

Robert Brideson

Rushworth Chronicle

11 April, 1890

DEATH.

BRIDESON.—On the 6th inst., at his residence, Criterion Hotel, Rushworth, Robert A. Brideson. Aged 25 years and 11 months.

That grim tyrant death has played bad havoc in Rushworth this week, the victim being Mr R. A. Brideson, one of the proprietors of the Criterion Hotel.

When it became known throughout the town that Mr Brideson had been found dead in his room early on Sunday morning, the suddenness and unexpectedness of the terrible event considerably shocked the inhabitants, and quite a gloom pervaded the place in consequence.

The deceased was a native of Rushworth, and having been reared and educated here, he was intimately known to both young and old, to whom he had greatly endeared himself by his many noble and sterling qualities. He was a fine, open-hearted, manly young fellow, and was a great favorite wherever he went.

For about 18 months past deceased had suffered excruciating agony from that dreaded disease, consumption, which had wasted him away to a mere skeleton. He was receiving medical attention, and up to the last was in and out attending to his business; in fact, there was not the slightest thought that the poor fellow's dissolution would be so premature.

The groom, Peter, seeing the figure extended on the floor, thought a drunken swagman had trespassed into the premises, and drew deceased's brother-in-law, Mr Mullany's attention thereto, who on going into the room and striking a match was horrified to discover that Mr Brideson had expired. He was dressed and evidently had returned from outside, a pipe and matches being found near him.

Deceased's age was almost 26 years.

The funeral took place on Easter Monday, and representatives from all parts of the district showed by their presence in the large cortege of sympathising friends who followed the remains to their last resting place in the Rushworth Cemetery, that deceased was highly esteemed and much respected.

The sight was a most impressive one. The solemn pageant was headed by 12 members of the Rushworth Brass Band (with which deceased was prominently connected), who played along the route the Dead March in Saul in a truly reverential manner, the drum being draped and muffled. Immediately preceding the hearse, marched 23 members of the Grand United Order of Oddfellows (the deceased having also been connected with this order), and following came the mourners and sympathisers.

The Rev. J. Swindells conducted the obsequies at the grave, and Brother E. C. Bishop, P.O.R., afterwards celebrated the rite peculiar to the order. Much sympathy is felt for the relatives of the deceased in their sad bereavement.

The annual ball in connection with the Grand United Order of Oddfellows, Waranga Lodge, which was celebrated in the Shire Hall, Rushworth, on Easter Monday night, was not so successful as hitherto, although a very nice party of about forty couples assembled on the occasion, kindred societies being fairly well represented.

Out of respect to Mr R. A. Brideson, a late member of the order, and whose funeral had taken place that day, the members discarded the more showy regalia, and only wore aprons, which were bordered with crepe. For the same cause there was an utter absence of decorations about the ballroom.

Dancing commenced shortly after nine o'clock, when only two sets were present. However, this number was augmented at a later hour, but still there was plenty of room, and the dancers found the unusually large scope for evolution and gyration the more enjoyable.

The music was exceptionally good. It was supplied by Messrs W. Johnson (cornet), Charlett (violin), and Greaves (piano). Mr A. Spence satisfactorily performed the duties of M.C.

The fair sex of Rushworth were there in all their loveliness and beauty, and flitted about like fairies, carrying joy and sunshine with them. Many were attired in luxuriant and costly habiliments, looking as pretty as pictures. Pink and white were the prevailing colors.

The catering was intrusted to Messrs Cracknell and Son, and no fault could be found with the commissariat department. The refreshments were simply delicious, in fact so tempting was the supper room that one felt loath to leave it.

Youth and beauty, however, had met to chase the glowing hours with flying feet, and right well did they do it, the mazy waltz and the stately quadrille being practised vigorously till the wee small hours. Throughout the night the company made themselves extremely affable, and coupled with the help of efficient management, the gathering caused a great amount of innocent enjoyment.