

DEATH OF MR. W. COLLIER

Splendid Citizen Of Barmedman

Mr. William Henry Collier, one of Barmedman's "grand old men," died at midday on Saturday last, when he was being conveyed to the Wyalong and District Hospital. His death was sudden and occurred as the car was approaching Wyalong. The body was taken to the Wyalong Hospital.

At the time of his death the late Mr. Collier was within one day of his eightieth birthday.

Born at Beechworth, Victoria, the late Mr. Collier was well known throughout the Riverina as a blacksmith and wheelwright, and a builder of high class sulkies. He gained many prizes at district shows.

The late Mr. Collier's marriage took place at Cootamundra. He learned his trade in Sydney, and came to Temora in the days of the gold rush. From Temora he went to Broken Hill, where he worked at his trade. He came to Barmedman in the late 1880's, where he opened a blacksmith's shop in the lower end of the town. He eventually sold out and leased the Royal Hotel Barmedman for 12 months, after which he left Barmedman for Reefton, again opening a blacksmith's business. He remained there for four years, after which he came back to Barmedman, again commencing business as a blacksmith and wheelwright in Renwick Street.

About seven years ago these premises were destroyed by fire, and he carried on in smaller premises, where he had a flourishing business, and at different times employed a large number of men. Altogether 17 of his employees and former employees enlisted in the Great War.

In horseshoeing and general wheelwright work he did a lot of work for Cobbs and Co. in the days when the coaches ran from Temora to West Wyalong.

He was an active member of the Progress Association for over 40 years, and during the last war was very prominent in every patriotic movement. The Barmedman Soldiers Memorial Park, of which he has been described as the "father" has been cared for by him from its establishment 25 years ago until about two years ago, when his failing health prevented him from carrying on.

Three of his sons served in the Great War, namely Laurie, (killed in action), Bob (who was taken prisoner) and William (who was wounded in action).

About four years ago deceased

sold his business to Mr. W. Gray.

The late Mr. Collier was a noted footrunner and footballer in his early days. He had resided in Barmedman for nearly half a century. His wife died in May, 1941, and he is survived by three sons and four daughters.

The sons are Bob (on active service with a Garrison Battalion in Queensland); William (Mittagong); Charles, (at present serving with the American Forces). The daughters are Mrs. F. Raynor (Sydney); Mrs. G. Bacon (Barmedman); Mrs. Stanmore (Tottenham) and Mrs. L. Coys (Sydney).

There are 24 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Deceased has a brother, Charles, of Taree, and one sister (Mrs. Briggs) both of whom, together with Mr. William Collier of Mittagong, were able to be at Barmedman for the funeral.

Five of the late Mr. Collier's sons and daughters predeceased him. They were Mrs. J. Corbick, Jr. Violet Laurie and two children who died in infancy.

The funeral on Monday afternoon left his late residence in Renwick Street, and was very largely attended. Members of the local sub-branch of the R.S.S.A.I.A. led by the President (Mr. Keith Clemson), preceded the hearse, and at the Memorial Park where the flag was half mast, they formed into a Guard of Honour, through which the hearse passed on its way to the cemetery.

The interment took place in the Church of England portion of the Barmedman Cemetery, the remains being laid to rest alongside those of his late wife. There was a very big array of floral tributes.

The casket was carried by four local returned soldiers—Messrs Ken Regan, Frank Kelly, H. E. Henman, and Charles Clarke. Rev. B. S. Kurelman officiated at the graveside.

The mortuary arrangements were in the hands of Messrs B. and G. Stephenson, West Wyalong.