

Robert Henry May

Rushworth Chronicle

21 July, 1939

The death of Mr Robert Henry May, at his late residence, "Mayville", Nicholson Street Rushworth, at the advanced age of 82 years, removes from the district one who had, by his devout Christian life, earned the esteem and respect of a wide circle of friends in Rushworth and surrounding district.

The late Mr. May, who had been in indifferent health for the past 12 months was taken seriously ill and had been confined to his bed for the past three weeks and, despite all care and attention, gradually became weaker and passed away peacefully on Sunday 16th July.

The deceased gentleman was born at Heathcote, and before coming to reside at Rushworth, had lived at Heathcote and Bendigo where he had been associated with the mining industry. He was married at Runnymede East to Miss Sarah Skate 51 years ago and after his marriage went to reside in Collingwood, where he was engaged in the boot making trade for four years.

He returned to Runnymede East where he followed farming pursuits for a further four years, after which he came to reside in Rushworth 43 years ago and has lived here ever since.

His main occupations since coming to Rushworth for engine driving, wood hauling and lumping in the employ of the late Mr. W. Skate, whilst later he was employed at the construction of the outlet to Waranga Basin, engine driving at the Nuggetty Hill battery and assistant to the engineer of Rushworth Waterworks Trust.

Until a few years ago when his health precluded him from carrying on his duties, the late Mr. May was sexton at the Rushworth Cemetery, which position he had held for a number of years. Failing health caused him to live in retirement for the eve of a life spent in the service of his fellow beings.

In his early manhood the deceased gentleman became a local preacher in the Methodist Church at Heathcote and had served the church well and faithfully in this capacity at Bendigo, Collingwood and, for a past 43 years, at Rushworth. He was a spiritual force in the church which is the poorer for his loss but his influence will live forever.

By his devout Christian life he earned the respect and admiration of all who knew him throughout a long life had always assisted with church work in all its phases, being attached as local preacher to several circuit plans, serving and worshipping till the time of his death. He was a local preacher for 55 years.

The late Mr May leaves a devoted wife to mourn his death and the sympathy of district residents goes out to her in her great loss.

The funeral was held to the Rushworth Cemetery on Monday last when a number of residents of Rushworth, Murchison and Stanhope attended to pay their last tribute of respect to his memory. The service at the graveside was conducted by Rev. H. W. Laity, assisted by Revs J. Tyson (Rochester) and D. Risstrom (Manangatang) and Mr. G. F. Draffin (Presbyterian), who also conducted a service at the house prior to the funeral, during which

feeling reference was made to the long and devoted service given to the cause of Christianity by their departed brother.

The casket was born to the graveside by Messrs H. Hicks, E. J. Brisbane, P. Freestone and K. Enders, local preachers of the Rushworth Methodist Circuit, and the pall was carried by Messrs W. J. Pocock, G. Ristrom, B. Golding, J. D. Crothers, Arnold Brisbane and C. Brown.

Among the many floral tributes were wreaths from the Methodist Local Preachers, the Christian Endeavour Society and United Prayer Circle.

The mortuary arrangements were well carried out by Messrs Hilder and Kittle.