

Death of Mrs. Susannah Morrell.

A WORTHY PIONEER.

When it became known on Saturday evening that Mrs. Susannah Morrell had passed away there were manifestations of deep sorrow on every hand. Mrs. Morrell was a well-known figure in Northam, since the town came into existence. In fact, she was one of the first three residents of the place. During the past few years she did not enjoy the very best of health. The hard pioneer life which she had to lead in the early days had, however, given her a very vigorous constitution, and, as a result, sickness was a visitation which she thought of and treated lightly. During last week she had a very severe illness, and her medical adviser, Dr. Dunlop, held out no hopes for her recovery, and she passed away peacefully at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. G. H. Smith. The deceased lady was born in Lancashire, England, on May, 19, 1822, so that at the time of her death she was in her 83rd year. She arrived in Western Australia on June 29, 1829, the vessel in which the voyage from England was made being the brig James, which was wrecked in Fremantle harbor before an anchorage could be secured. The passengers were saved with the greatest difficulty by floating ashore on rafts. The captain's wife (Mrs. Goldsmith) had a child only one week old, and both mother and child were rescued in a most miraculous manner. The late Mrs. Morrell during her childhood lived in Fremantle, and afterwards at Perth with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham, Summerland. The other members of the family consisted of four boys and one girl. Of the former only one is now living

(Mr. Isaac Summerland, of Moonee Ponds, near Melbourne, Victoria, late of Castlemaine). Mrs. Morrell's only sister, Sarah, the late Mrs. B. B. Ranford, died in 1891. In 1855 Mrs. Morrell reached Northam in company with her husband, the late Richard Morrell, to make a home on the property granted in the earlier days to this family. Her children were the late John Morrell, of "White Cottage," Annie (Mrs. George Throssell), Frederick Morrell, of Prospect Valley, Emily (Mrs. William Forward), Sarah (Mrs. George H. Smith), Susannah (the late Mrs. Henry Leeder), Henry and Walter Morrell, of Northam, and one son (George), who died in childhood. The deceased lady experienced to the full the difficulties which beset the pioneers of the district. The blacks were then bold and treacherous, and so bad were they at one period that Imperial troops had to be stationed at various homesteads to protect the lives and property of the pioneer settlers. Under all these hardships the deceased lady fought the battle of life bravely and well, and now, under the better and more happier conditions of life in the district, it was her wont to tell many thrilling tales of the hardships which had to be endured in the early days. Mrs. Morrell was of a remarkably kindly disposition, and not a few in this district owe the success which they have achieved in life to her kindly words of cheer and self-sacrifice. She was a woman truly loved by all who know anything of the early history of the district. The esteem in which she was held by all classes of the community was testified to on Monday by the very large number who attended the funeral. The gathering at the graveside was a very remarkably representative one, and many were moved to tears as the remains were lowered to their last resting

were lowered to their last resting place. The pall-bearers were Messrs. W. J. Stewart, J. Wilkerson, C. R. Knight, Herbert Hope, H. Day, and J. H. Gregory. The service at St. John's Church and at the graveside were impressingly conducted by the Rev. P. U. Henn. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Steve Cook.
