

William Sayers

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Yet another of the old identities of the district passed away on Saturday last in the person of Mr W. Sayers, of Waranga.

Deceased, who was 80 years of age, had been ailing for a considerable time, so that his death was not unexpected. About fifteen months ago he had a stroke of paralysis, and from then on to the time of his death he was continually suffering, and his death must have been a release to him.

Deceased came to the colony in 1871 and shortly afterwards settled in this district. One of his first ventures was the erection of a public house at The Cherry Tree. This was at the time when mining was booming at that place, and for a time the investment must have been a fairly profitable one.

As is too frequently the case, however, the mining did not hold good, and deceased, in common with many others, was perforce compelled to seek fresh fields. It was then that he, after a time, established a half-way house between Rushworth and Tatura—at a point just near where the Minor Inlet of Lake Waranga now is. Here he remained for a considerable period, but ultimately sold out and settled on the land in the vicinity.

Later he sold out and settled in Waranga, where he remained to the time of his death.

Deceased was one of the old stock—a sturdy pioneer. He was a connection of the famous English prize fighter, Tom Sayers, who, half a century ago, in a fight to the finish with an American champion, fought the greater part of 38 rounds with one arm broken and useless, and won the fight.

Deceased bore a remarkable resemblance to this hero of the ring, and often remarked that, though Tom was too good for him with his hands, he could take a fall out of him. Rough and ready, but, through it all, good at heart and as straight as a needle, deceased was widely known and well respected.

The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Sunday afternoon in the presence of a large number of mourners, the Rev. F. W. Wray performing the funeral obsequies.

Deceased leaves a widow and family of grown up children to mourn his death, and to them is extended every sympathy.