

William John Risstrom

Rushworth Chronicle

27 August, 1937

The death occurred with distressing suddenness on Saturday last of an old and highly respected resident of Rushworth and district in the person of Mr. William John Risstrom.

Mr Risstrom, who was 76 years of age, was apparently in his usual health, but on Saturday afternoon as he was cleaning his boots with the intention of taking a walk in the town he was overcome with a sudden heart seizure and died.

His passing was a great shock to his family and relatives, as there had been no previous indication of heart weakness.

Deceased was a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Risstrom. He was born at Geelong and followed the gold diggings at Ballarat and Bendigo. He came to Moora with his parents at the age of sixteen, becoming a farmer. He was one of the first sawmillers at Rushworth carrying on that activity in conjunction with farming.

He married Miss Mary Stewart, twin daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Stewart, of Five-mile Creek, Moora. His wife predeceased him 37 years ago, leaving Mr. Risstrom with a young family, which he successfully reared.

Although he did not take an active part in public affairs, the late Mr. Risstrom lent his support to most local movements and charitable objects in an unassuming manner. He was generally admired for his strength of character and uprightness.

The bereaved children are George (Rushworth), Stan (Springvale), Lance (Rushworth), Jessie (Mrs. A. Anstis, Springvale). A daughter, Olive, predeceased him. Brothers and sisters are Sam (Brunswick), Eric (Northcote), George (Coburg), Gus (Rushworth) and Elizabeth (Cohuna). Three other members of the family are dead.

There was a representative gathering at the Rushworth cemetery on Monday, when the remains were interred in the Presbyterian portion. The burial service was conducted by Rev. H. W. Laity and Mr. A. F. Landers.

The coffin-bearers were Messrs. H. T. Ferris, P. F. Kenny, L. and R. Lawrie, Jack Risstrom and L. Schade. The pall was carried by deceased's four brothers and Messrs W. R. and A. Lawrie and the flower-bearers were Ron, Roy and Harvey Risstrom (grandsons).

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Hilder and Kittle.