

A RELIC OF CUNNINGHAM

In 1835 Richard Cunningham, New South Wales Government Botanist, in search of N.S.W. flora and fauna, travelled from Sydney to the Bogan River district, a little-known country at that remote period. The blacks were in their primitive state then, and the Bogan River tribe was especially hostile. It was at the hands of a section of these blacks that Mr. Cunningham was done to death. He was attached to an exploring expedition under the command of Major Mitchell. To mark the spot where he was killed, which is out in the scrub land near Burbenda, about a mile from the river, a tablet was placed, but this tablet is now broken, and in a short time will be unrecognisable. Thoughtless persons have carved their names all over it, till the inscription is hardly decipherable. The tablet reads:—Richard Cunningham, Government Botanist, of this colony, attached to an exploring expedition under command of Major Mitchell, Surveyor-General, wandered in his enthusiasm for botanical investigations from his companions, and, losing himself in this locality of the Bogan River, fell into the hands of the aborigines, by whom he was unfortunately killed, about the 25th. April, 1835, in the 42nd year of his age. This tablet is erected in his memory by a vote of the Parliament of N.S.W., through the C.C.C. Lands, by S.R. Daniel, C.O.L., Wellington district.