

Mrs Merchant Coy

Rushworth Chronicle

One of the pioneers of Rushworth and a lady who was highly esteemed and respected, in the person of Mrs M. Coy, relict of the late M. Coy, passed away in Melbourne on Saturday last, on 2nd inst.

The late Mrs Coy was born in Inverness, Scotland, and arrived in this country in the year of 1859 in what was a well-known sailing vessel in those days ---- "The Bride of the Sea."

She spent the first few years at Hobart and came to Rushworth about the year 1864.

She was married to Mr Merchant Coy on the 9th November, 1866, and lived in Rushworth until the year 1893. Her husband, Mr Merchant Coy, died on 3rd April 1891, and she therefore outlived him 36 years.

Deceased was, during her residence in Rushworth, a prominent member in the Church of England, and also took an active part in concerts and other entertainments in the cause of charity. She became actively interested in the first drying and preserving industry, and for years was a very successful competitor at agricultural shows, finally winning Lord Hopetoun's special prize for the best collection of preserved fruits at the Royal Agricultural Society, Melbourne, in 1891, together with a special silver cup.

In the year 1914, then being 72 years of age, she took a trip to Europe, and during the voyage war broke out, the last three days of her journey being under closed hatches.

She spent months in the old country, devoting herself principally to the knitting of socks, and balaclavas (woollen headdress) for the soldiers, and account of services received a special acknowledgement from Queen Mary, under the hand of her secretary, Lady Mary Lawley.

Deceased was 85 years of age, and leaves three surviving sons and two daughters, viz Merchant Coy (who is on the land at Wakool, NSW), W. C. E. Coy (well known in this town where he practiced as a solicitor for years), John G. Coy (who is employed in the railway workshops, Everleigh, NSW), Mrs Fanny Roberts (now living in Gippsland) and Mrs E. T. Risever (of Johannesburg, South Africa).

The remains were brought to Rushworth by motor hearse on Sunday last and interred in the Rushworth cemetery beside the remains of her late husband, and a large number of townspeople following the funeral cortege.

The remains were first taken to St Paul's Church of England, where a short service was held.

The Rev. F. Grist conducted the funeral services.