

George Digby Heily

Rushworth Chronicle

28 December, 1894

HEILY.—On the 26th inst., at Moora, Rushworth, George Digby Heily. Aged 52 years.

There died at Moora on Wednesday last Mr George Digby Heily, than whom no one could have experienced a more chequered career.

He was born in the West of Ireland and was a son of Doctor Heily, of Roscommon. He was early placed in Mr Holme's office to learn the business of a lands agent.

After some years he abandoned this life, and under fresh masters prepared for service at the War Office in London, passing the examination and abandoning the appointment to come to the Purcells, then owning a station on the Devils River.

In time this life was given up, and under Fraser and Cohn he next held an appointment in Melbourne for a couple of years, going to New Zealand after a time and playing many parts in the drama of colonial life.

Mr Heily finally left New Zealand and early in 1865 came to Rushworth, where he remained until the close of his life, being miner, road contractor, poundkeeper, valuer, and afterwards secretary and treasurer of the Waranga Shire for a period of over twenty years. In time these appointments were also resigned, he having received high encomiums from the council for his long and responsible services.

In his late years Mr Heily acted as local auditor for the Rodney and Waranga Shires, holding the latter position until his death.

He had been an invalid for many months past. The immediate cause of death was lung and heart disease, brought about by repeated colds and exposure.

He was an excellent calligrapher, and many of his pen and ink sketches display most finished work. He was also a sound classical scholar and an expert in figures.

The remains were followed to their last resting place, the Rushworth cemetery, yesterday afternoon by a large number of people from all parts of the district.

The Rev. J. Weir officiated at the grave. Mr Medhurst carried out the funeral arrangements in an efficient manner.