

## OBITUARY.

ERN E. MUDDLE

Mr. Ernest Edwin Muddle died on Monday night, 26th inst., after a very short illness. He had been failing for some time, but did not entirely give up work. His sudden passing was a surprise to all. He was in his 68th year, was born in Dungog and lived here all his life. He was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Muddle and grandson of the late George and Elizabeth Muddle, who came out from England. They were married at St. Mary's, Allynbrook, by the first Bishop of New South Wales, Bishop Broughton.

The late Ernest Muddle was predeceased by his wife many years ago. There survive two daughters, Misses Isabel and Lillian (at home), and one son, Claude (of Stroud). One daughter (Mrs. Grace Brooker) died some years ago.

Of the original family of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Muddle there is now only one surviving member, Mrs. Alf Taylor, of Lord-street, Dungog, sister of the deceased. The other members who have died are Mrs. Isabella Hilzinger, Mrs. Mary Ann Anderson, Mrs. Lucy Page (wife of the late Thomas Page), Mrs. Alice Dalrymple, Mrs. Rose Page (wife of the late Geo. Page), and Mrs. Sara Baker.

The late George Muddle's two brothers were Henry and John, and members of their families reside in the district.

It can be truly said that the Muddles are pioneers of the district.

The late Ern Muddle was a popular personality in Dungog, loved and respected by everybody. It was often truly said that if there were a popular man competition in Dungog during the last 40 years, Ern would have won it. He was an indispensable citizen, an industrious worker, whose reliability and honesty were an outstanding feature. With his horse and cart he was out early and home late. They were seldom seen apart. He had been driving a horse and cart from his boyhood days.

Following his father's footsteps he rang the church bells for the Anglican and Presbyterian congregations, commencing at the age of nine years and continuing until his death. For 60 years almost he was never late and never failed in his duty. He was also local gravedigger for over 30 years. Whenever there was a function, day or night, where cartage was involved and water to be boiled, Ernie Muddle was on deck. He managed that portion of the proceedings and no one worried, knowing that everything would be right. He carted wood, soil, anything at all that

that everything would be right. He carted wood, soil, anything at all that the housewife required. In the early days before the water supply came he was the town's water carter, and in dry times he was a busy man. He did the carting work for the Municipal road workers. In fact, there was very little that he did not do that was of use to one and all.

When the Dungog "Chronicle" was first published in 1888, Ern Muddle was the first to deliver the papers round the town.

His kindly nature and keen sense of humour ensured him a hearty welcome wherever he went. One of the little deeds that he greatly enjoyed was acting Father Christmas on Christmas Eve and visiting the homes and shops, etc., to amuse the children.

Dungog mourns the loss of a good and faithful citizen who played his part in life nobly and well. He had a smile and a joke for all and was never known to say an unkind word or do an unkind deed.

His mortal remains were laid to rest in the Church of England cemetery, the Rector, Rev. A. W. Moore, being ill, the service at the church and at the graveside was taken by Rev. J. W. McCredie, who paid a fitting tribute to the character and life work of the deceased. The Grand Master of the G.U.O.O.F. (Mr. E. Bradbery) read the Lodge service, many local members participating.

The funeral was large and representative. The Mayor (Ald. J. W. Scott) and many aldermen and Council's staff were amongst the mourners.

Messrs. Fry Bros. had charge of the funeral arrangements.