

Mr Martin Pettifer

Rushworth Chronicle

24 August, 1900

The death of Mr Martin Pettifer, which sad event occurred at his residence, Rushworth, on Friday morning last, caused a widespread feeling of regret, he being a general favorite with the Rushworth people and all others acquainted with him.

Less than a week prior to his demise, Pettifer was going about in apparently good health, but a cold which he had contracted settled in the lungs, and so rapidly did the inflammation spread, that despite everything that medical attention and careful nursing could do, the disease could not be checked and he passed away, as stated, on Friday.

The deceased was born at Whroo, and at the age of 14 he entered the employment of Mr J. W. Mason (now Mason and Son), but after serving his time left Rushworth, and was away some four or five years. He then returned and again entered the service of his former employers, with whom he remained up to the time of his death.

He enjoyed the fullest confidence of his employers, by whom he was trusted in every way, even to purchasing stock, and not once did he betray the confidence reposed in him. Naturally he was held in high esteem by Messrs Mason and Son, and his death is deeply felt by them. Deceased's last public act was to start the Wednesday half-holiday movement, and the success which attended his efforts is well known.

It is to be regretted that he did not live to enjoy the result of his labors in this direction. In many respects he was a real good fellow, and everyone had a good word to say for him.

About two years ago he married, and leaves a widow and one child to mourn their loss. His life was insured in the National Mutual Life Assurance Co., in which he took out a policy about four years ago.

If evidence were required to show the respect in which Martin Pettifer was held by the whole community, the large and representative attendance at the funeral on Sunday furnished it. The remains were interred in the Whroo cemetery, the cortege leaving Rushworth comprised fully 70 buggies and a large number of horsemen, besides hundreds of persons on foot, who followed for about half the distance between Rushworth and Whroo and then returned.

The Rushworth Brass Band headed the cortege, playing the Dead March in Saul up High Street, the Oddfellows, of which society deceased was a member, following the band. At the top of the street the band and the Oddfellows got into vehicles, but nearing Whroo they again marched and headed the procession to the cemetery, the whole of Whroo having in the meantime joined the cortege.

The service at the grave was conducted by the Rev. J. R. Walker, the mortuary arrangements being carried out by Mr G. Anderson.

DEATH.

PETTIFER- On the 17th August, 1900, at his late residence, Rushworth, Martin, beloved husband of S. K. Pettifer, and youngest son of the late John Pettifer. Aged 31 years.

Footnote: J. W. Mason was Rushworth butcher.