

Mrs George Groves-White

Mclvor Times

14 November, 1912

The death occurred at her residence early on Friday morning, the 1st inst., of a very old colonist, namely, Mrs Groves-White, wife of Mr George Groves-White, of Gobarup Station, Gobarup, Wanalta, and eldest daughter of the late Captain Peter Hamilton, and the late Mrs W. D. Tait, late of the Half-Way House, and sister of Mr John Hamilton, of the Heathcote Pound, and Mr James Hamilton and Mr Walter Hamilton, of Cornella, and step-sister of Mr Henry Tait, the deceased members of the family being Mr David Hamilton, who died in Western Australia, Mr Peter Hamilton, who died at the Half-Way House, and her sister, Miss Jane Hamilton, who died at her (Mrs Groves-White's) residence at Gobarup.

The cause of death was bronchial pneumonia, following chronic bronchitis, she having been ailing for about two years.

The deceased lady, who was 77 years of age, left Greenock on the 18th October, 1841, for Port Phillip, with her parents, there being seven in the family, in the barque Welcome, 450 tons, Captain Henry Morris, brother of the late Messrs. A. H. R. and J. B. Morris, of Heathcote, the steward of the vessel being a well-known old Mclvor identity, Johnnie Stuart, who was noted for his good fortune as a gold miner and his luck in unearthing valuable nuggets in the early days of this goldfield.

The vessel arrived at Port Phillip Heads, on 8th February, 1842, on a moonlight night, and having sent up rockets and burned Roman lights and fired cannon without attracting the attention of a pilot, the wind changed to the north ward and the vessel was driven out to sea with a storm, and her father, Captain Hamilton, was washed overboard and drowned, on the night of the 16th February, opposite Cape Nelson.

The barque arrived in Hobson's Bay on 23rd February, 1842. As might be expected the loss of her husband was a sad blow to her mother, who was left with her young family to fight her way in a strange land, but she succeeded in doing so, having purchased land and properties in and about Melbourne, and on the Plenty River, took up the Junction Station between the Goulburn and Murray Rivers, Lower Moira, disposing of her other properties.

Through the great flood in 1845 and loss of stock, she abandoned this station, and took up the Colbinabbin South Station, and after residing for a time at Moonee Ponds till 1847, she left there for the Colbinabbin South Station.

In 1849 she married the late Mr Tait, at that time overseer on the station. Subsequently when the Half-Way House was erected in 1854 she moved to it and resided there till the day of her decease early on Friday morning, the 1st September, 1899, being in her 94th year.

Mrs Tait was born at the Island of Sanda (Orkney), on the 13th February, 1806. Her daughter, Mrs Groves-White, who was of a very kindly nature, was much esteemed by all with whom she was acquainted. She leaves her husband and family of four sons and one daughter to mourn their sad loss.

The funeral took place on the Sunday afternoon following her decease and was very largely attended, the Rushworth Cemetery being the place of interment. The burial service was read by Mr Rail, of the Presbyterian Church, Rushworth.