



Wanborough

Caught in The End *At the Lent Assizes 1832*

Peter Vines, John Ellison, Thomas Stanley were indicted for arson. In having set fire to what was denominated a rick of "straw" and obtained an acquittal by proving it to have been "stubble".

They were again indicted for burglariously entering and setting fire to a cowhouse which in the indictment was described as an outhouse or barn. Vines and Ellison in this case had confessed their guilt, and said they did it by means if Lucifer matches lighted from their pipes.

They were found guilty, and Stanley was acquitted. Ellison and Vines however again escaped from the rigour of the law through its many loopholes; as their counsel moved arrest of judgement, on the ground of the building not being such as was described in the indictment urging that it was a place in which a burglary could not be affected. Neither was it an outhouse, as it was entirely detached from any building; nor could it, by any stretch of imagination, be considered a barn.

Judge Parke held the objects as fatal to the indictment, and therefore passed no sentence, as he was sure the judges would send the free pardon, which he himself would apply for." *From Statistics of Crime 1801-1850 by the Governor of the County Gaol, Fisherton Anger*

The good fortune of Peter Vines did not continue. As reported by the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal of March 1833*

Peter Vines was convicted of having stolen two pigs, the property of Charles May at Wanborough, and was sentenced to seven years' transportation.

Further research suggests that Peter Vines arrived in New South Wales on 3rd November 1833 having been transported aboard the Aurora. He had been held in Bridewell Prison, Marlborough on 3rd January 1832 awaiting trial at the Assizes.