**James Bellamy and the Bushranger 1821**

**Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803 - 1842), Saturday 21 July 1821, page 3**

SYDNEY

Diverse reports have this week been circulated respecting the notorious Geary, and his equally determined associates; some of which have embraced his actual apprehension, and others that he had succeeded in escaping with severe wounds; but the following particulars may be relied on as authentic: - On Sunday morning last, a young man of the name of Bellamy, in company with his brother, a youth, of 16, together with another lad, were kangaroo-hunting in the district of Pennant Hills. In their route, and on approaching the house of one Hall, a settler, the dogs gave an unusual alarm, at which juncture Geary, unexpectedly made his appearance. Reflection of course was out of the question; and pursuit was im-mediately the consequence. Two others, viz. Beckett and Butler, now presented themselves to view. Geary soon disappeared; but the others made for the fence;

and Butler, who was equipped with a musket, occasionally looked back. The young man Bellamy commanded him to desist from running, on pain of having his brains blown out; when Butler gained a stock-yard, at which he made a stand for the purpose, apparently, of contesting the point; as he presently turned round and faced his pursuers, at the same moment levelling his musket at Bellamy, when the latter fired, and Butler fell. Upon reaching him, it was dis-covered the vital spark had flown; the piece was examined, and found to be well loaded with slugs and pieces of metal, and also primed and cocked. Geary got clear away. The body of Butler, who has been a bushranger for a length of time past, and who delayed not an instant in joining Geary upon his late enlargement from custody, was taken into Parramatta. Mr EYRE, the Coroner, considered it necessary to convene an Inquest on the occasion, and the verdict returned was - Justifiable Homicide.

**Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1803 - 1842), Saturday 18 August 1821, page 2**

THURSDAY.—William Geary, Thomas Smith, Charles Young, William Whiteman, John Cochrane alias Cockling, Samuel Becket, Peter Hilson, Wm. Baker, John Mills, and John Lloyd, were conjointly and severally indicted for having perpetrated various high-way robberies, and felonious entries of dwelling-houses; and Charles Franklin and Robert Allan, were also indicted for receiving the proceeds of the said felonies, knowing them to be stolen; and also, upon a second count, these latter prisoners were charged with harbouring, secreting, and countenancing the above-named prisoners. The information being read, the prisoners were severally called on to plead, and they pleaded Not Guilty, with the exception of William Geary, who declared himself Guilty of the charges exhibited to the Court.

James Bellamy deposed, that on the 23rd of March, the following prisoners came to his house; viz. Geary, Young, Cochrane, Whiteman, Smith, and the deceased Butler; and feloniously and forcibly took from his dwelling, a musket, bayonet, cutlass, and a powder horn. Geary, and most of the other prisoners, endeavoured to invalidate the testimony of this witness, by acknowledging their guilt, and proclaiming him to the Court and auditory, as one that had harboured and encouraged them in their various spoliations; and participated, to a great extent, in such nefarious and hazardous speculations; but, however, he (the wit-ness) solemnly and readily averred that the assertions of the prisoners were wholly false, and without foundation.

**Yass Courier (NSW: 1857 - 1929), Saturday 25 July 1863, page 2**

ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

BUSHRANGING. — A NATIVE POLICE.

To the Editor of the Yass Courier.

There is now living at Pennant Hills, Mr. James Bellamy, a native of this colony, He it was who broke up Geary's bold gang, when he attacked the bushrangers, and shot Lieutenant Butler — as he was called — and had him conveyed to Parramatta.

**Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW: 1871 - 1912), Saturday 21 October 1893, page 852**

THE SKETCHER.

History of Bushranging in New South Wales.

By the Hon. W. H. Sutton.

II.

William Geary and his Gang.

On Sunday, July 18, [1821] a young man named Bellamy and his brother, aged 16, were kangaroo-hunting in the district of Pennant Hills. They came to the house of Hall, a settler, and the dog gave an unusual bark, at which Geary [a bushranger] made his appearance.

The Bellamys immediately went in pursuit, and two others of the gang, Beckett and Butler, came into view. Geary soon disappeared, but the others made for a fence, and Butler, who had a musket, now and again looked back. Bellamy called upon him to surrender on pain of his having his brains blown out. Butler gained a stockyard and showed fight, leveling his musket at Bellamy. The latter, however, was too quick for him, and, firing at Butler, killed him. Geary got clear away. The body of Butler, who had been a bushranger for a length of time, and who delayed not in joining Geary upon his escape from custody, was taken to Parramatta. Mr. Eyre, the coroner and missionary, held an inquest, when a verdict of “Justifiable homicide” was returned.

Geary, Smith, Whiteman, Young, Mils, and Kennedy were executed.

The first James Bellamy married Hannah Singleton (sometimes recorded as Anna or Ann) in 1818 and they had 18 children:

Charlotte (1819), Susannah (1821), William (1822), James (1823), William (1823), Mary A. (1825), Caroline (1827), Ann (1831), Sarah (1832), Elizabeth (1834), James (1836), Joseph (1840), Zadek (1843), Matilda (1845), Martha (1845), Hannah (1846), Matilda (1848) & Hannah (1850).

There were deaths of 4 children with the same names – William (1822), James (1823), Matilda (1845) & Hannah (1846).

James Bellamy was the son of William & Ann Bellamy, and born about 1795 (probably James T. born 1798). Other children to William & Ann are: Sarah (1800) & John (1803),

His wife, Hannah, was born in 1802, the daughter of William & Hannah Singleton. William Singleton had a thirty-acre farm on Freeman’s Reach, at Hawkesbury, which he sold in 1809.