

## Introduction

John Vane will be best remembered for the time he spent riding with the Hall/Gilbert gang of bushrangers during 1863. It was while John Vane was a member that the gang conducted some of the most audacious and memorable criminal activities in the Colony of New South Wales (NSW). John Vane was the only member of the gang of 1863 to survive. He surrendered to a Catholic priest near Carcoar in November of that year. The other members of 1863 included Ben Hall, John Gilbert, John O'Meally, and Micky Burke; they all died by the bullet, either by private citizens or the police.

While considerable investigations into the gang's bushranging activities are reported, to focus on just those events would limit the comprehension of what made, what motivated, and what became of the man. Not yet has published research fully encompassed John Vane's life; the aim of this book is to correct that omission.

The period covered in this book includes the arrival of John Vane's convict grandfather in 1803, until his own death at Cowra in 1906. The manuscript is littered with previously unpublished facts and photographs, while at the same time dispelling some myths and confirming others. The John Vane story is one of adventure, loyalty, betrayal, isolation, triumph and tragedy.

## Explanatory note

When John Vane's grandfather, Stephen, arrived in the Colony in 1803, his surname was registered as Wain. Source material used in this book reveals at least six variants of the Vane surname. They include Wain, Wane, Waine, Waines, Wayne and Vein. The first formal appearance of Vane is recorded in 1835. The spelling of the surname will be retained as Vane throughout.

## Addendum

In addition to grammatical and other minor corrections and additions, the following information is new to this edition.

- George Chesher was sent to Tasmania for horse stealing in 1838, p. 35
- A 1921 interview with Archibald McKellar discusses the Vane family at Kempfield, p. 44
- Profile of pioneer Cowra resident George Lockyer, p. 131
- Thomas Kirkpatrick was not one of the men bailed up at Canowindra, it was his son Robert Kirkpatrick. Errors in the first edition have been corrected, p. 166
- Information about Sarah Ann Hatch (nee Vane) death, p. 230
- Lobley lad lost, p. 273

## New image index

The following images are new to this edition. Many existing images have been enlarged to improve clarity.

- Thomas Icely senior at 'Elizabeth Farm' c1869, p. 4
- Mary Beauchamp's grave in Trangie cemetery, p. 25
- Richard Beauchamp memorial plaque at Shepherd's Creek, p. 26
- Andrew Fletcher holds Thomas Miller's sword, p. 31
- George Cheshire's 1844 Conduct Record, p. 35
- 'Arramagong West' homestead possible site of Patrick O'Meally's public house, p. 43
- 'Arramagong West' site of Patrick O'Meally's hut, p. 43
- Archibald McKellar with extended family, p. 45
- Herb Larnach and Dudley McKellar working the Mount Dudley mine, p. 46
- The Lyburn family home on ground that once belonged to William Vane, p. 47
- Possible remains of infant Vane graves or remains of the Vane family home near 'Wattle Grove', p.47.
- H. H. Mays Federal store at Neville c1923, p. 50
- Neville butchery blanketed in snow, p. 50
- Oats' wheelwright at Neville, p. 51
- Photo gallery – Burke extended family, pp. 54–55
- John Michael Nowlan and family at their 'Khartoum' homestead, p. 60
- Tennis at 'Wentworth Gully'. Pictured is the Nowlan, Grimm and Gault families, p. 61
- Grant family headstone in the Moyne cemetery (Ireland), p. 62
- Donald Miller 'Our Don' Chesher, p. 65
- Ann Vane Goodacre (nee McKellar), p. 79
- Duncan McKellar outside his shop and residence at Hobbys Yards, p. 80
- Original church and school house at Hobbys Yards, p. 80
- Peisley's Creek, p. 86
- Photo gallery – Hosie extended family, p. 99
- Convict quarters on the 'Charlton' estate, p. 100
- A view from inside the 'Charlton' convict quarters, p. 101
- Looking east towards Icely's stables at 'Coombing Park', p. 105
- Probable site of Ben and Bridget Hall's son Henry's birth, p. 112
- View from inside the site of Henry Hall's birth, p. 112
- Charles Leonard Jagers and his wife Agnes (nee Wright), p. 117
- John Jagers senior, p. 117
- Mary Tutill, p. 121
- John Barnes' grave, p. 124
- George Lockyer; a pioneer of the Cowra township, p. 132
- George Lockyer, p. 132
- George Lockyer with extended family, p. 134
- Stanley Hosie, p. 140
- Stanley and Emily Hosie with their children, p. 144
- An undated image of the 'Cliefden' estate, p. 149
- Pedrotta's gunsmith shop, p. 154
- Mutton's original butcher shop in England, p. 161

- Robert Kirkpatrick, p. 167
- A view from 'Dunn's Plains' showing the direction from which the Hall/Gilbert gang approached, p. 172
- The likely site at 'Dunn's Plains' where Micky Burke fell and died, p. 174
- Carcoar hospital, p. 180
- 1988 photo of Micky Burke's memorial plaque and cross belonging to his infant brother, p. 182
- Photo gallery - Lyndhurst cemetery, p. 203
- 1940s image of Ben Hall's grave, p. 220
- Alternate view of the 1940s image of Ben Hall's grave, p. 220
- Shepherds Creek cemetery, where some of the extended Vane family are buried, p. 226
- Richard Vane, son of Billy and Eliza Vane, is buried in Trangie cemetery, p. 226
- The Mookerawa Creek cemetery where Margaret Beauchamp (nee Vane) is buried, p. 227
- Photo gallery - Hatch and Sherring extended family, p. 229
- Robert and Sarah Eliza Sherring (nee Hatch) at their Shepherds Creek home, p. 231
- The remains of Robert and Sarah Eliza Sherring's home, p. 231
- Photo gallery - Donald and Emily Vane extended family, p. 236
- Thomas and brother William Parker c1930s, p. 245
- The pistol John Vane apparently traded for goods at the Neville store, p. 248
- Catherine Donahee (nee Sopp, nee Burke), p. 254
- The village of Neville looking east c1900, p. 266
- Lance and Kelly (Beryl) Vane (nee Burton), p. 267
- Barry-Neville Rugby League Team 1955, p. 269
- Barry Rugby League Team 1947, p. 269
- Photo gallery - Thomas Miller Stephen and Mary Ellen Vane extended family, p. 271
- Bill Francis, Dudley McKellar and Eric Vane at Sullivan's Gully camp, p. 272
- Darcy Vane, Nona Vane, Toy (Elva) Lassie, Lance Vane and Tay Jones, p. 272
- Annie Vane, Jenny Cheney, Nona Vane, Maude Jones, Rosie Vane, Dally Vane, Wesley Vane, Peter Vane, Peter Radburn and Kevin Radburn, p. 273
- Brenda Mitchell, John Fenton and John Mitchell in 2011 at the cave on 'Warm Gully', p. 275