

THE LATE MR. DONALD GOLLAN
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Rarely has a journalist had a more sorrowful task to perform than we now have in recording the death of so widely known and so thoroughly esteemed and respected gentleman as the late Mr. Donald Gollan who died somewhat suddenly on Saturday morning last, at Point Sturt, at the ripe old age of 73 years.

In our last issue we mentioned that Mr. Gollan met with a slight accident by which he had been laid up for some time, but no cause for alarm was given, most satisfactory progress being made, and a few days' rest was expected to completely restore him to his accustomed health and vigor. On Saturday morning, however, Mr. Gollan's heart began to give trouble, and at nine o'clock he grew so rapidly worse that he died in a few minutes. The accident thus was not the cause though it probably hastened the old gentleman's end.

The sad news which spread very fast cast quite a gloom over the whole of the district, from all quarters of which letters and telegrams of sympathy and condolence were sent to Mrs. Gollan, who by the way is herself in very delicate health.

Mr. Gollan's body was brought to the Belvidere farm on Monday, a long procession following the hearse to Milang, and on Tuesday morning the funeral took place, the mortal remains of the deceased gentleman being followed to their last resting place, the Strathalbyn cemetery, by the largest assemblage ever gathered together in the South for a similar purpose.

Nearly 400 mourners, conveyed in about eighty vehicles, and on horseback joining the procession, the number including all the leading people of the district, (many of whom had travelled long distances in order to pay their last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased) as well as several influential city gentlemen. The chief mourners were Mrs. Gollan, the widow, Messrs. D. F. Gollan, and John S. Addison, nephews, A. Gordon brother-in-law, Mesdames. Hugh Matheson, W. A. S. Blue, nieces with their families, and amongst others we noticed Messrs. R. Barr Smith, J.P., Hon. J. Harking M.L.C., A. H. Landseer, M.P., J. L. Stirling, J.P., J. Cheriton, J.P., W. Rogers, J.P., (three ex members for the district) Jas. McCord, J.P., Chairman Strathalbyn District Council W. P. Dank, J.P., A. Rankine, M. Rankine, J.P., II. Daenke, Chairman Bremer District Council. Dr. W. A. S. Blue. J.P., Berry Smith, J.P., W. D. Stephenson, J.P., J. H. Gordon, all of the local clergymen, D. Bell, Mayor of Strathalbyn, R. Carruthers, ex-Mayor, W. J. Tucker, E. J. Tucker, C. E. Sewell, W. S. Rogers, J. Borreu, T. Graham, J.P., T. Gemmell, W. Stanton, H. P. Moore, J. W. Elliott, J.P., Dr. W. F. Moore, T. Johnston, J.P., J. Cheriton, Geo. Davidson, J. McLean, J. McCullun, J.P., J. Stark, Geo. Dunn, J. P., J. Kirkham, H. G. Watson, Revs. F. W. Samwell, and Burns (Mount Barker), G. Herrington, (Milang), W. Brook, S. Stanton, J.P., and a large number of Mr. Gollan's old employees. This list of course does not include all the representative men present, but merely those we noticed at the grave. There was a large attendance of ladies also.

The service at the grave was conducted by the Rev. W. S. Macqueen, of whose church Mr. Gollan had been a prominent and active member.

Mr. Gollan was essentially one of the representative men of the South, and indeed one of its pioneers, and by his death the fast-thinning ranks of the "fathers of the land" — men we can ill-afford to lose — is still further reduced. To him our own town owes much indeed, for it owes its very name he having christened it Strathalbyn when he first settled here in 1839. From that far back time Mr. Gollan has continued to reside in the district; much of the prosperity of which was due to his zeal and energy.

Mr. Gollan was born near Inverness on January 11, 1815, and was brought up on his father's farm, marrying in 1838. He came to the colony in the following year.

Shortly after his arrival he settled here and in conjunction with Mr. Rogers, of Sandergrove, built the first house in the town on the site where the Terminus Motel now stands. He then opened his house as an hotel and continued his business there till 1852 when he settled down at Burnside, first taking a trip to his old home in Scotland with Mrs. Gollan.

Some 14 years ago he parted with the Burnside estate to Mr; Merchant, and removed to Point Sturt where he has since resided.

In the earlier days he was actively engaged in squatting pursuits, holding in addition to other properties, Pine Camp, Blackwood, Jupiter Creek, &c.

During his long residence in Strathalbyn Mr. Gollan was a most useful townsman and took a foremost place in every movement tending to advance the interests of the district; his name being associated with nearly all the many steps by which Strathalbyn advanced.

With the late Messrs. Colman and Hooper he was instrumental in getting the bridge erected over the Angas near the gasworks, which bears the name of the Gol-Col-Hoop bridge, and by a strange train of circumstances. Death reversed this order of names, Mr. Hooper dying first, Mr. Colman next being taken, and Mr Gollan last, he being the only one whose body was taken across the bridge on its way to the tomb — as if to fittingly mark the end of the three good men.

Gollan Crescent and Gollan Street figure on the map of Strathalbyn, and in a hundred other ways his memory is fixed indelibly in the history of the town.

As one of the most enthusiastic supporters of our Agricultural Society, both as a committee man and as an exhibitor he will be much missed. As a politician his modesty prevented him from taking a very active part in the affairs of the colony, but he was a hard worker for those whose cause he espoused and those who recollect him as the chairman of the banquet to Mr. Stirling last year will always remember his genial and pleasant manner on that occasion. His generosity always prevented him from becoming a rich man, but his good deeds will live long in the memory of those whom he befriended. A feeling of genuine sorrow pervaded the whole district at the news of his unexpected death, for so hale and hearty was he that he shamed many a one numbering not half his years.