

Mr. W. H. Geyle Passes.

SUDDEN DEATH OF OLD AND POPULAR NATIVE OF RUSHWORTH

Great regret was felt throughout the district when it became known that Mr. William Henry Geyle, of Rushworth had passed away at the age of 73 years.

Mr. Geyle underwent an operation at the Bush Nursing Hospital on Friday last. It was anticipated he would not be very adversely affected, but complications were encountered, and Mr. Geyle failed to survive the shock and died a few hours later.

His passing cast a gloom over this district, as he was respected by the entire population and very many felt a deep sense of personal loss by his death.

The late William Henry Geyle was the oldest male native of Rushworth resident in the district. He was born here in 1862 and lived here all his life. He was educated at Rushworth School and as a youth went to the Shire office as assistant to the then Shire Secretary, the late G. Digby Heily. In 1887 he was appointed Shire Secretary, a position he held for 40 years until his retirement in 1927, when his son, Mr. W. C. Geyle succeeded him as Shire Secretary.

During the many years he served the council as its chief executive officer, he gave faithful service to the community and the ratepayers of Waranga were fortunate in having his services. His courtesy was unflinching, and at all times he did his utmost to assist and advise those who came to him with difficulties.

A keen cricket enthusiast, Mr. Geyle was one of the best players this district has produced. For many years he was a mainstay of the Rushworth club and invariably was chosen as one of its representatives when matches were played against combined teams. Amongst cricketers who were contemporary with him in the early days may be mentioned the names of Messrs W. Hipgrave, Charles Salas (Murchison), George Jones (Bailieston), J. C. Walbran, James McPherson, M. Fryberg, Dick Wootton, Harry Wootton, Tom Blake, the Franks brothers (Whroo), Jack Cloney (Murchison), Ted Muhlhan, Henry Lambden, H. Pettifer (Whroo) and C. J. Robinson. Mr Geyle was also an enthusiastic and good tennis player, a game which he continued to play until a few years ago.

Of latter years he turned his attention to bowls. While not taking active part in other games he gave generous support to most of the sporting bodies in the district.

A staunch adherent to the Church of England Mr Geyle was secretary of the Church for 13 years, between 1918 and 1930, and a vestry man for many years.

Amongst other activities he was one of the oldest members of the Rushworth Brass, and one of the original members of the old drum and fife band. He had been a member of the Foresters' Lodge for many years.

About 45 years ago Mr. Geyle married Miss Mariah Smith who came to Rushworth as a schoolteacher. The marriage took place in the bride's hometown --- Bendigo. The widow

and her son (William) are left to mourn the loss of a devoted husband and father. His only daughter, Leila (Mrs. Mosley of Orbst) predeceased eight years ago. One sister, Nellie (Mrs Henderson, East St Kilda) also survives him, whilst two brothers, Richard and Edward, and one sister, Cecilia (Mrs. Dunbar) predeceased him.

The death of Mr Geyle has left the district poorer for the loss of one of its finest citizens. Kind and unassuming, he was never known to have committed a malicious act, or to have sought to injure anyone, but his many acts of benevolence were legion and his amiability and kind offices are greatly remembered by a great number of people. He was one to whom the appellation of "gentleman" in the truest meaning of the word could be applied

The popularity of deceased was evidenced by the attendance at the graveside on Saturday last, when he was laid to rest in the Rushworth Cemetery. Although the notice given was very short, there was an exceptionally large assemblage of mourners representing every walking station of life in all parts of the district.

The last rites were performed by Rev W. A. Williams and Bro. Chris Brown read the Foresters' burial service. The pallbearers were Cr. G. F. Walbran Messrs J. C. Walbran, J. B. Stewart, F. Rich, ex-Cr. J. H. Gamble, ex-Cr. W. Pook; the coffin-bearers, Cr. J. McKee, Cr. R. A. Williams, ex-Cr. Ryan, ex-Cr. Cloney and the flower-bearers Mrs. T. J. Coyle, J. L. Relph, J. C. Smith, E. F. Linden and H. Evans.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs Whitaker and Diggle.