

The Bankruptcy of Patrick Mylott

In February 1891 Patrick Mylott chartered the steamer Meeinderry¹ to make weekly trips between Sydney and the South Coast. The Meeinderry had been built by T.B. Sheath and Co in Rutherglen, Glasgow for David Berry of the Berry Estate (Coolangatta). She was a steel screw steamer of 120 feet.² On the first trip for Mylott when she was going from Moruya to Bermagui, in attempting to drop off some supplies at Tuross via one of the life boats rough seas caused the boat to capsize. There were 3 crew on board the vessel, the mate and one seaman got clear of the boat but Louie Strom (Strone) was struck on the head by the boat and drowned.

After this inauspicious start to this business venture, success unfortunately was not to follow and the enterprise failed to make ends meet. In the Water Police Summons Court of August 1891 the master of the vessel was in court as the seamen demanded their unpaid wages. The Master said *"he had been to see the charterer who informed him he had no money. The Captain was therefore unable to pay the wages. He was ordered to be imprisoned until the rising of the Court, and distress warrants were directed to be issued to levy upon the tackle and other apparel on the vessel"*.³

When in February 1892 Patrick Mylott appeared in Bankruptcy he stated *"he was a wine merchant and had never been bankrupt before. His present failure was caused through having chartered a steamer."*⁴

Patrick was saved by a private sale, with his properties sold to Trustees acting for his wife. The Trustees were his wife's brother Roger Heffernan and her cousin Mary's husband Timothy Gannon.

The Meeinderry continued trading under a number of different owners until in 1922 she was lost after a collision with the collier "Wallsend" off Wanderer Reef Newcastle. The wreck was sold to the State Government for scrap.

Note: The article on the accident in the Moruya Examiner of 20th February 1891 records the seaman as Louie Strom. The Moruya Court House death records show Louis Strone aged 26 of unknown parents and buried at Tuross Head. Most other seaman with the surname Strom or Strone were of Scandinavian origin.

¹ Evening News (Sydney) 13 February 1891

² Evening News (Sydney) 10 October 1883

³ Evening News (Sydney) 29 August 1891

⁴ Evening News (Sydney) 16 February 1892