



Mr. Sidney Parsons.

Obituary of Mr. Sidney Parsons

Mr. Sidney Parsons, of Beythorne, Nairne, whose death was announced in a recent issue of "The Advertiser" at the age of 94 years, was well known and respected throughout the district. He took much interest in the matters of public moment, and was for many years a steward of the Methodist Church and teacher in the Sunday-school. He was also a foundation member of the Nairne Lodge of Oddfellows. Mr. Parsons arrived in South Australia 69 years ago, when he was 24 years of age, and settled in the Nairne district. He went to work for Mr. Allen Bell, cutting wheat with a sickle, and during the shearing season shored for Messrs. Bell & Paterson and Kairn. He had been taught to shear at home on his father's farm at Whaddon, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. It was quickly recognised that he was a first-class shearer and above the ordinary. For eight seasons in succession he shored for Mr. Melrose at Mount Pleasant. Only on one occasion did he go far north to shear, and that was at Outalpa, where he was introduced to the owner of the station by the manager as the best shearer on the board, in recognition of which he received the payment of fares both ways, and an invitation to shear again the following season. It was generally thought that Mr. Parsons was the oldest living blade shearer in the State at the time of his death; also that he was the last of the adults who arrived on the sailing vessel *Caucasian*, December 25, 1857. When the northern areas were thrown open for agricultural settlement about 1870, Mr. Parsons was one of the first to take up land, his selection being in the hundred of Broughton, near where Koolunga was subsequently laid out. Seven years later he sold his farm and moved to Oladdie 15 miles north of Orroroo, where, after an accident, he returned to Nairne and spent the remainder of his life. His wife, who was Miss Elizabeth Fry, of Pitton, Wiltshire, died several years ago. Mr. Parsons left a daughter (with whom he lived at Nairne), and four sons, two of whom are resident in this State; one is farming in Western Australia, and the other is following the same occupation in New South Wales.

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