

MR. JOHN ADAMS.

One of the very oldest residents of Western Australia in the person of Mr. John Adams, died at his home in South Fremantle early on Wednesday last, after a short illness.

The deceased, who followed the occupation of a fisherman, was as well known in Fremantle as the local post-office, and was much esteemed by all the old residents and the natives of the Port. When only 12 months old the deceased, with his elder sister, now Mrs. Hanhan, were brought to Western Australia in May, 1830, by their father, the late William Adams, in the barque Rockingham, which was the second immigrant ship to visit this part of Australia. The vessel was wrecked on a reef near Rockingham--which was named after the ill-fated vessel--and Adams was carried ashore in his mother's arms little the worse for the exposure, which would have proved fatal to a less hardy child.

As a youth he took to fishing as a means of livelihood and, though he followed that calling for the greater part of his life, it is said that he never went further south of Fremantle than Safety Bay, and never as far north as Dongarra. About 40 years ago he worked for Mr. John Bateman, the founder of the firm of J. and W. Bateman, as a whaler. At that time whales were plentiful in Fremantle waters. The sea mammals were beached on the sand near Arthur's Head, where their blubber and bone were extracted.

The deceased might easily have been one of the wealthiest residents of Fremantle, for at different times he was the owner of blocks of land in the centre of the town which are now very valuable. But he appears to have evinced no desire to accumulate wealth, and kept on in the even tenor of his way, pursuing his calling as a fisherman until old age and failing health made it necessary a few years ago for him to give up such an arduous occupation.

The deceased leaves three sons, four daughters, 32 grand children, and three great-grand children. Quite a number of the deceased's sisters, Mrs. Hanhan, Mrs. Sheen, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Headland, Mrs.

Adams who figures in the well-known humorous piece, "How Bill Adams Won the Battle of Waterloo." The old cemetery has gone to decay, but strangely enough the headstone erected over the remains of the veteran is still in a good state of preservation, and the inscription is still as plainly legible as it was when it was first chiselled on the stone.

Sweetman, Mrs. Davies, and Mrs. Hall, survive him. His mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Adams, who was buried at Fremantle 14 years ago, at the age of 83, was known as "Old Granny" at Fremantle, doubtlessly on account of the large number of her grand children.

The demise of Mr. Adams revives an interesting literary speculation. His father William Adams, whose remains are buried in the old cemetery at South Fremantle, was one of Wellington's veterans at Waterloo, and it is also asserted by some that he was identical with the Adams who figures in the well-known