

William Gunn, J.P.

Rushworth Chronicle

18 November, 1921

Quite a gloom was cast over the entire district when it became known on Wednesday morning last that Mr. William Gunn, J.P., of "Waranga Park", Waranga, had that morning passed away after an illness of only a couple of days duration.

As a matter of fact, many of the residents in the near vicinity had no idea that Mr Gunn was ill. It appears that on Sunday last deceased was about as usual and that he took a look around his sheep. Later he complained of feeling unwell, and suffered with violent pains in the abdomen. As his condition did not improve Dr. Utber it was called in. He at once recognised the seriousness of the trouble. being of the opinion that there was some obstruction of the bowels.

Matters did not improve, and the doctor soon had Dr Florance (Mooroopna) and Dr W.E. Hewitt (Murchison) in consultation, and they later decided upon an operation. This was undertaken on Wednesday morning, but the patient did not survive it. The operation disclosed that there was an obstruction of the bowels.

Deceased was the eldest son of the late Mr William Gunn, who established the old Waranga Homestead in the early days. The site of the old homestead became submerged in the Waranga Basin, but there are many who remember it well, as it was only 3 miles from Rushworth and situated on Gunn's Creek.

Deceased first landed in Rushworth when only four years of age and only recently he was remarking of one circumstance in connection with his advent which had always remained fresh in his mind, though so young at the time, and that was that the first person he and his mother met when passing through Rushworth was the late Mr Wolton Wigg.

Mr Gunn was a man of many parts, taking an active interest for very many years in practically every public movement for the benefit of the district. For over 20 years he was a member of the Waranga Shire Council, and resigned the position of his own free will some 2 ½ ago. All his public and private life also he maintained a degree of straightforwardness and general uprightness of character which gave him the respect and goodwill of all who knew him, and he was a man who was known far and wide.

He was a chief of the Rushworth Caledonian Society --- an institution for which he always displayed the greatest concern, and his death means a distinct loss to that body. He was president of the Rushworth Mechanics Institute for over 20 years. He was an active member of the local repatriation committee; for many years he filled the position of a Commissioner on the old Echuca Waranga Water Works Trust when the present irrigation scheme was in its infancy; and so we could go on.

Mr Gunn was, until the last few years, connected with almost every local affair. H was a Scotsman but lacked one trait of the true Scott and if we are to accept the oft expressed

theory about men of that ilk being "close-fisted", Mr Gunn was most generous, and no legitimate appeal ever passed him unheeded. In this respect his death will be a blow sad blow to the Church of England, Rushworth, his liberality knowing no restriction when occasion demanded it. He was a Justice of the peace for very many years and probably his last official act was the swearing-in of Cr R. A. Williams as a Justice on his elevation to the position of President of the Shire, the papers having been forwarded to Mr Gunn for that purpose.

Did time and space but permit we could go on enumerating deceased varied connections and many good qualities but it must suffice when we say that his reputation is one of which any man might feel proud, and of which few men obtain.

Deceased was a married man, and the greatest extent of sympathy is tended his wife and daughter in the great trouble which has befallen them in such a sudden manner. A pathetic circumstance in connection with the death of the deceased is the fact that he had already booked his passage for a trip to the land of his birth in February next, in company with his daughter and two of his nieces.

Deceased was 68 years of age. The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery yesterday (Thursday) afternoon, the funeral being very largely attended, amongst the mourners being quite a number of his late colleagues of the Waranga Shire Council.

The Rev. Nelson conducted the funeral obsequies, while Mr E. F. Anderson had charge of the mortuary arrangements.