

Bold Jack Donohue

VERSES

1. There was a valiant highwayman of courage and renown,
Who scorned to live in slavery or humble to the Crown;
In Dublin city fair and free where first his breath he drew,
'Twas there they christened him the brave and bold Jack Donohue.

2. He scarce had been transported unto the Australian shore,
When he took to the highway as he had done before;
And every week in the newspapers was published something new,
Concerning all the valiant deeds of bold Jack Donohue.

3. As Donohue was cruising one summer afternoon,
Little was his notion that his death would be so soon,
When to his surprise the horse-police appeared in his view,
And in quick time they did advance upon Jack Donohue.

4. The sergeant of the horse-police discharged his carbine,
And called aloud on Donohue to fight or to resign;
'I'd rather range these hills around like wolf or kangaroo,
Than work one hour for the government,' cried bold Jack Donohue.

5. Six rounds he fought the horse-police until the fatal ball,
Which pierced his heart with cruel smart caused Donohue to fall.
The sergeant and the corporal and all their cowardly crew,
It took them all their time to fell the bold Jack Donohue.

6. There were Freincy, Grant, bold Robin Hood and Brennan and O'Hare,
With Donohue the bushranger none of them could compare.
And how he's gone to heaven, I hope with the saints and angels too,
May the Lord have mercy on the soul of bold Jack Donohue.

Glossary:

Highwayman: Someone who robbed travellers along a public road.

Humble to the Crown: Submit to the authority of the law as established by the reigning monarchy in England.

Carbine: A short rifle.

Fatal Ball: The bullet that killed him.

Freincy: In other places called 'Freney' a chivalrous Irish outlaw who would not rob a poor man and would even leave a rich man with enough money to complete his journey.

Grant: Another Irish highwayman who was arrested on a number of occasions and kept escaping!

Robin Hood: An heroic outlaw in English folklore who robbed the rich and gave to the poor.

Brennan: An Irish farm labourer who after a prank went wrong took to a life of thieving. He would rob the rich and share what he stole with the poor.

O'Hare: An Irish outlaw who did not achieve the same level of notoriety as his contemporary bushrangers!