## **Doran, James**

James Doran was born in 1871, in the district of Muswellbrook, son of Patrick & Ellen Doran.

In 1901 James Doran married Eleanor Theresa Gilroy, in Sydney.1

In 1906 it was reported that ‘Mr. W. Levinge, who for the past three years or so has been railway station master at Beecroft has been transferred to Heathcote on the Illawarra line, and left, with his family, for the scene of his new duties on Wednesday. Mr. Levinge, who has been succeeded by Mr. Doran, from Heathcote, made many friends during his short sojourn in Beecroft.’

James Doran commenced his duties as Beecroft station master on 6th June 1906.2

On 18th September 1912, James Doran’s father, Patrick Doran, aged 78 years, died at James’ Beecroft home, *Glendalough*, Copeland-street, Beecroft.

Patrick Doran was for 40 years connected with the railway services in this State. He was a native of Leighlin Bridge, Ireland, and came out to New South Wales in 1856. For some years he was engaged in farming pursuits at Rosebrook, N.S.W., but on the death of his wife in 1869 he transferred his farm to his brother Michael.

He was for 40 years connected with the N.S.W. railway services. He was appointed to the Muswellbrook station where he remained until his retirement about 1905, then went to reside in Sydney, and, on the death of his daughter, Catherine, in 1911, he went to stay with his son, James Doran, at Beecroft.

His surviving children were: Rev. Patrick J., P.P., Canowindra; Edward J., District Superintendent of Tramways, James, Railway Station Master, Beecroft; John, Harbors and Rivers Department; Joseph, Tramway Office; and Denis, Night Railway Station Master, Goulburn; the remaining surviving member of the family being Sister Mary Lucy, of St. Joseph's Convent, Lochinvar.3

In September 1912 James Doran, station-master at Beecroft, went on his annual holiday. It was reported: ‘Quite a canvas town has sprung up south of Beecroft station for the accommodation of the men employed on the construction of the new station, and the excavation of the bank for the deviation of the up-line. Very satisfactory progress is being made with the excavation work, the material from which is being used at the back of the station.’4

In November 1916 it was reported that ‘Mr. J. Doran, the popular Beecroft stationmaster, has severed his connection with the Railway Department after about 25 years' service. Mr. Doran, who was one of the most able officers in the Department, has entered into business.’

[He was a partner in the carrying firm of Doran and Gilroy, with a fleet of vans and motor lorries. The partnership would have been with one of his wife’s relatives. The business of Doran & Gilroy, of Beecroft, would continue into the 1920s.]5

By 1936 James & Eleanor had moved to Queensland, and their home, in Ormiston, QLD, was occupied by James Doran (mechanic), Eleanor Theresa Doran & Kevin Edward Doran (motor mechanic).**6**

In 1952 Eleanor Doran, widow, of QLD, died in N.S.W.

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages

2 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 19 May 1906, page 10; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 9 June 1906, page 10

3 Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Thursday 19 September 1912, page 8; Muswellbrook Chronicle (NSW: 1898 - 1955), Saturday 21 September 1912, page 2; Cowra Free Press (NSW: 1911 - 1937), Wednesday 25 September 1912, page 2

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 28 September 1912, page 8

5 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 25 November 1916, page 8; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Saturday 1 September 1917, page 11; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate (Parramatta, NSW: 1888 - 1950), Wednesday 21 February 1923, page 2

6 Electoral Roll, 1936