

The Sweeney Family of 'Culla Hill' Eltham

by Peter Cuffley

Classification > Biographies and Memoirs > Genealogy

The Story

Former convict Thomas Sweeney with his wife Margaret arrived in Melbourne from Sydney in 1838. In June, 1842 while living south of the Yarra River in Boroondara, Thomas applied to purchase 110 acres in the Parish of Nillumbik. They called their farm 'Culla Hill' after the place in Tipperary where Thomas was captured in 1823. With both hard work and good fortune, the Sweeney family made their mark on the area which came to be called Eltham. In time they were linked to a wide network of relatives and friends and involved in the community in many significant ways.

A family history is not only about the people, who they are, when they were born and died, whom they married and the work they did. History is also about where and how people lived, their interactions with others and their communities, their struggles, challenges and achievements and the effects of development and change on their lives.

The Process

For many years, well known author and social historian Peter Cuffley has been fascinated by the story of his great great grandfather Thomas Sweeney. Over the years, Peter has published many books on many subjects but his mind has always returned to that one incomplete project - documenting Sweeney's path to Eltham and his and his family's subsequent lives in the fledgling Victorian colony.

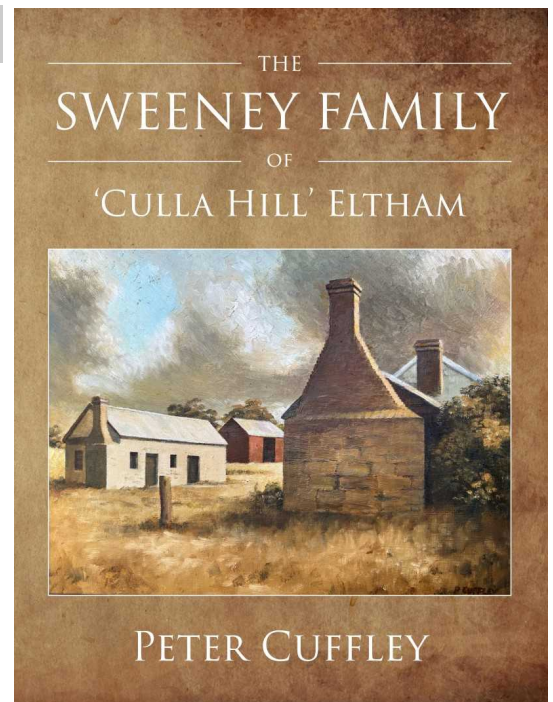
In 2024, he was finally ready to put paid to that unfinished business. The result is the 162 page history THE SWEENEY FAMILY OF 'CULLA HILL' ELTHAM. Richly illustrated with family photos, many of them unseen until now, Peter weaves a fascinating story of overcoming adversity and building a new life in Victoria from 1838 onwards.

Ordering

This book was released for sale in February 2025 and sells exclusively via Lulu Publishing Enterprises (www.lulu.com).

Website

The material at hand has far outgrown a single book so the website <http://www.sweeneyfamily.au> is to be used to house all additional materials. It is envisaged that as time goes on, further information will be gathered here. The publication of the book is not the end of the process. There is always more research to be done and more new family lines to be investigated.



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