

## Mrs. Bethea Weppner

Rushworth Chronicle

24 April, 1939

The death of Mrs Bethea Weppner, loved wife of Mr. O. Weppner of "Wahroonga", Colbinabbin East, removed from the district the last member of one of the pioneer families of the State.

Mrs. Weppner, who had been in ill health since October last year, had borne her long period of suffering with great fortitude, and had recently returned to her home from hospital. The end, which came on Monday last, at 2.30 p.m., concluded a life lived in such a way as to endear her to all who knew her and she was one of the most loved residents of the district.

Mrs. Weppner, who was 70 years of age at the time of her death, was born at Mount William, near Lancefield, and was the youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Jean Brown. With her parents she went to live at Newham and resided there for many years until her father selected land at Wanalta, now known as "Bushy Park", and the family came to this district to reside.

She was married to Mr. O. Weppner at the home of her sister, the late Mrs. S. Furphy and the late Mr. S. Furphy at Sandhills, Corop, on 12th April, 1899. After her marriage she went to reside at Murchison where her husband, who was a member of the Victoria Police Force at that time, was stationed. On his retirement 11 years ago, Mr. Weppner bought the farm at Colbinabbin, and came to reside at "Wahroonga".

Since coming to this district Mrs. Weppner had led a retired life but by her lovable disposition and kindly nature had accumulated a host of friends who will sadly miss her from their midst.

Mrs. Weppner leaves a sorrowing husband and seven children, Jean (Mrs. J. Holland, Dromana), Robert (Stanhope), Oswald Lionel (Colbinabbin East), Bruce (Carag Carag), Bethea Isabel, George Vincent and Mavis Thelma (Mrs. Sneddon, Adelaide), to mourn the loss of a devoted wife and mother. Brothers and sisters of the deceased were the late John, Robert, Thomas, and George Brown and Mrs. S. Furphy.

The funeral, which was conducted to the Rushworth Cemetery, where the remains were interred in the family grave, was followed from the home by a large number of district residents which exemplified the sincere respect in which the deceased lady was held in the district. A short service was held at the home by Mr. G. F. Draffin (Presbyterian), who also read the service at the graveside. There were many beautiful floral tributes.

The casket was borne to the grave by Messrs T. W. Brown, L. C. Brown, J. C. Brown, G. O. Brown, A. Brown and T. R. Brown, the pall being carried by Messrs J. Weppner, S. F. Weppner, W. Erwen, G. Clark, W. Cattlin, A. Holland, H. Brown and V. Sprunt.

The flower bearers were Messrs M. Gamble and T. O. Dwyer and Mesdames Alex Brown, H. Brown, A. Rathjen, T. Brown, J. Brown and F. Burge.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Grigg and Diggle.