

Death of a Pioneer

Year by year the ever diminishing number of early pioneers gradually becomes less, and it is with regret that we have to announce the death of Mrs Lucy Playle, relict of the late Mr J. C. Playle, one of the oldest settlers in the Northam district. The deceased lady had reached the advanced age of 82 years six months, and as an instance of the hardy constitution of our early settlers it may be mentioned that up to six years ago the deceased lady had never had occasion to call in a doctor. On that occasion she suffered a severe illness, which left her considerably enfeebled in health, and a few weeks ago she became seriously ill, having contracted bronchitis. Cerebral hemorrhage supervened, and she died at about 12.30 a.m. on Saturday morning. The deceased lady was born at Gravesend, Kent, England, in 1831, and came to this State with her parents in the ship Simon Taylor in 1842. They settled in Fremantle, which was then in its infancy, and remained there for a few years, afterwards removing to Tipperary in the York district. In 1849 she was married to the late Mr J. C. Playle at Toodyay by the late Rev. Charles Harper. Seven years later they removed to Norwood Farm, near Clackline, where she resided up to the time of her death, having lived in the same house for 57 years. A family of seven sons and four daughters survive her. The sons are Messrs John Playle, grazier, Williams; William Playle, blacksmith, Williams; Richard Playle, farmer, Williams; A. G. Playle, Hollyoak, and Arthur Elliot, and Samuel Playle, who reside at the old homestead. The daughters are Mrs T. Dennis, Wongamine; Mrs L. Sinclair, Esperance; Mrs S. Brown south-west, and Mrs Johnson, Northam. There are also 40 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, and was very largely attended, there being representatives from all parts of the district. The cortege proceeded to St. John's Church, where portion of the burial service was read, and thence to the Anglican portion of the Northam Cemetery the officiating clergyman being the Rev. W. Patrick. The chief

being the Rev. W. Patrick. The chief mourners were Mr and Mrs Playle (son and daughter-in-law), Messrs Elliott, Richard, and Samuel Playle (sons), Mesdames Dennis and Johnson (daughters); and Mr W. Roser (brother). The pall-bearers were Messrs G. H. Smith, R. W. Smith, T. Sinclair, G. T. Wilkerson, J. Wansbrough, and W. J. Stewart. The funeral arrangements were conducted by Mr J. W. Purslowe.

Amongst the numerous wreaths forwarded were those from Arthur, Fanny and Elliot, Sam and Mary, Annie and Tom, William and Rose, Julia and Laurie, Susan and Sam, Fanny and Henry, Mr and Mrs R. W. Smith, Mr and Mrs Andrew Smith, Mr and Mrs T. Sinclair, Mrs J. Freind and family, Mr and Mrs W. J. Stewart, Mr and Mrs F. G. Freind and family, Mr and Mrs A. O. Freind, Mr and Mrs T. Duggan, Mr and Mrs R. T. Crouch, Nephews and Nieces, Wm. Roser (brother), Edie and Tom, Mr and Mrs W. J. Purslowe, Mr and Mrs G. T. Wilkerson, Mr and Mrs R. H. Thackrah and Hubert, Mr and Mrs Bloxside, Mrs Ridley, Mrs Johnson (daughter), Richard and Grace, Mr and Mrs C. K. Stewart, Mr Rosevear.