

THE LANE FAMILY OF LANES TIER

Last year I wrote a small piece on Donald Augustus (Mick) Lane and his ancestors. Since then, Leanne Bishop (a Lane descendant) and I have put our heads together to uncover more history of Mick's ancestors. We have come to the conclusion that the James Lane (1802-1885) and Annie Lane (1804-1885) buried in the cemetery at the St John the Baptist Church at Ouse are in fact Mick's great grandparents, one time convicts James Lane and Mary Ann Leary. According to the death notice in *The Mercury*, this James has been in the district for 63 years, i.e. arrived in 1822, whereas "our" James arrived in 1827. The mention of the 63 years is most probably an attempt to smudge over James' real origins. Mary Ann Leary took to using her middle name, Ann or Annie (as informant on her grandchildren's birth records), again this may have been an attempt to recreate a new persona. While it is now thrilling for us to find a convict ancestor, not too many generations back people actively sought to forget or hide such a past. One didn't ask, and one certainly didn't mention such antecedents.

James Lane arrived in Tasmania on the *Governor Ready* on 2 August 1827 aged 25; he had been transported for seven years for stealing corn and was promptly despatched to work for Thomas Frederick Marzetti on the property, *Cawood*, near Ouse. Marzetti, who had been in the colony for three years, was awarded a land grant of 1000 acres on his arrival. He chose land on the wide fertile river flats of the Ouse River. With free convict labour to undertake the necessary construction, he soon had a fine stone house, coach house, cattle stalls, barn, piggeries, stables and fowl houses. His establishment was much admired. James Lane met Mary Ann Leary when she too was assigned to Marzetti. Mary Ann Leary arrived on board the *Mermaid* on 27 June 1828, sentenced to seven years transportation for stealing a gown that she had been given to wash.

James Lane became a free man in July 1833, having served his sentence. Mary, whom he had married in 1831 was assigned to him. They were now at liberty to take whatever work they chose. At first James offered his services as a farm labourer and made shoes for the local populace. He and Mary set up house on the banks of Native Hut (Kenmere) Creek. Marzetti had a stock hut on a rocky area called at the time "Native Tier," (now Lane's Tier), just above the junction of Kenmere Creek and Simpson's Creek. Maybe this became James and Mary's first home and James continued as a labourer for Marzetti.

Fortunes changed for James and he moved into the ranks of farmers, leasing a parcel of land owned by the *Rotherwood* Estate at Arthur's Seat. James Triffet had been granted 1300 acres (in two parcels) on which he established *Rotherwood*. He sold the land to David Burn, an author who accompanied Sir John and Lady Franklin on their epic trek to the West Coast in 1842. Burn also bought the intervening property, *Arthur's Seat*, from Mr Patterson, who left for the brighter lights of Melbourne. (The *Arthur's Seat* property was named after the small knob of that name on the southern slopes of Bell's Bare Hill.) Burn advertised for tenants for parcels of land from 40 to 60 acres of the expanded *Rotherwood* estate in December 1841.

As a free man, James Lane was able to utilise convict labour and employ people. Cornishman Charles Perkins, a maker of woman's shoes who was sentenced in Falmouth to seven years transportation for stealing a pair of boots, was assigned to James for three months in 1848. Charles Perkins had previously stolen a length of cloth, he told the magistrate that he stole it because he "was very badly off and wanted to be transported." It took a further theft to enable his wishes to come true. A shepherd employed by James Lane was found dead in his hut on the Native Tier (where farmers ran sheep on Crown land) in October 1853, having died from a "rupture" (ie hernia) which became inflamed. Poor Thomas Nichols died alone in his little hut, not even a fire to warm his bones as he lay down to rest from the pain.

James Lane continued leasing his parcel of land on the *Rotherwood* estate even when the property changed hands. The ebullient George Thomas Pogson bought the property when Burns became insolvent in 1844, Pogson taking a liking to renting out the farm in parcels as he told attendees at a dinner in March 1854 that he "had a settled tenancy with the happiest of results." Pogson died in February 1855 and his wife continued to rent the farm, the blacksmith's shop and the large stone house which was used as an inn, the *Rotherwood Arms*, to over a dozen people. As a lessee, James Lane was entitled to vote and his name appears on the list of persons entitled to be placed on the Electoral Roll for the House of Assembly Electoral Division of Cumberland in April 1856. James' name appears in an 1866 directory as a shoemaker, living at *Rotherwood* with sons James Jr and Thomas, farmers. James died in December 1885, aged 83. His wife, Mary (Annie) to whom he had been married for 54 years died just two weeks later. Maybe she didn't want to go on without him.

James Lane and Mary Ann Leary's children were:

- William Lane born 1829 married Janet Addison
- Mary Ann Lane 1832-1902 married John Holmes Lawton
- Jessie Lane 1834-1919 married William Wood Cleland
- Sarah Lane 1836-1844 burnt at Mr Taylor's Sunday School, Ouse
- Hannah Lane 1839-1909 married George Kitchin
- Thomas Lane 1841-1897 married Ellen Mary Richards
- James Lane 1884-1905 married Christina Macquarie then Annie Louise Evans
- George John Lane 1846-1905 married Letitia Victoria Cox

William Lane became a shoemaker. He moved to Casterton, Victoria and married Janet Addison, although he spent some years in the 1860s living at the Kenmere Rivulet, Ouse. A William Lane who died in 1895 in Ararat, Victoria was born in Sydney to a James Lane and Ann Cummins. The mistaken identity has caused confusion in some quarters.

Mary Ann Lane married John Holmes Lawton who ran the Rock Hotel in Hobart.

Jessie Lane, as Mrs Cleland, ran one of the three public houses in Hamilton with her husband. They ran the Hit and Miss Hotel and later the Glen Clyde Hotel.

Sarah Lane was attending Mr Taylor's Sunday School in Ouse when her dress caught on fire. She died at home a few days later on 6 November, 1844 and was buried at St Peter's, Hamilton.

Hannah Lane married the town undertaker, George Kitchin who built and ran the Lachlan Villa Hotel at Ouse. George's mother (Sarah Kitchin) married George Eyles who purchased the *Stockwell* Estate near the Dee River, although George left Sarah and took up with his sister's step daughter, Alice Rawlinson, with whom he had a large family.

James' sons, Thomas, James Jr and George Lane all took up farming in the district, Thomas and James Jr at *Rotherwood*, and George at Victoria Valley.

Thomas Lane joined the Eyles at *Stockwell*. Thomas' son Alfred William Lane was accidentally killed on the property in April 1887 when a water cart overturned. Thomas and his wife Ellen quit the district the next year, in February 1888, holding a sale at *Stockwell* of their livestock and equipment and moved to *Woodlands*, Lower Jerusalem near Richmond.

James Lane Jr married twice, first to Christina Macquarie and then to Annie Louise Evans. He died on his own property, *Forest Green* on Lane's Tier. James Jr and Annie's son James David Lane (who married Hilda Pretoria Keats) took out many grazing leases in the Lane's Tier/Victoria Valley area, as well as purchasing several large tracts of land.

George Lane was found guilty in March 1879 of stealing 16 sheep from his neighbour, Mr King of *Glen Dhu*. King gave evidence that he had lost 60 sheep the previous year and 40 the year before that and he suspected his neighbour, George "Jack" Lane was responsible. King's shepherd marked his sheep with an "X" on the nose, two nicks on one ear and a secret mark of three dots inside the mouth. George Lane claimed the brand of an "X" on the nose and two nicks on each ear! The suggestion was made during the trial that the secret marks on the sheep in question were made while they were in George's possession; but the Magistrate was having none of it and sentenced George to four years in prison, saying that when he was released he hoped he would desist from "imitating the brand marks of his neighbours." Fourteen years later the boot was on the other foot, George pressing charges against three men for stealing some of his sheep. The culprits admitted as much, adding that they ate the sheep because they had "no flour nor potatoes for two days." Two of the men, Robert and Charles Pearce, who each accused the other of killing the sheep, were both imprisoned for one year. The charge against William Pearce, who helped eat the evidence, was dismissed. George lived at *Rockwood*, Victoria Valley.

James Lane and Mary Ann Leary might be surprised to find just how many descendants they now have!

Carol Clota