

Mr Thomas D. Sleep

Murchison Advertiser

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It is with regret that we have to chronicle the death of Mr Thomas D. Sleep which sad event happened on Saturday night last, 13th February, at his residence, Rushworth. The deceased, who was a well-known and highly respected resident, had attained the ripe old age of 70 years, and, as he had been in failing health for the last few months, his end was not unexpected by his friends.

The late Mr Sleep was a native of Devonshire, England. He came to Victoria when quite a young man, and was a colonist of over 50 years. On his arrival in the State he went to Creswick, and followed the occupation of a miner at that place and Bendigo.

About forty years ago he was amongst the early settlers at Carag, where he selected land. After thirty years of farming he settled down for the remainder of his life in Rushworth, where he conducted an agency business which he carried on up to the time of his death.

The deceased was an ardent and enthusiastic church worker. He was a local preacher at Creswick, and on his arrival at Carag was not long before he was performing the same duties in the Bible Christian connection, his work on Sundays often taking him far beyond Rochester. No matter what the weather was like he would travel miles to fill his preaching appointments, and at that time the Carag roads were not in the fine condition they are at present, and there was a saying among the church people—"Sleep never misses his services."

At the Union of Methodist Churches, and after Carag was united to the Rushworth circuit, he filled the position of local preacher until about two years ago when, owing to failing health, he had to give up a portion of this work. He was a kind-hearted man, and was ever ready to do anyone a good turn.

Mr Sleep had been twice married, and leaves a wife and grown-up family of seven sons and two daughters to mourn his loss.

The remains of deceased were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Tuesday afternoon. Mr G. Anderson conducted the funeral arrangements, and Mr W. W. Ingram the service at the grave.