

Matthew Brady

Name: Matthew Brady, known as the 'Gentleman Bushranger'

Born: 1799

Died: 4th May 1826

Matthew Brady was born in Manchester, England in 1799. In 1820, he was found guilty of stealing a basket of food. Brady was sentenced to seven years imprisonment and transportation to Australia.

Brady arrived in Sydney on board the Juliana on 29th December 1820. During his time in Sydney, he continually rebelled. He was against the prison conditions and tried to escape numerous times. As punishment, he received over 350 lashes over four years. In 1823, he was sent to a notorious penal colony - Sarah Island in Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania. The very next year, he and another 13 prisoners escaped from Sarah Island by stealing a boat and sailing it back to Hobart.



Over the next two years, Brady committed various crimes including holding-up the entire town of Sorell and capturing a garrison of soldiers. After this, Lieutenant Governor Arthur put out a reward of 100 guineas and land in exchange for the capture of Brady

and his gang. In response, Brady thought it would be great joke to put out a reward for the capture of the Governor for 20 gallons of rum. At one point, Brady and his gang stole a boat near Launceston and planned to sail across Bass Strait to the Australian mainland. However, due to bad weather they had to turn back. He fought a running battle with troops and settlers and was eventually caught after a shoot-out at Elphin Farm in Launceston.

In 1826, Brady was brought to Hobart to stand trial. He was found guilty of theft and murder and sentenced to death. On 4th May 1826 he was hanged. During his time on the run Brady had gained a reputation as the 'Gentlemen Bushranger' due to his manners, kind way with his victims and the way he treated women. Many women of Hobart turned out for the hanging and filled his prison cell with gifts of flowers.



Brady's tree; thought to be where he and his gang hid