

“The Pioneer”

Proudly produced by Denise Haynes of 'R & R' Rural and Residential Property

“The Wild Colonial Girl”



There were only two "female bushrangers" in Australia, one of them was Mary Ann, wife of Frederick Wordsworth Ward (Captain Thunderbolt). Little is recorded on the life of our female bushrangers. In the case of Mary Ann, she is responsible for Fred Ward being at large for so long. "Mrs Captain Thunderbolt," wife of NSW's last "professional" bushranger was the wildest colonial girl of the 1860's. Her husband's six and a half year "career", the longest of any bushranger in Australia, was due to her assistance. Without her there would have been no Thunderbolt, for it was her devotion and support that made Thunderbolt so successful. Mary Ann Ward or Mrs Thunderbolt had four children while being pursued by police and citizen possies. Mary Ann Bugg was born in Monkerai on May 7th, 1834. Her father was a shepherd for the A.A Co. and her mother was an Aboriginal woman from the local Gringgai tribe. Mary Ann was obviously a very intelligent and smart woman. She was also reported as being very attractive. She was only slightly darker of complexion than most countrywomen and had European looks rather than Aboriginal. Her weakness was that she fell in love with the "wrong man" but even there, she was proud of her association with Ward. Several times Mary Ann put herself in the line of fire to save Thunderbolt. She was beautiful, educated and knew the native ways of the bush.

Booral, Stroud and the surrounding areas were where Mary Ann & Thunderbolt spent a lot of their time over the years. They met in the main street of Stroud in Nov 1848, & were married in St Johns church - Stroud in Nov 1860.

To find out the real story of what happened to Thunderbolt after Mary Ann's death in Nov 1867 read this book:

“THUNDERBOLT” – Scourge of the ranges - \$25 - G.James Hamilton with B.Sinclair

'R & R' Property has arranged a book signing by Mr Barry Sinclair – Captain Thunderbolt Family Historian researcher and Direct Descendant of Captain Thunderbolt on Saturday May 8th 11am – 2pm.

Come along, buy yourself a copy, meet Captain Thunderbolt's relative and have your purchase autographed.

We will be celebrating the opening of our new Bakery – “Ma Bakers”

Special thanks go to Barry Sinclair for permission to reproduce the only known photograph of Mary Ann Bugg (above) and reproduce material from his website : users.tpg.com.au/users/barrymor/thunderbolt.html

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