

OBITUARY

The Late Mrs. Marion Ferguson

The unexpected death on Tuesday night of Mrs. Marion Alice Ferguson, of 346 Fitzgerald-street, Northam, was learned of with very deep regret among the wide circle of friends she had made during her long residence in Northam.

Although aged 78 years, the late Mrs. Ferguson had enjoyed comparatively good health and carried out her normal home duties on Monday. Later she became ill and was admitted to the Northam Hospital and on Tuesday evening was being taken by ambulance with another patient to Perth for specialised treatment. On the journey, during a stop near The Lakes turn-off, she passed peacefully away. A sister (Mrs. Gray) had travelled with her.

Formerly a Miss Minson, the late Mrs. Ferguson was a member of one of Western Australia's oldest families, her grandparents having come to the Colony from England on the ship "Hooghly" in 1830. Her father, the late Mr. Robert Michael Minson, was born in Perth in 1834 and, later becoming a well-known old identity of Northam, died in 1933 at the advanced age of 98 years and 11 months. Her mother was before her marriage Miss Frances Green, of Toodyay. She too lived to an advanced age and is well remembered by older residents of Northam. Their family, a number of whom are deceased, were: Marion (Mrs. Ferguson), Charles, Maud (Mrs. Bygraves), Alice (Mrs. Wise), Laura (Mrs. Bastock), George, Edith (Mrs. Woods), Ivy (Mrs. Gray), William, Frederick and Ethel.

The late lady was married at Toodyay in 1893 to Alfred Ernest Ferguson (a

member of an equally old family), who predeceased her in 1949. They lived at Toodyay, then at the Swan and over forty years ago came to Northam, where both Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson entered actively into the public life of the town. Organizations with which Mrs. Ferguson had been closely associated over a long period were St. James' Anglican Church at West Northam, the Ladies' Croquet Club, the R.S.L. Auxiliary, Unions Football Club, patriotic bodies throughout two World Wars, as well as many lesser public and social activities over the years. Her pleasant personality had endeared her to many people of all ages and wide sympathy has been felt for her family of four sons, Messrs. Percy, Ray, Cyril and Doug. Ferguson (all of Northam) and one daughter, Dorothy (Mrs. Arthur Clarke, of North Dandalup), as well as the numerous other relatives. One daughter, Eva (Mrs. Spencer) is deceased.

The funeral, which was largely attended, took place on Thursday morning after a service conducted at St. James' Church at 11 o'clock by the Rev. Kerr, the place of interment being the Church of England portion of the Northam cemetery. The pall-bearers were Messrs. H. Wass, J. E. Bryant, R. Forward, G. Starsmoore, A. Flanders, F. C. Chidlow, J. Bremner and G. Christmass.