

John Cullinan

Rushworth Chronicle

13 July, 1888

DEATH.

CULLINAN.—On the 8th inst., at Waranga, near Rushworth, John, the beloved husband of Margaret Cullinan. Aged 57 years.

Extreme regret was expressed for the bereaved family when it became known on Rushworth on Tuesday that the body of John Cullinan, a farmer, who has resided at Waranga for some eleven years, had been discovered in Gunn's Swamp.

The remains were removed to the Royal Hotel, and an inquiry held before Mr Wigg, J. P., a full report of which will be found in another column.

The remains, which were interred in the local cemetery yesterday, were followed to their last resting place by a large number of mourners. Cullinan, who was well to do, leaves his wife and family well provided for.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

An inquiry was held before Mr W. Wigg, J. P., at the Court House, Rushworth, Wednesday, touching the death of John Cullinan, whose body was found in Gunn's swamp on the previous day. The following evidence was taken:—

Margaret Cullinan deposed that she was the wife of the deceased. She had viewed the body, and recognised it as that of her late husband. She had resided with her husband, who was a farmer at Waranga. She last saw him alive on Sunday evening about 5 p.m. He left the house at that time. He was quite sober. No one went away with him. She did not see him alive again. He was about 57 years of age, and was born in Tipperary, Ireland. He was in the habit of going away for a week or ten days at a time, without saying where he was going. When he left home he was on good terms with his family. He has always been very kind to them. They thought he was quite comfortable in Rushworth, until they heard of his death.

W. Sayers deposed that he was a publican residing at Waranga. Recollected Sunday last. The deceased, Cullinan, called at his place on that day, between six and seven o'clock, p.m. They were at tea at the time. He was not intoxicated, and quite able to take care of himself. Deceased asked him to cut some chaff and crush him some corn. He replied that he could not. Cullinan then told him that he was no neighbour, and turned on his heel and went away immediately.

He did not see him alive again, deceased had no drink at his place, nor did take any away with him.

Mrs Hamilton deposed that she was a widow, residing near Gunn's Swamp. She remembered seeing the deceased alive on Sunday night about 8 o'clock, at her place, in company with two men in a wagon, and as soon as the deceased got out, the men went on in the direction of Rushworth. He asked to be put on the way home, and she and her two daughters put him on the road. He was a little the worse of drink, and that was why they

went with him. Had known him eleven or twelve years. When they left deceased there was no one with him.

William Richards deposed that he was a farmer residing at Waranga. Saw deceased last alive on Sunday evening about 7 o'clock at his place. He would not go inside, as he wanted to get some liquor from Sayers' to shout for some friends who had shouted him. He then left. He was sober. There was no-one with him.

John Short deposed that he was a miner, residing at Chinaman's Flat, Rushworth. While he was out shooting on Gunn's Swamp yesterday he found the dead body of a man. It was lying across a log, with the head under the water. The trousers were down about the boots. It was about a quarter of a mile from McKay's Point. He did not interfere with the body but marked a tree, and then gave information to the police. There was about 15 inches of water where he found the body. He rendered assistance in getting the body out.

Constable Foers deposed that he went to Gunn's Swamp on the previous afternoon and saw the body, turned it over, and recognised it as that of John Cullinan. Searched the body, but found no marks of violence on it. Deceased had 4s in silver in one pocket, and a pound note in a purse in another. He brought the body into Rushworth, and it now at the Royal Hotel.

Mrs Hamilton, recalled, deposed—The deceased told his youngest son, who was at her place, who the men were with him in the wagon. He said they had drunk one bottle of rum, and that he had "planted" another. The son who was working on the Rushworth railway line left before his father. They searched for the bottle that deceased said he had "planted," but could not find it.

The following verdict was returned:— "That the deceased, John Cullinan, was found drowned in Gunn's Swamp, but there was no evidence to show how he got into the water."

Rushworth Chronicle
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12 July,

IN MEMORIAM.

CULLINAN.—In sad but loving remembrance of our dear father, John Cullinan, who departed this life on 8th July, 1888, native of Newcastle County, Tipperary, Ireland. May his soul rest in peace.

Dear father, we are lonely here,
Since you were called away;
May you arise in a brighter sphere
On the eternal judgment day.
May him who died for us to save
His mercy to you give,
And in the world beyond the grave
For ever may you live.
Thou art not forgotten father dear,
Nor ever wilt thou be;
As long as life and memory last
We will remember thee.

Inserted by his sorrowful wife and family.

