

## John Ahern

Rushworth Chronicle

3 January, 1936

(death 23 December, 1935)

### One of Rushworth's Two Oldest Residents

Widespread regret was expressed at the news of the death of Mr. John Ahern, of Rushworth, who passed away at the Bush Nursing Hospital on 23rd December last.

Mr. Ahern was taken suddenly ill, on 18th December with a stroke that proved fatal.

He was a native of Rushworth, where he was born 74 years ago in a house that stood on the same spot as the residence he occupied at the time of his death. Rushworth had been his home all his life and we understand that he and Mr. W. H. Geyle (who unfortunately is now ill) were the oldest residents of the town.

Nearly fifty years ago the late Mr. Ahern married Miss Sophie Crawley, who is also a native of this district, and survives him.

Most of his active life until he retired about seven years ago was spent as a contractor for road and earth works. For the past 20 years he and his sons had been continuously engaged in contract work for the Country Roads Board and they carried out many important works in the North and North-East of Victoria for the Board.

Amongst other contracts carried out by Mr. Ahern were the clearing of the land for Waranga Basin, over 30 years ago, and channelling in connection with the scheme; construction of the Dunlop's hill storage tank at Rushworth; and construction work for the Rushworth-Colbinabbin railway line.

The nature of his occupation took him away to various parts, but his home was always at Rushworth and although his work precluded him from taking an active part in public affairs, he was keenly interested in local activities and a generous supporter of all worthy movements. He was one of the oldest members of the local Oddfellows' Lodge and served for many years on the Cemetery Trust.

The late Mr. Ahern was well liked and highly respected by a very wide circle of friends who regret the demise of a fine old gentleman and sympathise deeply with the bereaved widow and family in their great loss. Besides the widow seven sons and daughters survive him, viz., Annie (Melbourne), Jennie (Mrs Preston, Coburg), Elizabeth (Rushworth), Vic. (Euroa), Bob (Euroa), Connie (Mrs. Mason, Brunswick) and Kathleen (Rushworth). One son, John, predeceased him.

The remains were interred at Rushworth on 24th December, when there was a large gathering at the graveside. Rev. Fr. Tehan, assisted by officers of the Oddfellows' Lodge, performed the last rites. The pall-bearers were: Messrs. H. McEvoy, I. Lloyd, Leo. Stockdale, J. Clarke, J. Connolly and A. Budd, the coffin-bearers, Messrs F. Collins, J. H. Wootton, H. Bedwell and R. H. Darroch, and the flower-bearers Messrs. R. Cocks and D. Wootton.

Messrs. Whitaker and Diggle carried out the mortuary arrangements.