



# ned

## the exhibition

*Ian Jones*

OLD MELBOURNE GAOL 2001 - 2002



# **neD: the exhibition**

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***Ian Jones***



First published 2002 by  
Network Creative Services Pty Ltd  
Unit 4, 4 Cheyne Street, Pimlico, Queensland, Australia  
email [info@ncs.net.au](mailto:info@ncs.net.au)  
<http://www.ncs.net.au>

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Jones, Ian.

Ned : The Exhibition : Old Melbourne Gaol 2001-2002.

Bibliography.

ISBN 0 9580162 2 4.

1. Kelly, Ned, 1855-1880 - Exhibitions. 2. Armor - Exhibitions. 3. Bushrangers - Australia - Exhibitions. I. Title.  
364.1552092

Editor: Ben Collins

Designer: Bradley Webb

Printer: Blueprint

Exhibition photographer: Matthew Deller

Second edition

*This book is dedicated to the thousands of modern-day Kelly sympathisers who refuse to let the legend of the iron-clad bushranger die. Far more than a folk hero, Ned Kelly has become one with the Australian psyche. Listed in the top 100 of the world's most influential Irish and arguably Australia's most well-known historical figure, our Ned truly deserves his place in the pages of history.*

# *Acknowledgments*

We wish to express a heart-felt thankyou to the many generous souls who contributed items to Ned: The Exhibition. Without your generosity, this once-in-a-lifetime event — and, indeed, this book — would have been severely limited in its content.

*NB.* Contributors have been individually acknowledged throughout this catalogue. However, not all items displayed at the exhibition are featured.



NATIONAL TRUST



VARIETY CLUB OF VICTORIA  
*the children's charity*



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# *P r e f a c e*

We are extremely pleased and proud to present Ned: The Exhibition to the people of Australia. Never before has such a comprehensive collection of Kelly relics been gathered in the one place at the one time.

The concept of Ned: The Exhibition was first conceived five years ago. It has taken all of that time to locate and compile the many and varied items exhibited in this awesome display. Many artefacts are on show to the public for the first time since Ned Kelly's death in 1880.

From the phenomenal suits of armour, to Ned's favourite rifle, Aaron Sherritt's back doorstep, original reward notices and previously unpublished documents and photographs, we tell the incredible story of the Kellys like never before, with an unbiased dedication to detail and historical accuracy.

It has been an absolute privilege working on Ned: The Exhibition. The 'thrill of the chase' in hunting down relics has taken us on many adventures through 'Kelly Country' and, along the way, we have met many wonderful people. We are grateful for their trust, generosity and enthusiasm.

We are very privileged to have the blessing of descendants of Ned and Dan Kelly, Steve Hart and Tom Lloyd and gratefully acknowledge their contribution to the exhibition.



*The four suits of Kelly Gang armour reunited at the Old Melbourne Gaol for Ned: The Exhibition.*

We thank Jock Murphy and the wonderful staff at the State Library of Victoria in allowing us to publicly exhibit Ned Kelly and Joe Byrne's 'Jerilderie Letter' for the first time since Ned and Joe composed it in 1879 – what an incredible honour!

A special thankyou also to Ian Jones and Bronwyn Binns, who opened many doors for us in meeting those that hold the precious items we are lucky enough to display. Without their assistance and passion, the exhibition would not be as spectacular.

Finally, we would like to respectfully dedicate the exhibition not only to Ned, Dan, Steve, Joe and their families, but to the police and civilians who also lost their lives during the Kelly pursuit.

We hope that we have treated this amazing chapter in our history with the dignity and respect it deserves. We also dedicate Ned: The Exhibition to all the many wonderful people who, with their trust and support, have made the dream of a Kelly exhibition a reality.

**Brendan Pearse and Matt Shore,**  
Co-organisers of Ned: The Exhibition

# ***F o r e w o r d***

Ned Kelly died 121 years ago and I have studied his life for almost half that time — 60 years. Over those years, I have seen enormous changes in attitudes to Ned's perceived role in our history. But at no time has there been a greater change than that seen in the last 12 months.

Milestones are obvious — the dozens of Sid Nolan Neds prancing around the arena at the Olympic opening ceremony in Sydney; Peter Carey's remarkable novel; Ned's 'Jerilderie Letter', superbly digitalised, receiving 80,000 'hits' in its first five days on the State Library of Victoria's website; a shoulder piece of Ned's armour fetching \$175,000 at auction.

Less obvious is the underlying change in the perception of Ned — from an often-resented folk hero into a major historical figure. Some can still hold him up as the epitome of everything undesirable in the Australian character. Many others have tilted the hologram and recognised him as the supreme embodiment of qualities forged in frontier Australia by the unique challenges of this land and the social,

economic and political forces that shaped its first century of European settlement.

A massive centenary campaign to excite us about Federation has been and gone. Yet to most Australians, Ned Kelly remains a more important figure than Alfred Deakin or Edmund Barton. And Sir Redmond Barry, father of the State Library and Melbourne University, will always be remembered, above all, as the judge who hanged Ned Kelly.

If there is such a thing as an 'official' attitude to Ned, then this has undergone the most extraordinary change. For more than a century, government institutions and instrumentalities relegated Kelly material to an uncomfortable limbo — driven by what I have called 'a culture of institutional apathy'. Precious Kelly relics were thrown out or tucked away, often forgotten, occasionally trotted out for exhibition, then again shuffled out of sight and out of mind.

One of my friends at the State Library linked this unstated policy to the attitude of the Kelly period's



*Ian Jones, photographed by Albert Tucker, at the police caves near Beechworth in 1966.*

# ***F o r e w o r d***

Chief Commissioner of Police, Captain Standish, who was appalled when Beechworth's Burke Museum asked for a suit of Kelly armour.

'I entirely disapprove of this,' Standish trumpeted, 'as its exhibition will keep up the disgusting Kelly heroism and have a very detrimental effect on the rising generation. My intention is to apply at once to the Chief Secretary to have the four suits smashed up at once.'

The Kelly armour wasn't smashed up. But the three publicly-owned suits were mixed up, bashed around, shunted here and there, eventually to be displayed in sets of unmatched pieces. Protests were ignored. Until last year. Now everything has changed and the jumbled suits of Kelly armour will appear in this exhibition for the last time.

Next year, in a heartening display of cooperation between the State Library, the Victoria Police Museum and the National Trust (Victoria), the pieces will be reassembled in their original form.

Already, the State Library has gone to great expense and impressive lengths to enlarge, consolidate and conserve its massive collection of Kelly material. It is currently teaming with the Public Record Office to mount an Internet exhibition of joint Kelly holdings. All this, coupled with the generous way in which both bodies have helped Ned: The Exhibition, provides telling proof that the Standish approach is dead and buried. We are no longer worried that Ned Kelly's 'disgusting heroism' will harm a rising generation.

The Kelly armour and the hundreds of other items gathered for this exhibition help tell a remarkable story about a remarkable man. Here is the stuff of history — fragments of a life that has fascinated Australians, and also fragments of that life's impact on the Australian imagination.

It has taken 121 years for anything of this scale to be attempted. It's been worth waiting for.

**Ian Jones**



# ***B e g i n n i n g s***

M E L B O U R N E   A N D   W A L L A N

1 8 5 0   -   1 8 5 4

The Kelly Story starts three blocks from this historic exhibition — at St Francis' Church, Lonsdale Street. There, on Monday November 18, 1850, Father Gerald Ward married Ned Kelly's parents, John 'Red' Kelly and Ellen Quinn.

Nine years earlier, 'Red', from Tipperary, Ireland, was convicted of stealing two pigs. He was sentenced to seven years transportation and served his time in Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) before crossing to the Port Phillip District of New South Wales, soon to become Victoria.

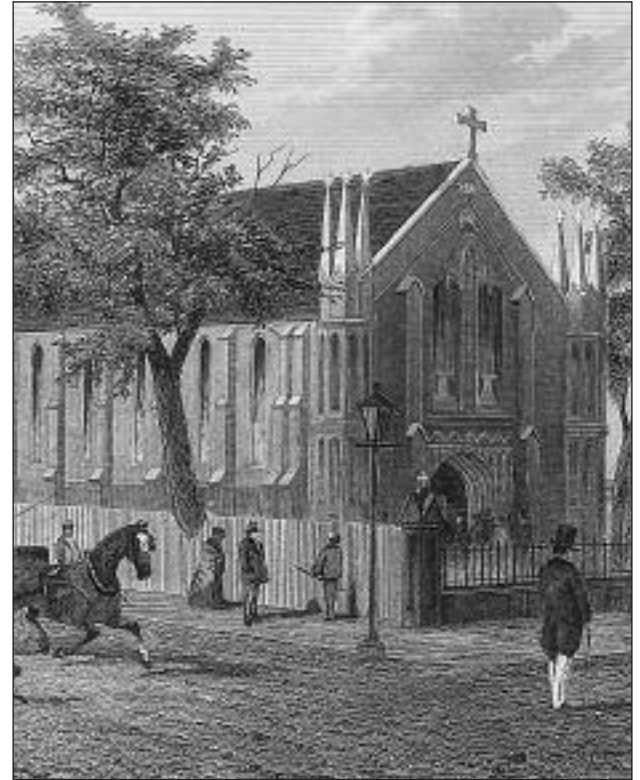
Ellen Quinn's family was from Antrim in Northern Ireland. Her parents, with their eight children, arrived in Melbourne as bounty (assisted) migrants in 1841. The Quinns eventually settled on a farm at Wallan, 50 kilometres north of Melbourne. Here, Ellen met 'Red'. And here, after their marriage, the young couple started to raise a family.



Kelly John 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Apperary  
 Stealing 3 pigs  
 p: M'Quinn

'Red' Kelly's convict background is sketched in the documents of The Convict Indent, which records his transportation to Australia aboard the transport Prince Regent in 1841; the Convict Record covers time served in Van Diemen's Land until he received a Certificate of Freedom in 1848 and crossed to the Port Phillip District.

Archives of Tasmania



St Francis' Church, Lonsdale St, Melbourne – an 1851 engraving by S.T.Gill. Lois Royal

# Beginnings

do hereby declare that I am  
*John + Kelly*  
*Marth*  
do hereby declare that I am  
*Ellen Quinn*  
Minister of *St Francis Church*  
of *the End of Cherry Creek*.  
were joined together in Wedlock at  
*St Francis Church*  
*both of Melbourne*  
*Gerald Ward*.

The marriage of 'Red' Kelly and Ellen Quinn as recorded in the Marriage Register of St Francis' Church. Ellen, 18 at the time, was six months pregnant.

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



Father Gerald Ward, who presided at the wedding.

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne

# *Ned's first nine years*

B E V E R I D G E

1 8 5 4   -   1 8 6 3

In February 1854, with money made from gold-digging and horse-dealing, 'Red' bought a farm at Beveridge, a little south of Wallan. Here, in December of that year, Ellen bore a son they named Edward — to friends and family, 'Ned' — their second surviving child and first boy.

'Red' worked as a dairyman, carpenter and splitter. He also dabbled unsuccessfully in real estate which, coupled with a weakness for drink, brought him close to ruin. But in 1859 he was able to buy 21 acres and build a timber cottage for his growing family.

In 1862, young Ned started school in the little town's new Roman Catholic Church. In six months, he learnt to read and write to second class standard, before 'Red' sold his farm and took the family 80 kilometres up the Sydney Road (now the Hume Freeway) to Avenel.

## *Ned's first nine years*



The original Kelly block at Beveridge where Ned was born in a long-vanished house.



The Kelly cottage at Beveridge built by 'Red' in 1859. Four-year-old Ned might have helped his father. Here, three of the Kelly children were born – Jim (1859), Dan (1861) and Kate (1863). The house was added to by later owners and is today in a critical state of disrepair.



**Father Charles O'Hea** who baptised Edward (Ned) Kelly, third child of Ellen and 'Red', probably while riding circuit from his parish at Pentridge (Coburg). Twenty-five years later, O'Hea stood by Ned at his execution.

Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese



**The Quinn Homestead**, Wallan, photographed in 1964.

Private Collection



## *Ned's first nine years*



Young Ned Kelly's initials (EK and two K's) carved into the door of his grandfather's forge at the Quinn homestead, Wallan. Also seen here are sample 'burns' of newly-made branding irons – the Q with a dropped tail and the later JQ. Private collection



# *A New Life and a Death*

A V E N E L

1 8 6 4   -   1 8 6 7

While the Kelly family scraped a living from a rented dairy farm, Ned and the older children attended the Avenel School.

Ned won lasting fame as an 11 year-old by rescuing a seven-year-old boy from a flooded creek. His heroism was rewarded with a silk sash.

When 'Red' Kelly was sentenced to six months gaol for butchering a neighbour's stray calf, Ned's bravery may have won his father lenient treatment a generous remission and imprisonment in the local lock-up instead of a distant gaol.

But when Red returned to the family, he also returned to the bottle and scarcely more than a year later died of dropsy — an illness that bloats the body.

Ellen Kelly was a widow at 33, with seven children. Ned Kelly, just turned 12, signed his father's death certificate and stepped into his boots.

## *A New Life and a Death*



Site of the Kelly House on Hughes Creek near Avenel





**Richard Shelton** who was rescued by young Ned from Hughes Creek, Avenel. Two of Richard Shelton's sons are still alive. A grandson, Ian 'Bluey' Shelton, was a famous Essendon footballer. Richard's grateful parents, Esau and Margaret (seen in locket portraits), presented Ned with a handsome green silk sash. Keith McMenomy/Shelton Family

## *A New Life and a Death*



The toll bridge over Hughes Creek, Avenel, in the 1860s. The Shelton family's Royal Mail Hotel lies at top left. Ned's rescue of young Richard took place beside a footbridge out-of-frame to the right. Keith McMenomy/Shelton Family

Edward  
Kelly  
Son  
Ned Avenel

'Red' Kelly's Death Registration, signed by Ned, symbolises the boy's new role as 'man' of the Kelly house, helping his 33-year-old mother care for her six other children. Registrar, Births Deaths and Marriages

# ***Good Years, Bad Years***

G R E T A

## N E D :   T H E   E X H I B I T I O N

In 1867, Ellen Kelly and her children left Avenel to join her family in Victoria's north-east. She eventually took up an 88-acre property on the Eleven Mile Creek near Greta.

Ned's uncles and cousins were often in trouble with the police — usually for stock theft and brawling. This marked the Kelly clan for special attention in a district scarred by a developing land war between small, 'selector' farmers and big farmer-graziers or 'squatters'. Inevitably, the police favoured the squatters, men of some wealth and political influence.

## *Good Years, Bad Years*



**Site of the Kelly Homestead at Eleven Mile Creek near Greta.** This is the site of the 'new' house built by Ned Kelly for his mother in 1877, today marked by two later brick chimneys. Private collection



**Part of a horse's bit found at the Kelly homestead.**

Private collection

# *Harry Power*

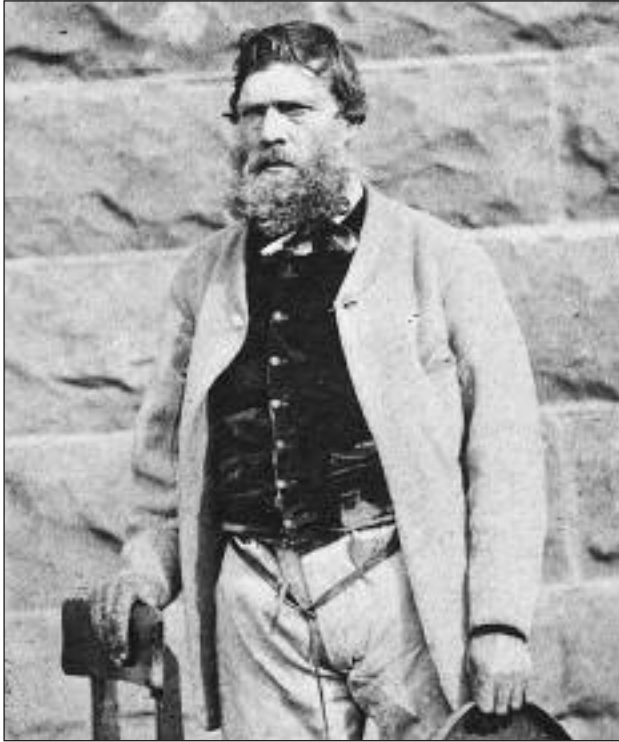
1 8 7 0   -   1 8 7 1

As a 14 year-old, Ned was 'apprenticed' to Irish-born Harry Power (real name, Henry Johnstone), the last of Australia's great highwayman-bushrangers. Harry was middle-aged, dumpy and grumpy, but a fine horseman and bushman supported by a network of friends spanning a huge area of the colony.

In 1870, Ned was arrested and narrowly escaped conviction for highway robbery. Soon after, Harry was betrayed by one of Ned's uncles and was captured, tried and sentenced to 15 years gaol.

Fifteen year-old Ned was blamed for the betrayal. Greater injustice was to come.

# Harry Power



**Harry Power** was already middle-aged when he escaped from Pentridge in February 1869 and launched a spectacular 15-month bushranging career. Victoria Police Historical Unit



**Harry Power's capture**, surprised at dawn in his mountain hideout. Superintendent Nicolson grapples with him while Superintendent Hare and Sergeant Montfort close in. Harry believed that Ned had betrayed him. Illustrated Australian News



**Ned Kelly at 15**, charged with helping Harry Power in two robberies, sits for an unknown photographer at Kyneton, where he was held on remand. He was treated well by Sergeant Babington and, after being released, wrote to Babington when he needed help.

Public Record Office



## Harry Power

James Babington 28<sup>th</sup> July  
I write you these lines hoping  
to find you and Mrs. Nicholson  
in good health as I and myself  
at present I have a very safe  
and I would like you would see  
what you and Mr. Nicholson  
could do for me I have done  
all circumstances would  
allow me which you now  
try what you can do answer  
this letter as soon as possible  
direct your letter to G and  
Kelly greets the post office  
that is my name no more at present

Ned Kelly's letter to Sergeant Babington, two months after Harry Power's capture – the only surviving example of Ned's handwriting, apart from signatures. The spelling and grammar are as good as could be expected from a boy who left school at 11 after two-and-a-half years education. Victoria Public Record Office



*Pentridge  
and the  
Honest Years*

At 16, Ned was convicted after innocently receiving a stolen horse. The man who stole it, his friend Isaiah 'Wild' Wright, was sentenced to 18 months for illegal use; Ned got three years hard labour. This was after Ned received a brutal pistol-whipping from a trooper who had committed perjury to gain his conviction.

Ned served his time in Beechworth Gaol, Pentridge Prison and on a convict hulk at Williamstown. As a bearded 19 year-old, he left prison in February 1874 and spent three years in hard, honest work before being drawn into the squatter-selector land war, now made more bitter by bad seasons and severe recession.

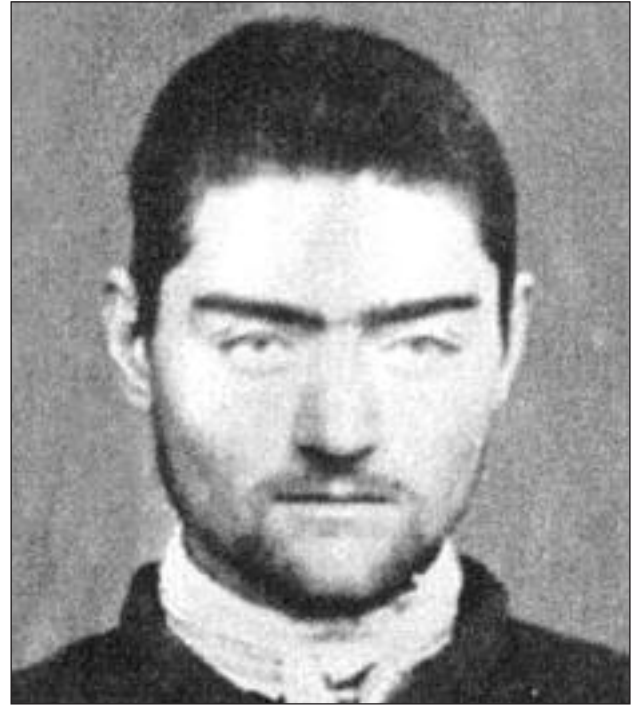
## *Pentridge and the Honest Years*



**Isaiah 'Wild' Wright**, a flamboyant young Mansfield identity who lost a horse while at the Kelly homestead and failed to tell Ned Kelly that it was stolen. Ned found the horse and rode it past the Greta Police Station to earn a brutal pistol-whipping from the local trooper, who had initially tried to shoot him. Ned was sentenced to three years hard labour. Victoria Police Historical Unit



A slab from the Kelly Homestead at Eleven Mile Creek near Greta, the 'new' home built by Ned Kelly for his mother in 1877. Ned split the slab from locally-cut ironbark, then adzed its ends for notching into 'studs' – the vertical posts used in horizontal slab construction. This slab is about 155cm x 30cm x 3 to 4cm thick. More than 150 were needed to build the homestead, each slab weighing up to 20 kilograms, depending on length. Private collection



**Prison portrait of Ned** taken in Pentridge about January 1874, a month before his release. An unflattering likeness, it shows the stubble that would soon grow into a beard he would maintain for the rest of his brief life. PROV, VPRS 4966 Unit 1/item 1

## *Pentridge and the Honest Years*



**Ned at 19**, a study by Melbourne photographer Chidley. It celebrates Ned's victory over Wild Wright in a 20-round bare-knuckle match at Beechworth on August 8, 1874. Private collection



**Ned's American stepfather, George King**, who married Ellen Kelly in 1874. They had three children, the last born only two days before the Fitzpatrick incident, which sparked the Kelly outbreak. King disappeared in 1877-78 after a major horse-stealing exploit with Ned. His wife resumed the name of Kelly, which was also adopted by King's three children. Leigh Olver



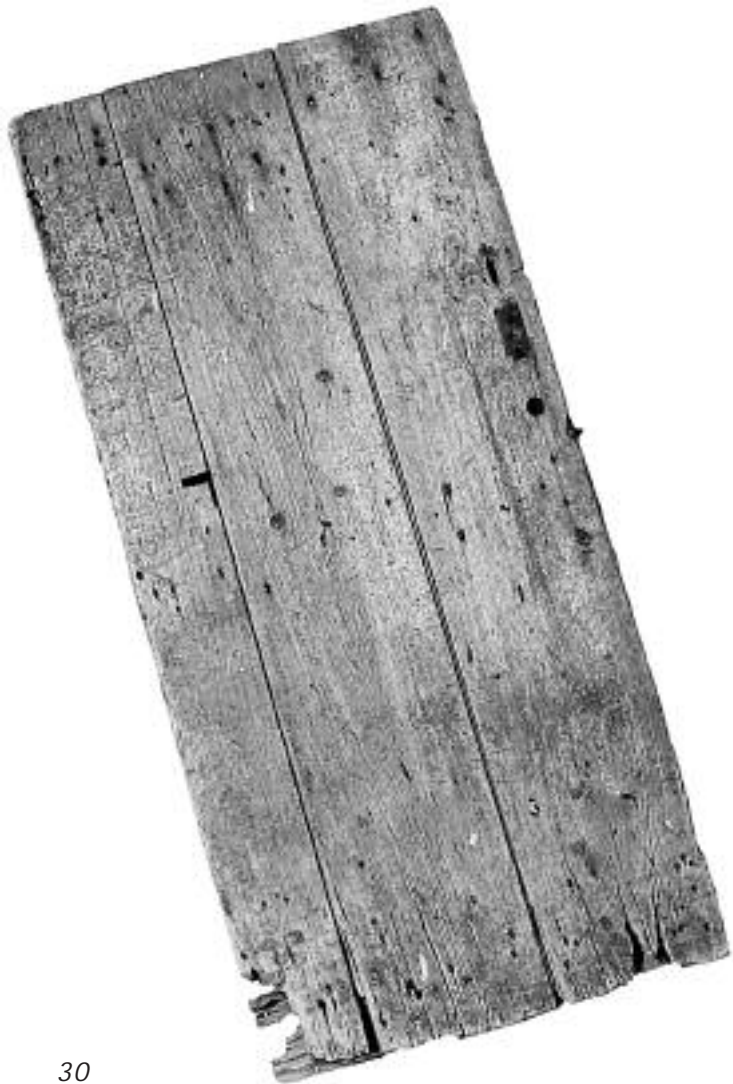
**Part of a door latch** from the Kelly homestead at Eleven Mile Creek. Private collection

## *Pentridge and the Honest Years*



'Farnley' at Chesney Vale, a pink granite house built by Ned in 1875-6. Inset, the completion date carved by Ned in one of the granite blocks.





The back door of the Kelly homestead is covered with initials. Among them are 'DK' and 'GK' carved by young Dan and Grace Kelly before the Gang's outbreak. It has a 'spy hole' which provides a broad field of view – almost 180 degrees. Private collection

# ***T h e F i t z p a t r i c k M y s t e r y***

**A P R I L 1 5 , 1 8 7 8**

Through most of 1877, Ned and his American stepfather, George King, headed a major horse-stealing gang that performed a major raid on the district's most powerful squatter, James Whitty.

When Ned's 16 year-old brother, Dan, became a suspect, a rakish young police constable named Fitzpatrick tried to arrest the boy at the Kelly homestead. A mysterious brawl erupted. A drunken Fitzpatrick swore that Mrs Kelly had assaulted him and that Ned Kelly had shot him in the wrist.

Ned and Dan became fugitives. Mrs Kelly, with a baby at her breast, was sentenced to three years hard labour. Her son-in-law, Bill Skilling (Skillion) and a neighbour, Bill 'Bricky' Williamson, each received six year hard labour.

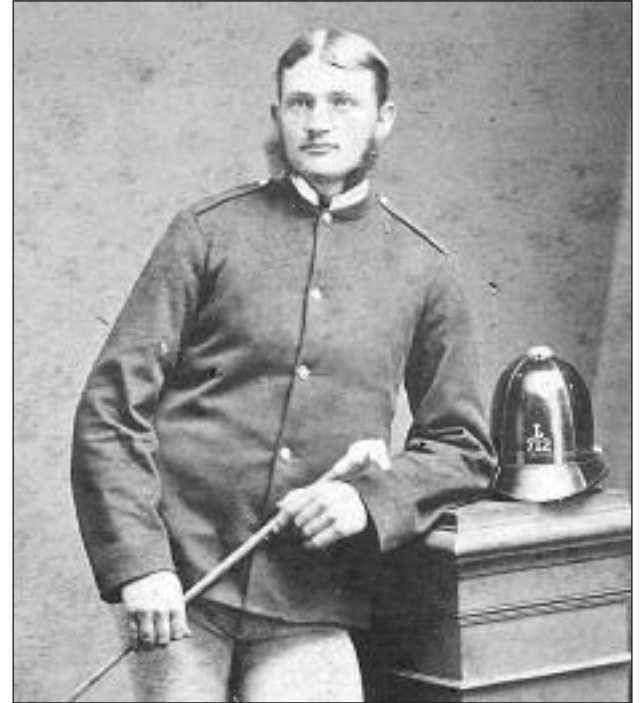
Ned and Dan offered to surrender if their mother was released. The offer was refused.





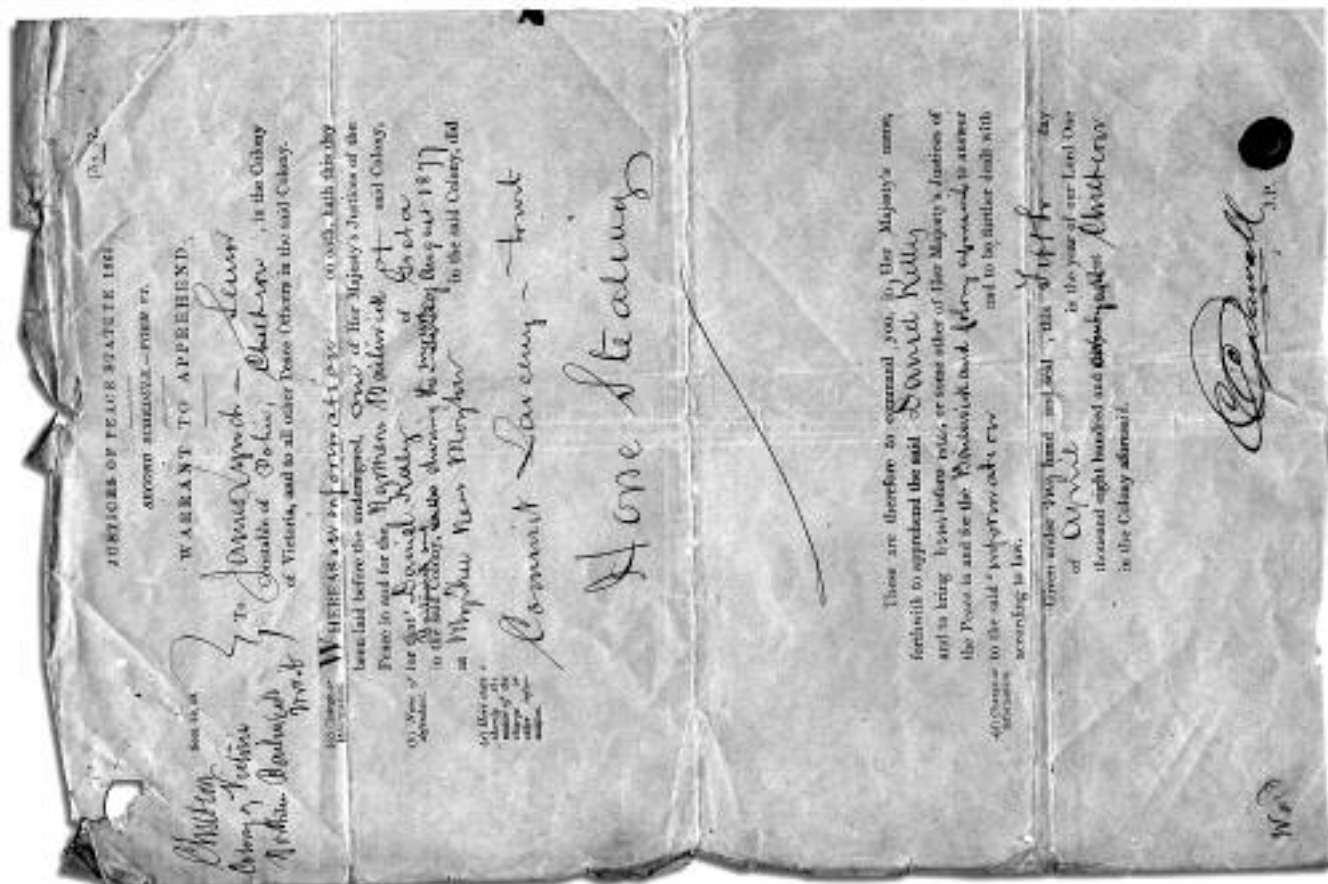
**Dan Kelly in 1877-78**, when he was 16, shortly before his involvement in the Fitzpatrick incident.

Victoria Police Historical Unit



**Constable Alex Fitzpatrick**, on record as 'a liar and a larrikin', tried to rescue his police career by the arrest of Dan Kelly at the Kelly home on 15 April, 1878. A pass at Kate Kelly triggered the fateful brawl. Victoria Police Historical Unit

# The Fitzpatrick Mystery



Warrant for Dan Kelly for suspected involvement in a major horse theft from squatter James Whitty. The boy was almost certainly innocent. PROV, VPRS, 4965 Unit 5/item 352



**Kate Kelly** was a quiet 14-year-old when she became caught up in the Fitzpatrick incident. A popular heroine of the Kelly story, she actually played a less important role than her older sister, Maggie. Edgar Penzig/Keith McMenomy

# *Stringybark Creek*

OCTOBER 26, 1878

In October 1878, two police parties set out for the Wombat Ranges from Greta in the north and Mansfield in the south, attempting to take the Kelly brothers in a pincer movement. Men from both parties had boasted of their readiness to kill Ned Kelly. Ned was told of these boasts.

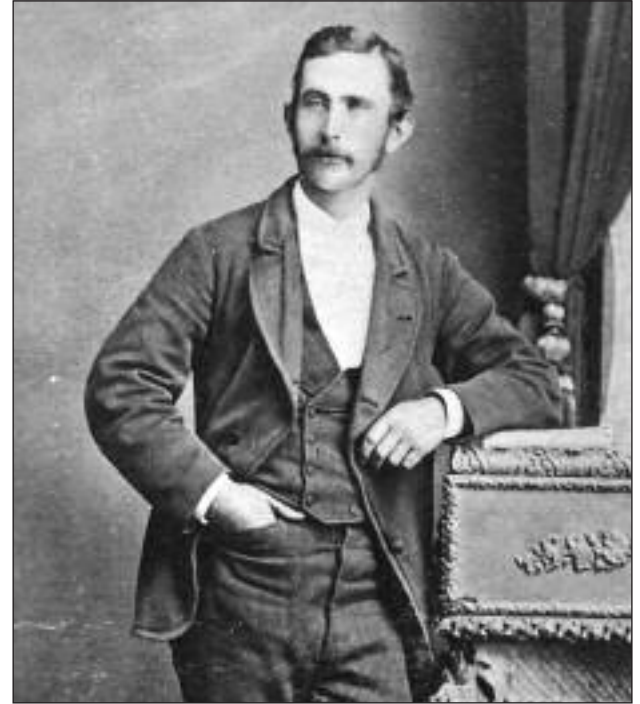
With the help of various friends, the Kelly boys operated a gold mine and a whisky still on Bullock Creek. On October 25, by sheer chance, the Mansfield police party of four made camp less than two kilometres away at the neighbouring Stringybark Creek.

The next day, Ned and Dan Kelly set out to disarm the police and take their horses. They were accompanied by both Joe Byrne and Steve Hart, who just happened to be with them that day.

There was a gunfight. Three police died, one constable escaped. The tragedy at Stringybark Creek had created the Kelly Gang.



**Steve Hart**, Dan Kelly's mate, was 19, a sometime jockey, son of a respectable Wangaratta family. Victoria Police Historical Unit

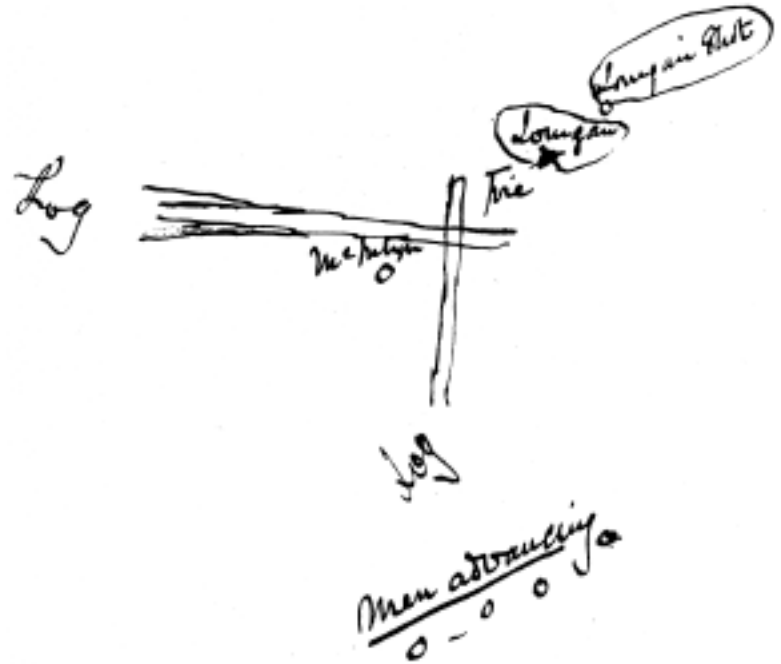


**Joe Byrne**, Ned's best friend, was 21, well-educated for the time and place, something of a poet and an opium addict. He had grown a beard by the time he became an outlaw. Private collection

# Stringybark Creek



The hut at Bullock Creek in the Wombat Ranges where the Kelly boys and some friends were sluicing gold and setting up a pot whiskey still to finance a new trial for Mrs Kelly. Keith McMenomy



A sketch by Constable McIntyre of Lonigan's shooting. The left hand circle of the 'men advancing' group represents Ned Kelly. Note that, according to the sketch, Ned shoots Lonigan from behind while he is moving away, yet the fatal wound was through Lonigan's eye.

Victoria Police Historical Unit





Fragment of the pot from the Kelly whiskey still at Bullock Creek, recovered in 1968 after being unearthed by feral pigs. Private collection

## *Stringybark Creek*

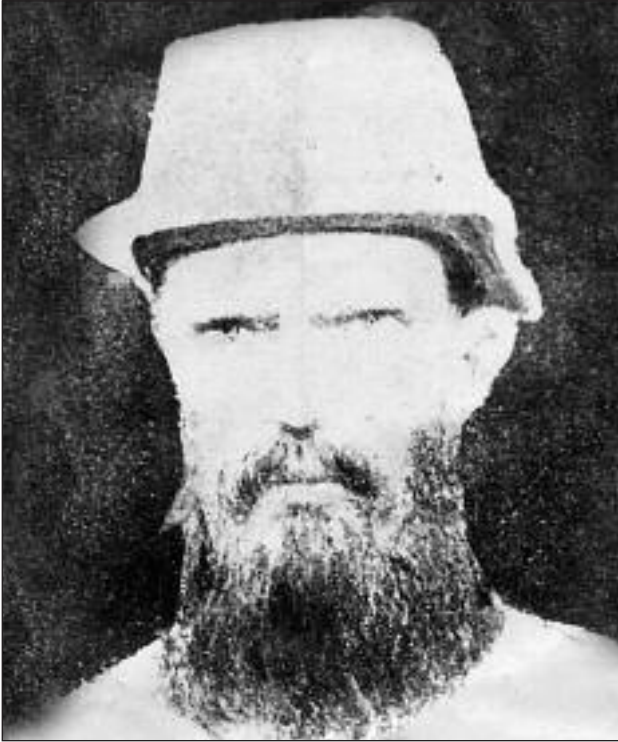


**Sergeant Michael Kennedy** led the Mansfield party in pursuit of the Kelly boys. He was killed by Ned Kelly after a running gunfight. Victoria Police Historical Unit

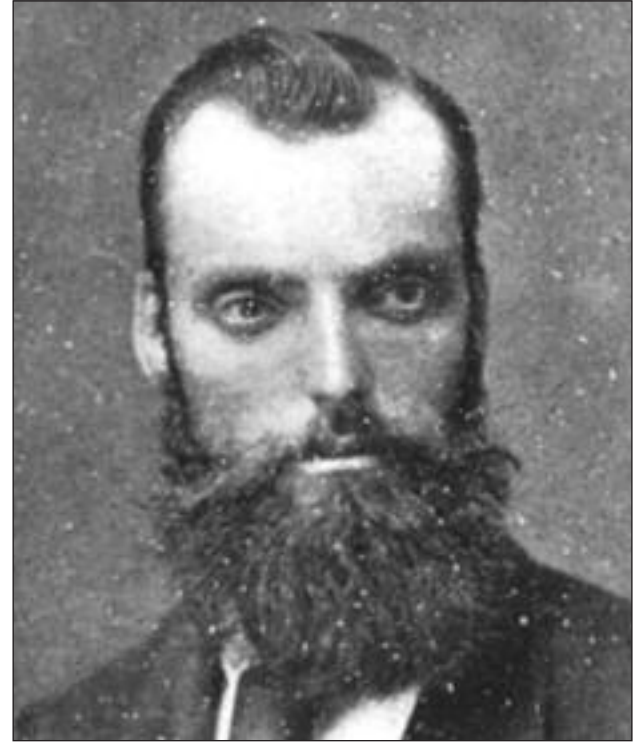


**Constable Michael Scanlon**, chosen by Kennedy as his right-hand man on the expedition, was a fine bushman. Victoria Police Historical Unit





**Constable Thomas Lonigan** was included in the party because he could identify the Kelly boys. Like Kennedy, a father of a young family. Victoria Police Historical Unit



**Constable Thomas McIntyre**, sole survivor of the Mansfield party and chief Crown witness at Ned's trial. Victoria Police Historical Unit

## *Stringybark Creek*



Site of the Stringybark Creek gunfight, photographed by Burman, a week after the police killings. Locals represent, from left, Ned Kelly, McIntyre and Kennedy. Positions are very rough approximations. Victoria Police Historical Unit

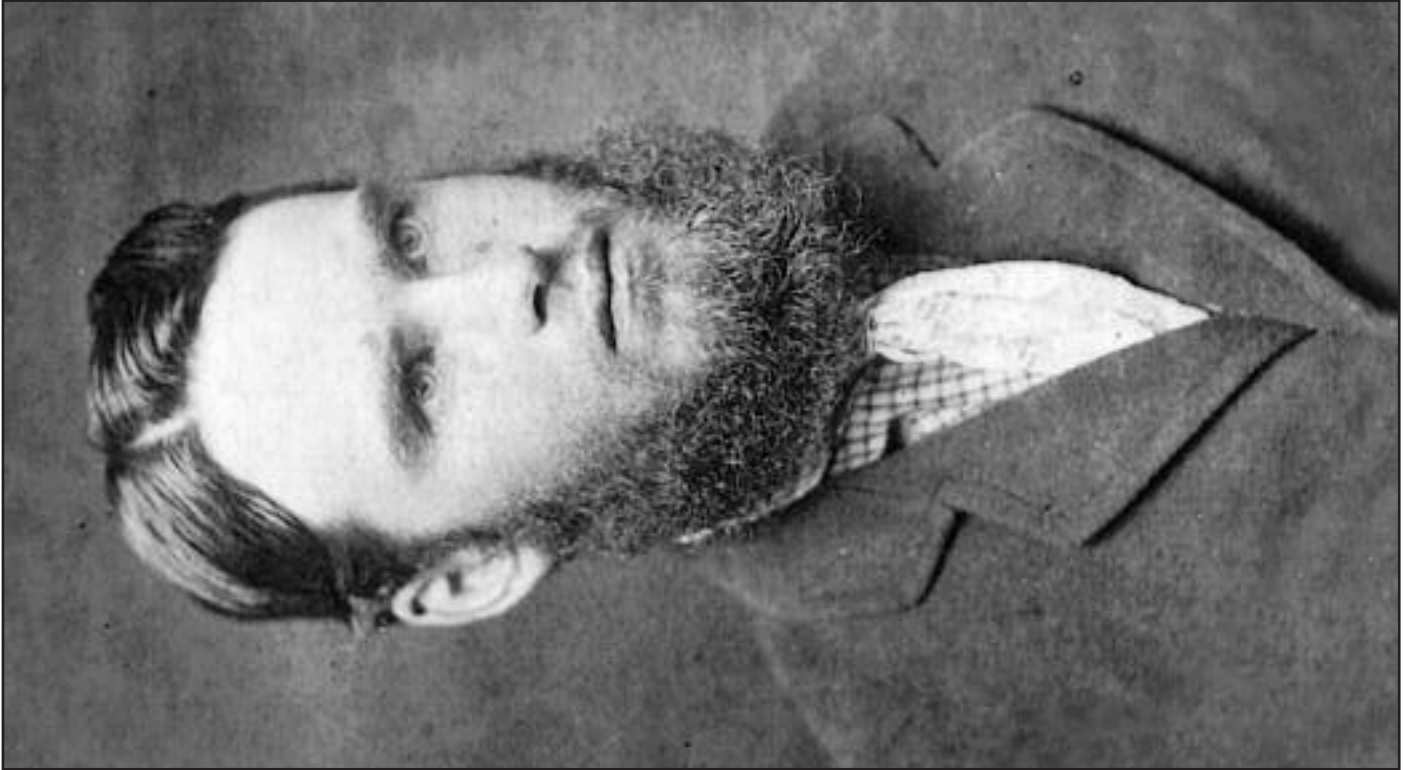


**Ned Kelly's sawn-off carbine** with which he shot Constable Lonigan – a replica made for *The Last Outlaw* TV series in 1980. The original was thrown out by Melbourne's Museum of Applied Science in the 1950s. The lock plate (inset) may be a relic of that original. Private collection

## *Stringybark Creek*



**Spencer repeating carbine** like the one specially borrowed by Sergeant Kennedy for the Kelly expedition. It loaded seven .52 calibre bullets in a tube that was inserted in the butt. The Spencer was used by Constable Scanlon in the Stringybark Creek gun battle and later became a key weapon in the Kelly Gang's armoury. Private collection



**Tom Lloyd**, cousin of the Kelly boys, arrived just after the fatal gunfight. He was to prove their most loyal and active supporter.

Victoria Police Historical Unit

# Stringybark Creek

Mansfield telegram to the Chief Commissioner less than 48 hours after the police killings. Sub Inspector Pewtress and Constable McIntyre have just returned to Mansfield with the bodies of 'Lannigan' (Lonigan) and 'Scanlan' (Scanlon). Pewtress reports: 'McIntyre is very ill & suffered great pain whilst with me'.

PROV, VPRS, 4965 Unit 4/item 312

30

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To **M**

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Time recd **4.28** From **Mansfield** Date **5/10/1878**

\*\* So pecuniary liability is limited by the Order by reason of any delay, default, or omission, in relation to any Telegraphic Message sent or received, or omitted to be sent or received, in Victoria.

Telegram for **Chief Commr of Police**

*Manuscript by Lally*

Constable McIntyre arrived at four o'clock Sunday with news that he Kennedy Scanlan & Lannigan have not searching for Kellys at Stringybark Creek McIntyre & Lannigan were in charge Kennedy & Scanlan out today. The two Kellys & two men unknown came up armed with rifles ordered McIntyre to bail up he did not bring armed. ordered Lannigan to do the same Lannigan felt for his revolver whilst doing so he shot dead Kennedy & Scanlan (Signature)

Time lodged at the Posting Station \_\_\_\_\_

# *O u t l a w s*

## N E D :   T H E   E X H I B I T I O N

Within two days of the police killings, the Gang had an £800 reward on their heads. Within a week it was £2000. On November 15, they were outlawed by an Act of Parliament, which rendered them liable to be shot on sight, with harsh penalties for anyone helping them.

Forced to live outside the law, they planned a bank robbery that would double as a public relations exercise to show that they had never intended to become police killers and bushrangers.





The only surviving example of a £2000 reward notice issued by Senior Constable Ellis of Jamieson, within six days of the police murders at Stringybark Creek. When Ellis received a telegram announcing a £2000 reward for the Kelly brothers and their two mates, he drew up a reward notice and had it printed at the local newspaper office. He then circulated copies around Jamieson, Darlingford, Gaffneys Creek and Woods Point. The whole exercise cost £2. Also on display is Ellis's report to Superintendent Sadlier in Benalla, accompanying the printer's account, which was sent to the Chief Commissioner of Police in Melbourne one month later. The Jamieson printer got his money by Christmas. Private collection



# ***The Near - Perfect Hold - Up***

E U R O A

D E C E M B E R   9   -   1 0 ,   1 8 7 8

On Monday December 9, 1878, the Gang quietly occupied Faithfull's Creek homestead, six kilometres from the small, prosperous town of Euroa. This became the depot for their bank hold-up.

The next day, while Joe Byrne guarded prisoners, the rest of the Gang travelled into town and robbed the National Bank of some £2000. They brought back the bank staff, including the manager, his wife and seven children, mother-in-law, nanny and maid. Most were charmed by the polite, stylishly-dressed outlaws.

A hostile press was forced to hail the raid as a triumph, while the police careered around in futile pursuit.

## *The Near-Perfect Hold-Up*

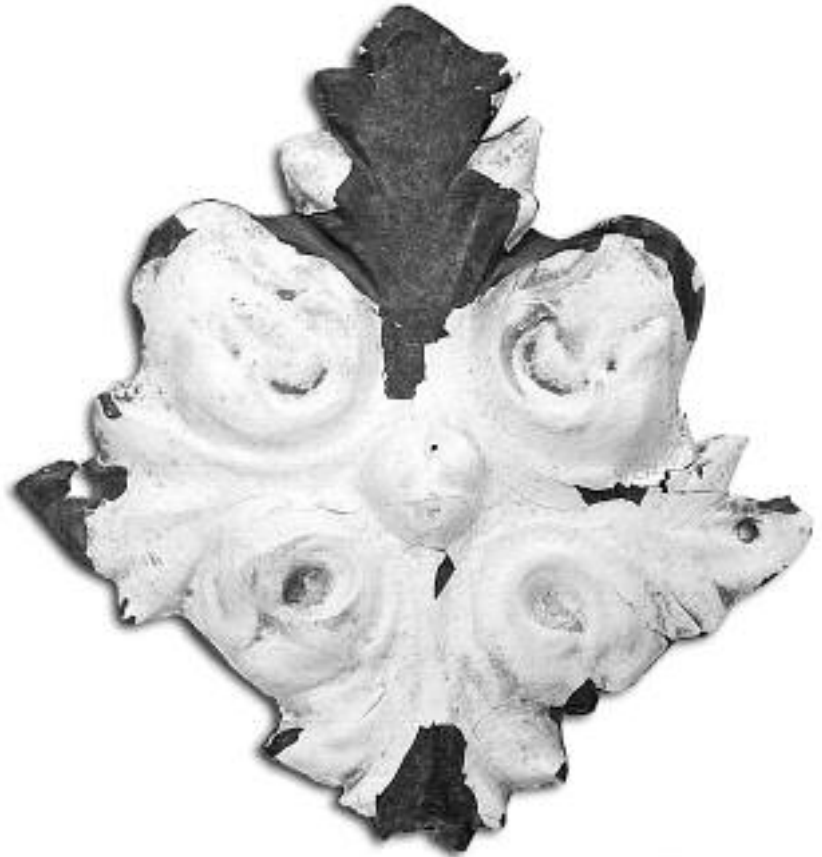


**Euroa's National Bank**, a building rented from the local blacksmith, was the scene of the Kelly Gang's first hold-up.

National Australia Bank Heritage Collection



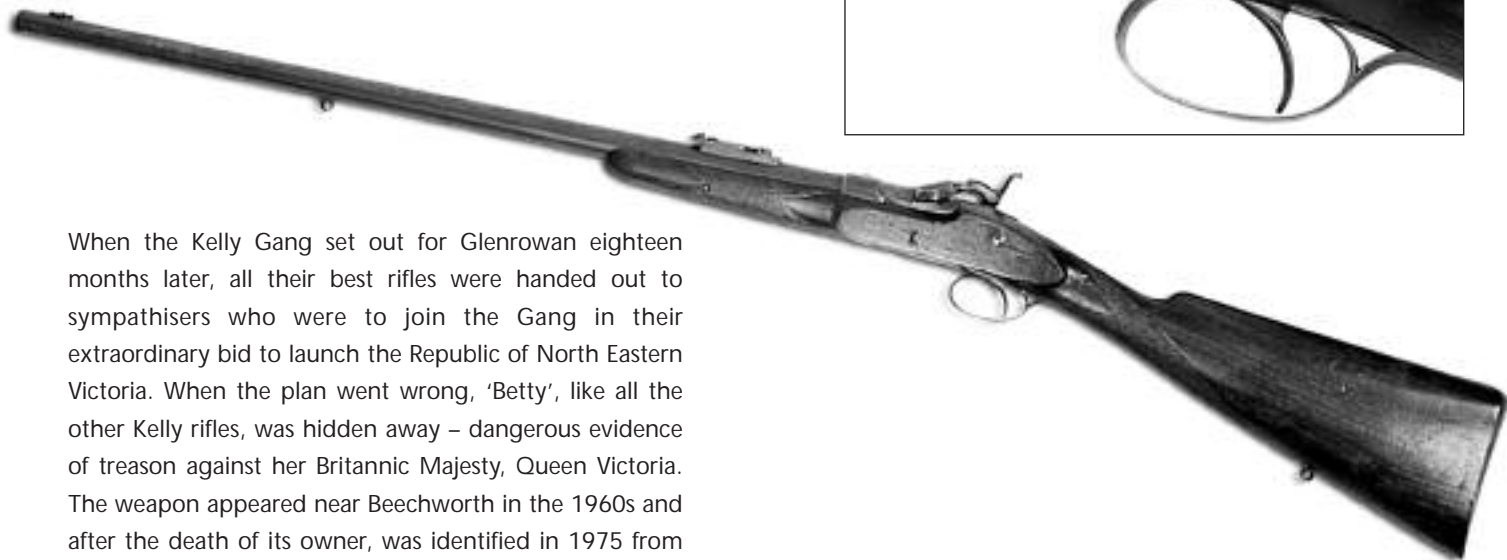
**Faithfull's Creek homestead.** The storehouse where the Gang kept their prisoners was to the left. The Kenneally family



**Part of the National Bank's ceiling cornice.** The building was demolished in the 1970s. Chris and Rod Gerrett

## ***The Near-Perfect Hold-Up***

Ned Kelly's favourite rifle, 'Betty', a .577 calibre Snider-Enfield. Note the 'K' carved into the fore-end wood. In December 1878, during the hold-up of Faithfull's Creek homestead near Euroa, Ned Kelly and Joe Byrne bailed up a heavily armed party of sportsmen who had been shooting kangaroos. 'Betty' was taken from Englishman Henry Dudley, who was surprisingly philosophical about losing it. He had sold the weapon just before leaving on the trip.



When the Kelly Gang set out for Glenrowan eighteen months later, all their best rifles were handed out to sympathisers who were to join the Gang in their extraordinary bid to launch the Republic of North Eastern Victoria. When the plan went wrong, 'Betty', like all the other Kelly rifles, was hidden away – dangerous evidence of treason against her Britannic Majesty, Queen Victoria. The weapon appeared near Beechworth in the 1960s and after the death of its owner, was identified in 1975 from information supplied by Tom Lloyd Jr. Private collection



National Bank notes like this were among the Gang's booty from the Euroa hold-up. National Australia Bank Heritage Collection



## *The Near-Perfect Hold-Up*



**Superintendent Hare**, a huge man with an ego to match, headed the Kelly chase after Euroa, dropped out, exhausted, then took over again just before the final clash at Glenrowan. Victoria Police Historical Unit



**Superintendent Nicolson**, officer-in-charge of the Kelly pursuit, ran himself to a standstill after the Euroa robbery and had to be replaced. Victoria Police Historical Unit



**Chief Commissioner Standish**, clubman, VRC chairman and socialite, was reluctant to let bushrangers upset his Melbourne lifestyle. He placed obsessive trust in his protégé, Superintendent Hare. Victoria Police Historical Unit



**Kelly Gang souvenirs.** During the hold-up of the National Bank at Euroa, 18-year-old clerk Bob Booth asked Dan Kelly and Steve Hart for souvenirs of the occasion. Dan gave him a crooked sixpence while Steve presented a bullet engraved with the letter 'H'. These unique relics were donated to National Australia Bank Group Archives by Mrs Alexa Snellgrove, daughter of Bob Booth.

National Australia Bank Heritage Collection

# ***The Perfect Hold-Up***

JERILDERIE

FEBRUARY 8 - 10, 1879

Two months after the Euroa hold-up, the Gang raided the small Riverina town of Jerilderie. It was a bushranging masterpiece. They held the town captive for two days, based themselves in the police station and sometimes wore police uniforms. They took another £2000 from the bank of New South Wales and rode away from another public relations triumph.

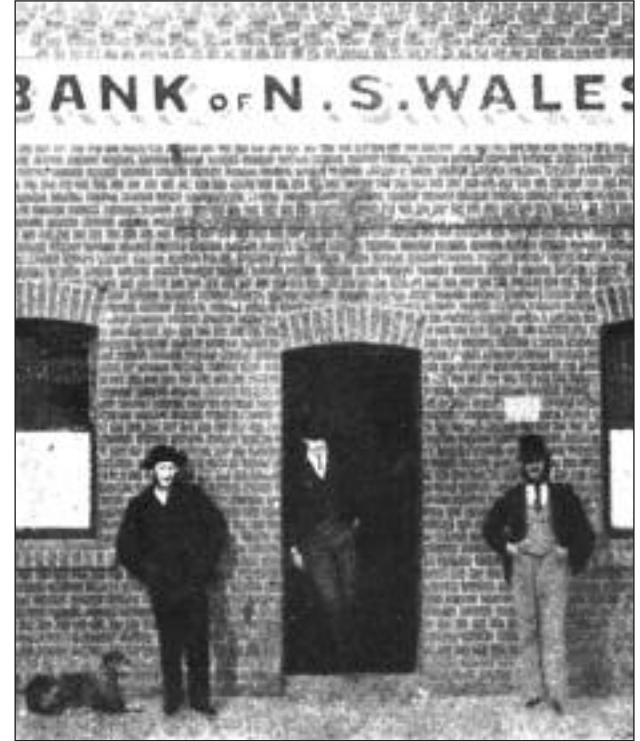
But one detail of the plan had failed. Ned had wanted to get a 7500-word letter printed. The local newspaper editor escaped, so Ned left it with the bank accountant, who promised to have it printed. But the 'Jerilderie Letter', which Ned called 'a little bit of my life', would not appear in print until 50 years after his death.





The Jerilderie police bailed up by the Kelly Gang as imagined by the Illustrated Australian News. Near midnight on a Saturday, Ned lured them outside with calls of murder at a local pub. For the next two days, the Gang occupied the police station as a base for their hold-up.

La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria



The Bank of New South Wales, Jerilderie. The staff are, from left, clerk Mackie, accountant Living and manager Tarleton. Westpac Historical Services

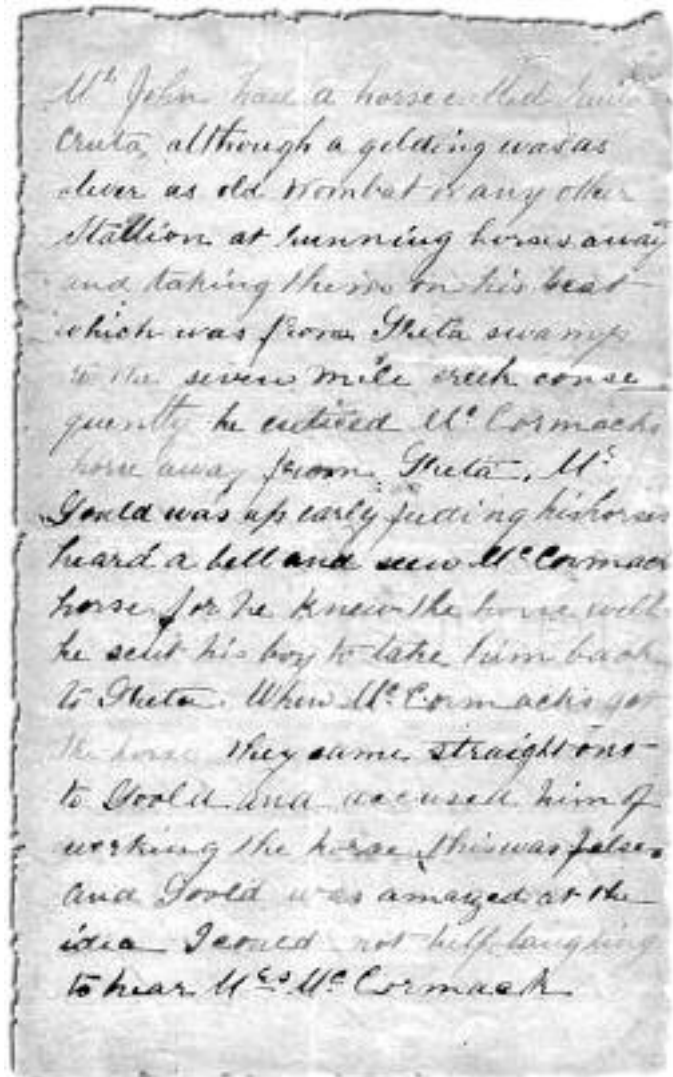
# The Perfect Hold-Up

**The Jerilderie Letter** (page 2 pictured). Frustrated by failure to get their previous letter published, Ned Kelly and Joe Byrne prepared a far more ambitious document for the Jerilderie hold-up, planning to have it printed by the local newspaper editor.

When the editor escaped from the Gang, the bank accountant, Living, promised Ned he would see that the letter was printed. But Living, too, escaped from Jerilderie, carrying the precious document, and eventually let the Victoria Police copy it.

The original then disappeared until donated to the Victorian State Library in November 2000. Its 56 pages and 7500 words are now on the library website for all the world to read, exactly as Ned and Joe wrote it.

State Library of Victoria



Mr John have a horse called ~~but~~  
Cruta, although a gelding was as  
dear as old Wombat or any other  
Stallion at running horses away  
and taking the ido on his beat  
which was from Theta swamp  
to the seven mile creek conse-  
quently he captured Mr Cormacks  
horse away from Theta, Mr  
Gold was up early feeding his horse  
heard a bell and saw Mr Cormacks  
horse for he knew the horse well  
he sent his boy to take him back  
to Theta. When Mr Cormacks got  
the horse they came straight on-  
to Gold and accused him of  
working the horse (this was false)  
and Gold was amazed at the  
idea I could not help laughing  
to hear Mr & Mr Cormack




Bank of New South Wales notes like these helped make up the Gang's haul of £2141. Similar notes smelling of earth soon started to appear all over north-eastern Victoria. Westpac Historical Services

# *Where are the Kellys?*

F E B R U A R Y 1 8 7 9 -  
J U N E 1 8 8 0

The Victorian government increased the Kelly reward to £4000, matched by £4000 from New South Wales — the total worth more than \$2 million today. But the Kelly Gang had disappeared and would not be seen for 17 months.

Increasingly frustrated by support for the Gang, the police locked up Kelly friends and relatives for months without trial. When this move backfired, the police drew up a blacklist of Kelly associates, or ‘sympathisers’, who would not be allowed to take up land in the north-east. This ill-advised action tipped the Kelly outbreak into rebellion.

**V.  R.**

# **£8000 REWARD**

## **ROBBERY and MURDER.**

**W**HEREAS EDWARD KELLY, DANIEL KELLY, STEPHEN HART and JOSEPH BYRNE have been declared OUTLAWS in the Colony of Victoria, and whereas warrants have been issued charging the aforesaid men with the **WILFUL MURDER** of MICHAEL SCANLON, Police Constable of the Colony of **VICTORIA**, and whereas the above-named offenders are **STILL at LARGE**, and have recently committed divers felonies in the Colony of **NEW SOUTH WALES**: Now, therefore, I, **SIR HERCULES GEORGE ROBERT ROBINSON**, the GOVERNOR, do, by this, my proclamation issued with the advice of the Executive Council, hereby notify that a **REWARD of £4,000** will be paid, three-fourths by the Government of **NEW SOUTH WALES**, and one-fourth by certain Banks trading in the Colony, for the apprehension of the above-named Four Offenders, or a reward of **£1000** for the apprehension of any one of them; and that, in **ADDITION** to the above reward, a similar **REWARD of £4000** has been offered by the Government of **VICTORIA**, and I further notify that the said **REWARD** will be equitably apportioned between any persons giving information which shall lead to the apprehension of the offenders and any members of the police force or other persons who may actually effect such apprehension or assist thereat.

(Signed) **HENRY PARKES,**  
Colonial Secretary, New South Wales.

(Signed) **BRYAN O'LOGHLEN,**  
Attorney General, Victoria.

Dated 15th February, 1879.

The reward boosted to £4000 by the Jerilderie robbery, quickly matched by £4000 from the New South Wales government and worried banks. Jerilderie Shire Council



## *Where are the Kellys?*

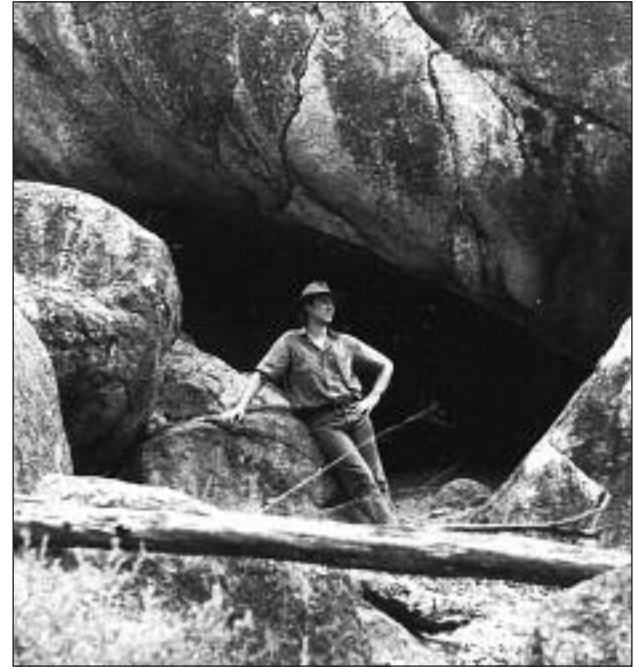


**Members of the Kelly Gang** photographed when they met a travelling photographer (who left a tripod and plate case in the picture at left). When the photo was published as a postcard, the three horsemen were named by guesswork. They are actually, from left, Wild Wright (scouting for the Gang), Ned Kelly and Steve Hart. Matt Shore



Reward notices like these were posted all over Victoria and New South Wales. The £8000 represented more than two million dollars in today's money.

Burke Museum, Beechworth



The Police Caves, near Beechworth, scene of Aaron Sherritt's most farcical ploy to help police catch the Kelly Gang. Police parties slept here by day for weeks on end, then, each night, sneaked through the bush for several kilometres and spied on the home of Joe Byrne. Private collection

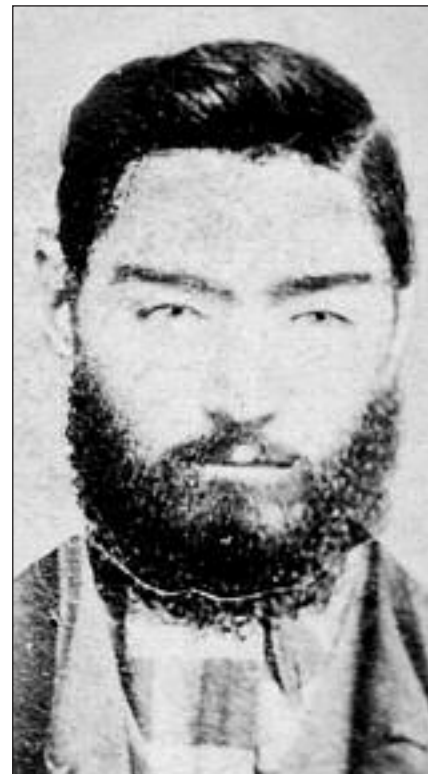
## *Where are the Kellys?*



Relics from the police caves, including bottle fragments still showing traces of labels. Two beef tins and a sardine tin – standard rations for the watch parties – were recovered in 1966 from the 'posse' used by Aaron Sherritt.

Private collection



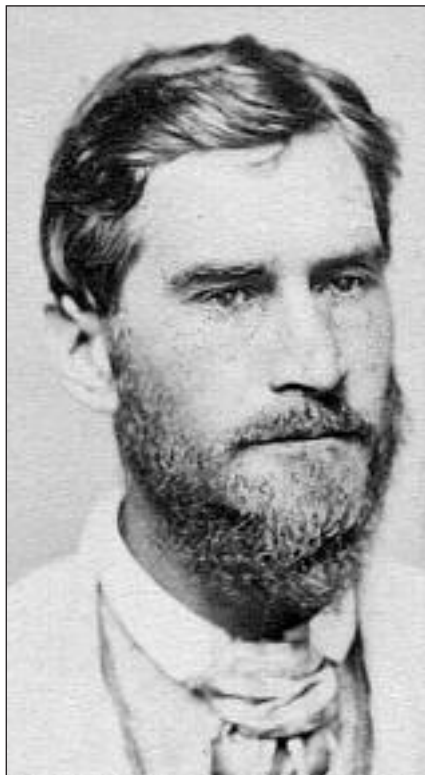


**Clumsily faked portraits of Ned**, like these, were based on his prison photos at 15 and 19. They gave little idea of what the man looked like. He could move freely around Victoria – even visit Melbourne – without being recognised. Victoria Police Historical Unit

## *Where are the Kellys?*



**Aboriginal Mounted Police**, usually described as 'blacktrackers', pose at Benalla with, from left, Senior Constable King, Stanhope O'Connor, Superintendent Sadleir and Chief Commissioner Standish. The Aboriginal troopers were the only police pursuers Ned truly feared, referring to them as 'six little demons'. Private collection Inset, **Sub-Inspector Stanhope O'Connor** of the Queensland police who led the party of Aboriginal Mounted Police. Victoria Police Historical Unit



**Three of the 23 Kelly sympathisers rounded up in 1879**, to be held, without trial, in Beechworth Gaol for up to three months. It was a stupid tactic which alienated many law-abiding north-easterners. From left, John Quinn, John Stewart and Joseph Ryan.

Victoria Police Historical Unit

# ***R e p u b l i c o f   t h e N o r t h   E a s t***

**J U N E   1 8 8 0**

Ned and the Gang advanced plans for a Republic of North-Eastern Victoria, to be launched by a pre-emptive strike at their police enemies. But one of those enemies was laying his own devious plan to destroy the Gang.

Aaron Sherritt, a lifelong friend of Joe Byrne, had been a key Kelly agent while pretending to help the police. A detective set out to incriminate Sherritt in the eyes of the Gang. If they broke from cover to kill Sherritt, the police would at last have a chance to capture or kill the outlaws.

The plan worked; Joe Byrne decided that his former best mate must die. But in a strange twist on the police strategy, the Gang planned to use Aaron's death as bait to draw pursuing police into a trap. The trap would be sprung at Glenrowan.

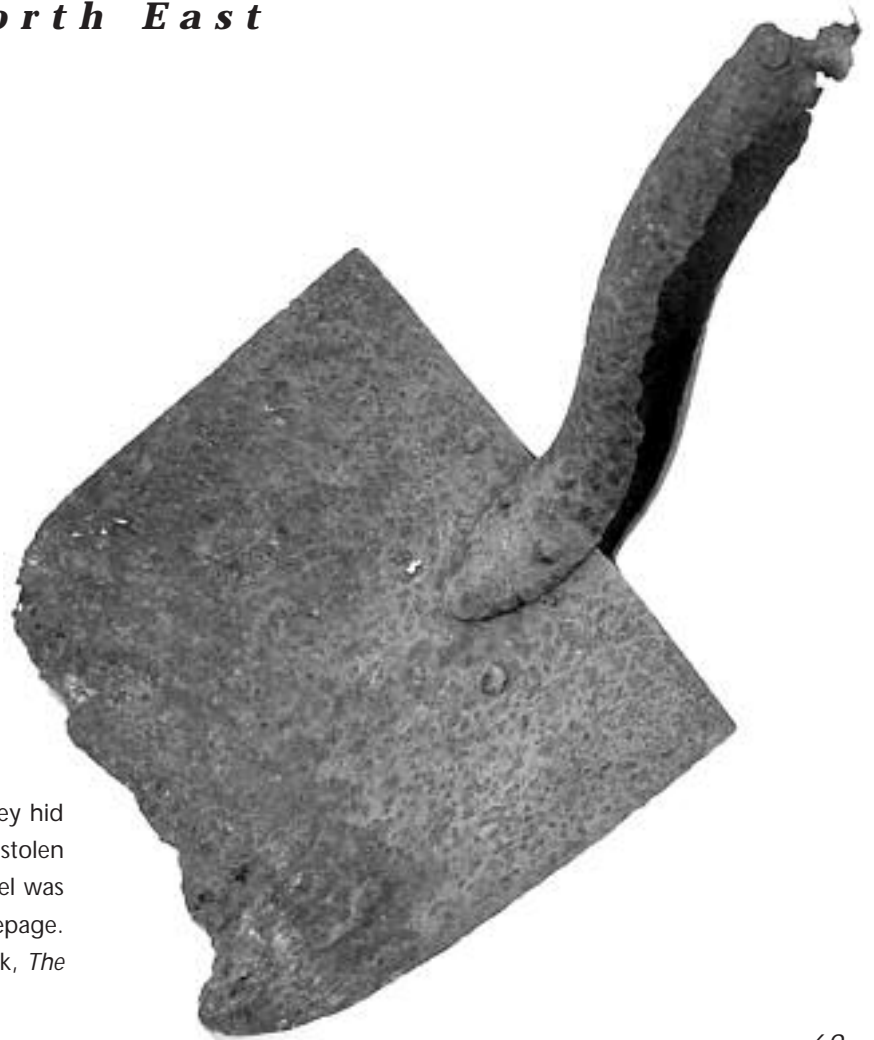
June 26. 1919

Dear Aaron I write those few  
 stolen lines to you to let you know  
 that I am still living I am not the least  
 afraid of being captured dear Aaron meet  
 me now and Jack this side of Perry's old ranges  
 & Hedley and I has come to the conclusion to  
 get you to join us I was advised to turn  
 traitor but I said that I would die at Ned's  
 side first I hear Aaron it is best for you to  
 join us Aaron a short time and a jolly  
 one the Lloyds and Quinns wants you shot  
 but I say no you are on our side, If it is no  
 thing only for the sake of your mother &  
 sisters We won't that bloody ~~thing~~ <sup>fact</sup> to your  
 place twice did my mother tell you the mes-  
 sage that I left for you I slept at home  
 three days in the 24 of may did Patsy give  
 you the booty I left for you I intend

A letter from Joe Byrne to his lifelong friend, Aaron Sherritt, who was pretending to help the police while remaining loyal to Joe and the Gang. In the end, both the police and Joe lost faith in him. PROV, VPRS 4969 Unit 1/item 18



# *Republic of the North East*



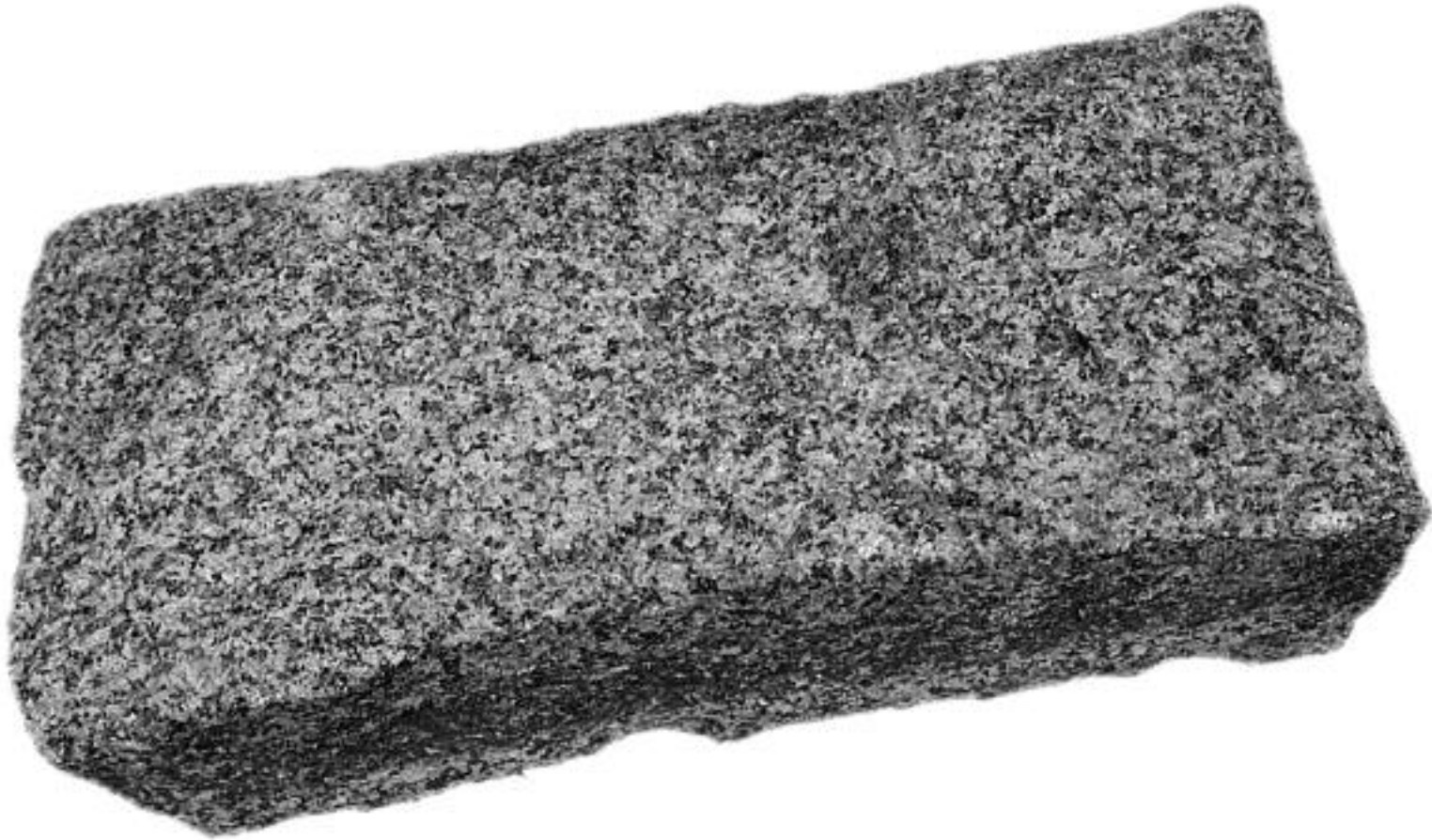
**Joe Byrne's and Aaron Sherritt's shovel** which they hid under a boulder near their secret hiding place for stolen horses in the ranges outside Beechworth. The shovel was needed to dig drinking 'troughs' filled by natural seepage. It was found in the year 2000 (from Ian Jones' book, *The Fatal Friendship*). Private collection



**A member of the 'Greta Mob' reputed to be Aaron Sherritt**, who became the key to Ned Kelly's strategy to establish a Republic of North-Eastern Victoria. When Joe Byrne decided to kill his lifelong friend, the murder was planned to draw police into a trap.

Victoria Police Historical Unit

## *Republic of the North East*



The granite door step of Aaron Sherritt's hut. It marked the exact site of his murder. Burke Museum, Beechworth



# ***G l e n r o w a n***

J U N E   2 6 ,   1 8 8 0

The Gang made suits of armour from plough-steel, readied a small army of supporters and struck.

On Saturday night, June 26, 1880, Joe Byrne and Dan Kelly rode to the Woolshed Valley near Beechworth and killed Aaron Sherritt. Meanwhile, Ned Kelly and Steve Hart held up the tiny railway town of Glenrowan and broke the railway line on a dangerous bend. They then rounded up townspeople in the Glenrowan Inn and waited for the special police train that would be hurtling towards the murder site.

However, the police train did not set out from Melbourne until just before 10pm on Sunday — 30 hours after Sherritt's death.

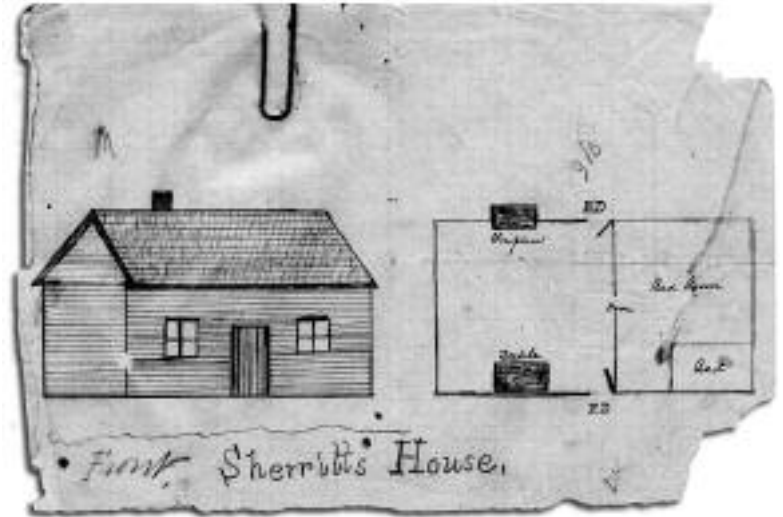
## *Glenrowan*



A .45 calibre **Martini Henry** rifle believed to have been used by a policeman at the siege of Glenrowan. This was the standard police longarm. Rueben Gerecke



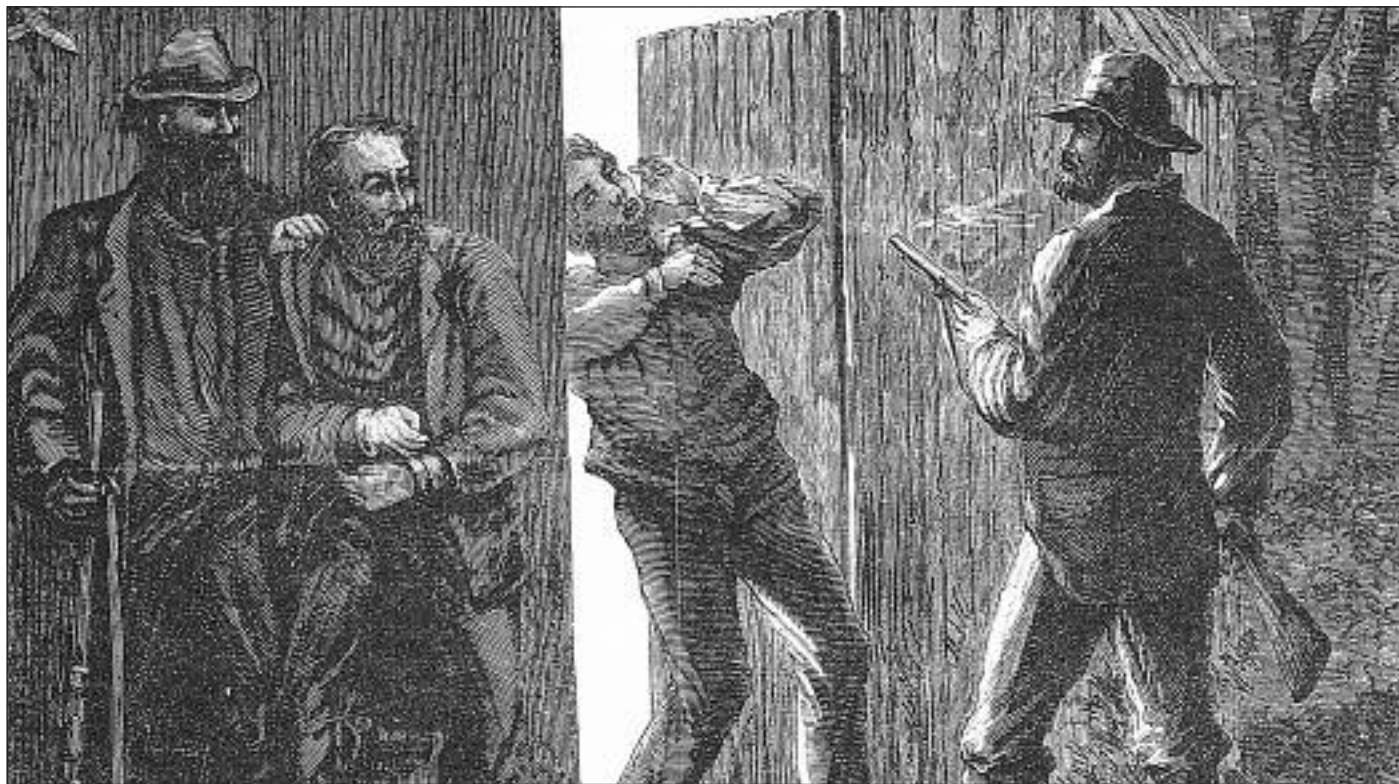
**Anton Wick**, innocently involved in the murder of Aaron Sherritt, seen here with his wife, Margaret, who had died in 1870. Private collection



**The ground plan of the murder hut**, sketched by a member of the Kelly Royal Commission in 1881.

Victoria Public Record Office

## *Glenrowan*



**Aaron Sherritt's murder** as imagined by a News artist. Joe has fired the fatal shots; Dan Kelly holds neighbour Anton Wick who had been made to call Aaron to his door. In real life, both Dan and Wick were clean-shaven; the artist does better with Joe and Aaron. Private collection

# ***The Last Stand***

J U N E   2 8 ,   1 8 8 0

As the police train approached Glenrowan in the early hours of Monday June 28, 1880, it was stopped by the local schoolteacher, who had been released by the Gang. As the police charged towards the Glenrowan Inn, the outlaws donned their armour and opened fire.

Although badly wounded in the first few minutes of a pitched gun battle, Ned Kelly left the fight to turn back supporters who had been summoned by misfired signal rockets. He returned at dawn in a courageous attempt to rescue his men and was finally bought down after a remarkable half-hour gunfight. Suffering the effects of 28 bullet wounds, he was close to death.

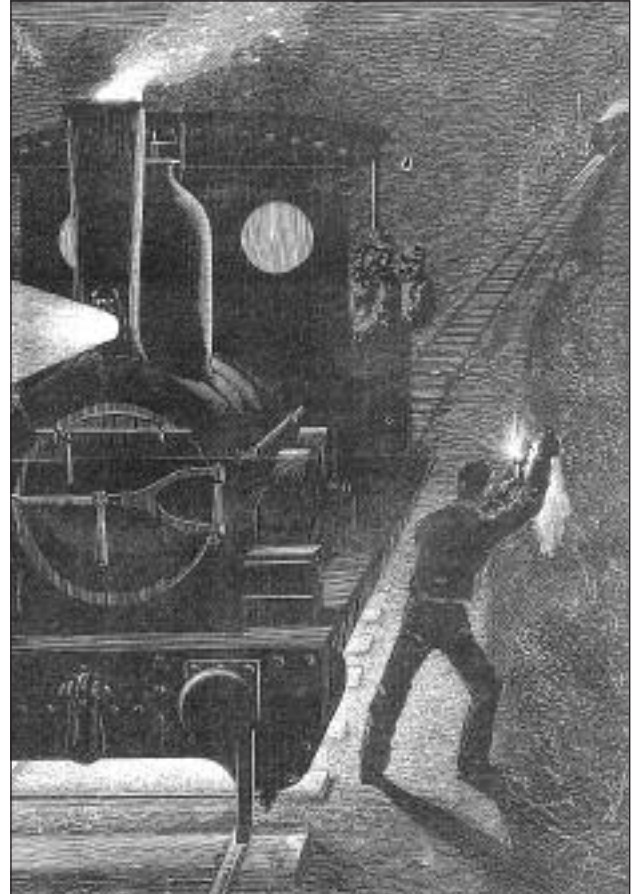
At 3pm a constable set fire to the Glenrowan Inn and it burned to the ground. Joe Byrne's lifeless body was rescued but those of Dan Kelly and Steve Hart were charred beyond recognition.

The next day, Ned Kelly was taken to the Melbourne Gaol, to be nursed back to health and face trial.

# *The Last Stand*



**Thomas Curnow**, the Glenrowan school teacher, persuaded Ned Kelly to release him from the Glenrowan Inn. He stopped the police train with a candle held behind a red scarf (see the Sketcher illustration at right). Noel O'Shea







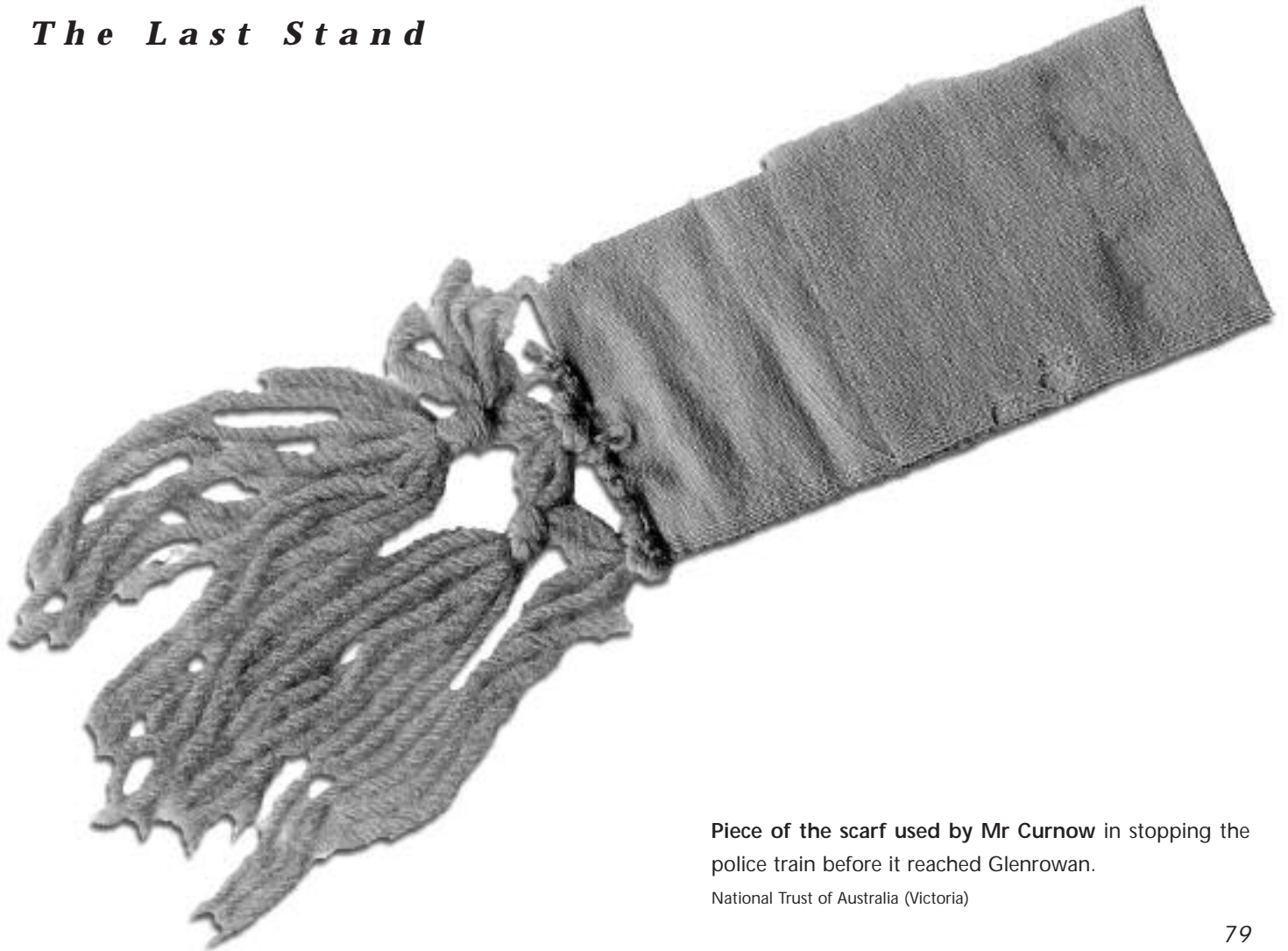
**Cartridge case and damaged bullet** found at the Glenrowan siege site. Chris and Rod Gerrett



**Sergeant Arthur Steele**, who brought Ned down with two charges of buckshot fired into his legs at close range. Earlier in the fight, he had fired at a woman carrying a baby and critically wounded her teenage son.

La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria

# *The Last Stand*



Piece of the scarf used by Mr Curnow in stopping the police train before it reached Glenrowan.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

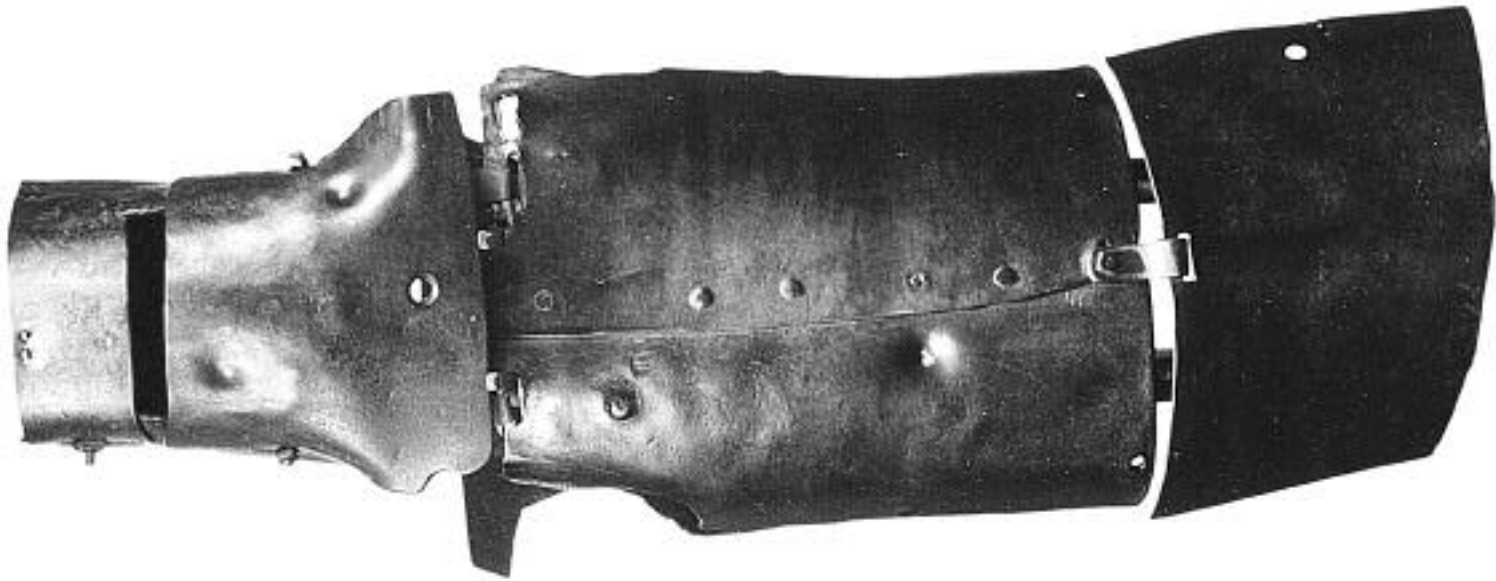


**The Kelly Gang's armour**, made of plough mouldboards, closely followed the style of ancient Chinese armour — as worn by Beechworth Chinese in the town's Prince of Wales Birthday processions of 1873 -74. Ned's suit was made by Tom Lloyd and the Gang on a bush forge near Greta and beaten to shape over a green log. The other three suits were made at different places by different men, their identities kept secret. Ever since their confiscation in 1880, the three publicly-owned suits have been jumbled together. The public custodians of the armour recently reached an 'in principle' agreement to exchange pieces.



**Privately-owned suit.** At present, the only intact suit of Kelly armour. Long believed to be Ned Kelly's, it was identified by Ian Jones in 1966 as Joe Byrne's. However, the apron probably came from Steve Hart's armour. Joe's breastplate had no provision for attaching an apron, which may explain how he was fatally shot in the groin at Glenrowan.

## *The Last Stand*

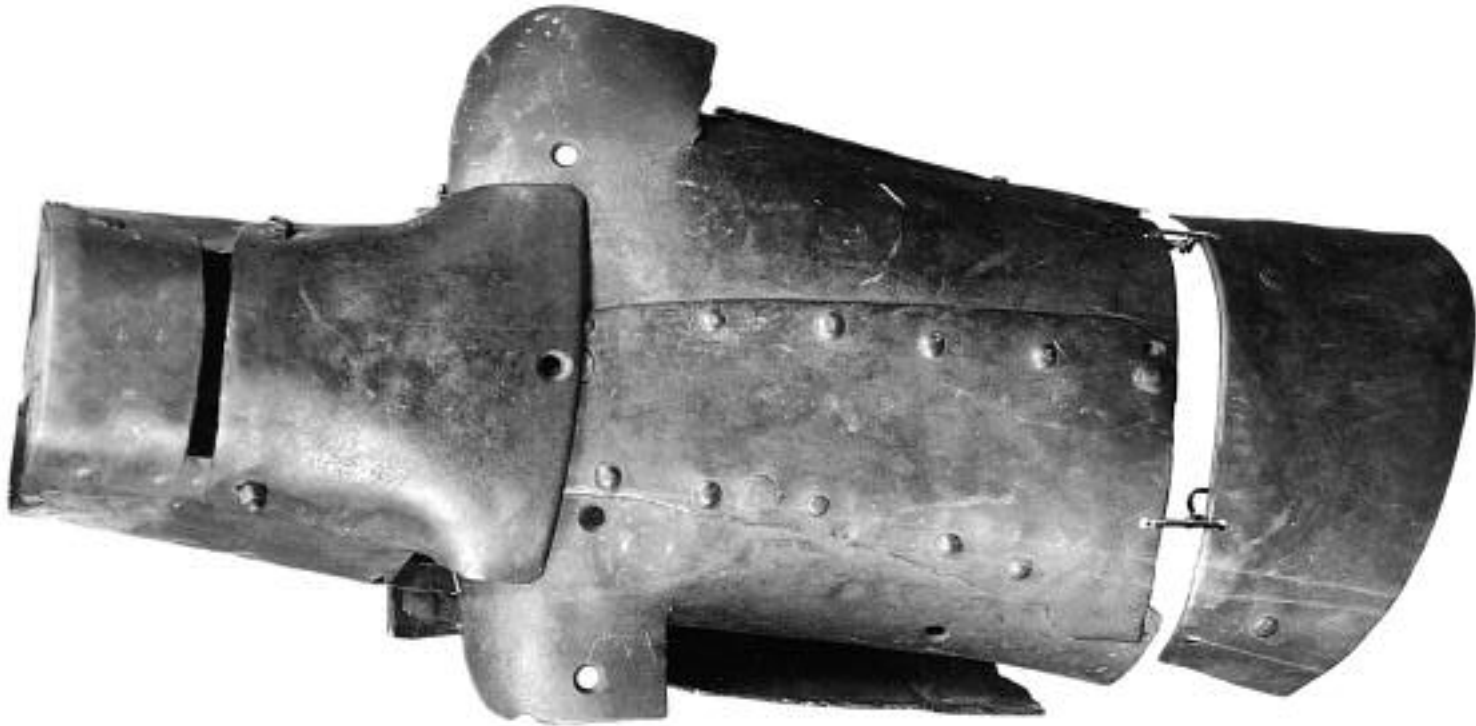


**State Library of Victoria suit.** Ned Kelly's helmet and breastplate with (probably) Steve Hart's breastplate at the back. The apron cannot be identified and the method of attachment is not original.



**Victoria Police Museum suit.** Comprises Ned Kelly's backplate and apron with (probably) Dan Kelly's breastplate and Steve Hart's helmet.

## *The Last Stand*



**National Trust of Australia (Victoria) suit.** Made up of Dan Kelly's and Steve Hart's backplates, with (probably) Dan's in front, Steve's behind. The helmet is probably Dan Kelly's, as is the apron.

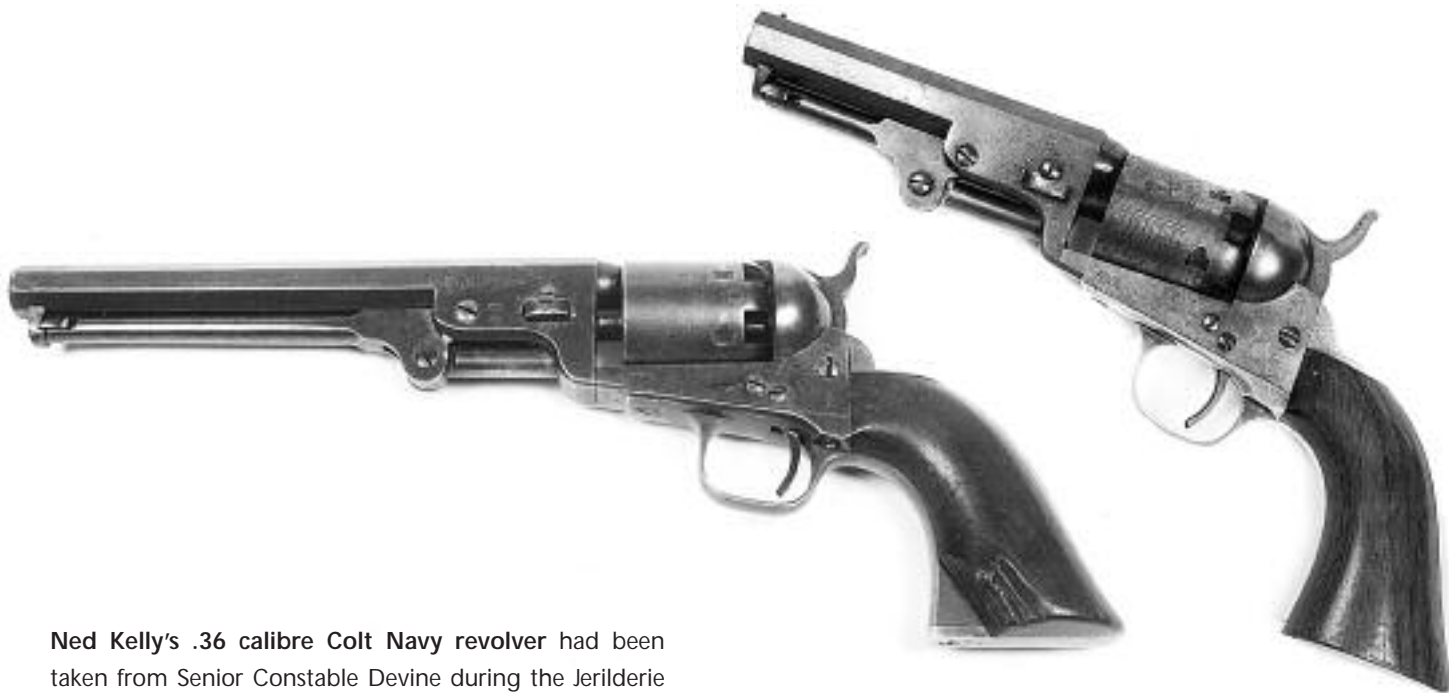


**Some of Ned's ammunition:** two .56 calibre bullets and a ball for his Colt revolving carbine. They were taken from Ned's ammunition pouch after his capture. Private collection



**'Ned Kelly at bay'** as drawn by Thomas Carrington. Watching from more than 100 metres away, Carrington was unaware that the oilskin coat was actually draped over Ned's shoulders like a cloak. Other authentic details like the helmet, 'strapped' riding pants and spurred riding boots were sketched after Ned's capture. Private collection

# *The Last Stand*



**Ned Kelly's .36 calibre Colt Navy revolver** had been taken from Senior Constable Devine during the Jerilderie hold-up. When Ned fell at the end of his Last Stand, it was wrenched from his hand by a heroic railway guard, Jesse Dowsett. Loaned to the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) by Don and Stephen Brown, great grandsons of Jesse Dowsett, and Jeff Foy, grandson of Jesse Dowsett.

**A .31 calibre pocket Colt revolver** like one used by Ned at the beginning of his Last Stand. Once its five shots were fired, he was unable to re-load. Chris and Rod Gerrett



**Martini Henry round** as used by the police at Glenrowan.

Private Collection



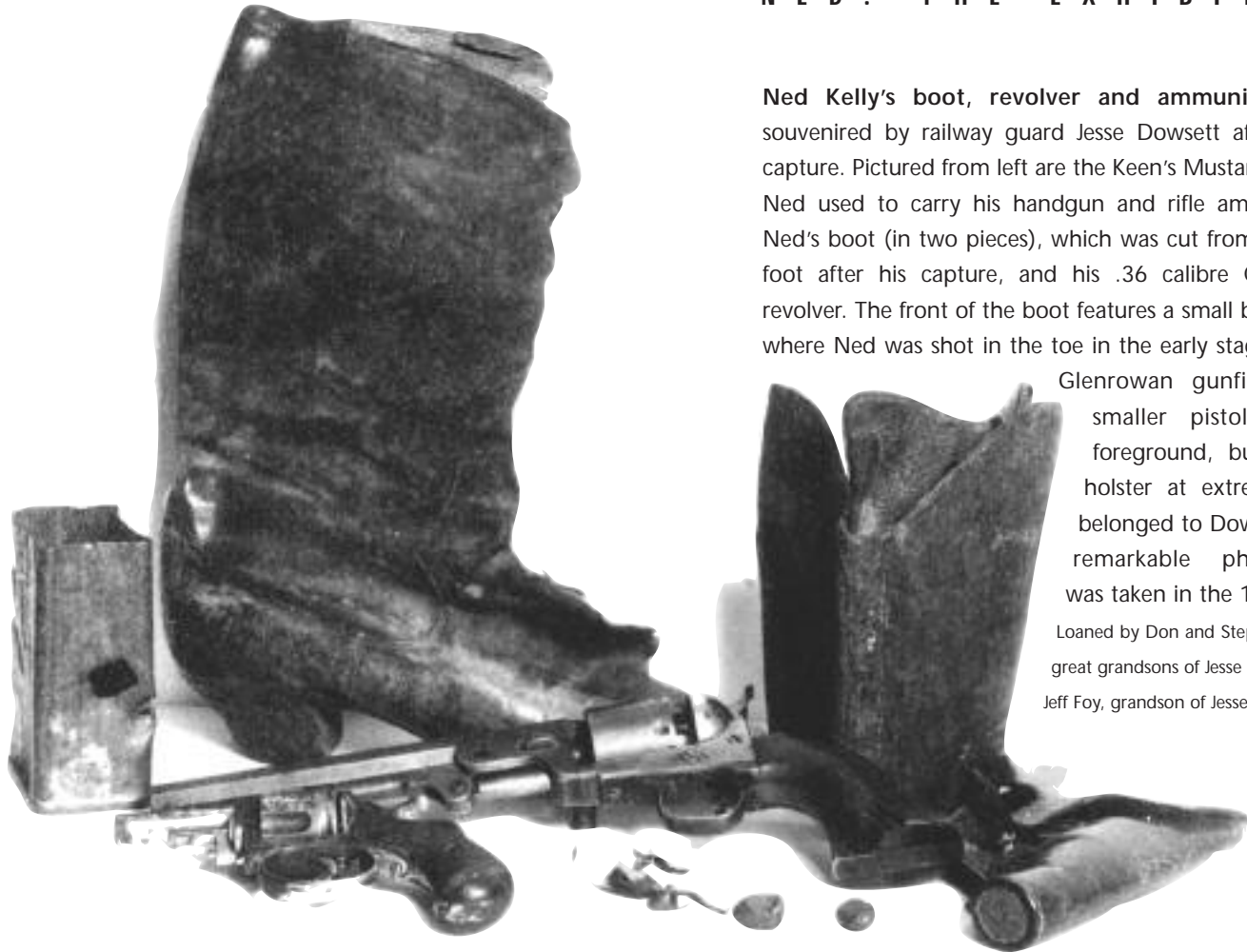
**Spectators and plainclothed police** pose on the railway platform in the late stages of the siege. Fifth from the left is Father Gibney. Note the group at right with their backs to the camera as they crowd around the door of the office where Ned Kelly lay. La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria



## *The Last Stand*



**Ned Kelly's belt**, removed after his capture at Glenrowan, may have supported a pouch for ammunition or percussion caps and was probably worn outside the armour. The second 'keeper' may not be original, though possibly supplied by Ned. The end of the belt is missing, probably snapped off at the hole where it was fastened at the time of Ned's capture — giving a waist measurement that would confirm it being worn around his armour. Private collection

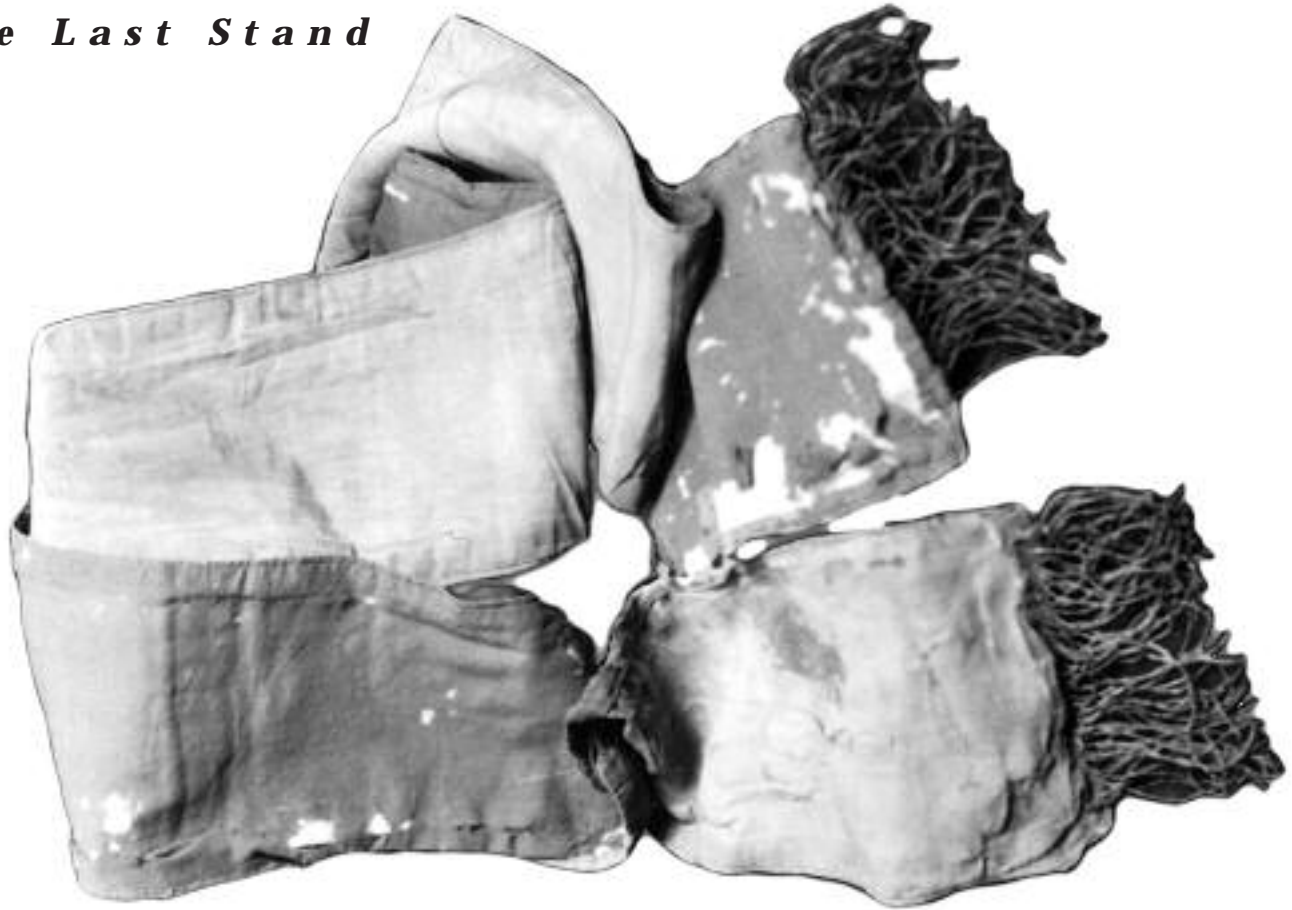


**Ned Kelly's boot, revolver and ammunition tin,** souvenired by railway guard Jesse Dowsett after Ned's capture. Pictured from left are the Keen's Mustard tin that Ned used to carry his handgun and rifle ammunition, Ned's boot (in two pieces), which was cut from his right foot after his capture, and his .36 calibre Colt navy revolver. The front of the boot features a small bullet hole where Ned was shot in the toe in the early stages of the

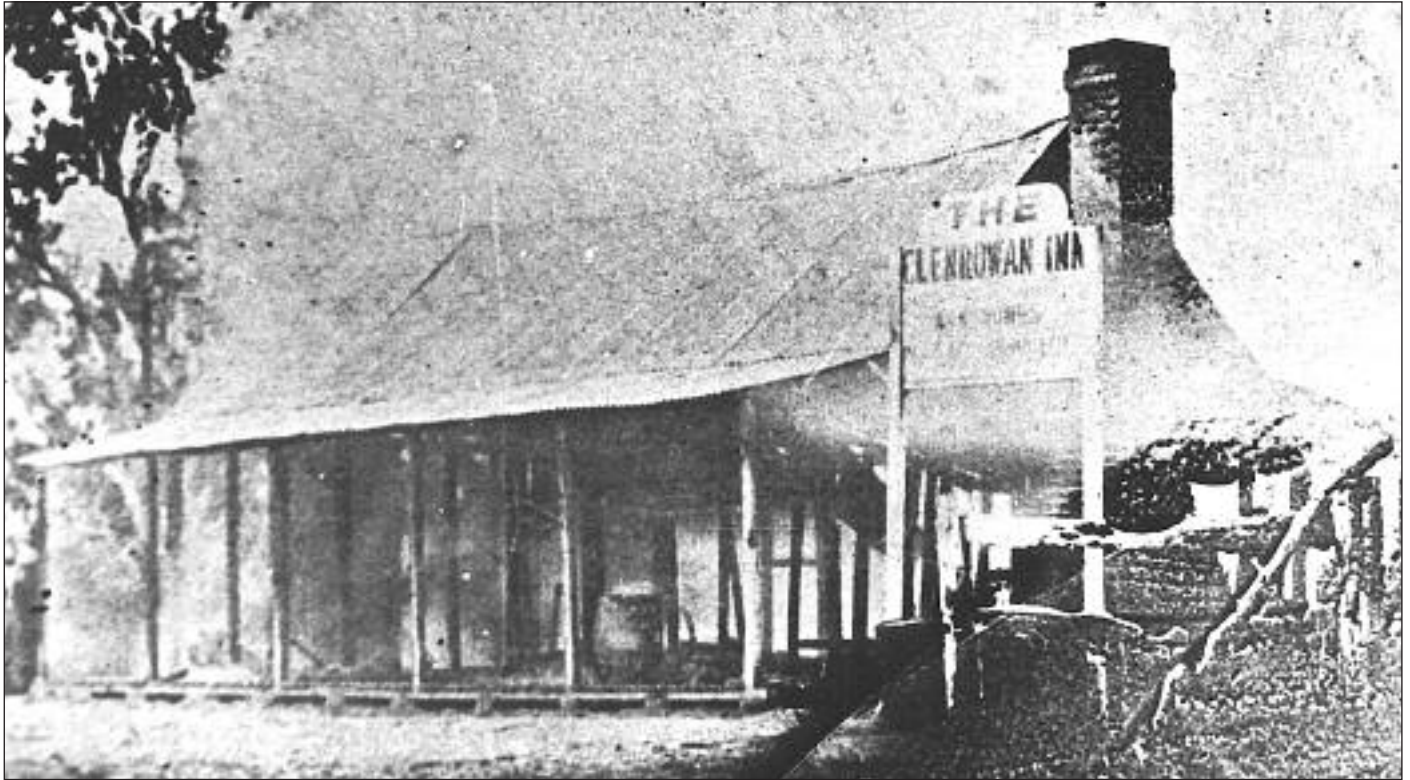
Glenrowan gunfight. The smaller pistol in the foreground, bullets and holster at extreme right belonged to Dowsett. This remarkable photograph was taken in the 1940s.

Loaned by Don and Stephen Brown, great grandsons of Jesse Dowsett and Jeff Foy, grandson of Jesse Dowsett.

## *The Last Stand*



The **green silk sash** with a bullion fringe became one of Ned's most treasured possessions and he wore it during his Last Stand. After Ned's capture, Dr Nicholson of Benalla removed the sash while treating his wounds and kept it as a souvenir. Dr Nicholson's daughter donated the sash to the Benalla Historical Society in 1973. Today it is on display in the society's museum, still stained with Ned's blood. Keith McMenomy



The burning shell of the Glenrowan Inn just before it collapsed. The bodies of Dan Kelly and Steve Hart were incinerated in one of the back rooms. An iron bedstead, just visible among the flames, was beside the bodies. La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria

# *The Last Stand*



**Father Matthew Gibney**, a Catholic priest from Western Australia, bravely ran into the burning hotel and found the bodies of Joe, Dan and Steve. He had already administered the sacraments to a critically wounded Ned Kelly.

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne



**One of the charred bodies** recovered from the ruins of the Inn – probably that of Steve Hart.

La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria





**The display of Joe Byrne's body** on the door of the Benalla lock-up on 29 June 1880 was a defining moment. Photographer J.W. Lindt recorded his colleague Arthur Burman photographing the body, while, at far left, press artist Julian Ashton turned his back on the spectacle. The previous night, Ashton, working by candlelight, had sketched Joe's corpse onto a wooden block. The drawing would be laboriously engraved for reproduction in the *Illustrated Australian News*. Soon, the press artist and the engraver would be replaced by the photographer and the technical processes of photo engraving. La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria

# The Last Stand

*Ned Kelly Captured.*  
28/6/80 28/6/80

Payment of the Fee for the transmission of  
the Telegram may be made either in Cash  
or by Postal Note. When Postal Notes  
are used, they must be affixed here.

**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS, VICTORIA.**

\* \* No pecuniary liability is incurred by the Crown, by reason of any delay, default, or omission, in relation to any Telegraphic Message  
sent or received, or ordered to be sent or received, in Victoria.

To *Capt. Handish* *Bendigo 28/6*

per Address

Engine & Carriage just arrived from  
Glenrowan bringing news Ned Kelly  
shot in leg & taken alive on  
Railway platform Glenrowan. No  
Police shot other members of  
gang in public house near  
Ned Kelly arrived with *iron mask & helmet*  
particulars presently

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Words \_\_\_\_\_

The first report of Ned's capture, to the Chief Commissioner in Melbourne, mentions his 'iron mask and helmet'. PROV, VPRS 4965 Unit 1/item 13





**The destruction of the Gang** dominates the Argus Summary for Europe of 8 July, 1880, 11 days after the siege at Glenrowan. Private collection



**Dan Kelly's and Steve Hart's coffins**, opposite page, outside McDonnell's hotel, Glenrowan, the day after the siege. The coffins were on their way to a wake at Eleven Mile Creek. The hotel was demolished in the 1960s. Above are a scrap of newspaper lining from its walls, a piece of wallpaper and the backdoor key. Private collection

## *The Last Stand*





**This table from the dining room of Ann Jones Glenrowan Inn**, was moved onto the inn's verandah on Sunday 27 June to make room while the Gang and their 62 prisoners danced to accordion music, note the bullet hole top centre. In the photograph of the charred body on page 91, one of the table's legs can be seen in the background. Loaned by descendants of the late Robert and Rhoda Twamley of Glenrowan

# ***Trial***

AUGUST - OCTOBER 1880

After a Petty Sessions hearing at Beechworth in August, Ned Kelly stood trial for murder at Melbourne's Supreme Court on October 28, 1880. The judge, Sir Redmond Barry, wanted to dispose of the trial in a single day.

The inexperienced barrister defending Ned was no match for an expert prosecutor, a determined judge and a chief Crown witness — the constable who escaped at Stringybark Creek — who committed perjury. Barry also misdirected the jury on a vital point of law concerning self-defence. Inevitably, a guilty verdict was announced.

Barry sentenced Ned to hang, concluding with: "And may the Lord have mercy on your soul."

Ned famously retorted: "I will see you there, where I go."

Charge Sheet for the murder of Constable Lonigan – the crime for which Ned stood trial in Melbourne. At the Beechworth hearing he was also charged with the murder of Scanlon but the Prosecution case was demolished by Ned's solicitor.

PROV, VPRS 4969 Unit 1/item 50

[No. 53.]

JUSTICES OF PEACE STATUTE 1865.—SECOND SCHEDULE.—FORM V.

CHARGE FOR AN INDICTABLE OFFENCE.

To Wit. *Bailwick Melbourne*

THE information and complaint of *Thomas Mc Intyre* of *Melbourne* in the Colony of Victoria, Constable taken this *twentieth* day of *July* in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and eighty, before the undersigned, *Justice* of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said *Bailwick* who said that—

*Edward Kelly on the twenty sixth day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight at Stringy Bark Creek in the Northern Bailwick feloniously wilfully and of his malice aforethought did kill and murder one Thomas Lonigan*

Sworn before me the day and year first above-mentioned, at *Melbourne* in the said Colony.

*James Mc Intyre* J.P.



# ***Trial***



**Ned Kelly in the Beechworth dock** – a handsome engraving based on a watercolour by Julian Ashton. Ned supports a crippled left arm by gripping his lapel and rests a shot-mauled hand on the rail. Brighton Antiques & Maps



**Sketches of the Beechworth trial** from the Illustrated Australian News. Ned's formidable sister, Maggie Skilling (called 'Skillion' in official sources) is veiled in mourning for Dan and sits with her beloved cousin, Tom Lloyd. Together, they led the Kelly family through these dark days. La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria





# ***Trial***



**Judge Sir Redmond Barry.** Irish-born, son of a Major General, he regarded Ned Kelly as an enemy of society and, in his eagerness to dispose of him, conducted a deeply flawed trial. La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria



**Ned leans on the dock,** as he did for his famous pre-sentence debate with Sir Redmond Barry. A roughly drawn study for the Sketcher. Chris and Rod Gerrett

# *Execution*

N O V E M B E R   1 1 ,   1 8 8 0

Ned Kelly's execution was scheduled for Thursday November 11, 1880 — only 13 days after his trial. A massive movement was launched to save his life; there were huge public meetings, torch-lit marches, a deputation to the Governor and a petition for Ned's reprieve from execution.

Three days before the planned hanging, the petition was presented to the Governor with more than 32,000 signatures. An hour later, the Executive Council announced that the execution would go ahead.

At 9am on the morning of November 11, as a crowd of 5000 gathered outside the Melbourne Gaol, Ned was transferred to the condemned cell. Just before 10am, he was led out onto the scaffold. His last words were: "Ah well, I suppose ...."

At four minutes past 10, the executioner pulled the lever and Ned Kelly plunged into immortality.

# PETITION for REPRESENTATIVE

To His Excellency THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL.—

Your humble PETITIONERS (having carefully considered the circumstances of the case) respectfully pray that the Life of the CONDEMNED man, EDWARD KELLY, may be spared.

M.B.—This List to be sent to Mr. David Canton, M.L.A. & Solicitor for the Prisoner, as and to reach Melbourne on Monday morning next 8th November 1888.

10/10/2003

**Abstract**

[illegible][illegible]

103

164 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1801  
 Copy  
 1800  
 Dear Madam  
 Madam May it please your  
 Majesty to listen to the request  
 of one of your most humble servants  
 an subject on behalf of one who  
 I say must die in order  
 from your Majesty will save him  
 from the gallows the most gracious  
 Queen save him at least from that  
 horrid fate I well know that this  
 man will be representative to your  
 Majesty as a cruel monster that  
 deserves no mercy or pity at no he  
 is not the cruel brutal heartless  
 man the world would make  
 out he is better and braver as the day  
 but he has been driven to desperation  
 he fought for his liberty for a little  
 time but alas he has been taken

780

A letter to Queen Victoria from Lucy Dashwood pleading for Ned's life to be spared. 'The petition was duly laid before the Queen', the Colonial Office reported, but the Secretary of State could not advise her 'to interfere with the course which the law may take in the Colony'. Nothing is known of Lucy Dashwood, who wrote to the Queen before Ned's Supreme Court trial. Officials of the Colonial Office considered the letter 'touching'. Public Record Office, London/Dr John Sugden



# Execution

Hon. Mr. Justice Gail  
 Melbourne 27/4/1880  
 His Excellency the Marquis of Stormont  
 Read before  
 the Executive I have again taken the liberty of placing  
 your letter before you the new and first of my case which  
 is the 1st I have never been placed in a true light before you  
 in 1878/1879. and as a consequence that stand up even  
 in 1878/1879. April 1878 for the purpose of shooting. When  
 was a day month has elapsed between the  
 alleged shooting of Constable Duffin and  
 10th of April and the shooting of Constable Duffin and  
 20th of April and the month was 1878 or any  
 other officer during that time, a party of being here  
 away by me or my Companion, was also here. I should  
 like to know as the shooting of Constable Duffin and  
 was a the Police then this intention to prove my  
 when about as the time they are not here, it is a  
 British against me. I have learned and I  
 any between me. Constable Duffin and I  
 murder place me of the first charge by the common  
 law. I have murdered him or have any intention of  
 any such but after my mother was executed  
 of which and others in shooting and I was  
 murder Constable Duffin and I have learned and I  
 the full intention of making a white to make  
 which is it was the great reason to stop my  
 to prevent a new trial for my mother. I think  
 every legal means to obtain justice. I have learned and I  
 I am now aware my mother for my mother. I should  
 have said nothing for the Police or other than in my  
 of the Police then they might have been here  
 in case for my mother then for my mother. I should  
 have said to your Excellency to show that I

Ned's last letter from the Condemned Cell, written the day before his execution to the Colony's Governor. Ned concludes by asking for his mother's release and for his body to be buried in consecrated ground. Both requests were ignored. The letter was dictated to a warder and signed with a cross. Ned's right hand was still crippled by wounds from Glenrowan. Victoria Public Record Office



**Dean Donaghy**, Catholic Chaplain of Melbourne Gaol, attended Ned at his execution. With Dean O'Hea, he administered the sacrament of the Extreme Unction.

Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese





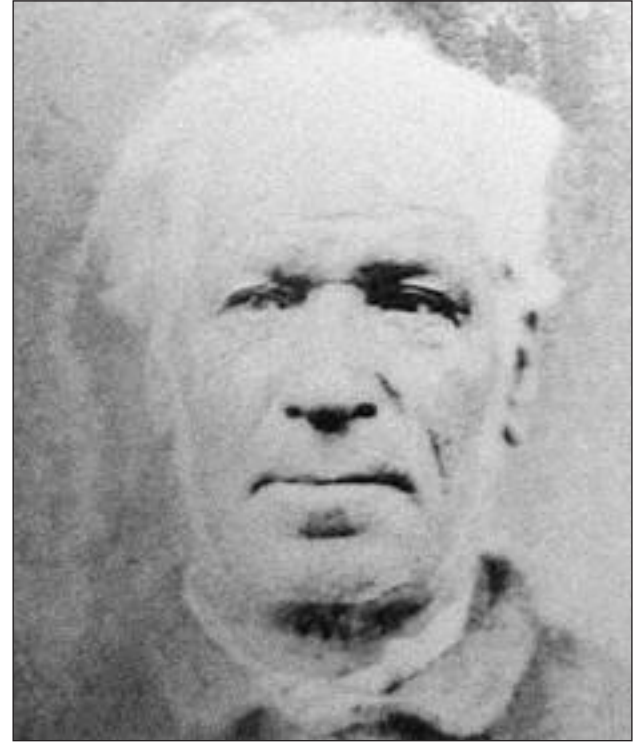
## *Execution*



The last photos, above and left, taken by the official Melbourne Gaol photographer, Charles Nettleton, the day before Ned's execution. In the full-length study Ned holds the cord attached to his leg irons to disguise the withering of his wounded left arm and rests a fist on his hip to mask a crippled hand. Victoria Police Historical Unit and Private Collection

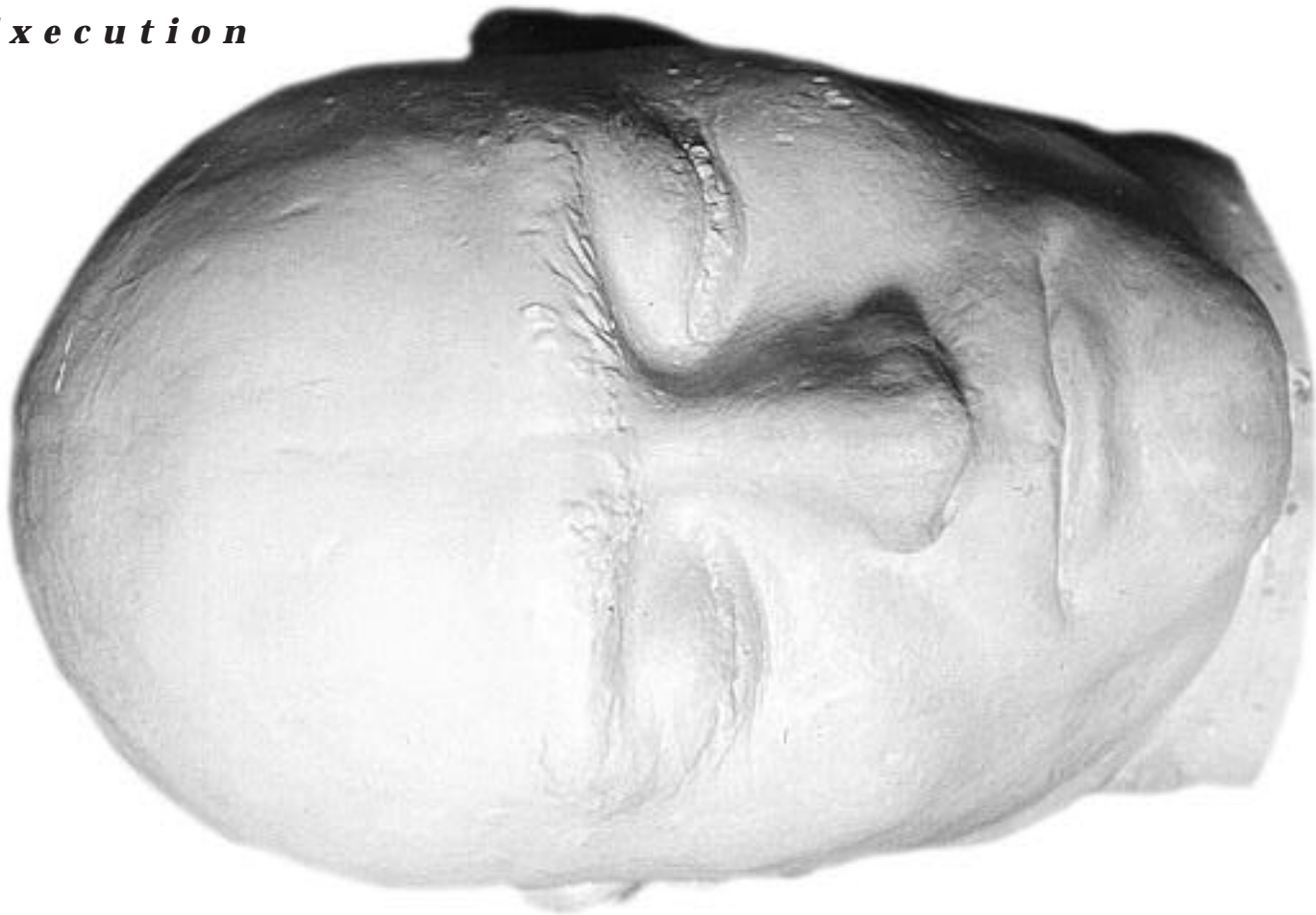


The famous Australasian Sketcher drawing of the execution. The figures are from left: Medical Officer Dr Shields, Dean O'Hea, Dean Donaghy, boy acolyte, Gaol Governor Castieau, Sheriff Rede, crucifer, Ned Kelly (with arms strapped behind his back and execution hood ready to be drawn over his face), a warder, hangman Upjohn, a warder. Rod and Chris Gerrett

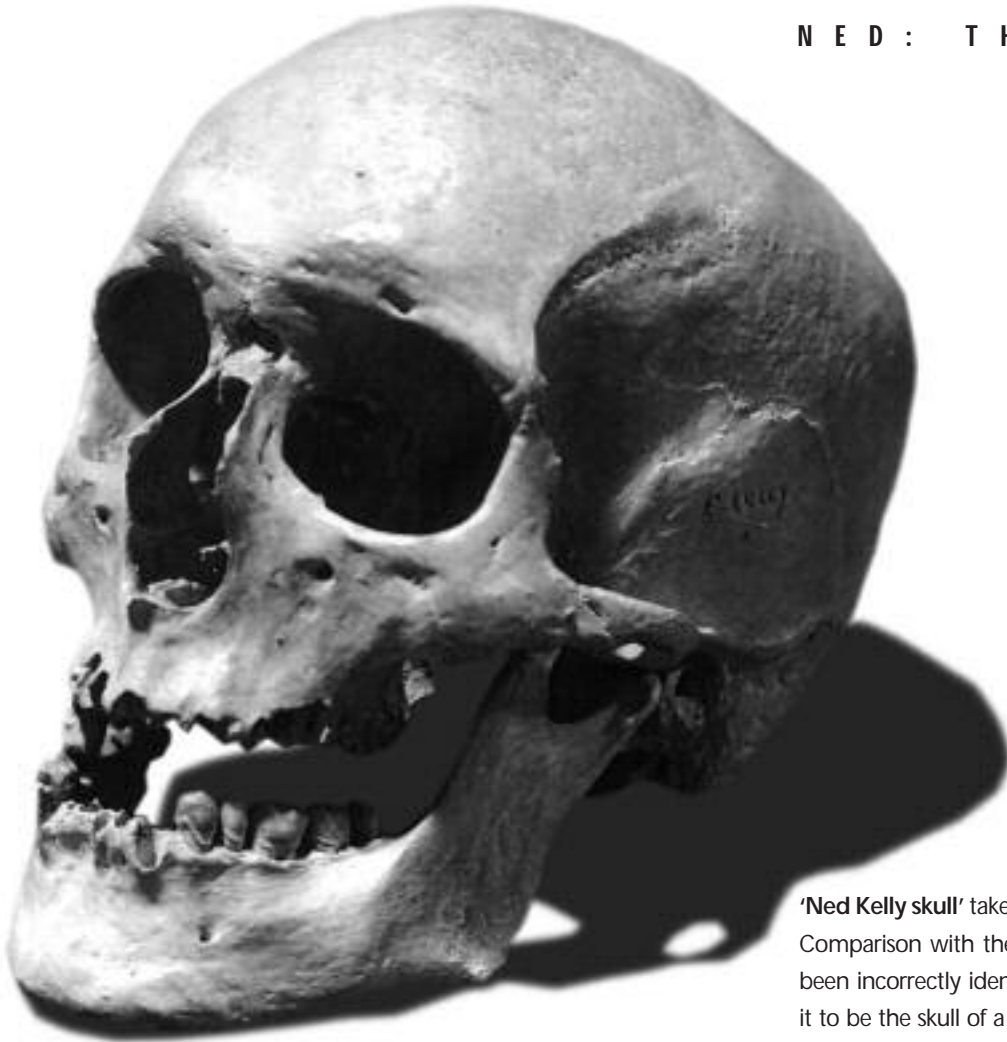


**Hangman, Elijah Upjohn**, a transported English convict, was serving a sentence for chicken stealing. Ned was the first prisoner he hanged. Victoria Public Record Office

## *Execution*



**Ned's death mask**, made immediately after the execution by Maximilian Kreitmayer, proprietor of Bourke St waxworks. Witnesses reported that Ned's eyes were open and commented on the calmness of his expression; one spoke of 'his smile in death'. National Trust of Australia (Victoria)



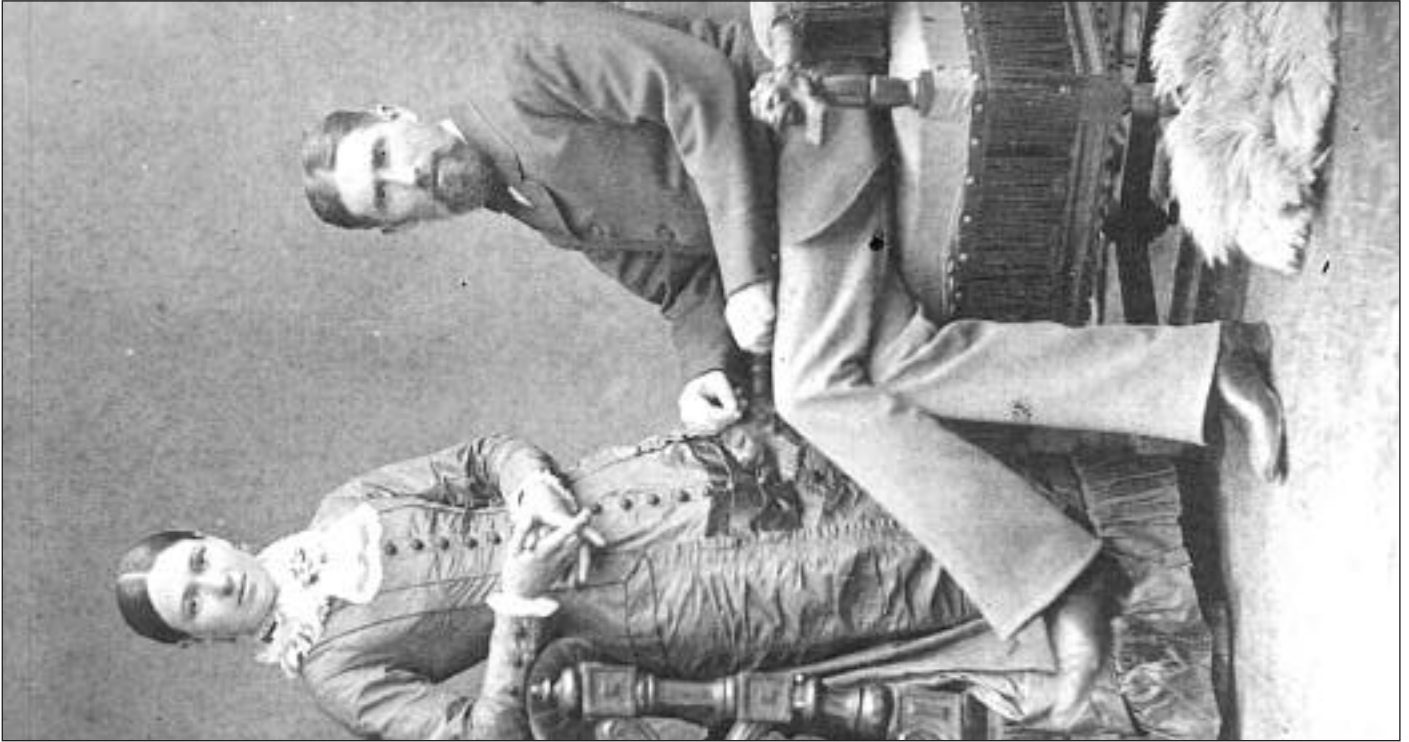
**'Ned Kelly skull'** taken from the Old Melbourne Gaol in 1978. Comparison with the death mask suggests that it may have been incorrectly identified. A prominent pathologist believed it to be the skull of a woman. Museum of Australia, Canberra

# ***The End of the Kelly Rebellion***

Ned Kelly's rebellion simmered for months after his death, fuelled by distribution of the £8000 reward — seen as blood money by the Gang's sympathisers — and a Royal Commission which exposed a number of police spies in the Kelly Country. The district was at flashpoint. New suits of armour were being made.

Constable Robert Graham, now in charge of the Kelly's hometown, Greta, traced the root cause of the trouble. It was land. Given an equal right to take up land — and equal justice — the Kelly people quickly subdued the few hotheads bent on violence.

Little more than a year after Ned Kelly's execution, Constable Graham was able to marry and bring his bride to live in Greta. Bad police work had helped shape the Kelly outbreak. Good police work had brought it, at last, to a peaceful end.



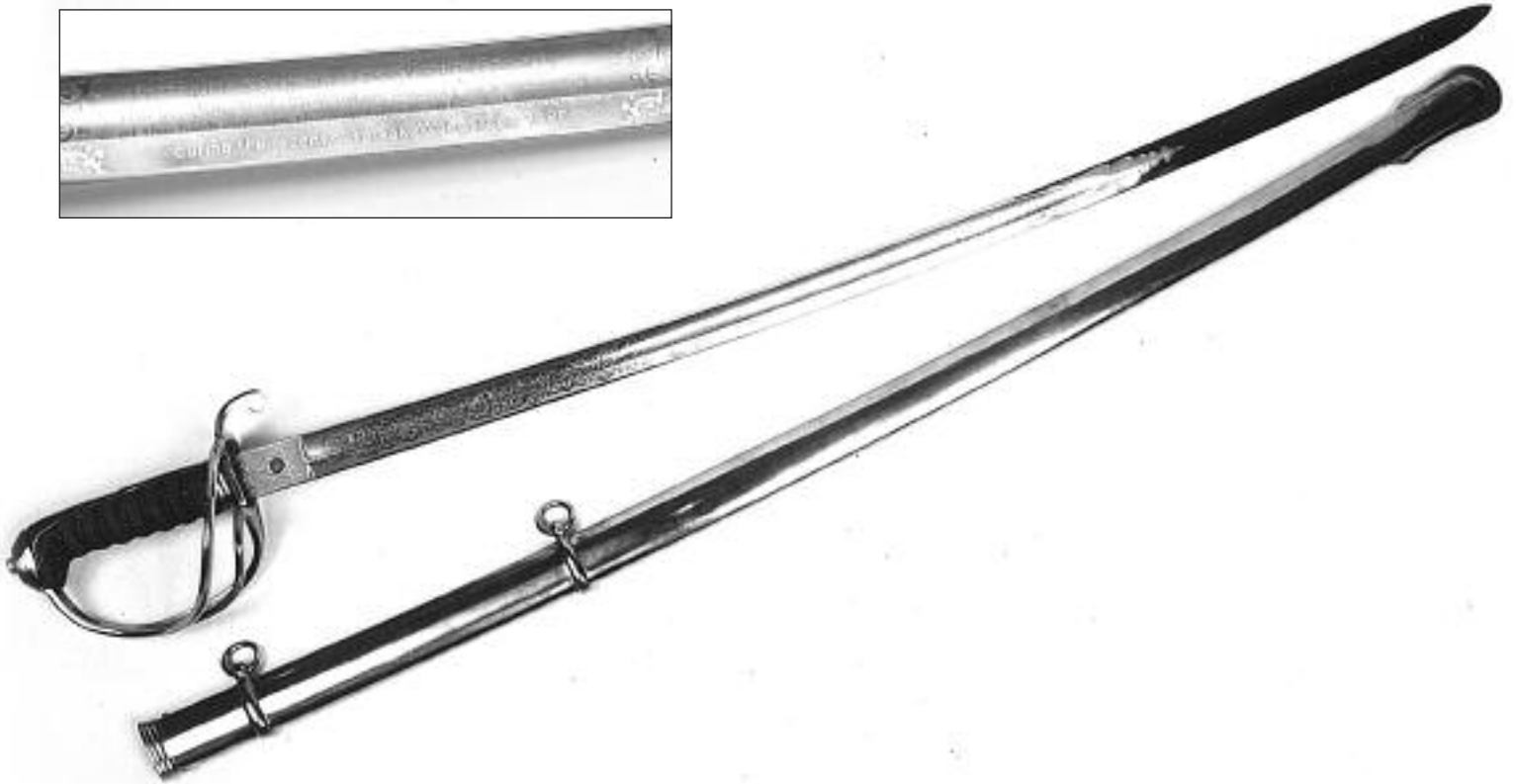
**The wedding portrait of Robert Graham and Mary Kirk** symbolises the end of the Kelly rebellion. Graham gained the trust of Mrs Kelly and her family, to become a respected member of the community. The Grahams' first child was born at Greta. Private collection



## *The End of the Kelly Rebellion*



'Senior Constable Robert Graham's scrapbook' shows an engraving of Greta with 'a good view of the North end of O'Brien's hotel'. Graham and three constables were stationed there in the turbulent months after the destruction of the Gang. The police occupied the first floor while Kelly sympathisers swore vengeance in the bar below them. Private collection



**A trophy of Ned's capture.** 'Presented to Sergeant Steel, Victoria Police by the Moyhu Stock Protection Society as a testimony of the high esteem they entertain of his services during the recent outbreak, Wangaratta 1880'. Ned's enemy, squatter James Whitty, was a prominent member of the society. Private collection

# *The End of the Kelly Rebellion*



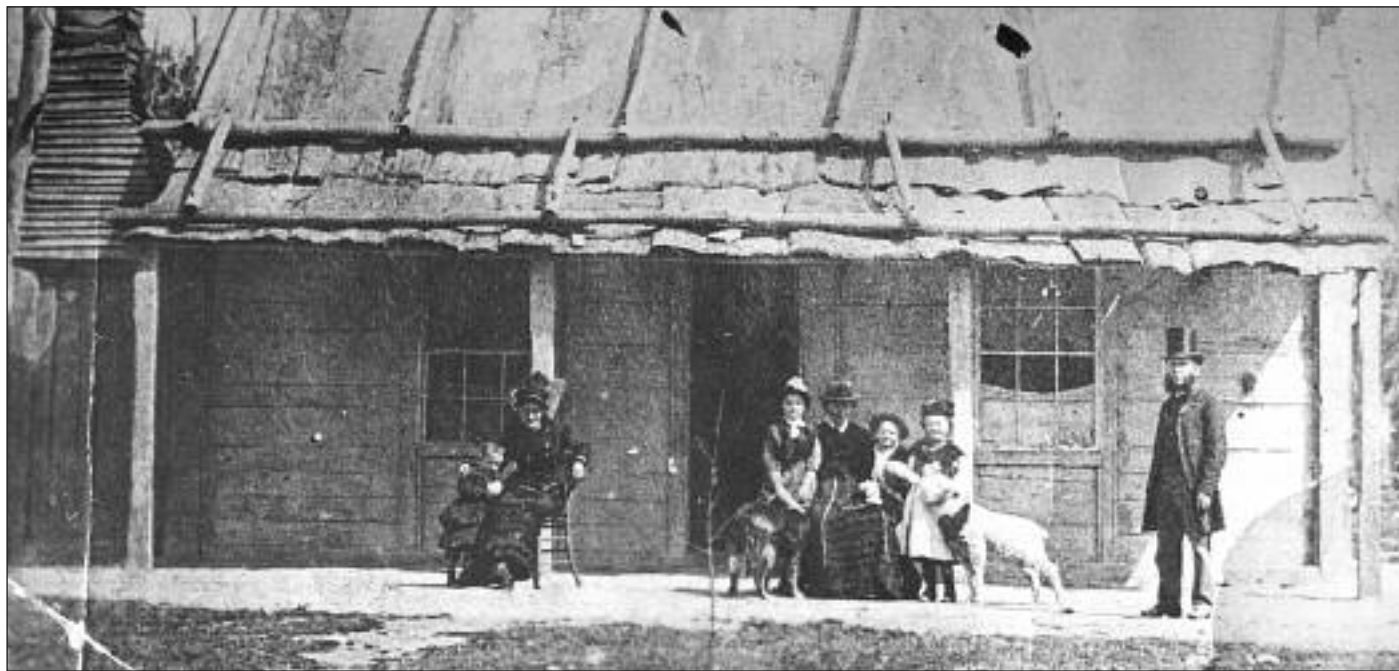
Tureen presented to Sir Redmond Barry – possibly by the Stock Protection Society. Lachy Pittman



**Jim Kelly**, four years Ned's junior, was serving a three-year sentence for horse-stealing when his brothers were outlawed and was not released until January 1880. The gaol term probably saved his life. Private collection



## *The End of the Kelly Rebellion*



**Ellen Kelly's release from prison in February 1881** is commemorated by this photo taken at the Kelly homestead. It shows from left, Alice King, Kate Kelly, Grace Kelly (with Faith, the Kelly cattle dog), Mrs Kelly, Jack King, Ellen King (feeding a pet lamb from a bottle) and the Rev. William Gould who had married Ellen Kelly and George King seven years earlier. Scarcely more than two months later, Constable Robert Graham visited here with Father Thomas Egan of Wangaratta and gained Mrs Kelly's help in defusing the ongoing Kelly rebellion. Private collection

## ***T h e   L e g e n d o n   S c r e e n***

It is generally agreed that the world's first feature-length film was *The Story of the Kelly Gang*, filmed in 1906. A few fragments survive. The film was re-released in 1910 and the surviving posters — like much of the publicity material for the picture — are from the later version.

Several silent films of the Kelly story were produced. In three of them, Ned was played by Godfrey Cass — real name Godfrey Castieau, son of the Melbourne Gaol governor. As a 14-year-old, Godfrey had met Ned the day before his execution. He played Ned Kelly for the last time in 1923 when he was 57! A notable early sound version was Harry Southwell's *When the Kellys Rode* (1934), banned in New South Wales until 1948 when it was re-released throughout Australia.

*The Glenrowan Affair* (1948), starring Carlton footballer Bob Chitty, did not receive wide release. Apart from a few television productions in the 50s and 60s, there was no significant screen version until Tony



## *The Legend on Screen*

Richardson's controversial *Ned Kelly* (1970), which starred rock star Mick Jagger as a rather weedy but undeniably young and Irish Ned Kelly. This was a breakthrough. Until then, Ned Kelly had been portrayed as a burly 40-something of unspecified origins.

It was another 10 years before the eight-hour mini-series, *The Last Outlaw*, told the Kelly story, with John Jarratt giving the most physically accurate portrayal of Ned Kelly yet seen.

Currently, two major feature films are mooted — adaptations of Peter Carey's *True History of the Kelly Gang* and Robert Drewe's *Our Sunshine* — and an eight-hour TV series based on Ian Jones' *Ned Kelly: A Short Life*. Several documentaries are also in production.

**Mick Jagger's armour**, from the 1970 Tony Richardson movie, *Ned Kelly*.



## *The Legend in Print*

The Kelly legend was born in Ned Kelly's lifetime — and given strength by Ned's and Joe's campaign to convince the public that they had been forced into the roles of police killers and bushrangers.

After Ned's execution, the dominant, anti-Kelly literature portrayed a ruthless criminal, while the image of popular hero was kept alive in oral tradition and folk songs. Then, some 50 years after Ned's death, 'the tide of the published word' turned, and Ned Kelly was seen in a more sympathetic light.

First of the major pro-Kelly works was J.J. Kenneally's *Complete Inner History of the Kelly Gang and Their Pursuers*, published in 1929 and rarely out of print for the next 50 years.

Other milestones were Douglas Stewart's verse play, *Ned Kelly* (1943); Max Brown's *Australian Son*

# The Legend in Print

(1948) — the first true biography; Frank Clune's *The Kelly Hunters* (1954); *Ned Kelly, Man and Myth*, based on the famous Wangaratta seminar of 1967; John McQuilton's *The Kelly Outbreak* (1979), a scholarly analysis of the roots of the story; Keith McMenomy's *Ned Kelly: The Authentic Illustrated Story* (1984), an exhaustive pictorial history with a richly sourced text; *Ned Kelly: A Short Life* by Ian Jones, published 1995 and continuously in print.

A new era of Kelly literature was launched by Peter Carey's novel, *True History of the Kelly Gang*, the 2000 Booker Prize winner which has become a national and international phenomenon.

Every major Kelly work of the last 50 years has recognised Ned as a man with many admirable qualities and, increasingly, as a significant historical figure. Perhaps the tide will turn again...



## *K e l l y a n a*

Ned Kelly paraphernalia has almost become an industry in itself. Souvenirs bearing Ned's name or likeness, especially that of his iconic helmet and suit of armour, have come in all shapes and sizes. They range from household and ornamental items, to clothing, food and bodily hygiene products. When it comes to Ned Kelly and the consumer, almost anything goes. Here is a sample of what has helped create the 'Kellyana' industry.





## ***F u r t h e r R e a d i n g***

Those wishing to explore the legend in gripping detail should hunt down the following recommended titles:

### ***Non Fiction:***

Brown, Max. *Australian Son*, Georgian House, 1948.

Carroll, Brian. *Kelly Country Sketchbook*, Rigby, 1972.

Clune, Frank. *Ned Kelly*, Angus and Robinson, 1954.

Clune, Frank. *The Kelly Hunters*, Angus and Robinson, 1954.

Farwell, George. *Ned Kelly*, F. W. Cheshire Publishing, 1970.

Jones, Ian. *The Friendship That Destroyed Ned Kelly: Joe Byrne and Aaron Sherritt* (soon to be titled *The Fatal Friendship*), Lothian Books, Melbourne, 1992.

Jones, Ian. *Ned Kelly: A Short Life*, Lothian Books, 1995.

Kenneally, J. J. *The Inner History of the Kelly Gang*, J Roy Stevens Printer, 1929.



## ***Further Reading***

McMenomy, Keith. *Ned Kelly: The Authentic Illustrated History*, Hardie Grant Publishing, Melbourne, 2001.

McQilton, John. *Kelly Country: A Photographic Journey*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 2001.

Martin-Chew, Louise. *Framing Ned Kelly*, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1992.

Molony, John. *I am Ned Kelly*, Penguin Books, 1980.

### ***Fiction:***

Carey, Peter. *True History of the Kelly Gang*, University of Queensland Press, 2000.

Chandler, A. Bertram. *Kelly Country*, Penguin Books, 1983.

Drewe, Robert. *Our Sunshine*, Pan Macmillan, 1991.

Lambert, Eric. *Kelly*, Corgi Books, 1964

Ridden, Brian. *Whistle Man*, Lothian Books, 2000.

### ***World Wide Web:***

*Ned Kelly: Australian Ironoutlaw*  
<http://www.ironoutlaw.com>

*Ned Online*  
<http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/nedonline>

*Ned: The Exhibition*  
<http://www.nedtheexhibition.com>

*Old Melbourne Gaol*  
<http://www.vicnet.net.au/~omgaol>

*Stringybark Creek - Cultural Dimensions*  
<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/resources/mediality/kelly/kellfim.htm>

*Bail Up!*  
<http://www.bailup.com>

*The Victorian Era*  
<http://victorianaaustralia.homestead.com/VictorianaAustraliaNedKelly.html>

Ned: The Exhibition would like to thank the following contributors (*in alphabetical order*):

Bob and Betty Stagg

Brad Webb, [www.ironoutlaw.com](http://www.ironoutlaw.com)

Burke Museum, Beechworth

Catholic Archdiocese Melbourne

Chateau Tahbilk, Avenel

Click Display Systems

Craig English - Tanswell's Commercial Hotel, Beechworth

Don and Stephen Brown

Gary Pearson, Births Deaths and Marriages

Howie Taylor Publicity

Ian Jones & Bronwyn Binns

Jeff Foy

Jerilderie Shire Council

Kate's Cottage, Glenrowan

Keith McMenomy

Kelly Family Descendants

Kenneally Family

## ***W i t h   T h a n k s***

# ***With Thanks***

Lynn and Peter Norris, Avenel

National Australia Bank Historical Collection

Network Ten

Pegasus Productions

Public Records Office, London

Public Records Office, Victoria

Rod and Chris Gerrett, Glenrowan

Ron and Nancy Shaw

Rueben Gerecke

Screensound Australia

S.R. Graphic Design

State Library of New South Wales

State Library Victoria

The Lloyd Family

The Royal Family

The Shelton Family

Victoria Police Historical Unit

Warren Packer

Warwick Firearms

Westpac Historical Services



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[www.prov.vic.gov.au/](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/)

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Documents on Ned Kelly at  
Public Record Office Victoria



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[www.nedtheexhibition.com](http://www.nedtheexhibition.com)

# ned: the exhibition

OLD MELBOURNE GAOL 2001 – 2002

It's confronting. It's vivid. It's alive. The legend of Ned Kelly lives and breathes within the pages of Ned: The Exhibition. Filled with the images of more than 200 photographs and relics displayed at the Old Melbourne Gaol, this souvenir book is the ideal keepsake from the historic exhibition.

Never-before-seen relics such as Ned's belt which was taken from him after his capture, his favourite gun 'Betty', the door from the Kelly homestead and a bullet-holed table that

Written by the expert on everything Kelly, renowned author and historian Ian Jones, complemented by the photographs of Matthew Deller, Ned: The Exhibition doubles as a compulsory introduction to the legend for novices, and a refreshing addition to those reacquainting themselves with Ned.

survived the gunfight at Glenrowan; original documents including Ned's 'Jerilderie Letter' and another he wrote as a teenager; previously unpublished photographs of several figures close to the conflict; and, of course, the chilling suits of armour — it's all here.

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