

## THE FIRST PIONEER

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Records of ancestry are reliant on the information supplied by people or family to another. This information can vary in its accuracy of exact dates, timing and spelling. A lot of people in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries had very little schooling and did not have the ability to write or spell. Records can also be lost, destroyed or just miss placed. For those fortunate enough to be able to write, words and names were written the way they sounded hence there was a lot of variations to dates, names and places from one person to the next. With the help of many people over a 10 year period we have managed to piece together what we think is a reasonable ancestry of the MULVAY FAMILY TREE

The name **MULVAY** reached English shores for the first time with the ancestors of the Mulvay family as they migrated following the Norman Conquest of 1066. The name Mulvay is based on the Norman given name Reginald or Regenweald, meaning “Brave Councilor”, which is an alteration of the old French name Reinold. There are many variations of the name Reinold, first found in Somerset where they were granted lands by William the Conqueror after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. I researched into Ireland where Mulvey was well known but found the VEY was definitely of Irish decent. The VAY, which did not exist in numbers in Ireland, was definitely of French decent and existed mainly in Scotland. Some researchers would suggest the name in all its variance came from the County of Clare in Ireland. The name MULVAY does exist in numbers in Northern England, Scotland, the Americas and now thanks to our Pioneer Peter, also in New Zealand and Australia.

The New Zealand Mulvay families and the Australian Mulvay Families are directly related because of our first pioneer. I must mention the existence of a Mulvay family stemming out of Cobar New South Wales, Australia. This family is not related. They came by the name Mulvay through a name change around the 1900's from Mulv-a-Hill to Mulvay. After speaking to the family it became apparent a Great Grand Father of theirs had been working with our first Pioneer and liked the name Mulvay so he changed his name from Mulv-a-Hill to Mulvay. The Cobar family of Mulvays have no relation to this Mulvay Family Tree

The first and only pioneer to bring the **MULVAY** name to New Zealand and then Australia was **PETER MULVAY** in about 1861

The life of Peter Mulvay starts in Haddington, Scotland in 1843 where he was born. We have not researched back into Scotland at this stage but it appears the Mulvay name exists there in numbers. Records of ancestry were kept by some church groups but not necessarily the Governments of the day. To continue the search of Peter Mulvay and the Mulvay name in Scotland, will take some time and would mean traveling to Edinburgh, Scotland where Peter lived and left from to come west.

The story is told Peter who was reasonable well skilled as a tin smith was in love with a young girl by the name of Elizabeth Oliver born in Sutherland shire, Scotland 1836. Elizabeth was the daughter of Alexander and Betty Oliver nee Gordon a lady in waiting to Queen Victoria at Edinburgh Castle in Scotland. Elizabeth was the Grand Daughter to a General Gordon who had served in the Queens Army. Peter was not seen to be from the right blood line to marry Elizabeth in Scotland but Queen Victoria would give her permission to the marriage only if the two migrated. At this time it was prominent for the English to migrate to Australia and it seemed the Scottish would migrate to New Zealand. The English and the Scots were not on the friendliest terms in those days.

Peter Mulvay and Elizabeth Oliver migrate to New Zealand. As some records would show (Intention to Marry Certificate) they left on different vessels arriving in Dunedin New Zealand in late 1861

On the Intention to Marry Application dated 1<sup>st</sup> February 1862 in the District of Tokomairiro south of Dunedin, it shows Peter was a shepherd aged 22 and had resided in New Zealand for 2 months where as Elizabeth Oliver was aged 22 but a resident for only 3 weeks. It was a common practice for young couples in love to falsify their age to get married. I am not suggesting this is the case but as you will see from Peters Death Certificate, Peter died aged 76 in 1919 hence the birth date 1843. If Peter was married in 1862 at aged 22 he would have been born in 1840. When you examine Elizabeth Olivers records (she re married and became Riddle) her date of death was 1924 at aged 88. This would make her birth date 1836, quite a bit older than Peter Mulvay. Many would suggest both Peter possibly 19 and Elizabeth 19 increased their ages past 21 to enable them to marry. Either way as I mentioned earlier, date, ages, places and times can get mixed up or change along the way. I can only guess why!

### **First marriage for Peter Mulvay**

Peter Mulvay and Elizabeth Oliver were married in the district of Tokomairiro south of Dunedin in New Zealand's South Island on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February 1862 and over the next 12 years produced nine (9) children. Unfortunately three (3) were stillborn.

Sometime between 1874 and 1885 Peter and Elizabeth separated and then Divorced. If a seven (7) year separation was required before divorce as it was in Australia, this would explain the time span between Peters first and second marriage in 1886.

**The Second Marriage for Peter Mulvay** was to Mary Jones nee Burns born Auckland 1847, widowed since 1882. They were married on the 1 January 1886 in the district of Buller in the north-west, South Island of NZ. Mary Jones was aged 39 her mother was Mary Ann Burns and her father William John Burns.

Check this, as you will see later Peter's eldest son Alexander married for the first time on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1886 in the District of Buller to a lady named Annie Elizabeth Burns and her mother is Mary Ann Burns and Father William John Burns.

Yes Father and Son married sisters Peter was 42 Alexander 24 their wives 39 and 21 respectively

Peter and Mary were only married for a short time possibly six (6) to seven (7) years or even less. There are no records of Peter and Mary producing any children. As you will see on Peter Mulvay's third Marriage Certificate Peter is noted as a widower. I have still to confirm the cause and date of death of Mary Mulvay.

After confirming the death of Mary Mulvay it will be clearer when and under what circumstances Peter Mulvay traveled to Australia

**The Third Marriage for Peter Mulvay** was to Henrietta Mallinder born 1869 in Sheffield, Yorkshire England. Peter and Henrietta were married in the District of Herberton Queensland, Australia on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 1891. Peter was aged 48 and Henrietta aged 22.

Peter must have been in Queensland for sometime prior to the marriage because he had all ready set up a farm which he had called MULVIEW near the Atherton Tablelands. Together Peter and Henrietta produced a further eight (8) children all born in the District of Herberton, Queensland and residents at Mulview Farm.

Peter, was very well to do at this stage in his life and had heard of cheap quality farming land on offer to settlers in the south west of Western Australia. He decided to travel to Perth and the South West to look at what was on offer. We believe Peter's second son, George, from his first marriage was already living and working in the goldfield around Kalgoorlie in Western Australia. George Gordon Mulvay became a very successful mine manager and it is agreed he was the first to discover gold in the Kalgoorlie/Coolgardie area.

Peter decided to take his favorite daughter, Henrietta (Hetty) with him to Perth, apparently he took Hetty everywhere when he traveled. Traveling by ship, the first booking had to be cancelled because Hetty became ill. Hetty becoming ill saved their lives as the ship they were booked on to travel, sank and all perished. The second booking was to see them land safely in Fremantle Western Australia. After investigating and viewing the land available Peter purchased a rather large (by standards of the day) lot of land approximately five thousand (5000) acres in an area called Kulikup north-west of Kojonup in the South West of Western Australia. Peter and Hetty then traveled back to Mulview Farm in Queensland and gathered his family for the move to Western Australia.

After approximately twenty one (20) years at MULVIEW FARM in Herberton Queensland in approximately 1912 Peter and Henrietta uprooted the whole family and moved to their new home in Western Australia.

The new farm was named **GREENBANK** as it sat on the banks of the Balgarup River near the junction with mighty Blackwood River. The location of this property is very important because it is the final resting place of Peter Mulvay. Yes Peter Mulvay senior is buried on his much loved farm. (see Grave photos and location map)

Peter Mulvay died of heart failure on his farm on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 1919 aged 76 during what was probably another hard day's work. His son from the third marriage Peter was with his father at the time he died. Peter senior is buried on the side of the hill overlooking what was the family home and the river below, a very picturesque place to be.

At the time of Peter Mulvays death in 1919 his surviving children were listed as

**First Marriage Family**

	Alexander Oliver	57
	George Gordon	55
	Mary	51
	James	47
	Jane	49
Deceased from first	2 Males	
Family	1 Female	

**Second Marriage Family**

Nil

**Third Marriage Family**

	Martha	27
	Henrietta	25
	Dorothy	23
	Peter	20
	Federal Eve	18
	Marion	16
	Robert Martin	15
	Clifford Edgar	11

The above transcript **THE FIRST PIONEER** is a composite of some of the records received to date. According to those records some of the dates of occurrence vary and assumptions have to be calculated. More detail of individuals and copy of the records are included in further pages.