

# *Edward Culgan*

by

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Edward and Mary Culgan migrated from Ireland c 1840. It is assumed they came steerage passengers where only numbers, not names, are recorded.

Edward Culgan was born in Ireland; he married Mary Wood, aged 18 years. She was the daughter of Thomas Wood and Mary McManay. Their eldest daughter Rosanna 'Rose' came with her parents. James, her younger brother remained with relatives in Ireland. Money was very limited and family legend has it that James was to be trained as a priest. Edward secured employment at the Hume property of "Collingwood" at Gunning. Here four children were born; Arthur Wood Culgan in 1882, Edward Wood Culgan in 1844, Mary in 1848 and Francis Wood Culgan in 1853. Three males predeceased their mother, but were not recorded.

A remains of shrubs on the banks of the Lachlan River, to the left and above the bridge on the Grabben Gullen Road to Gunning, is the site of the old Culgan home.

Bushrangers shot Edward's employer, John Kennedy Hume, in 1840 at Gunning and for a number of years after the caretaker tenants maintained the now vacant homestead and buildings on the property for Mrs. Hume. The Hume families were impressed by Edward's endeavours and they assisted him in getting land. On 17 November, 1854, Edward Culgan, for eight pounds and twelve shilling, purchased thirty -one acres. In the County of King at the junction of Broughton 's Creek with the Yass River, commencing at the river at the South Western corner. (Land Purchase 56/16 Reg of deeds 8 July, 1856)

From the listed of those who donated to St. Xavier's Church at Gunning, were Edward senior and Edward, junior Culligen, yet another spelling variant of their name.

Mary Culgan, younger daughter of Edward and Mary, at 13 years of age was sent to board with the Sisters of Mercy at Goulburn. Mary was reputedly one of the first intake of boarders at the infant school set up by the Sisters, the nucleus of Our Lady of Mercy College in Clinton/Bourke Street, Goulburn. Mary was to receive an education quite superior to her contemporaries. She was thoroughly instructed in the doctrine of her Catholic faith, which was always dear to her.

After four years Mary returned home, She fell in love with her childhood friend, George Elliott. However, George would not agree to marry according to the rites of the Catholic Church and Mary after confiding in her brother Arthur, who was very close, broke off the relationship. She never forgot George her first love.

Mary's sister Rose had married James Whittaker at Yass in 1863. He was twenty -nine years of age, which indicates she was born about 1834.

Arthur Wood Culgan, farmer at Binda, aged 24 years, married Jessie Elliott at Gundaroo in 1867. Witnesses were her brother-in-law John Elliott and sister Mary Culgan.

Edward and Mary transferred their property "Flowerdale" the original home close to the Yass River and subject to flooding and rebuilt on higher ground, to James and Rosannah Whittaker. The property became known and remains so as "Riverview", in the Whittaker family.

Edward senior and Mary, with single sons Edward and Francis and daughter Mary, took up land at Taylor's Flat, Fish River, in the Boorowa Land District, at the fork of the Reids Flat/Boorowa Road, with the Crookwell road past Corringale Station. A brick chimney stood on the site of their home and the entry in the Post Office Directory lists Collagen, Edward - sheepholder, Taylors Flat, NSW.

Mary Culgan now aged 27 or more met and married, John Alexander Cummings on 17 May 1876, at her parent's home, according to the rites of the Catholic Church, the witnesses were her brother Arthur Culgan and sister Rosannah Whittaker.

In 1877, following the birth of Mary's son Oswald Alexander Cummings, Edward Culgan, his wife Mary, two sons Edward and Francis and Arthur and his wife Jessie, all moved to Forbes.

Edward Culgan senior, died 25 August 1882, aged 80 years. He was burned and injured when hit by a falling limb during burning off activities. His wife

Mary Culgan died on the 18 September 1888 aged 76 years. Both are buried at Forbes, as are sons Edward and Francis.