

## Jes. Hansen Dreyer

**Rushworth Chronicle**

**13 December, 1912**

Death has considerably reduced the ranks of the older inhabitants of the Rushworth district during the past week, no less than three old and respected residents having passed to that bourne from which no traveller returneth. [John Hicks buried Rushworth, Thomas Sweeney buried Mooroopna.]

Then on Wednesday evening it was found that Mr Jes. Hansen Dreyer, of Stanhope road, Rushworth, had passed away suddenly in his sleep.

It appears that deceased was in the town on Tuesday afternoon, and he then made an appointment with Mr Phil. Brice to go on a fishing excursion on Wednesday afternoon. As he did not turn up Mr Brice went to ascertain the cause. He found the house locked up and came to the conclusion that he must have gone out somewhere.

Later in the evening, Mr Brice again went, in company with Mr R. Fitzpatrick, to see if he had returned. No one had seen the old man about, and as it was found that both doors were locked from the inside an endeavour was made to raise the window. As soon as this was done Mr Drever was seen lying peacefully in bed, with one hand across his breast, having apparently passed away in his sleep during the previous night. Deceased was a native of Denmark, and was 77 years of age.

A magisterial inquiry was held yesterday morning when a finding was recorded that deceased died from natural causes and that there were no suspicious circumstances. Deceased was the oldest surviving member of the local lodge of Oddfellows, of which he had been a valued and respected member for the past forty-two years.

The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery yesterday afternoon, the funeral service being read by the Rev. J. R. Walker and the lodge service by Bro. H. G. Brice, there being over 20 lodge members present.

A magisterial inquiry was held by Dr Christie, J.P., at the Rushworth Court House on Thursday morning touching the death of Jes. Hansen Dreyer, who was found dead at his late residence, Stanhope Road, Rushworth, on the previous evening.

Philip Brice deposed to the effect that he went to deceased's residence on Wednesday evening and found him lying in his bed dead. There were no signs of any struggle. He last saw deceased on Tuesday afternoon at his hotel, when they arranged to go fishing on Wednesday afternoon. As deceased did not keep the appointment he went to his residence, and as the neighbors had not seen him he tried to get into the place. R. Fitzpatrick helped him to lift up the window and he got through, when he found deceased lying dead in bed. He then informed the police.

Dr Heily deposed that he had frequently attended deceased as his lodge doctor. He suffered with heart disease, and heart failure was the cause of his death.

Mrs Bailey deposed that she was a neighbour of deceased, and she saw him on Tuesday evening, when he appeared to be alright. She did not see him again until he was found dead on Wednesday evening.

Evidence was given by Constable Harry as to the finding of the body as detailed above. There were no suspicious circumstances. A finding was recorded in accordance with the medical testimony.

