

Henry Barnes Pitman

Waranga Chronicle

13 June, 1872

DEATH.

PITMAN.—On Monday, June 10th at his residence at the Court House, Rushworth, Henry Barnes Pitman, Esq., Clerk of Petty Sessions. Aged 41 years.

Yesterday afternoon a considerable number of the friends of the late Mr Pitman followed his remains to our cemetery. We noticed several gentlemen from Murchison and Whroo among the number. The Church of England burial service was impressively read on the occasion by Mr Short. Mr Pitman, the notice of whose death appears in another column, commenced mining on Sandhurst in 1852. In 1853 he came to Rushworth, and worked in various places in this vicinity, till, in 1857 he opened the Old Lead, when there were only about 20 persons upon it, and caused the great rush.

Sometime after this he took up a claim at Balaclava, Whroo, in conjunction with Messrs Walbran and Taylor, where he continued to work till 1861, when the party was broken up, and he became assistant to Mr Walbran, with whom he stayed until September 1872. On leaving Mr Walbran he went to New Zealand and stopped there for some months, but being unfortunate in mining and the climate not suiting his constitution, he returned to this colony and obtained the situation of Mining Registrar at Sandhurst.

At this time great stagnation prevailed in mining matters in Sandhurst, so that the appointment was not as remunerative as he expected; he consequently resigned and went to Heathcote to take charge of a branch store belonging to the Routledge Bros., at Argyle Gully. Owing to some changes which were made in the firm, he left and went to Wood's Point as mining manager, and remained there, till he obtained the appointment of Secretary to this Shire. On the resignation of Mr Church, Mr Pitman was made Clerk of Court, since which he has been appointed Land Officer, and Mining Registrar, all of which offices he retained till the time of his death.

IN MEMORIAM.

There are few tasks more difficult than that of writing the obituary notice of a friend with whom one has been, for a considerable space, on terms of personal intimacy, and on whose career but one comment can be made; whose good qualities were generally recognised and whose vices could not be discovered. In the first paroxysm of public regret one is in such cases too frequently led into panegyrics which would, we know, disgust their object while living, and must, by consequence, be regarded as an insult to the memory of the dead. Of Mr Pitman, then, our *In Memoriam* shall be brief but to the purpose; and when we say that he was "*every inch a man*" we believe we have fully expressed the opinion of all those who knew him best, and who have watched the painful struggle he has maintained with singular fortitude for so long a time. In the conduct of his multifarious and responsible duties he gained numerous friends, and excited no enmity. His marked independence of character commanded the respect, while his amiability of disposition secured the affection and esteem of the entire little world in which during the last few years he lived, moved, and had his being. His place among us will not readily be supplied, and it will be long indeed before his name shall have passed from the lips of those who this day mourn him.

If it were possible to offer consolation to his widow and family in their severe bereavement, no pen would be readier than ours. But *that* ground is too sacred for us to tread upon. Respectfully, then, and sorrowfully we draw the veil over their deep affliction.

But when at some future time Mrs Pitman may peruse these lines she will derive satisfaction, at least, in the remembrance that the partner of her former joys, the sharer of her previous sorrows, and above all the father of her children, was one who went to his long rest pillowed on the love of his nearest friends, and honored with the silent applause of all his associates. *De mortuis nil nisi bonum* but there are few, very few indeed, of whom, as of Mr Pitman, it can be said that during their lifetime it was impossible, with justice, to speak ill of them.