

Edwin Rich

Rushworth Chronicle

2 June, 1939

The death of Mr. Edwin Rich, which occurred at the Rushworth Bush Nursing Hospital on Saturday last, 27th May, at the age of 76, removed from our midst one of the oldest identities of Rushworth.

The late Mr. Rich, whose health has been failing for some time, was removed to hospital on Wednesday last, but despite all care and attention he passed away and his demise will be regretted by a large circle of friends made during his long residence here by his upright character and his never-failing willingness to assist in any possible way.

The late Mr. Rich was born at Whimholes and came to Rushworth with his late parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Rich, in April, 1870, and has resided here the whole of the intervening 69 years, with the exception of about 12 months when he and Mrs Rich went to reside with their daughter in Melbourne.

Before the construction of the railway line to Rushworth the deceased gentleman was engaged in the business of carrier between Rushworth and Murchison with the late Messrs Taylor Bros., in the 'eighties. After the advent of the railways he carried on a carrier business in Rushworth until his retirement some few years ago.

He was a member of the first drum and fife band in Rushworth, and had a fund of interesting reminiscences of the early days at his disposal.

The late Mr. Rich was married to Miss Annie Dixon in 1889 and there were was a family of nine children, four of whom have predeceased him. Two sons, Harry Nelson and Robert Robin served in the Great War and the former was killed in action. The other members of the family to predecease him were Thomas, Frederick and Margaret.

He leaves a sorrowing wife, one daughter Amelia (Mrs. H. Poulson, Melbourne) and four sons, Robert, Edwin, William and Thomas Frederick, all of Melbourne, to mourn the loss of a devoted husband and father. The deceased gentleman is also survived by three sisters, Ellen (Mrs. Ollerrenshaw, New Zealand), Amelia (Mrs. J. Simpson, Melbourne) and Henrietta (Mrs. Gillmore, New Zealand) and one brother, Mr. F. Rich (Rushworth.)

The funeral was conducted to the Rushworth cemetery on Monday last, the remains being followed to the grave by a number of residents of the town, and many beautiful floral tributes adorned the casket. The service at the graveside was read by the Rev. W. A. Williams, who also conducted a short service at the home where he referred feelingly to Mr. Rich as one of the oldest members of the Church of England at Rushworth, and his services as a Church Warden and Vestryman, together with his good work in the church.

The coffin bearers were his four sons, Messrs Robert, Edwin, William and Frederick Rich, and the pall was carried by Messrs C. King, J. Poulson, H. Poulson, T. Dixon, N E. Dixon and A. G. Heywood. The flower bearers were Messrs H. Bedwell, senr., H. Bedwell, junr., W. C. Lambden, A. J. Sleep, E. Bertram, J. Dixon and W. Smith and the funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr. Graham Diggle of Seymour and were carried out in a dignified and solemn manner.