

Philip Francis

Rushworth Chronicle

8 December, 1905

That grim sceptre, death, has again been in our midst, and during the past week has robbed us of two of the oldest residents of the district—residents of 40 years standing, Dugald Cameron and Philip Francis.

MR PHILIP FRANCIS.

On Tuesday morning Mr Philip Francis, another old and well-known identity, passed away after a long and painful illness, extending over a period of three years. Deceased suffered with a tumour on the spleen, which assumed alarming proportions before death put an end to his sufferings.

He bore up wonderfully well under the circumstances and it is remarkable that he lasted so long. Mr Francis was a son of the late James Francis (well known by the older residents) and came to this district with his parents in 1863. He was a native of Geelong, and, although only 49 years of age, it will be seen that he spent 43 of them here.

He followed various occupations, viz , butchering, brewing, mining and dealing. For many years he was employed in the Rushworth brewery when it was the property of Mr Wolton Wigg.

He devoted a good number of years to mining, and in this connexion took a trip to West Australia about twelve years ago. He remained there altogether about five years, and after he returned was for some time employed in the Rushworth gold mine, in fact it was here that his dreadful complaint first asserted itself. Since that time he has been able to do nothing.

Deceased was greatly respected, a fact borne out by the large number of sympathisers who afforded him the last tribute of respect. He was a respected brother of the local Foresters' Lodge and the brethren mustered in force at his funeral. The lodge's impressive service was read by Bro. Brocklebank.

Deceased leaves a wife and eight children, the youngest but five years old, to mourn their loss.

The remains were interred in the local cemetery on Wednesday, the Rev. J. R. Walker officiating at the grave. Mr W. Medhurst had charge of the funeral arrangements.