

## **Fred Douglass**

**Rushworth Chronicle**

**6 May, 1898**

F. Douglass expired at his residence on the Merrigum road, Rushworth, on Tuesday evening.

"Fred, the baker," was a well-known character in Heathcote in the very early days of the diggings. After the Spring Creek rush had subsided he came to Rushworth and opened a baker's shop which, however, was not a success.

He latterly followed the occupation of a miner. Forty years ago he suffered from cancer of the tongue, and had that organ taken out in the Bendigo hospital by Dr Atkinson, we believe.

That was the first operation of the kind that had been performed in the colony. "Fred," on that occasion when leaving home, wished his relatives and friends a melancholy goodbye, never thinking that he could successfully stand such an ordeal, but he turned up as smilingly as ever a couple of months afterwards, much to the astonishment of those who had not received news of the progress he had been making.

The remains were interred in the local cemetery yesterday. The Rev. J. R. Walker officiated at the grave, and Mr G. Anderson was the undertaker.