

DEATH OF
MR. CHARLES DRAPER, J.P.

Mr. Charles Draper, J.P., died at his residence, "Charnwood," Arthur's Creek, on Friday night last, at the ripe age of 84 years. The deceased was born in Leicestershire, England, and arrived in Melbourne in 1853, and after a short residence at Kangaroo Ground he took up a selection at Arthur's Creek, where he resided till the day of his death. He was the pioneer fruitgrower in the district, and soon became the largest grower in the colony. He was a fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society of London and also of the Victorian Society. He was for many years a councillor of the Shire of Whittlesea, and was President on several occasions, and also took an active part in many local affairs, and his shrewd, common sense always made his services valuable. He leaves one son, four daughters, and a number of grandchildren. Mrs. Draper died many years ago.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon, when his remains were interred in the family grave at the Linton Cemetery, Hazel Glen. The procession was a lengthy one. The Rev. E. Selwyn Chase, Church of England minister, Queenstown, officiated at the house and at the grave side. The pall bearers were: Councillor John Mason (President of the Whittlesea Council), W. Campbell, Esq., E. H. Cameron, Esq., M.L.A., Hon. G. Graham, Messrs. John Daniel, J. Andrew, W. H. Lockwood, Everist, and Councillor R. Willis. The body was encased in a polished English oak coffin, mounted in brass, etc. The inscription on the coffin was: "Charles Draper, J.P., died 23rd April, 1909. Aged 84 years." The funeral arrangements were carried out under the direction of E. T. Apps, undertaker, of Fitzroy and Heidelberg.

The death of Mr. Draper removes another from the fast diminishing rank of the good old pioneers, who by hard work and intelligent industry demonstrated what could be done in what was considered poor land; he made a fortune in fruitgrowing; lived to a great age, and spent his last years in ease and comfort.