

# The Irish In The New Colony

James Doyle	(1765 - 1836)
Andrew Doyle	(1774 - 1841)
James Augustine Cunneen	(1826 - 1889)
Richard Fitzgerald	(1771 - 1840)
Patrick Hand	(c.1777 - 1827)
James Dunn	(? - 1837)
Michael Lamb	(c.1774 - 1860)
Dennis McCarty	(c.1768 - ? )
Patrick Partland	(c.1772-?)

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## James & Andrew Doyle

(James: 1765 -1836)

(Andrew: 1774 -1841)

Brothers Andrew and James, both well educated and of some means, were sentenced in Dublin, 1801 for their parts in the Irish rebellion and sent to the colony on the 'Rolla', 1803. Andrew's family accompanied him into exile, but James' wife missed the ship.

James, before being pardoned in 1813, was associated with a John Fox in a farm on the river above Richmond, where they were attacked by thieves carrying pitchforks, who stole their boat and store of wheat.

By 1812, James and his new wife owned a farm at Seven Hills, and James apparently took to selling liquor. This resulted in an appearance at Windsor Court in 1816 and a ten-pound fine for unlicensed spirit selling. The following year, he was fined three times the amount. Undeterred he opened the Lord Nelson in 1818, making his fortune as proprietor. He gained widespread interests in land and commerce and was a well-known money-lender. He was also a philanthropist, a member of the Benevolent Society and a warm supporter of the Catholic church, his bequests amounting to some one thousand two hundred pounds. It was his bequest of five hundred pounds that made possible the building of the church.

Although Andrew, living down the river, had changed his faith, a close relationship continued between the two families. Andrew's investigations of Sergeant Evans' murder in 1812 and a brutal robbery downriver in 1817 resulted in the conviction and execution of James Fitzpatrick, a neighbour and fellow transportee. The burial of James Fitzpatrick at Windsor was prevented by Governor Macquarie, probably because of high feelings in the district and a fear of violence against Doyle by fellow Irishmen. Many of them felt that Andrew had renounced his faith in his aspirations to become magistrate. Certainly, he caused a stir when, after a heavy drinking session at his brother's pub, he attacked Marsden's exposition at Arndell's funeral in 1821. When committed to Sydney gaol for three months on bread and water, he appealed for Father Therry's intercession, but Marsden was outraged. The scandal

*St Matthew's*

died away, and the Doyle family continued to grow and spread in and beyond the Hawkesbury.

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## James Augustine Cunneen (1826 -1889)

James Cunneen was educated at St. Matthew's Catholic School, taught by its first teacher, James Cassidy.

In 1860, he was elected to the Legislative Assembly on the platform of free selection and was returned unopposed in 1864. The following year he became the first parliamentarian to occupy the position of Postmaster General.

On the 19th April, 1889, he fell while descending his Paddington home staircase and broke his neck. His Will stated his wish to be buried in the Catholic cemetery at Windsor.

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## Richard Fitzgerald (1771-1840)

Richard Fitzgerald was fourteen when transported to NSW, where he was sent with many other boys to work on farms at Toongabbie.

In 1794 he was granted 30 acres of ground at Cabramatta, where his diligence earned him the appointment of 'Superintendent of Convicts from Parramatta to Toongabbie' and two further grants of 250 acres, on which were planted wheat and maize (1795).

In 1802, Gov. King appointed him 'Inspector of Government Agricultural Concerns' for the Toongabbie, Hawkesbury and Castle Hill areas. However, in 1804, he was accused of neglecting his duties, was discharged and subsequently retired to the Hawkesbury.

The Bligh Rebellion in 1808 resulted in the unpopular decision to appoint Fitzgerald as Constable of the Hawkesbury, replacing the Bligh supporter, Andrew Thompson. Fitzgerald's attempts to crush support in Windsor for Bligh failed (and it is interesting to note that it was Thompson, not Fitzgerald, who was mentioned for community assistance in the bad floods of that time).

In 1812, Gov. Macquarie re-instated Thompson and declared Fitzgerald 'Superintendent of Stores'. The following year, Fitzgerald also became the Clerk in Commissariat Department in Windsor, while entering the hotel business with the opening of 'The Macquarie Arms'.

By now, Fitzgerald was the greatest emancipist land holder in the Hawkesbury, controlling 27, 200 acres at Rylestone, Cassilis and Mudgee. It was recorded that he donated £10 to the erection of St Mary's Cathedral in 1830 and took an active role in the *Hawkesbury Benevolent Society*. A £50 annuity was paid until 1875 and £1,200 invested until 1946, when the money was used to build the nurses quarters.

St Matthew's

Robert Fitzgerald died on 25th May, 1840.

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## Patrick Hand (C.1777-1827)

Transported from Ireland on the 'Rolla' in 1803, Hand did not have the resources of his companions, the Doyles, and so leased a small farm at Cornwallis.

He weathered the 1806 flood, but was washed out in the 1809 flood and so moved to higher ground at Richmond. There is no record of his marriage to Catherine Hatch, who came out from Dublin in 1809, but the two were both devout Irish Catholics.

At that time, the Catholic church regarded vows made by a couple binding in the absence of priests, whereas a marriage performed by a "heretic" clergyman was unrecognised.

Patrick was regarded as a hard working family man, and so when a shooting occurred at Hand's New Year's Eve party, resulting in the death of Issac Cornwell, he was acquitted on his plea of self-defence. However, it was difficult to manage on 15 acres, so Patrick worked extra jobs, carting rice from Parramatta and helping the Benevolent Society. In 1820, he was fined for having government stores in his possession and, unable to pay, was gaoled.

The following year, when Catherine died in childbirth, he was awarded a land grant, but two years later, died and was buried with Catherine by 'Roman Catholics' in churchyard of St Peter's. His two young boys were fostered by local farmers.

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## James Dunn (? - 1837)

James and Catherine Berry were sent to the colony on the 'Sugar Cane' in 1793, and although both devout Catholics, married in the Church of England to cement a lifelong union.

It is thought that Dunne worked with compatriot McCarty farming on South Creek. However, in 1803, he was granted 60 acres on the right bank of Portland Reach, near shipmate Thomas Chaseling and Michael Lamb. The three had problems with the aborigines, and Dunne wounded one when defending his property. The convict, Morgan, who had left owing 7 weeks work, was ordered back to the farm. Morgan rose early and felled a tree, which crashed across the roof of the house just as the family was stirring. Dunne's wife was injured and his two children were killed. Morgan was found to be careless and was sentenced to 500 lashes.

By 1809, the Dunes had moved to Boston's Reach to higher ground, and by 1820 they had 120 acres of land at Sackville. Dunne led the inquest jury that investigated the drowning of Matthew Everingham in 1817 - and twenty years later, he himself, drowned in the river.

James and Catherine were buried in the Church of England cemetery at Sackville, but under a Catholic inscription.

*St Catherine's*

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## Michael Lamb (C.1774-1860)

Michael was a young Irish tailor of Roman Catholic faith, transported on the 'Queen' in 1791. He set up a tailoring business for the Hawkesbury farmers, and in 1802 bought a few acres to farm.

Although the 1806 muster showed Lamb as married, his first recorded marriage was in 1811 to Mary Farrell, who ran away and left him. Lamb had spent some time in Windsor gaol with debtor-prisoner Mason on a charge of pig-stealing. He disposed of his farm and rented a small area at Portland Head, where he resumed his trade as tailor. In 1814 he identified the coat of a drowned murder-victim and so helped solve the crime.

With the death of his faithless wife, he was able to marry Susannah Thompson from Dublin. She had been sent out on the 'Frances and Eliza' in 1815. Though both Catholic, they married at Windsor under Church of England rites. The children were baptised Catholics.

By 1820, Michael had acquired a 150 acre farm below the Colo. Five years later, because of his record of sobriety and honest industry, he was granted a further 50 acres by Macquarie.

Lamb was buried in a small cemetery on Half Moon Reach, his eldest son taking over the farm.

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## Dennis Mccarty (C.1768-?)

Dennis McCarty, a brawny Irish Catholic, arrived at the Hawkesbury in 1796. Assigned as a servant on the Cornwallis estate set up by the captain of the ship, 'Marquis Cornwallis' in that year.

In 1799, he was granted 30 acres on South Creek and the following year was able to purchase a further 40 acres. His partner at this stage was thought to have been James Dunne.

In 1804, his neighbour, Dr Mason, began clearing his Penruddock farm. McCarty claimed that Mason was luring away the convicts in his employ before the allotted tasks were done. Magistrate Arndell ruled in McCarty's favour and the irate surgeon demanded the men's return to finish the work on wages. When McCarty refused, Surgeon Mason prosecuted and won a cash settlement.

In 1806, McCarty left South Creek and bought 15 acres at Wilberforce from Cusley.

Surprisingly, the following year, he signed the address pledging support to Bligh in quelling the outbreak of Irish violence.

St Matthew's

In 1814, on the eve of St Patrick's Day, Constable Williams heard a cry of "murder!" and found McCarty and young Mary Ward, both very intoxicated, locked in battle. McCarty begged the constable to "take her away", but before the constable could react, he was knocked senseless to the ground, and blinded by the blow. Mary claimed she saw McCarty pick up a hoe and knock the constable about the head. The judge advocate of NSW reprieved Dennis from the murder charge on the grounds that the failing light was too bad for the girl to see what was happening. Instead, Dennis was sentenced to solitary confinement on bread and water and transferred later to Newcastle gaol for 7 years. By 1828 he was back at Cornwallis and unattached.

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## Patrick Partland (C.1772 - ?)

Partland travelled out to the Penal Colony in 1796 with shipmates Connolly, McCarty and Tully, and probably was assigned to the Cornwallis estate.

He was pardoned in 1806, and recommended for exemplary behaviour, particularly by surveyor Evans, whose distress call during the 1806 flood was answered by Patrick. He rented a farm from John Palmer, and like many of his compatriots, signed the address to Bligh of February, 1807.

In 1808, he was first caught manufacturing poteen, but the charges were dropped when he claimed he had paid Macarthur's agents for the sugar. The second time, in 1810, he was fined five pounds, but the third time was not his lucky one. Someone claimed a twenty pound reward for the information that saw Patrick given three years hard labour. He had over-extended himself buying a half share in a farm, and the 1811 flood meant that he had to hand over pigs, goats and his corn grinder to creditors.

On his release from gaol in 1815, he came out with nothing, but it was recorded that he was renting 24 acres from Baker in 1820, and that he was caring for a small boy, named James. In 1828: the records do not show who the boy was.

St Macarthur's