

Roger Morgan

Rushworth Chronicle

24 February, 1908

On the following morning [Saturday last] the townspeople received a great shock when it became known that Mr Roger Morgan, late of the firm of Morgan and Taylor, blacksmiths, had also passed away.

The shock of Mr Morgan's death was all the more acute from its startling suddenness and the fact that he was about the street during the previous afternoon and to all appearances was in good health. As a matter of fact, it was his birthday and he was in particularly good spirits.

It would appear that he got up at five on Saturday morning and indulged in a glass of water, again returning to bed. Shortly afterwards Mrs Morgan thought she heard him groan and on investigating was horrified to find that he was to all appearances dead.

Dr Heily was summoned in all haste and on his arrival pronounced life to be extinct, the cause of death being heart failure.

Deceased was a very old resident, having come to the district 40 years ago. He was a native of Elswick, Newcastle on Tyne, [UK] and arrived in the colony in 1854, thus being a colonist of 54 years. He at once proceeded to the Bendigo goldfields, to which place he walked the whole way from Melbourne.

He started mining at Bendigo but later commenced business as a blacksmith. In 1868 he wended his way to Rushworth and had a try at puddling, but soon established himself in the blacksmithing line.

In this capacity he was joined in partnership in 1872 by Mr J. H. Taylor under the title of Morgan and Taylor, and they carried on the business successfully until last year when they leased it and retired from active life.

Deceased was a very quiet, unassuming person, a thorough gentleman, upright and honest in his dealings, a staunch friend of the working man and the miner particularly, and it is safe to say no more respected or popular personage could be found in the district.

It was a common thing to hear him designated the "white man" of the town, a reputation justly earned and sustained to the day of his death. He leaves a wife and two grown-up sons to mourn their loss.

The funeral on Sunday afternoon was very largely attended, the procession being led by the Rushworth Brass Band, who played The Dead March in Saul.

The Rev. J. R. Walker conducted the funeral service, while Mr Medhurst had charge of the funeral arrangements.