

## William John Prentice

**Rushworth Chronicle**

**16 June, 1939**

The death of Mr. W. J. Prentice on Monday morning last, came as a great shock to the residents of this district and quite a gloom was cast over the town when news of his sudden demise was received.

About five weeks ago he had undergone a serious operation for appendicitis at Mooroopna Base Hospital, and, although critically ill for a time, had made satisfactory progress during the past few weeks and on Sunday last appeared well on the road to recovery, but on Sunday evening complications set in, which, despite all care and attention, resulted in his untimely end.

The late Mr. Prentice was born at Burke's Flat, in the Dunolly district, 58 years ago, and came, with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. H. Prentice, to reside in Rushworth at an early age and has lived here ever since. By his upright character and courteous and obliging nature, the deceased gentleman had made many friends in Rushworth and district and was highly esteemed by everyone with whom he came in contact.

Prior to his death Mr. Prentice carried on a saddlery business at High street, Rushworth, and has been long associated with this business. On leaving school he entered the employ of Mr. H. Pepperell, with whom he learned his trade at the premises in which he carried on the business until his recent illness, becoming the proprietor in 1924.

The late Mr. Prentice was the oldest active member of the Rushworth Fire Brigade to which institution he had given over 33 years of active service. He was an ex-Captain of the brigade and during his long association with it had been a valued member, giving excellent service both on the competition track and in the management and general activities of this public facility.

He was also an ardent supporter of the Rushworth Football Club and in his younger days was a regular player with the team. At the time of his death he held the position of treasurer of the club and during his long association with this body he had given a great deal of service in various ways.

He also had a long association with the Rushworth branch of the Grand United Oddfellows Lodge. He was a Past Noble Grand of that order and held the position of treasurer at the time of his death.

Married to Miss Mary M. Bailey, daughter of Mrs. E. and the late Mr. J. Bailey, formerly of Bailieston, at the Holy Trinity Church, Kew, in 1911. The deceased gentleman leaves a sorrowing widow and three daughters, Maisie (Mrs. Lack, Kyabram), Eileen (Mrs. F. Schumann) and Betty (Mrs. W. Geisler, Hawthorn), to mourn the loss of a devoted husband and father. One daughter, Joyce, predeceased him.

He also leaves five grand-children and five brothers, Henry (Hawthorn), Albert (Rushworth), Neil (Kew), Ern (Hawthorn) and Roy (Richmond), and two sisters, Millie (Mrs. J. Moore, Hawthorn) and Louise (Mrs. Fraser, Northcote), one sister, Katie (Mrs. Cadd) having predeceased him.

The funeral left St. Paul's Church of England at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, the mortal remains being followed to their last resting place at the Rushworth Cemetery by a number of residents of the town and district.

The cortege was headed by members of the Rushworth Fire Brigade and Waranga Lodge G.U.O.O.F.

The burial service of the Church of England was read at the graveside of Rev. W. A. Williams, who also conducted a service at the church, at which the Dead March was played by Mrs. T. J. Coyle.

The burial service of the G.U.O.O.F. was read by Bro. F. Rich and the firemen also marched round the grave and paid tribute to their departed comrade. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Hilder and Kittle in a dignified manner.

Among the numerous floral tributes were wreaths from the Rushworth Football Club, Waranga Lodge G.U.O.O.F. and the Rushworth Fire Brigade.

The coffin-bearers were: Bro. J. H. Wootton, A. Thomas, F. Collins, and Firemen G. Collard, J. Budd and K. King, and the pall-bearers were: Bros. H. P. Bedwell, M. O'Donnell, J. C. Walbran and Firemen N. Ryan, G. Wootton and W. H. Lambden. The flower-bearers were Messrs G. Risstrom, G. Akers, C. Williams, M. Gooley, G. Brice and B. Miller.