

Mr George Anderson

Nagambie Times

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By the death of Mr. George Anderson, blacksmith, which occurred on Saturday, 1st inst., Rushworth has lost its oldest identity.

The deceased was very widely known, and although he had reached 84 years of age, he was a familiar figure around the town up till about a month ago, when he was compelled to take to his bed.

It is now some 59 years since the late Mr. Anderson first set foot in Rushworth, he arriving here in the year 1857. He came from Epsom, and, quickly recognising the opportunity which offered for the establishment of a blacksmith and wheelwright business, at once sent away for his mate (the late Mr. Merchant Coy), and the two established the business at the south end of High street, which he carried on till the time of his death, his partner having predeceased him by about 20 years.

At this time the diggings were at their zenith, and deceased saw some stirring times, which he was pleased to recount at intervals for the benefit of those of a later period. He was one of the sturdy pioneers of the early days, and, as demonstrating the stuff of which he was made and what he had to face, it was his proud boast that when he landed in Victoria he had but sixpence in his pocket, and this sixpence he retained to the day of his death.

Fancy a man stepping on to the shore of a strange land 10,000 miles from home with a "tanner" to his name—enough to make one feel depressed! Work was plentiful, however, for nearly everyone was flocking to the Diggings. He accepted a position at his trade at the satisfactory remuneration of £7 per week, which soon enabled him to establish himself on a much sounder financial basis.

Like most of the earlier pioneers, deceased did not come all the way to Australia to content himself with a wages billet. The gold fever was raging and opportunities were plentiful—deceased set out after them. Thus he visited various places, and, as a result of these peregrinations, eventually landed in Rushworth, as stated, in '57, and here he succeeded in establishing a lucrative business, which he maintained to the day of his death.

Mr. Anderson was a native of March, Cambridgeshire, England, and landed in Victoria but a short time prior to settling here.

He was married in Rushworth, and a few years ago celebrated his golden wedding.

In the early history of Rushworth deceased took a prominent part in public affairs, and at one time occupied a seat on the Waranga Shire Council. He used to view with pride the present shire hall, for the building of which he took some credit, seeing that his name appears on the books in connection with the original motion for its construction.

He was also a member of the school board, and, later of the board of advice, altogether occupying the position for a term of close on 40 years. This was something, for in the earlier days the board had a much wider sphere of influence and the position was one entailing a deal of time and attention.

In various other directions he took his part, and that he earned the esteem of his fellow men was evidenced on Sunday afternoon last by the large number of people who followed his remains to their last resting-place, the local cemetery.

The funeral cortege, which was headed by the local brass band, who played The Dead March In Saul, was indeed a lengthy one, and included a good representation of members of the Foresters' Lodge, of which body deceased was a very old and valued member. Bros. D. Mathers, J. M. Scott, A. Lambden, A. Martin, W. Curtis and J. Poulson acted as pall-bearers, while the lodge's impressive service was read at the graveside by Bro. Chris. Brown.

The funeral obsequies were conducted by the Rev. B. A. Rowell.

Deceased leaves a wife and grown-up family of ten children (seven sons and three daughters) to mourn his death.—"Chronicle."