

CRITUARY.

REV. F.J.PITMAN.

There are 2 documents in this set - this obituary in the Yarrowonga Mercury, and a speech about FJ Pitman's life by one of his sons, RW Pitman (b 1874)

In our last issue we reported the death of the Rev. F.J.Pitman, but were unable to give a full account of his life. However, this issue we are enabled to do so. The death of the Rev. gentleman has removed from the Yarrowonga district one of its earliest pioneers and a highly respected citizen. Mr Pitman arrived in Yarrowonga in 1877 from Chewton to take up the early church work of this district, which was no light task as there were no roads formed, and only bush tracks along which to travel in fulfilling his ministerial duties. The Rev. gentleman was successful in establishing a church which was composed of all Protestant denominations. At that time the early settlers of the Protestant denomination were in a large majority - the district, and - - - - . Mr Pitman successfully conducted services in the church established 1880, when he was - - - - - owing to ill health. He was educated at Western College Plymouth, and arrived at Adelaide in 1854. In 1855, he was - - appointed to the ministerial charge of the Chewton Congregational Church, and was therefore, one of the pioneer Congregational ministers of Victoria. Mr Pitman carried on his ministerial duties in - years, and during that time did good service among those residing in the districts under his charge. Although he retired in the year 1889, he still continued to - service both in the church and with the clergymen who succeeded him and also with the other denominations, and was always willing - - - into the minds of his - abiding sense of the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God. He had a never failing faith in the Bible, and "life after death", was the rock on which he leaned through the many trials which he was called upon to bear. His hope in life and beyond the grave found constant expression from his lips in the words of Christ:- "In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." His strong belief in these words gave him perfect calmness, whilst he merely regarded death as the transition from the pains of the flesh to the life eternal. Deceased suffered a great deal from the time he retired from the ministry in 1889 till his death, and on several occasions during that time he was not expected to rally again. During his last illness the deceased fell out of bed and sustained a paralytic seizure down the left side which rendered him helpless and almost blind, and he was hardly able to speak. Dr Denis was attending him, and at the time saw that the end was very soon to come, and after lingering for some time the Rev. gentleman peacefully past away at 7 o'clock on the Tuesday evening, at the age of 73 years. He leaves several sons and daughters, the majority of them residing in Yarrowonga, to mo^urn his loss, and his death has caused the deepest feelings of sorrow and regret throughout the district, where he was beloved by all for his many good qualities, and his gentle and charitable acts.

The funeral was followed by a large number of the residents of the town and surrounding district, and members of the Fire Brigade, in full uniform walked by the side of the hearse. The coffin was taken to the Congregational Church, where a short service was conducted by the Rev. W.S.Pearse assisted by the Rev. G. B-ng. The service

Albert James, daughter
Margaret and Alice (Eileen)
and my Uncle
But attended
this.

Monday 8th, August, 1927

YARRAWONGA.

Address given by R. W. Pitman on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Yarrawonga & District Congregational Churches, on the above date.

Mr. Chairman Ladies & Gentlemen, what I proposed to do tonight is to give you an outline of my late respected Father's Ministerial Career.

Fredrick, John. Pitman born at Milbourn Port, Somersetshire England in the year 1826. He was educated at Bedford College England, left England in a sailing ship and landed at Melbourne (Australia) after a 4 months voyage in the year 1857, there he found practically a Canvas Town, from Melbourne he went to Castlemain a town on the Bendigo line some 60 miles distant from Melbourne, here he settled down and established 3 Churches, viz. Chewton, Forest Hill, & Sutton Grange, he ministered to these Churches for a period of 20 years, from there he came to Yarrawonga in the year 1877.

I am right in saying that my Father was the first Christian Minister of an Denomination in this District, and he established the following churches, Yarrawonga, Bundalong, South Yarrawonga, & Wilby, to which he Ministered for a period of 15 Years, then on account of ill health he was compelled to resign, however he took an active part in the Churches, and acted as secretary up to the time of his Death, which took place on the 18th of February 1906, this brings us to the end of my Fathers career.

From the time my Father gave up until now we have had several Ministers all of whom did good work, You now have the Rev. Mr. Dunstan, who I am glad to be able to say is doing well and the churches are prospering.

I had the pleasure of acting as Secretary to the Yarrawonga church also the United Committees, for about 14 years, and consider it a great honour to have done so, it is nice for the old Members, of which there are a number here tonight, to know that the churches are still doing well.

Now Ladies & Gentlemen, all I have to say, and speaking on behalf of my Brothers, Sisters, & relatives, that it is gratifying for us to know, that the Public of Yarrawonga and District, cherish the Memory of our Dear Old Father.

THE END.