

Henry Thompson

Rushworth Chronicle

2 June, 1893

Death has been busy with the old residents of this district lately, for no sooner has one passed away than we have the painful duty of recording the demise of another, the last to leave us being Henry Thompson, who expired at his residence, Fontainbleau, on Friday afternoon, after a short illness, at the ripe age of 90 years.

Thompson, who had previously been well known as a hotelkeeper at Snakebanks, Tasmania, arrived in Rushworth during the early part of 1855, and shortly afterwards, in conjunction with Messrs D. S. Campbell and Co., then wine and spirit merchants in Melbourne, erected the first weatherboard building in Rushworth, architecture up to that date not having advanced beyond the slab and bark stage.

The new building, which was described at the time as being "a great ornament to the township," and had been erected "to fill a long felt want," there being very few houses at which decent accommodation could be obtained, was afterwards opened as Thompson's Hotel out of compliment to the resident partner.

Thompson remained in business for about nine years, when he sold out to the Messrs Darby Bros. (J.S. and W.,) who changed the name of the house to the Rushworth Hotel, and the property has remained in the hands of the family since.

Shortly after going out of business Thompson found himself at Fontainbleau, where he discovered the once celebrated reef bearing that name, from which some splendid crushings were obtained. So good were they that it was thought that he was on the high road to fortune, but suddenly the yield fell off, and although he held the mine till the time of his decease in the hope of striking another good patch luck has been against him. He succeeded, however, at different times in obtaining payable crushings, but was never fortunate enough to get anything like such good stone as when the mine was first opened.

The deceased was laid beside his two children in the Rushworth cemetery on Sunday afternoon.

The funeral obsequies were in the hands of Mr Anderson. The Rev. Mr Walker read the burial service.

Rushworth Chronicle

9 June, 1893

DEATH.

THOMPSON. - On 26th May, at Fontainbleau, Henry Thompson, the beloved husband of Catherine Thompson. Aged 90 years.

He will sleep, but not for ever;
There will be a glorious dawn.
When we meet to part; No, never!
On that resurrection morn.

