

Mr James Russel

Rushworth Chronicle

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OBITUARY MR JAMES RUSSEL

In the death of Mr James Russel, of "Hope Farm," Girgarre East, there passes away one of the earliest settlers of the district.

It is doubtful if Rushworth and district have ever had a more familiar figure—one who was known everywhere, and who was widely respected.

He was a very keen business man, an excellent judge of stock, and, notwithstanding his great age (85 years) was to be seen almost daily in Rushworth and attended the various stock sales up to within less than twelve months ago.

Death was due to senile decay, and in the end the old gentleman slept and quietly slipped away.

Respecting the death of Mr Russel our Girgarre East correspondent writes:

—Mr James Russel, one of our oldest and best known pioneers, died at his residence, "Hope Farm," Girgarre E, on Sunday, 24th December. He had been ill for about 12 months and, gradually growing worse, finally succumbed to heart failure at the age of 85 years.

Deceased, who was of that hardy race in the north of Ireland who are sometimes designated as improved Scotchmen, came to Melbourne in 1857. He first engaged in dairying at Caulfield, and then, after a short spell in the hotelkeeping line, carried on market gardening at East Brighton. Settling in Girgarre East in '78, he was very successful in farming pursuits and acquired a considerable amount of property.

His wife, the late Mrs Russel, predeceased him by about ten years, and he leaves behind him four sons and three daughters. The eldest son, John, left here about 26 years ago to enter into possession of Upper Cavan farm, Donegal—a farm that has been in the hands of the family for a good many generations—the remaining three are settled in the district.

The large concourse that followed the remains to the Rushworth cemetery on Tuesday testified to the esteem and respect in which deceased was held.

The Rev. Weir conducted the service and the mortuary arrangements were under the care of Mr Anderson.