

## Mr Frederick Smith

**Rushworth Chronicle**

**3 August, 1934**

As briefly reported in our last week's issue the death occurred at his residence, Stanhope road, of Mr. Frederick James Smith, after an illness extending over some months.

The late Mr. Smith was born in North Melbourne, and was the eldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, his father being an engine driver on the suburban railways, Melbourne. When a young lad of 14 he went to Ballarat and learnt the bootmaking trade, and afterwards went to South Melbourne. He came to Rushworth 48 years ago, where he was employed by the late Mr. Joe Pettifer.

After Mr Pettifer's departure Mr Smith took over his bootmaking business which he carried on up till a few months before his death, when his illness caused him to cease active work, his business being looked after by his son, Victor. Mr Smith was the oldest business man in the town who had started up and carried on his own business up till the time of his death.

In his younger days Mr. Smith took a great interest in sport, and was a noted long distance runner and sprinter. He was also a member of the Rushworth Fire Brigade and was a first-class hydrant man, and assisted in winning several of the trophies at demonstrations which now adorn the cases in the Rushworth Fire Station. With Messrs F. Rich and E. A. Muhlhan they hold the record for manual free engine practice.

Mr. Smith was also a foundation member of the Rushworth Branch of the A. N. A. and was one of the oldest members of the Association in the State.

The late Mr. Smith was of a jovial disposition and popular with all with whom he came in contact, and well-known and highly esteemed throughout the town and district, in fact a townsman that the town could ill afford to lose.

He married Miss Meares of West Melbourne, who had been his playmate and companion when they were children together. His wife predeceased him in October of last year and he never got over her death.

His death leaves a family of two sons (one son, Egbert, late of A.I.F., having predeceased him), Fred (late A.I.F., Gargarre East), Victor (Rushworth), and three daughters --- Grace (Mrs. E. James, Newlyn), Olive (Mrs. R. Kelly) and Ruth (Rushworth). He was also a brother of Mr. S. A. Smith (Rushworth), late F. W. Smith, A. W. Smith (Cheltenham), Egbert (Moonee Ponds), and Louisa (Mrs. L. Blakey, Montrose).

The funeral took place on Friday last, the funeral cortege being headed by the members of the Rushworth Fire Brigade, in uniform. The local branch of the A.N.A. was also represented. There was also a large number of residents of the town and district in the funeral procession to the Rushworth cemetery.

The burial service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. A. Banks (Presbyterian) and Lieutenant J. Collard read the burial service of the Fire Brigade. The coffin-bearers were ex-Captain G. W. Hawking, Secretary Leonard Coyle, Fireman Geo. Collard, W. Pepperell, G. Brice and D. Coyle. The flower bearers were Foreman A. W. Furphy, Apparatus-Officer G. Peart, Firemen K. King and W. Charry. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. E. F. Anderson.