

S/C Kelly reported July 8 1880

'I beg to report I have made careful inquiries, etc, etc. I find that through any light on the matter is John Larkins one of the prisoners who the outlaws had locked up on Jones Hotel at Glenrowan. Larkin states that he and Cherry got into the Kitchen at the rear of the hotel there were two little bedrooms attached to the kitchen on the west side the deceased was lying on a bed that was on the floor

About 6am Cherry called Larkins and said I am shot come here and cover me'

Larkins has no doubt the deceased was shot in the west end of the kitchen by police.

Wm. Sandycook, also states that he was a short time in the kitchen referred to and the only persons he saw were the deceased Cherry and Larkins

Source: PROV VPRS:

Worthy article: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/68746113>

Martin Cherry who was one of the prisoners of the gang, and who was so severely wounded that he could not leave the house when the other prisoners left.

Source: <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/161912882>

I was made aware that deceased was lying wounded in the back yard kitchen. I then endeavored to avoid the firing into this kitchen. By J. Sadlier, magisterial inquiry.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/240935264>

Hugh Bracken, deposed: I was made a prisoner by the Kelly gang on Sunday night last at half-past 10 o'clock. I know the deceased. He was a repairer on the railway line. He was also made a prisoner. He was at Mrs. Jones's hotel when I arrived, and was with the others. He was all right about 1 o'clock on Monday morning. I made my escape after 2 o'clock am. I saw the police approach the house within three minutes after my escape. I had given them notice that the Kellys were in the hotel. They were fired on from the hotel. The police returned the fire, and continued the attack till it was all over. I next saw the deceased when he was taken out of the building. He was then alive. He was taken out of the hut at the back of the hotel. The fire had not reached that place. Deceased was not affected by the fire. He died shortly afterwards. The hut he was taken from still stands unburnt.

Thomas Dixon, deposed: I have seen the body of Martin Cherry and identify him. I was present at the burning of the house. I went to the hut as soon as the priest came out. I heard there was a man wounded in the hut. With others I helped to bring him out. I said, " Martin, how are you?" He said, " Oh, you know me." When we were bringing him out he said, " Oh, don't hurt me." I searched further, and on coming out found deceased dying.

John Sadlier, deposed: I had charge of the attacking party of police on Monday morning at Glenrowan. The firing continued at intervals both from the hotel and by the police. It was not until the captives had made their escape from the hotel that I was made aware that deceased was lying wounded in the back kitchen. I then endeavoured to avoid firing into this kitchen. In firing the main building, it was arranged that deceased was to be rescued before the fire could reach him. I rushed up to the kitchen myself first.

Saw Dixon and others lift out the body of deceased, who was then alive. He died in a few minutes. <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/43152733>

"Indeed, the firing at this time by all accounts seems to have been indiscriminate, the blacks particularly being industrious in potting away at the premises. The prisoners in a state of terror,

arranged to hold out a white handkerchief, at which several shots were immediately fired, a proceeding highly reprehensible, as the most untutored savage is supposed to respect the signal of surrender. The order was given to fire high, but not before one of Mrs. Jones's children and a man named Martin Cherry were wounded, the latter fatally."

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/11528277>

The fire speedily gained a hold upon the building, and in a very short time the flames were playing right up to the roof. But still the outlaws made no sign, and the police and spectators began to ask each other wonderingly: "Are they dead? or, have they escaped? or, do they mean to stay there till they're roasted?" And at this moment a startling cry was raised — "Old Martin Cherry is still in the house!" Such was the case. As the fire rapidly spread, and it was seen that the whole building would soon be enveloped in flames, the excitement among the crowd increased.

And at this juncture Father Gibney stepped forward and expressed his determination of saving Cherry if the old man was still alive. Holding the crucifix aloft, and amid the cheers of the crowd, the brave priest walked rapidly up to the door of the burning building, and was soon lost to view amidst the dense smoke. A moment later the whole structure appeared to burst into a blaze, masses of flame rushing out from the sides and the roof simultaneously. A shout of terror went up from the crowd, and a simultaneous movement was made towards the burning pile. Several policemen and others ran to the rear of the house, and rushed into the building through the back door; and shortly afterwards they emerged with Father Gibney in their midst, bearing in their arms the old man Cherry, who was in a dying condition.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/62185638>

It is very probable that Father Gibney referred to in the above telegram from 'West Australia is the brave Roman Catholic priest who made his name famous because of the cool bravery he displayed on the occasion of the capture of the Kelly gang of outlaws at Glenrowan. One who was present on the occasion furnishes the following particulars of Father Gibney's conduct:

'I remember Father Gibney well. He arrived at Glenrowan by train before Mrs. Jones's Glenrowan Inn was burned down.' From inquiries made I learned that he was a travelling priest from West Australia. He took much interest in what was going on, and interviewed Kate Kelly and Mrs. Skillion (sisters of the outlaws) on the Glenrowan railway platform, and urged to send a message to the hotel, asking the outlaws to throw down their arms and gave themselves up to the police. The women, however, like Ned Kelly, who was at that time a prisoner in the station, scouted the idea, averring that the gang would never be taken alive. Subsequently Superintendent Sadler consented under pressure to permit Senior-constable Johnston to set fire to the hotel. At that juncture I was standing near to Father Gibney, and he spoke of the fact of there being an innocent and wounded man (Martin Cherry) in the building, and he formed the heroic resolution of going to his rescue. Senior-constable Johnson had set fire to the end of the house, and the several hundred spectators who were then present, evidently awe stricken, gazed silently on the scene, when suddenly the tall and erect form of Father Gibney stalked from their midst and appeared on the open ground in front of the then smouldering hotel. 'Stand,' 'Go back,' were the stern orders of the armed police, but Father Gibney heeded them not and looking neither to the right nor the left he marched erect and firmly to the doorway of the hotel. The scene at this stage was tremendously sensational, as the act of Father Gibney stepping over the threshold appeared to be the signal for the whole roof to belch out flame. I confess to feeling at that moment more concern for the brave priest than for the wounded man Cherry, and ran to the back of the house. There I discovered what neither Father Gibney nor myself had known previously that the police had very properly made provision to prevent harm being done to poor Martin Cherry, and before the priest had passed through the fiery scene four stalwart men had

rushed into the back storeroom and carried Cherry away unscathed by fire.
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114080247>

Further reading

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/282810991>

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/114083735>

