

## 1 BORO CREEK: 1835 – 1838

Shortly after arriving in Sydney, Henry Monro purchased 960 acres at "*Jembaicumbene in the Shoalhaven River district*".<sup>1</sup> To date, the exact location of this block has not been determined but it was commonly referred to as being on "Boro Creek," which would locate it some 50km south of Goulburn. Charles Christie was appointed overseer, even though he seems to have had little or no experience with farming and obviously, none in the Australian landscape. Jane and the children accompanied Charles to Boro Creek, presumably living first under canvas and then in the standard slab-walled, bark-roofed, dirt floored huts of the time.

It was not long before Jane recognised that Henry Monro afforded her much better prospects than Charles; Monro was educated, erudite and relatively wealthy. Given the dire shortage of eligible women in the colony at that time Monro did reasonably well with Jane who was educated, diligent with a somewhat forceful personality. The result of this liaison was a daughter, Maria Agnes, born in 1836<sup>2</sup> and baptised at Boro Creek in 1837. There is little doubt that Monro was the father, even though Maria Agnes was registered as a 'Christie' because Jane and Henry were not married. Not yet anyway.

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<sup>1</sup> *NSW Government Gazette* 8<sup>th</sup> April 1835

<sup>2</sup> NSW Registry of Births, 720/1836 V1836720 47