

Jane Rixon, (Thomas²; James¹) born 15th December 1839 [Campbelltown NSW V18401135 24A/1840] baptised 12th January 1840 [Airds NSW 1840/113524A] died on her birthday, 15th December 1900 [Cooma NSW 1248/1900] buried at Moonbah NSW, aged 61 years. She married 20th July 1863 at St. Patrick's [Cooma NSW 1782/1863] to **James Kirwan**, born in 1844 [Cooma NSW V1844 1631 134/1844] fatally shot 21st June 1864 [Cooma NSW 3523/1864] buried next to his parents, Grave 130, Christ Church, Cooma NSW, aged 20 years, son of James Kirwan who was also fatally shot, and Eliza Ward. James was shot by a policeman, Sergeant O'Donoghue, on suspicion of stealing horses. After his death the horses were found and the policeman that shot James committed suicide, after being run out of town.

Jane was pregnant at the time James was shot, daughter Mary Anne was born five days later, on 26th June 1864 at Bobundarah.

She remarried 16th January 1867, Cooma [NSW 1869/1867] to **2) Patrick Spellman**, died in 1901 [Cooma NSW 9046/1901] buried at Moonbah Catholic, son of Jeremiah Spellman and Mary Heffernan Ireland.

V18401135 24A/1840	RIXON	JANE	THOMAS	ANNE	
1248/1900	SPELLMAN	JANE	JOHN	ANN	COOMA
1782/1863	KIRWAN	JAMES	RIXON	JANE	COOMA
V18441631 134/1844	_IRWIN	JAMES	JAMES	ELIZA	
V184420 62/1844	_IRWIN	JAMES	JAMES	ELIZA	
3523/1864	KIRWAN	JAMES	JAMES	ELIZA	COOMA
1869/1867	SPELLMAN	PATRICK	KIRWAN	JANE	COOMA
9046/1901	SPELLMAN	PATRICK	JEREMIAH	MARY	COOMA

Jane and James Kirwan had one child:

Jane and Patrick Spellman had four children:

D4/1. Mary Ann Kirwan	1864 - 1935	m. John Freebody 2) Alfred James
D4/2. Emma Sophia Spellman	1872 - 1958	m. Henry Williams
D4/3. Jeremiah Thomas Spellman	1875 - 1876	
D4/4. Patrick Jas Joseph Spellman	1880 - 1943	m. Amy Staples
D4/5. William Jas Spellman	1882 - 1950	m. Emma Staples

James Kirwan Snr is a name indelibly associated with the early history of Manaro. Kirwan, having heard of Manaro was determined to start a business, moved and carried on a business as a hawker.

He made a considerable amount of money and opened, near the junction of the Cooma and Cooma Back Creeks, the first place of accommodation the district knew, Kirwan's Inn – known far and wide.

He remarried 10th February 1836 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Sydney NSW to 2) Elizabeth (Eliza) Ward, born 19th February 1814 at Bunbury Curran NSW, died 8th October 1850 at Cooma NSW, aged 36 years, buried Christ Church, Cooma, daughter of Joseph Ward and Ann Uren. Elizabeth, was a capable and educated woman, managing James' business affairs until her death. James Kirwan and Eliza Ward had four children, all born at Cooma NSW.

Thomas Kirwan [1843 - 27th Sept 1915]

James Kirwan [1844 - shot 21st June 1864]

Joseph Kirwan [1845 - 23rd October 1865]

Edward Kirwan [1847 - before 1852]

James again remarried 30th August 1851 at Goulburn NSW to 3) Elizabeth White.

In October 1852, he was shot by John McSpadden, his groom, whilst inquiring into the cause of a quarrel between the latter & a doctor staying at the inn.

James Kirwan shot

THE SHOOTING OF MR. KIRWAN OF COOMA, BY A TROOPER.

(From the Maneroo Mercury.)

The most painful duty that has ever fallen to our lot to perform is that of recording an event which has and will long remain impressed on the minds of all the respectable residents of Maneroo,—an event which has and will for some time cast a gloom on the district generally,—viz.: the shooting by a police-officer of Mr. James Kirwan, a well-known and respectable stockholder of this locality. It appears that John Welch, publican, of this town, had missed some valuable horses, and in consequence of reports, considered by him reliable, procured a warrant for Mr. James Kirwan's apprehension, on suspicion of his having stolen them. It is asserted that since Welch procured the warrant he intimated his desire to settle the matter amicably, and a horseman was sent to Kirwan's station, Mowenbah, for the purpose of inducing Mr. Kirwan to pay Cooma a visit. Poor Kirwan seemed to have treated the affair with disdain. However, on Tuesday the deceased rode into Cooma and visited many of his friends, which act did not seem to imply that he anticipated any evil results from his visit. Sergeant O'Donohue, it appears, had made one unsuccessful attempt to arrest Kirwan previous to their last meeting, and in consequence of the failure he proceeded between the hours of eight and nine in the evening to the police barracks, saddled his horse, provided himself with fire-arms and went in search of Kirwan. Coming up with

him between the Market-square and the bridge on the Sydney road, O'Donohue ordered Kirwan to "stand," and, according to his evidence, he caught hold of Kirwan's bridle with his right hand, holding his own bridle and revolver with the left hand, when Kirwan turned his horse round quickly, and the sergeant fired the fatal shot which laid low the finest young man on Maneroo—a man who was ever ready to assist persons in need, and who will be remembered by his associates as a most agreeable companion. Let those of our readers who were not acquainted with James Kirwan picture to themselves a man over six feet high, well-made, good-looking, with but about twenty-three summers passed o'er his brow, of jovial and agreeable manners, and they will portray a *fac-simile* of his appearance. As a horseman few excelled him, and no doubt it was a feeling of pride in his capabilities that induced him to remain in town and test the mettle of the trooper's horse. He leaves a young widow, two brothers, a sister, and several other relatives, and a numerous circle of friends to mourn his untimely end. Strange to relate, his father met his death in a similar manner, having been shot by his own gardener, about twelve years since, not half a mile from the spot where his son breathed his last.

Guardian and Normanby-General Advertiser-14 July 1864-¶

James Kirwan's father was also shot

FATAL OCCURRENCE.—It is our painful duty to have to record the violent death of Mr James Kirwan, of Cooma, Maneroo. Someday last week—the particular day we have not been able to ascertain—a groom in the employ of Mr Kirwan, armed with a double-barrelled pistol, was about to fire at a gentleman named Cunningham: when the circumstance having been made known to Mr Kirwan, he rushed towards the groom for the purpose of arresting the deadly instrument from his hands; the man maddened either from the effects of drink or from some other cause fired off the pistol, the contents of which entered Mr K.'s heart, whose death was almost instantaneous. The Rev. R. Walsh, of Queanbeyan, started early on Sunday last for the purpose of attending his funeral. Mr Kirwan was much respected by persons of every grade, not only in the district in which he resided, and where he met his death, but also in every part of the colony where his character was known. The following is another, and by far a more probable account of this tragical affair:—Mr Kirwan had called for his horse, and his groom, whose name is John M'Spalden, was in the act of bringing it when Cunningham called to the man to bring his horse too. The groom replied that he would go to his hut and get the key of the stable and then give him a horse. He went in, came out again with the key in one hand and a double-barrelled pistol in the other; he fired deliberately at Cunningham, but luckily the ball struck a metal button of his coat and glanced off; the man then went into his hut and locked the door. Mr Kirwan, on hearing the report, rushed out, and on being made acquainted with the circumstance, endeavoured to force the door of the hut open. The door gave way; the groom appeared on the threshold, and in this instance fired a gun at Mr Kirwan, the ball of which entered his heart, and he instantly expired. The tragedy does not end here. The man comes out of his hut, leans against the door-post, rests an axe against his leg, and commences to recharge his gun. Two men endeavoured to approach him, but he threatened one of them with a great oath that he "would serve him the same as he had served that b——r, pointing to the dead body, and that he had it in for him the last eighteen months." No one amongst those assembled dared to approach him; although there was a chief constable and two other policemen there, they allowed the man to escape, and the last that was heard of him was, that he was in the Murrumbidgee ranges.—*Goulburn Herald, October 16.*

Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer (NSW : 1845-1860)
Saturday 23 October 1852



James Kirwan, sr

THE COOMA TRAGEDY—The murderer of the late Mr James Kirwan (John M'Spalden) is still at large, having successfully eluded the hot pursuit immediately instituted after his flight from the scene of his atrocious crime. In addition to the reward offered by Government for his apprehension, the sum of fifty pounds has been subscribed by residents in the neighbourhood of Cooma, to be appropriated in like manner. M'Spalden was seen in Queanbeyan shortly after the murder, but previous to the report of the dreadful deed reaching that township. He was then armed with a double-barrelled gun, and it is supposed he has started for some one of the south rn diggings.

Saturday 6 November 1852

FIFTY POUNDS REWARD.
NOTICE.—The above sum of fifty pounds has been collected in the neighbourhood of Cooma, and lodged in the hands of the Bench of Magistrates, to be paid to any person or persons who shall apprehend and lodge in any of Her Majesty's Goals John M'Spalden, (for whom a warrant has been issued), charged with the murder of Mr. James Kirwan, of Cooma, Innkeeper, on Friday, the 8th instant.

By order of the Bench of Magistrates,
ROBERT DAWSON,
Clerk of Petty Sessions.
Court House, Cooma, October 18.

DESCRIPTION.
Name—John M'Spalden; native place, North of Ireland; trade or calling, Ostler or Gardener; emigrant; age, about 40 years; height, about 5 feet 7½ inches; hair, brown; whiskers inclining to sandy; long nose; heavy eyebrows; stout body; dress when last seen, a light moleskin jacket, no waistcoat, regatta shirt, moleskin trousers, and old cabbage-tree hat; had a gun in his possession and ammunition.

The Sydney Morning Herald
Tuesday 16 November 1852