

It is said James Kershaw selected land at Greta, but there is no record of that. It seems most likely that he farmed and lived with his sister and brother-in-law, Martha and Alexander Graham. At what time Kershaw arrived at the Glenrowan Inn is unknown but it was stated by Constable Barry in a letter to Sadleir on the 4th July 1880 that James Kershaw helped Ned with his armour. He was also called the 'red-whiskered man' by others who witnessed Kershaw helping Ned into his armour. James Kershaw claimed compensation of £15. 10 s from the police force for his horse and saddle.⁵⁸

The Graham and Kershaw families were always strong Kelly sympathisers with Robert Graham and John Dinning paying Mrs Kelly's bail at the time of the Fitzpatrick affair.

After shooting broke out between the police and the Kelly Gang at Glenrowan it was noted that Joe Byrne called the McAuliffe's a number of times to come out and help them. If there were others in the hotel, like James Kershaw who were sympathisers and possibly armed, why they were not also called on to come out and help? James Kershaw was named as one of the original Greta colonists at a Banquet in 1907.⁵⁹ He remained a bachelor all of his life.

The funeral of the late Mr James Kershaw, of Greta West, took place on Saturday, when the remains were interred in the Greta cemetery. The cortege was a fairly long one. The coffin bearers were Messrs O'Malley (2) W. McMonigal and M. Kearney; pall-bearers, Messrs T. McAuliffe, W. Watson, D. McAuliffe, Snr, and jnr, T. McCarthy and G. Quinn. The arrangements were carried out by Mr T. Ladler. The late Mr Kershaw, who was 78 years of age, was well known and respected in the district. Mrs J. Graham, of Greta West, Mrs Jeffrey, of Tumut, and Mrs Petersen of Orange, are sisters of deceased, while Messrs Samuel (Sydney), Abraham (Orange), and George (Tumut) are brothers. Deceased was a colonist of 47 years.⁶⁰

Information on James Kershaw's early life taken from a series of interviews with Roby Dixon, Kershaw family descendent, Jan-Feb 2005.

58 *Goulburn Herald*, 30 September 1863.

59 *North Eastern Ensign*, 19 December 1873.

60 Claim to the Kelly Reward Board, Kelly Papers, VPRO.

61 *Wangaratta Chronicle* 1907.

62 *Wangaratta Chronicle* 5 June 1912.

JOHN LARKIN

John Larkin was born at Darebin Creek in 1845; he was the son of Michael Larkin and Ellen Delaney. John Larkin selected land at Mokoan in 1879 and John married Margaret Cahill, a dressmaker from Greta in 1880. At the time of the Glenrowan siege Larkin had been boarding at James and Margaret Reardon's, and was taken hostage with the rest of the Reardon family.

John and Margaret Larkin had three children while they were living at Lake Rowan, Ellen b 1881, Margaret b 1882 and Michael b 1884, the last two children dying as infants.

There are no known statements by John Larkin. The following account of Martin Cherry's death appeared in *Ovens and Murray Advertiser* by a *Benalla Standard* correspondent.

"The press and public seem to be in no doubt how Martin Cherry came by his death at Glenrowan. I was one that was in the house at the time, and I will endeavour to show how it occurred. When the police arrived at Glenrowan, they commenced to fire into the dwelling from all directions. The bullets came thick and fast like showers of hail. Each of us endeavoured to protect ourselves as well as we could, some under beds, others on the floor. I took refuge among some

bags of grain. I could occasionally hear bullets strike and bury themselves in the bags of grain behind which I was sheltered. As the bullets commenced to pour among us I heard some person cry out, 'For God's sake, come here; I am shot.' I recognised Martin Cherry's voice. I immediately ran to his assistance, and I found him bleeding from a wound he had received in the groin. I pulled a sheet from off the bed and did my best to stop the bleeding by tying the sheet around the wound. I had scarcely completed the rough dressing when bullets grazed the back of my head, so finding I was in extreme danger of being shot myself, I lifted a mattress off a bed and placed it over Cherry to protect as far as possible from danger, and then rushed back to my previous place of shelter where I remained until about 10 o'clock in the morning, when the police gave us all permission to leave the house. I wish to state that Martin Cherry was lying on the floor when the slug struck him that caused his death, and the said shot was fired from outside the house. Ned Kelly was not in the house at the time and had not been for some hours previous to Cherry being shot, which statement can be confirmed by all who were in the house at the time. In conclusion, I wish to say that some members of the police force have visited me since the Glenrowan tragedy. They have implied by indirect threats to keep my mouth shut respecting how Cherry came by his death. But thinking it best to let the public know the truth is my only excuse for trespassing on your space."⁶³

This account has been attributed to John Larkin.

Margaret Larkin died from consumption at the age of 39 years; she was buried in the Yarrowonga Cemetery on the 11th March 1887. John Larkin died at Dargalong and was buried on the 8th July 1893 at the Yarrowonga Cemetery with his wife. John and Margaret's only living daughter Ellen died in 1955 unmarried.

⁶³ Ovens and Murray Advertiser, 14 August 1880.

JOHN CHARLES LOWE

John Lowe was born at Limeburners Creek, Chiltern on the 14th November 1861. He was the eldest son of Charles Millar Lowe and Bridget, (nee Dundan). The Lowe family moved from Chiltern to Escourt, a township just outside of Wangaratta, where Charles Lowe became a Councillor of the Owen's Shire. Later the family moved to Benalla where Charles was involved in the building business.

At the age of 14 John Charles had an accident; it was reported in the *North Eastern Ensign*:

Shocking Accident

On Good Friday a dreadful accident happened to a lad named John Lowe aged 13 years, residing in this town, by the bursting of a gun. The boy named, with several others was amusing himself by shooting at a mark in Clarke's paddock on the above morning when the gun burst near the breech and shattered his left hand in a shocking manner; the first three fingers and a part of the thumb being blown off and the other portion his hand torn almost to shreds. The quivering fingers were picked up at a distance of several yards from the spot. Dr Henry was quickly in attendance on the unfortunate youth, and after staunching the haemorrhage ordered his removal to