriage, and eight in the second.

Following his death, his widow married a Joe Barton.

GOLD RUSH

A number of bushrangers roamed the Boorowa district during the 1850's and 60's, among them Hall, Gilbert, Dunn, O'Meally, Frank Gardiner, John Peisley and the lesser known Scotchey and Whitton. During 1858 and 1859, Johnny Gilbert was a station hand on the local properties "Narrallen" and "Kenyu".

He was described as "a good fellow who worked well", but from the time of the gold rush at Lambing Flat in 1860 it was said that he "seemed to follow the wrong path".

Hall, Gilbert and O'Meally once took over the Queens Arms Hotel in Brial Street, and danced and made merry with the other patrons, although they were in earshot of the Police barracks.

