

Mrs Agnes Wootton

Rushworth Chronicle

17 July, 1936

A very well-known former resident of Rushworth district passed away in the person of Mrs. Agnes Wootton, who died in a private hospital at Auburn on Sunday last following a short illness at the age of 76 years.

The late Mrs. Wootton had been living in Melbourne for a number of years, but made periodical visits to Rushworth, and just recently had been staying with her daughter, Mrs. Colliver.

She was born at Heathcote was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. Chegwidden. She married Mr. Richard (Dick) Wootton at Albury about 56 years ago, and four years later, with her husband, went to Tatura where they conducted the Victoria Hotel for 10 years, following which they went to Melbourne for five or six years and then came to Rushworth, taking over the Waranga Hotel at Waranga, which they conducted until the death of Mr. Wootton in 1902. Mrs. Wootton carried on the hotel for a few years until it became necessary to close it owing to the submergence of the land in Waranga Basin.

She then went to Melbourne where members of the family had made their homes. The late Mrs. Wootton is remembered by a particularly wide circle of friends in the Goulburn Valley. She was held in very high esteem, and her many kindnesses are gratefully remembered by numerous friends to whom she had given ready sympathy and practical assistance in times of misfortune.

She took a great interest in local activities while resident in this district and was a keen supporter and follower of sporting bodies, in which cricket and football gave her the greatest pleasure and for which she was a very valuable worker.

It was for cricket however that she displayed the greatest enthusiasm and her interest in this game did not wane with advancing years, as she continued to take a lively interest in cricket right up to the end. Mrs. Wootton's great fondness for cricket was not surprising as her husband "Dick" Wootton was one of the finest exponents of the game the Goulburn Valley has known. He was once selected as a member of a Test team to tour England but an unfortunate accident with a gun (he also was a fine shot) resulted in him losing three fingers and it was impossible for him to make the trip.

Her sons were also good cricketers and the family tradition in this respect is carried on by all her grandchildren, amongst whom are Messrs Dick and Alf Wootton, who play pennant cricket with Hawthorn East Melbourne and Will and Keith Colliver who have played with Country Colts.

A woman are many fine qualities, Mrs Wootton was also a very good mother. Her surviving sons occupy responsible positions in Melbourne, one, Harold, being Town Clerk of Melbourne.

A host of friends join with the family in the loss of a devoted mother and true friend. She is survived by four sons and three daughters, viz, Alf (Hawthorn), Ethel (Mrs. Colliver, Rushworth), Eva (Mrs. Waller, Glenferrie), May (Mrs. McMurray, Malvern), Harold (Melbourne), Bert (Glenferrie) and Stan (St. Kilda).

Three sons --- Bertie, Dick and Percy --- predeceased her. The remains were brought to Rushworth on Tuesday for interment beside her husband. Prior to the burial, a short service was conducted by the Rev W. A. Williams at St. Paul's Church of England. There was a very representative gathering at the graveside, where Rev. Mr. Williams performed the last rites

The floral offerings were particularly numerous and included beautiful wreaths from the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Melbourne (Cr. and Mrs. A. G. Wales), many other prominent citizens of Melbourne, and Rushworth friends.