

Mrs Flora McLarty

Rushworth Chronicle

22 September, 1916

A very old resident of the Girgarre East district passed away on Wednesday morning last in the person of Mrs Flora McLarty, relict of the late Mr Neil McLarty.

Deceased had reached the ripe old age of 91 years. With her late husband she was one of the earliest settlers in the district, and was held in the highest esteem by all who knew her. Death was due to senile decay.

The funeral is timed to leave the residence of her son-in-law (Mr J. W. Russell) at two o'clock this (Friday) afternoon for the Rushworth cemetery.

Rushworth Chronicle

29 September, 1916

On Friday last there was laid to rest in the Rushworth cemetery the remains of Mrs Flora McLarty, relict of the late Mr Neil McLarty, one of the oldest residents of Girgarre East, and also a colonist of 67 years.

Deceased, with her late husband (who predeceased her by 18 years), together with her infant daughter (now Mrs Johnstone) came from Argyleshire, Scotland, in the "Mahomet Pasha", in 1849. The ship was dismasted in a storm, eight of the crew finding a watery grave, and in the melee Mr McLarty had the misfortune to sustain a broken arm.

The vessel was in grave danger for some time until a ship was met with conveying convicts to what was then known as Van Dieman's Land, from which spars were obtained that enabled the crippled vessel to reach its destination, the passage occupying something like five months.

In those days Melbourne was mostly composed of what the Scottish immigrants called "clood hooses," and the aborigines formed a considerable portion of the population.

Mrs McLarty, whose maiden name was McPhail, had a sister and two brothers who came out about the same time, all of whom predeceased her, the sister passing away at Frankston only three weeks ago.

Deceased had enjoyed the best of health until recent years, and had reached the ripe old age of 91 years at the time of her demise. She leaves behind her, living, 3 daughters, 5 sons, 33 grand-children and 24 great-grandchildren.