

“The Pioneer”

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Our local bushranger the very famous Frederick Wordsworth Ward

“Captain Thunderbolt”



The Legend of Captain Thunderbolt grew out of the deadly mix of the raw deal ordinary folk like him got from Crown officials and the way he single-handedly decided to jack up and defy them and the law. Everything about him was unconventional, especially his choice of an attractive part Aboriginal wife, Mary Ann Bugg, who could rightly be said to be largely responsible for the rampage they embarked upon. Without Mary Ann there would be no “Captain Thunderbolt”.

Mary Ann was wrongly arrested at least 3 times and jailed once, where it is said she first became ill, leading to her early death. He was wrongly jailed twice, and sentenced to work gangs on Sydney’s scandal ridden Cockatoo Island. His brazen escape, organised by his wife Mary Ann, launched them on a career of plunder and defiance of laws they considered corrupt. Defying convention, their bushranging was social disobedience.

It amassed for them a cult following by oppressed, dirt-poor farmers, and his popularity grew to become a threat to the very authority of the Crown. The locals protected Fred & Mary Ann by letting them know when the officials were around and lied on their behalf as to their whereabouts. The officials saw this as a threat to their control and the reaction was to strike a brutal blow designed to remove the threat permanently, by assassinating Fred. But the assassination back-fired as **they shot the wrong man**, and the embarrassed officialdom was forced to choose between social anarchy or one of the most bizarre cover-ups in Australian history, one that endures to this day. I bet like most of us you thought that Frederick Wordsworth Ward was buried at Uralla..... To find out the real story of what happened to our local bushranger you may like to read this book: **“THUNDERBOLT” – Scourge of the ranges - \$25 - G.James Hamilton with B.Sinclair**

Mr Barry Sinclair – Captain Thunderbolt Family Historian researcher and

Direct Descendant of Captain Thunderbolt will be BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

on Saturday June 12th 11am – 2pm for another book signing. Come along, buy yourself a copy, meet Captain Thunderbolts relative and have your purchase autographed.

Special thanks go to Barry Sinclair for permission to reproduce material from his website :

users.tpg.com.au/users/barrymor/thunderbolt.html

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