

J. S. Darby

Rushworth Chronicle

20 January, 1893

OBITUARY. DEATH OF MR J. S. DARBY.

Quite a shock went through Rushworth yesterday when word was received by wire from Shepparton that Mr J. S. Darby had expired that morning. On the previous evening a telegram was received by his son, Mr W. Darby, to the effect that his father was very ill, and he at once started off to Kialla, where his father was residing. So hale and hearty, however, did the deceased appear the last time he was in Rushworth, only two or three weeks since, that no one anticipated serious results, and the news of his death came therefore as the greater shock.

Up to the time of going to press no word had been received as to the cause of his death, but it is presumed that it was connected with an attack of his old enemy, gout.

With the demise of Mr Darby another link connecting the present town of Rushworth with the early days of the diggings has been snapped. The deceased, in company with his brother William, arrived in Rushworth in 1864, and met with fair success in alluvial mining and puddling. In conjunction with the late David Clarke, the brothers Darby embarked in storekeeping, but still maintained a deep interest in mining pursuits. Subsequently both brothers went in pretty extensively for farming at Moora.

When it came to be a somewhat recognised fact that alluvial mining as a source of wealth was mostly worked out in this neighbourhood. the deceased turned his attention to quartz mining, of which he remained a consistent supporter up to the time of his death. Scarcely a mine of any promise was opened around the district but J. S. Darby's name appeared on the share list.

He bought Sinnett and party out of the site on the Hard Hill at present embraced in the Crown Cross lease, that company having purchased the right from Darby Bros. and Watcham.

It was solely through the energy of the deceased that so ranch work was done to the eastward of Rushworth, and so much gold obtained. When the present Crown Cross Company was formed Mr Darby retained a very large interest, and never lost faith in the old mine. Indeed, at the time of his death he was engaged, in consequence of the capital of the company being nearly exhausted, in devising a scheme for increasing the capital. As recently as the 8th inst. he wrote to a friend in Rushworth on this subject, remarking in the letter, "We may never, in my lifetime, anyway, see the same chance of trying the deep ground."

His prophecy with regard to his own life has been indeed fulfilled. Mr Darby during his Jong residence in Rushworth was ever ready to assist in any movement for the public welfare, and we have before us a copy of the "Waranga Echo" of February 13, 1868, in which the following well-remembered names appear as agitating for an amalgamation of the Rushworth schools:—J. G. Stewart, T. W. Benbow, W. C. Walbran, W. Gunn, P. Sinnett, H. Hicks, and J. S. Darby. All these have passed away.

The deceased, who was 63 years of age, for some [years] occupied a seat in the Waranga Shire Council, and was an active member of the committee of the Mechanics' Institute.

The several cordial factories of Darby Bros, throughout the district all owe their origin to Mr J. S. Darby. Some few years ago he removed to Shepparton and subsequently to Kialla, at which place he had laid the foundation of an extensive orchard and vineyard.

Deceased leaves a widow and two sons and two daughters, all grown up. The remains will be brought to Rushworth by the midday train today and will be conveyed to St. Paul's Church of England, and thence to the cemetery.

The members of the Masonic Lodge and Court Forest Home, A.O.F., are requested to meet and take part in the obsequies.