

Richard Crocker

The Argus

18 June, 1909

SPECK MINER'S SUICIDE.

RUSHWORTH, Thursday -A sad case of suicide occurred here last evening when Richard Crocker, aged 67 years, shot himself by placing the point of a muzzle-loading duck gun in his mouth. Deceased was for some years a member of the old Sandhurst Mining Board but latterly has been unable to do any work, suffering from miner's complaint. He leaves a family of seven children, all grown up.

Rushworth Chronicle
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18 June,

SAD SUICIDE.

A sad case of suicide occurred at Rushworth on Wednesday afternoon last, when Mr Richard Crocker shot himself. Deceased, who was 67 years of age, had been ailing for some considerable time past, in fact he had been unable to do any work for several years. He suffered from miners' complaint and recently dropsy supervened.

He had frequently remarked that he wished the end would come quickly, but gave no intimation of any intention of committing suicide. He had a very bad night on Tuesday, and it was doubtless this fact which influenced him in the determination to take his life on the following day.

His youngest son and daughter resided at home with him, but the former had occasion to go away for a short time and when he returned found his father to be missing. On making a search he found deceased sitting on the seat of the water closet, quite dead, with an old muzzle-loading duck gun standing between his legs.

The police were notified and Dr Christie made an examination of the body, giving it as his opinion that death had taken place about half-an-hour previously. The muzzle of the gun had been placed in his mouth and the charge entered the roof of the mouth, lodging in the top of the head.

It was a regrettable end for the old fellow, who was a well-known mining identity and for some years represented this division in the old Sandhurst Mining Board.

Years ago he followed quartz mining, and at times with varied success. A favorite spot of his was the old Sons of Freedom, on Church Hill, and he obtained several good rises there.

In later years he turned his attention to Parramatta Gully, and did considerable sluicing, generally managing to knock out a fair crust.

He leaves a family of seven —five sons and two daughters—the youngest son being 18 years of age.

An inquiry was held yesterday when a verdict was returned that deceased shot himself. The funeral will take place this (Friday) afternoon, at half-past three o'clock.

Footnote: Rushworth cemetery records include burial of Richard Crocker.