

Cummings, Edwin (c.1826-1892)

Sponsored: Abraham Bussey (Larling, Norfolk; farm labourer)
Elizabeth Bussey (Larling, Norfolk; aged 9)
James Bussey (Larling, Norfolk; farm labourer)
Maria Bussey (Larling, Norfolk; nurse girl)
Rose Bussey nee Ludkin (Larling, Norfolk; general servant)
William Bussey Jnr (Larling, Norfolk; aged 11)
William Bussey Snr (Larling, Norfolk; ploughman)

Edwin was born about 1826 in Ottawa County, Canada East (Quebec), Canada. Edwin started a saw-mill in the River Don. The firm of Cummings, Raymond & Co. kept West Devon from tumbling to pieces at a time when the fortunes of the farmers were down to the lowest ebb. (*The North West Post*, Saturday 23 February 1907, p6: The Early Days of the North-West Coast)

Mr Edwin Cummings became proprietor in partnership with his brother and Mr Joseph Raymond. The mill was burned down in 1855, but was soon rebuilt, and the new firm went ahead. They bought the timber from all the settlers within easy reach, and ran trams in all directions to it. (*The News*, Saturday 17 Oct 1925, p7: Story of Don Settlement)

In 1853, Mr CH Huxtable entered into an arrangement with Mr Edwin Cummings to start a sawmill at the Don. The latter was a gentleman newly arrived in the Colony, with his brother, Stephen, from Canada, where he had had large experience in the lumber trade. His brother and two others were drowned on 25 January 1854 by the swamping of a boat off the Don Heads while they were taking a load of iron round from the Mersey. (*The North West Post*: Pioneer Work in Devon, Tuesday 14 Oct 1890, 4)

Edwin Cummings died on 2 April 1892 in Victoria, Australia. Obituary *Portland Guardian*, Victoria, Mon 4 Apr 1892, p2: ... Mr Cummins came to Portland from Tasmania about 15 or 16 years since, and established a very complete sawmilling, turning, cabinet-making, paint, oil, &c., establishment, in the premises now known as the Rob Roy Mills. The business was carried on for some time, when Mr Cummings relinquished his interest, and entered into agricultural pursuits in the parish of Gorse. There he went into farming on the most approved modern methods as far as possible, and we believe greatly improved his holding. ...

Edwin Cummings, Farmer, River Don, applied for Immigrant Bounty Tickets.