

Another Pioneer Gone.

Death of Mr. Frederick Morrell.

Although the event could not be said to have been unexpected, nevertheless a feeling that the town of Northam had witnessed the snapping of yet another link with her historic past was put into words in all quarters when it became known on Wednesday that Mr. Frederick Morrell had departed upon his last journey. The deceased gentleman was born in Perth it is true on September 1, 1846, but he ever acted as a true son of Northam, where he practically lived all his life with many others of his name—a particularly brilliant one in the town's annals. His grandfather was the founder of the town, and the tomb of that sturdy pioneer is to be seen on Doctor's Hill, bearing an inscription that publishes his claims upon the gratitude of the many who have been helped by his labors. Mr Morrell's father built the first church (the Church of England) in Northam. He was a brother of the late Mrs. George Throssell, Mrs. Henry Leeder, and John Morrell, who all pre-deceased him. Brothers living are Henry and Walter, and sisters Mesdames Geo. Smith and William Forward. On January 5, 1871, at the age of twenty-four, he married Cora Steele, a daughter of Mrs Ann Steele who came out to the then colony in October 1829 at the age of about 21.

October 1829 at the age of about 21. (This lady therefore landed in West Australia either just before or just after it was proclaimed a British colony.) The late Mr. Morrell and his wife at once proceeded to Prospect Valley (near Grass Valley), where they commenced farming under conditions that would not suit many of the latter day individuals composing the "backbone of the State." From a mass of primeval scrub he almost alone carved out his holding, and with his wife, by never ending labor and cheerful sacrifice, made a home in the wilderness. The whole of the clearing on this pioneer farm was the work of his industrious hands, and it is possible that some of the attendant hardships had much to do with his death at so comparatively an early age.

He expired at his residence in Duke-street, Northam, after an illness first noticed seriously at about last Xmas., which gradually developed into Bright's disease, the ultimate cause of death. Previous to last Christmas, the deceased had enjoyed reasonably good health. He has left to mourn their loss his widow and four children, namely, Messrs. A. H. and G. R. Morrell, and Mesdames Amy Kathleen Edmeades and Hilda Ethel Clairs, and fourteen grandchildren.
