

Mr J. S. Turnbull

Rushworth Chronicle

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DEATH OF MR J. S. TURNBULL.

Quite a shock was experienced by the townspeople of Rushworth and district when it became known on Saturday evening last that Mr J. S. Turnbull, late teacher at the Moora South State School, had succumbed to the illness from which he had recently been suffering.

Mr Turnbull was apparently in good health until about the beginning of the year. He then began to show signs of illness, and although unable to continue his professional duties he was, nevertheless, not confined to his bed.

He later on passed some time in Daylesford and also in Melbourne in the hope that the change might prove beneficial, and consulted doctors in both places. The disease from which he died (cancer of the stomach and liver) would appear to have been well masked at that period, and completely puzzled the medical fraternity.

About Easter time he attempted to again take up his duties at the school, but it was only a matter of a couple of days and he became worse than ever. He gradually failed and about a month ago Dr Christie was called into consultation with his medical adviser (Dr Heily). It was then agreed that an internal growth was the trouble, the former going [two words obscured] and expressing it as his opinion that deceased was suffering from cancer of the liver and stomach (an opinion sustained by the autopsy made on Sunday).

Three days later he was taken to the Mooroopna Hospital. It was here found, however, after carefully studying the case, that nothing could be done, and he returned home to Rushworth on the 3rd May, two days before he died.

He was greatly emaciated in body when he returned from the hospital, still there were few who thought the end so near, and news of his death therefore came as a greater shock.

Deceased was a man of sterling worth, and in whatever capacity he was placed it was just the same. He maintained that spirit of thoroughness and uprightness in all his undertakings such as could only gain for him the utmost good feeling and regard from all with whom he became associated. As an organiser and conductor in connection with all social functions he was excellent, and his services in this direction will be sadly missed. With whatever institution or order he became associated his undoubted ability soon asserted itself and it was not long before he found himself at the helm directing affairs.

Thus it was that we found him a prominent Freemason; an equally prominent member of the Loyal Orange Lodge and also of the Caledonian Society of Rushworth; leader of the Presbyterian Church Choir, in fact, an able and valued leader in almost every local movement.

By his death the district suffers a severe loss, and never before were more genuine expressions of regret apparent.

Deceased was quite a young man, being in his 44th year. He came to Rushworth with his wife and family about fifteen years ago, and took up the duties of assistant at the local school. Later he assumed charge of the Moora South school, which position he held till the time of his death. Had he lived till next month he would have completed his thirtieth year of service under the Education Department and would then have been entitled to a pension on retiring.

Great sympathy is felt for Mrs Turnbull and her three daughters in their untimely bereavement, and the high esteem in which deceased was held was evidenced by the large number of sympathisers who accorded him the last tribute of respect on Monday afternoon.

The funeral was led by the Rushworth Brass Band, who, by request, played a hymn in lieu of the Dead March. Then followed the Masons and Orangemen, the latter being very strongly represented. Deceased was a leading member of both Institutions and the members of the former bore his remains to the grave on a bier.

The local Caledonian Society were strongly represented, and there were also representatives from the Kyabram Caledonian Society.

The ranks of the Masons were also considerably augmented by additions from Murchison and other district lodges.

The service at the grave was performed by the Rev. J. Weir, B.A., assisted by the Rev. J. Hewitt, M.A. (Murchison). Bro. J. V. Heily read the Masonic service while Bro. J. R. Walker acted in a like capacity for the Orangemen.

Both services were of a very impressive character and lent effect to the solemnity of the occasion. The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Mr W. Medhurst.