

Death of a Veteran Postmaster**MR JAMES BEATTON.**

General and widespread regret has been expressed in connection with the death of Mr James Beatton, Port Augusta's veteran and respected postmaster, who passed away at his residence on Saturday afternoon last after some weeks of suffering, the immediate trouble being heart failure

Deceased was 64 years of age and recently retired after 50 years' service. He was the oldest servant in the State telegraph service, which he entered as one of the first cadets. He served seven years in the Adelaide district, 19 years at Wallaroo and 24 at Port Augusta. He was born near Port Adelaide being the son of Capt. James Beatton, H. M. Customs, and formerly of the Orkney Islands and of whom it may not be out of place to relate the following incident:—In 1882 Captain Beatton, who commanded a whaling vessel at that time, was landed at one of the islands forming part of the Tonga group suffering from a severe attack of scurvy. The natives took the patient in hand. They buried him up to his neck in the soil and fed him entirely on fruit and effectually cured him of the scurvy. Captain Beatton remained on the island for three years, and mutual good-will resulted, the natives looking upon the captain as a big chief. The British Government having heard of the matter communicated with the Tasmanian authorities and a man-of-war was despatched from Hobart to the Tonga Islands. The captain was picked up at his own particular island and, in company with two natives to whom he was attached, he returned to Tasmania and civilisation. Later on he settled in this State, being appointed Customs officer in which capacity he acted at Port Adelaide where he eventually passed away.

The late Mr Beatton married Miss Frances White, of Wallaroo, in 1870, and Mrs Beatton survives him with the following grown-up family:—Mesdames L. Morris (Gumeracha), Blair (Tarcoola), and F. Becker (Port Augusta). Misses Fanny and Irene

Blair (Tarcoola), and F. Becker (Port Augusta); Misses Fanny and Irene Beatton (Port Augusta), and Messrs R. Beatton (of the Telegraph Department) and S. and K. Beatton (Tarcoola). Deceased was one of the original workers in the Port Augusta Presbyterian Church, of which he was treasurer at the time of his death. He was one of the most popular and respected men of the north, was a member of the Licensing Bench, patron of the Port Augusta Quoit Club, and secretary of the Athletic Association, of which he was an enthusiastic supporter.

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon. Owing to the extreme heat the burial service was conducted in the Port Augusta Presbyterian Church, which had been appropriately draped for the occasion. The Rev. Mitchell (with whom Mr Beatton had been associated for many years) would have attended in connection with the service but he was unavoidably precluded from doing so and, in his absence, Elder J. Holdsworth officiated.

A large number of friends and residents of town and district followed the late Mr Beatton to their resting-place in the Port Augusta Cemetery, and officers from Quorn, Hawker, Adelaide and Port Augusta acted as pall-bearers. The final obsequies were performed by Mr Holdsworth.

We might add that in connection with Mr Beatton's death a memorial service will be conducted by the Rev. R. Mitchell in the Presbyterian Church, Port Augusta, on Sunday next at 7 p.m.