

Mr George Cracknell

Murchison Advertiser

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Great regret was expressed in Rushworth on Tuesday when it became known that Mr Cracknell had expired that morning at Daylesford, to which town he had gone for the benefit of his health.

The late Mr Cracknell was born at Hornden, Essex, England, in the year 1835, came to the colony in 1854, and after trying his luck in various places he arrived in Rushworth in 1858 and purchased the bakery business then carried on by Mr Burns.

When the construction of the railway was going on between Bendigo and Echuca he started a branch business at Rochester, and also one at Spring Creek [Graytown] during the time of the big rush in 1868.

In 1862 he assisted to open the Foresters Court here, and at the time of his death he was the only survivor of those who founded the lodge, all the others having predeceased him.

He also joined the Waranga St. John's Lodge of Freemasons at Murchison on its inauguration about thirty years since, and afterwards the Jubilee Lodge when it was opened in Rushworth, and was a regular attendant to his duties as long as health lasted, and one of his last requests was that the brethren should be present at his funeral.

He had also been a trustee of the Rushworth cemetery from the first. Besides carrying on his business with success he took a great interest in mining, being one of the principal shareholders in the celebrated "Mongolian," "Frenchman's," "Try Again " and many other mines, out of some of which he did very well.

Shortly after the 1869 Land Act passed, and when the great rush for land took place in this part of the colony, Mr Cracknell was seized with earth hunger and selected on the Stanhope road, on which he spent his leisure hours and considerably improved the holding.

About ten years ago, after returning from a visit to the old country, he handed over the baking business to his son John and went to reside on his property.

The late Mr Cracknell was a man of the highest integrity, with whom it was a pleasure to do business, and consequently he was highly respected by all.

He leaves a widow and numerous family to mourn their loss.

The remains were brought to Rushworth by train on Wednesday. The funeral cortege consisted of the Rushworth Brass Band, members of the Masonic and Foresters' lodges, and a large number of the residents. The first move was made to St. Paul's Church of England, and after the usual service it proceeded to the cemetery.

The Rev. J. R. Walker officiated at the grave and R. W. Bro. Dr Heily conducted the Masonic service, and Mr C. Brown did a similar duty for the Foresters. Mr G. Anderson conducted the funeral obsequies.

The deceased was assured for £1000.