

## **Mrs Elizabeth Merryfull**

**Murchison Advertiser**

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### **'A Shocking Calamity'**

Just about eight o'clock on Monday evening last the residents of Rushworth were startled by the ringing of the firebell. It was soon learned that the outbreak was at the residence of Mrs Eliza Merryfull, situated on the Nuggetty Road, about half-a-mile from the town.

A rush was made for the scene but nothing could be done towards saving the building, which was a mass of flame—in fact, it was practically doomed to destruction even when first noticed. Mrs Merryfull resided in the place with one of her sons, but it appears that about half-an-hour before the outbreak he went to visit a neighbour who lived about a quarter of a mile away. Therefore it is not known how the outbreak occurred.

As the old lady was not to be seen about it was feared that she had met her death in the burning building, and when the fire had moderated a search was made amongst the debris and her charred remains were then discovered. They were burnt beyond recognition, only the trunk remaining intact.

It was a sad ending for the old lady, who was 74 years of age and was well known and respected throughout the Rushworth and Redcastle districts. The remains were interred in the local cemetery on Wednesday afternoon in the presence of a large number of sympathisers, the Rev. Howell conducting the funeral service.

A magisterial inquiry was held by Dr Heily, J.P., on Tuesday afternoon, when evidence was tendered bearing out the above statements. A finding of accidental death was recorded.