

Obituary.

MRS. ANDREW DEMPSTER.

At her residence, "Hawthorn," Chidlow-street, Northam, on Saturday morning last, there passed away a member of one of the very old and esteemed families of the eastern districts in the person of Sarah Dempster, widow of the late Andrew Dempster, and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Clarkson, of Toodyay. The names of Dempster and Clarkson must ever be held in warm regard, not only by those who know the descendants of the first settlers who bore them, and who came to our shores in the infancy of the colony, but also, and more particularly, by other early settlers, who for many years were associated with the pioneers, and in later years with their children and grandchildren. The newcomer finds it difficult to realise that there are still living many estimable people who came to Western Australia almost at the beginning of its history, and established their homes in the interior; and for those who were among the early settlers there must be a deep sadness in the death of the old families.

Gentle and kindly and hospitable of disposition the late Mrs. Dempster will be long mourned and remembered with feelings of affection by a very large number of friends in all parts of the State. While never forgetting her immediate family and old friends, she always took pains to make the new arrival feel at home, and was respected and loved by all who were privileged to know her.

The deceased lady was the second daughter (Sarah) of the late Michael and Jane Clarkson, and was born at "Nunyle," Toodyay, on the 1st Sept. 1847. She had one sister, Deborah (now Mrs. Durlacher, of Toodyay) and five brothers—Barnard, James, Tom, Willie and Edward, all of whom have

five brothers—Barnard, James, Tom, Willie and Edward, all of whom have pre-deceased her. Her mother, as Miss Jane Drummond, came to this country in the historic "Parmelia" in 1829, which ship was conveyed by the sloop of war, "Sulphur," with Governor Stirling on board. Her father came two years later, and acquired the property now owned by the Hamersley family, and known as "Wilberforce." It is worth recording, in view of the present land values, that the price at which he sold "Wilberforce" was 1/6 per acre.

The Clarkson family participated in many stirring pioneering incidents, and like many other of the old families paid its contribution to the heavy toll of human life extorted by the young colony. The youngest son, Edward, was treacherously speared by the blacks at Dalhercutting, near Doodlakine, in 1863, and died five days afterwards, attended only by David Hackett, a boy twelve years old, who bravely stayed with him until his death, and then made the journey alone through the bush to "Buckland," near Northam. Mrs. Dempster, then a girl of only eighteen, was staying with friends at Geraldton, and on hearing of the tragedy took the first available ship for home, which chanced to be a whaler. She was the only passenger. The trip from Geraldton to Fremantle took over three weeks, and Mrs. Dempster always referred to this trip as one of the most trying experiences of her life.

The subject of this notice was married on the 1st June, 1871, to Frederic Mackie Roe, fifth son of the late Captain Roe, R.N. (also a "Parmelia" passenger), and the first Surveyor-General of Western Australia, which office he held for 42 years.

There were two sons and one daughter of the marriage, "Gus," of the North-West, and formerly of Northam, and Willie, of Grass Valley, both of whom are well-known and respected by all. The daughter died in infancy. Mr. F. M. Roe died in 1877 at the age of thirty-three, the result of an accident at his station "Dumbo," Wongan Hills, leaving his widow, aged thirty, with three young children. She resided in Toodyay until 1891, when she was married to the late Mr. Andrew Dempster, of "Muresk," and since his death in 1909 resided in Northam up to the time of her death.

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Mrs. Dempster was closely associated with the early history of the colony, and was related to or connected with most of the families whose names are written in the early annals of Western Australia, notably the Clarksons, Roes, Drummonds, Durlachers and Dempsters. It is, however, as the hospitable and charming hostess of Muresk that she was best known to the present generation. Many who are now passing middle age have the most pleasant remembrances of visits to "Muresk," where a warm welcome was always given. She seemed to find her greatest pleasure in seeing that those around her were happy, and that her friends lacked nothing conducive to their comfort and enjoyment.

THE FUNERAL

The interment of the remains of the deceased lady, which were enclosed in a casket of polished jarrah, with silver mountings, took place in the Anglican portion of the Northam cemetery on Sunday afternoon. The funeral cortege, which included many old residents of the district and leading townspeople, moved from her late residence to St. John's Church, where the service was conducted by the Rev. Alban Marshall. The service at the graveside was also conducted by the Rev. Mr. Marshall. The pallbearers were Mr. James Mitchell, M.L.A., Mr. Edward Hamersley, junr., Dr. Rockett, Dr. Frost, Mr. G. L. Throssell, and Mr. J. W. Stewart, J.P.

The chief mourners were Mr. William Roe (son), his two sons and Mr. Edward Cotton.

A large number of wreaths from sorrowing relatives and friends of the deceased lady were placed on the grave, the cards attached to them bearing the following names:—

Gus and Willie, Jack and Ruth.

Little Alan.

Little Barbara.

Mrs. Pearson Lyon.

Louis, Fred and Norman.

Willie and Edie.

Gus and Annie.

Mr. and Mrs. Forward, and Maud and Douglas.

Alban and Clarice.

Miss Bessie Morrell and Mr. James Morrell.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Rourke.

Mrs. Howard and Mr. Strempke and

Mr. and Mrs. O'Rourke.
Mrs. Howard and Mr. Strempke and family.

Mrs. Monger and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Loton.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Bostock.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Meares.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Martin.

Mr. and Mrs. Chidlow.

Mrs. Whitfield and family.

Mrs. Vivenash and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Parker.

Mr. and Mrs. Foreman.

Mr. and Mrs. Diamond.

Laura and Amy.

Fanny Todman.

Mr. and Mrs. Green and family.

Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Dunkley.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackall.

Mr. and Mrs. P. York.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale.

Little Thelma and Vivien.

Dr. and Mrs. Frost.

Mr. and Mrs. David Morrell.

Mrs. C. E. Dempster and Chrissie.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Smith.

Mrs. E. M. Withnell, senr., and Mr. and Mrs. Horace Withnell.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Withnell.

From all at Muresk.

Stella.

Little Emma Cotton.

Mrs. Heath Sundridge.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Oliver.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Nicholson.

Lewis and Ada.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Stewart and family.

Hannah and Roy.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Morrell.

Mr. and Mrs. Reggie Dempster.

George Dempster.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Withers.

Willie and Mabel Dempster.

Mrs. Withnell, senr.

Messrs. H. and H. Withnell, undertakers, carried out the funeral arrangements.