

## Death of Mr Jacob Delmage.

In our last issue we made passing reference to Mr. Jacob Delmage as one of the few residents of this district who had lived under six monarchs. It was then mentioned that Mr. Delmage was in a very critical state of health, and during last Saturday night the old gentleman passed away. The funeral took place at the Church of England portion of the Northam cemetery on Monday morning, and was very largely attended, particularly by the older residents of the district. The Rev. R. H. Moore officiated. The chief mourners were Messrs F. H. Delmage, son; and George and Edward Martin, sons-in-law, and the pall bearers, Messrs. J. Wilkerson J.P., G. Wilkerson, W. T. Morrell, and Jas. Morrell. Wreaths were sent by the following:—Mr. and Mrs. G. Martin and family, Bertha and Richard; Mr. and Mrs. William Forward; Mr. and Mrs. Roy Forward; Mr. and Mrs. David Morrell and family, Alban and Clarence Morrell, Mr. and Mrs. T. Sinclair and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Beard; Mr. and Mrs. Willie Roe; Mrs. F. Morrell, senr; Mrs. G. Martin; Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Thackerah, Mrs. and Miss Mohr, Messrs. E. and W. Watkins. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. J. W. Purslowe. The deceased had eight children, 25 grandchildren, and 28 great-grandchildren. His wife, who predeceased him, was Miss Lucy Tapper, and they were married at Perth 56 years ago. Two of his daughters (Mrs. Edward Martin and Mrs. R. Dudley) are dead. His surviving daughters are Mrs. Geo. Martin, of Northam, Mrs. T. Tapper, of Fremantle, and Misses Sarah and May Delmage of Fremantle. He also left two sons Mr. F. H. Delmage, of Southern Brook, and Mr. James Delmage, J.P., of Dongarra. Mr. Delmage's father was a corporal in the 62nd Regiment and came to Western Australia with the first regiment that came from Tasmania in 1833, the late Mr. Delmage being then 13 years of age. On his parents returning home he was left behind as an apprentice to Mr. Lazenby, a carpenter, in Perth.

He was left behind as an apprentice to Mr. Lazenby, a carpenter, in Perth. After serving his time he came over the hills and entered upon agricultural pursuits. In 1854 in conjunction with Mr. William Lyon, still of Northam, he took up the Habgood farm, where the West Northam station now stands. They had about forty acres under cultivation, which was considered a great deal in those days. Subsequently he farmed a portion of Mr. Jas. Wilkerson's property on the Newcastle Road and went in for sheep-raising at Mt. Dick. At one time Mr Delmage was farming in the Swan and he used to tell of how he ploughed his first field with a team consisting of a horse and a cow.

By the death of Mr. Jacob Delmage, Western Australia has lost one of her oldest colonists. He had attained the ripe age of ninety years, and came out as a lad when he had just entered his teens. He lived for a long time in Perth and Fremantle, but was intimately associated with the early development of these districts. Mr. Jas. Wilkerson, who was one of the pall bearers, remarked yesterday—"I have been here sixty years, and Mr. Delmage was here long before me." During recent years increasing infirmity has confined Mr. Delmage to

his home, though occasionally, he came into town with his son-in-law, Mr. Martin. Time was, however, when he was the moving spirit in every local enterprise. He was an Irishman by birth and was full of the national characteristics of humor and kindness. Old friends speak of him as the very soul of generosity, one who frequently gave to others what he really needed himself. He was a total abstainer, a great worker and a man full of enterprise. He was always doing well and always giving with both hands to others less able to face the arduous battle of the times. The large attendance at his funeral showed that his past services to the town and district were not altogether forgotten. There are few local institutions with which he was not intimately associated in days gone by. He was one of the first trustees of the Northam Mechanics Institute, and one of the founders of the Northam Race Club. A

mechanics institute, and one of the founders of the Northam Race Club. A very old copy of the "West Australian Times," printed in Perth in 1863, and now in the possession of Mr. H. J. Leeder, contains a report of the meeting at which the Northam Race Club was formed, and in it the name of Mr. Jacob Delmage is given as the mover of the first resolution. The meeting was held at the old Avon Bridge Hotel, 40 years ago.

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