

Mr John Laracy

Murchison Advertiser

15 October, 1915

The death took place at the Mooroopna Hospital on Tuesday night last of Mr John Laracy, of Rushworth.

Deceased, who was 79 years of age, suffered from a general break-up of the system, and was taken to the institution named less than a fortnight prior to his death.

He was one of the hardy pioneering old sort, and it was generally recognised that when it came to the hospital with him, the end was not far off.

He was one of the early settlers of the district, and for many years followed rural pursuits at Girgarre East, where he had selected the holding at present occupied by his son James.

He was a native of Erin's Isle and was reputed to have had some association with the Blarney Stone, for he dearly loved to talk. However that may have been he certainly was possessed of a deal of wit and had a ready and apt answer to almost any remark made to him.

Writer remembers a court case away back in the dim long ago—in the days of the late Alfred Wyatt, police magistrate. Said Alfred Wyatt was one of the most austere and grumpy persons one could imagine, and delighted in finding fault with anyone and everyone. The case was about a fence, and it remained for Laracy to lower the old fellow's colors.

"What sort of a fence was it?" said the P.M. "Oh! Just an ordinary under and over fence," said Laracy. "What?" roared His Worship. "Just an ordinary under and over fence, Your Worship," repeated Laracy.

"And what sort of a fence might that be?" snapped the P.M. "Well," said Laracy, "if you're too lazy to step over it you can just crawl under it." Collapse of Alfred.

Deceased was very widely known—in fact everybody knew Mr Laracy. They did not only know him as a reputed wit, but those acquainted with his late wife and himself knew them as most benevolent and kind-hearted people, always ready and willing to help their neighbours. Some few years back Mr Laracy relinquished farming pursuits and came to live in Rushworth and he became a well-known town identity.

He leaves a family of two sons and one daughter to mourn his death.

The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Thursday afternoon, and the respect in which he was held was shown by the large number of people who accorded him the last tribute of respect.

The Rev. Father Moran conducted the service at the grave.