

John Peebles

Rushworth Chronicle

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Yet another of the oldest and most respected residents of the district has passed to that bourne from which no traveller returneth. On this occasion it is our sad duty to record the death of Mr John Peebles of Wanalta, which took place on Monday morning last.

For some months past, deceased had been ill. And his death was not unexpected. He was 73 years of age and death was due chiefly to a general break up of the system.

The late Mr Peebles was a well-known identity right throughout the district, having been connected with the construction of the various irrigation channels ever since the inception of the Echuca and Waranga Waterworks Trust.

He was a native of Ayrshire, Scotland, and came to the colonies in 1850. For some years he followed mining pursuits in both Victoria and New Zealand. He was married in Spring Creek but later took up his residence at Kangaroo Flat in 1869, where he resided until 1875, when he took up land on the Wanalta Creek.

In 1884 he was appointed an inspector of works under the Echuca and Waranga Trust, and later accepted a similar position under the Water Supply Department. Under his supervision the first section of the National Channel from the Goulburn Weir was constructed in 1889.

In 1896 he undertook the supervision of the Mount Loddington reservoir in connection with the St. Arnaud water supply, and from there went to the Upper Coliban reservoir, Kyneton; then to the Basin embankment, on the completion of which he was transferred to a Waranga-Mallee channel section near his old home at Wanalta, where he resided until the time of his death.

On first arriving at Wanalta he engaged in rural pursuits for some years, but on his appointment in connection with water supply turned the farm over to the charge of his sons, of whom he had three, who are left to mourn their loss in conjunction with a sorrowing wife.

His remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Sunday afternoon last when the respect in which he was held was apparent, the funeral cortege being one of the largest ever seen in the district.

The Rev. J. Weir, B.A., conducted the burial service, the mortuary arrangements being in the hands of Mr G. Anderson.