

## Sydney Morning Herald (NSW : 1842 - 1954), Saturday 3 June 1876, page 5

## DEATH OF AN OLD COLONIST.

The following biographical sketch of an old colonist has been forwarded to us by electric telegraph from Warrnambool, Victoria :—

## WARRNAMBOOL, FRIDAY.

The funeral of the late Mr. Rutledge took place to-day, at One-hill Cemetery; it was observed quietly by the special request of the deceased. The Rev. Dr. Beamish officiated. The *Standard* of this morning says that Mr. Rutledge was born in the county Cavan, Ireland, on the 22nd January, 1806; in 1829 he accepted the invitation of his uncle, the late Dr. Forster, of the 1st Royals, and father of the present Agent-General of New South Wales, to go to Sydney, and on the 18th December of that year he arrived after a voyage of nearly five months from Cork. He was successful as a farmer on the property now known as Kissing Point, on the Parramatta River, and also engaged in various business pursuits. In 1837, he purchased a property on Molonglo Plains, near Queanbeyan, New South Wales, and in the following year he travelled overland from Sydney to Melbourne, and paid a visit to Port Fairy which led to his connection with this district. In 1840, Mr. Rutledge married Miss Eliza Kirk, fifth daughter of the late Mr. Rupert Kirk, a successful London merchant, and it may be remarked that the mother of Mrs. Rutledge is still residing in Sydney. About this time he took up a special survey in Victoria, near Kilmore, and became interested in a survey in Gippsland. In 1842 Mr. Rutledge, who had been impressed with the richness of the land near Tower Hill, selected, in conjunction with others, 5060 acres as a special survey, which he afterwards called Farnham; at that time not one acre had been disposed of in the Warrnambool district. In 1844 he went to reside in Belfast, where he purchased a mercantile business. In 1854 he opened a business in Warrnambool, under the style of Rutledge, McGregor, and Co., but owing to the fluctuating state of trade with the diggings at that period the branch was not successful, and the Belfast house, which had carried on an extensive trade, was also given up. Since that time Mr. Rutledge has devoted his attention to the Farnham property, where he has continued to reside, making occasional trips to Europe. Mr. Rutledge has always taken a warm interest in all public matters relating to the district or the colony at large. After the separation of Victoria and New South Wales he was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly and represented Villiers and Heytesbury for some years. He displayed energy and firmness, and the narrative of his life especially in the early days, is intimately connected with the history of the Western district. He leaves a widow, five daughters, and two sons, all of whom with his brother and other relatives were present at the time of the sad event. Mr. Thomas Rutledge arrived from Sydney on Wednesday, but found his brother unconscious; which continued till death.