

DEATH OF OLD COLONISTS

MR. JACOB DELMAGE.

The death is announced of Mr. Jacob Delmage, as one of the few residents of the Northam district who had lived under six monarchs. Mr. Delmage had been 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 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). The pall-bearers were Messrs. J. Wilkerson, J.P., G. Wilkerson, W. T. Morrell, and Jas. Morrell. The deceased had eight children, 25 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren. His wife, who predeceased him, was Miss Lucy Tapper, and they were married at Perth 66 years ago. Two of his daughters (Mrs. Edward Martin and Mrs. R. Dudzey) 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 15 years of age. On his parents returning home 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 he took up the Habgood farm, where the West Northam station now stands. He had about 40 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 90 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 the Eastern districts. During recent years increasing infirmity had confined him to his home, though occasionally he came into Northam 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 humour and kindness. He was a total abstainer, a great worker, and a man full of enterprise. There were 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.

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MR. JOHN SPENCER.

The funeral of another very old colonist in the person of the late Mr. John Spencer took place last Tuesday afternoon. It was attended by a large gathering of old Western Australians. The deceased was born at sea in the ship Calista in the year 1829, when his parents were coming out to Western Australia, and he spent the whole of his life in this colony, being one of the pioneer and successful settlers on the land. His farming career commenced on the Canning, where he brought up a family of ten children of whom two sons and two daughters are still living in the district, and he remained there till the time of his death, at the age of 80 years and 10 months. The cortege moved from his late residence, Canning, and proceeded to the junction of Albany and Nicholson roads, where it was met by a very large circle of friends from Cannington, Fremantle, and elsewhere. The procession then proceeded to the Anglican Cemetery, Cannington, where the remains were interred in the family grave, the Rev. E. O. Phillips, of Perth, conducting the first portion of the burial ceremony at the house, and concluding at the graveside. The pall-bearers were Messrs. T. Wade, A. McIntosh, W. Callam, F. Mason, W. Mason and C. Harris. The chief mourners were the widow (Mrs. J. Spencer), Messrs. Wm. and Wilfred Spencer (sons), Mrs. A. Butterley and Mrs. R. Sneddon (daughters), Mr. Thos. Willey (brother-in-law), Mr. W. Gibbs (son-in-law), Mrs. W. Spencer and Mrs. G. W. Spencer (daughters-in-law), Messrs. James and Charles Gallop (nephews), Mr. Forrest Spencer, Mr. M. Butterley, Messrs. Cecil and Douglas Butterley, W. Robertson and Lionel Gibbs (grandsons), Misses Ivy Gibbs, Miss Ivy Butterley, and Mrs. W. Robertson (granddaughters). Many handsome wreaths were received, and also letters and telegrams of sympathy. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs. Bowra and O'Dea, undertakers, 195 Pier-street, Perth.

MRS. PHOEBE DOUGLAS.

Mrs. Phoebe Douglas (mother of Cr. Arthur Douglas, of South Perth, and relict of the late Thomas Douglas, who predeceased her 13 years ago) passed away at an early hour yesterday morning, at her residence, 4 Robinson-avenue, Perth, at the ripe age of 84 years. The deceased lady was a native of Duxford, Cambridgeshire, England, and arrived in this State by the sailing ship Sabinia on June 13, 1855. She lived under five monarchs, and left a grown-up family (all of whom are living) of seven sons and three daughters, 48 grandchildren, and 21 great-grandchildren to mourn their loss.