

Mrs. Agnes Frances Crothers

Rushworth Chronicle

25 September, 1942

The death of Mrs. Agnes Frances Crothers on the 22nd inst. has removed another well-known and highly respected resident of the district.

The deceased lady had been ailing since 1940 but it was only a few months back that her condition began to cause her family anxiety. Her passing on Tuesday last was therefore not unexpected. The late Mrs. Crothers, who was 76 years of age, was a daughter of the late Thomas and Elizabeth Ballintine and was born at Bylands, Victoria, on March 24, 1866.

She was married to Mr. D. Crothers at Benalla on May 21, 1890 by the Rev. McCannon, at the age of 24 years and the union proved a most happy one. They eventually settled in Rushworth in 1898, and in 1918 went to Gardenvale for eight years, returning to Rushworth in 1926, where she had resided until her death.

The late Mrs. Crothers was an active worker in the Methodist Church and was a generous supporter of all local charities and charitable organisations. Possessed of indomitable courage she bore her long illness with fortitude and her whole life was emblematic of the true Christian spirit; her thoughts and activities were ever sympathetic to others --- a noble character the more outstanding because of the love she bore for her home and family. She was of a retiring disposition and sought no reward or publicity for her many beneficent gifts which brought cheer to others.

One of the milestones in her life was the celebration of her golden wedding anniversary in May 1940. That event was the consummation of a happy union exemplifying a beautiful life in which her home was the dominant factor. Rushworth is the poorer for her passing and deepest sympathy is extended to the bereaved family in their loss. They will however find some solace in reviewing the memory of a loved wife and mother.

Members of the family are: Elizabeth (Mrs. Chris Brown), Violet (Mrs. Cyril Brown), Joseph, Will, Ivy (Mrs Halliwell), Dorothy (Mrs. R. Mamouney). One son (George) is deceased.

The funeral took place at the Rushworth cemetery on Thursday afternoon when there was a representative gathering to pay their last respects to the deceased, many people travelling long distances to be present. The Rev. Laity of St. Arnaud and formerly minister at Rushworth, was assisted by the Rev. H. W. Hughes in the service at the graveside.

The Rev. Laity said that no words of his could adequately express the life of the deceased which had been expended in the service for others. Her work had been a work of love and the town was the poorer for her loss. He expressed sincere feeling for the bereaved family but felt that Mrs. Crothers had left a shining example. He (the speaker) and they might well follow in her footsteps.

Prior to the cortege moving to the cemetery a brief service was held at the private residence.

The coffin bearers were Messrs Cyril Brown, G. Down, A. Sleep, Black, G. Ballintine and P. C. Rowland. The pallbearers were Messrs J. McK. Brown, C. Brown, A. Sleep, K. Enders, A. H. Peart and H. J. P. Elms.

There were numerous and beautiful wreaths which more than covered the grave, being tokens of love and affection, very wide circle of friends and relatives.

Messrs Hilder and Kittle had charge of the mortuary arrangements.