

## George Phillips

Rushworth Chronicle

23 June, 1893

DEATH OF MR GEORGE PHILLIPS.

The information that Mr George Phillips had died suddenly at his residence, Coburg, on Tuesday afternoon, came as a great shock to his many friends and acquaintances in this district, the more so as it was only a week or two ago that he visited Murchison, and was then apparently in the best of health and spirits.

The deceased, who was born within the sound of Bow Bells [London], was a colonist of many years standing, having come to Victoria in the early gold field days from Bury St. Edmonds, England, with his aunt. He first settled down at Longwood, from which place he removed to Rushworth in 1867, when he married the landlady and took charge of the Criterion Hotel.

One year later the great Spring Creek [Graytown] rush broke out, and Mr Phillips opened an hotel there. After conducting the business for a short time he sold out at a good price to Mr G. Simpson, and returned to Rushworth. Here, in conjunction with his wife, he continued to carry on the hotel very successfully, his jovial and hearty manner making him one of the most popular of bonifaces [publicans].

While in Rushworth Mr Phillips engaged in mining with a very fair amount of success, and among other ventures he was a shareholder in the Forlorn Hope and Try Again companies while both mines were paying well.

He took a very active part in local politics, being at one time a prominent member of the Waranga Shire Council, in which at different periods he represented the Central and Eastern Ridings with satisfaction to the ratepayers and credit to himself.

About seven years ago his wife died, and shortly afterwards he retired from business.

Eighteen months ago Mr Phillips married again, his second wife being Mrs Darby, relict of the late Mr W. Darby. He then went to reside at Coburg, where his demise took place as stated on Tuesday about 3 p.m., the cause of his death, we understand, being apoplexy.

He had some fine properties about Murchison, which he held up to the time of his death. There was also a policy on his life amounting to £1000.

There were few men more widely known or better liked than Mr George Phillips, and his sudden removal from this mundane sphere will be greatly regretted by all who were acquainted with him.

The remains were conveyed to Rushworth by the early train yesterday morning, and were interred in the local cemetery during the afternoon.

The funeral cortege was followed to the grave by a large number of friends, Murchison being well represented. The Rev. Mr Walker officiated. The funeral arrangements were well carried out by Mr Anderson.