

James Russell Thomson. 1886 Deaths in the District of Ballarat No.19552. Gentleman.

Where and where died:- 26 May 1886 at Doveton St, City of Ballarat. County of Grenville.

Sex and Age: - Male. 68 years.

Cause of death: - Cancer of Liver.

Duration of illness: - 3 weeks.

Medical attendant by whom certified: - Dr Whitcombe.

When last seen: - 26/5/1886

Name of Father and mother if known: - Unknown.

Informant: - Noble Wilson, one of his executors. Land Agent, Camp St, Ballarat.

Buried: - 28th May 1886.

Minister: - John Marks

Where Born: - Airdrie, Scotland.

Length of time in Victoria: - 34 Years

Marital status: - Single.

COMMENT

Newspaper reports on the occasion of his death indicate that he had apparently developed a respiratory infection at the coast in February on a voyage from Queenscliffe to Sorrento and had neglected his ailment too long to find relief from medical aid although attended by Drs Whitcombe and Bradford. A three week history of "Cancer of the liver" seems somewhat unlikely. With the background of mining pulmonary problems such as silicosis, tuberculosis and chronic obstructive airways disease could play a part with a terminal pneumonia. It is curious that the published cause differs so remarkably from the death certificate and it implies that a liver problem was involved. All in all it is proposed that he died of a terminal pneumonia with a background of chronic chest disease and cirrhosis of the liver. From a small perusal of the death certificates at the time, the diagnosis of cancer of the liver seems to be more prevalent as a cause of death than one would expect,(? a diagnosis of convenience rather than Cirrhosis.)