

The Late Mr. Robert Ceely

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The late Mr. Robert Ceely, who died at Lethbridge House, Narandera, on Sunday, April 12th, was the oldest pioneer of the Ganmain-Matong districts. He was the only holder in the district of an original allotment which was selected in his case 52 years ago.

He was born at Bendigo and his early childhood was spent in Rochester, Victoria. He later selected land at Ruffy, also in Victoria, from where he came to Derain. He was widely known and popularly known and was held in the highest of respect by all. In his younger days he was well-known as a cricketer and was the founder of the first Derain cricket club. He was a good player in several departments of the game and was very proud of the trophies he had won, particularly for the best batting averages. He married Miss Joan Champion, of Bendigo.

He is survived by his widow and 11 children and 24 grandchildren. The daughters are Mesdames E. Pauner, L. H. C. Bryant, C. W. Searle, W. J. Bennett, C. W. Hoskin and H. S. Notling and Miss Thelma M. Ceely. The sons are Messrs. Robert Ceely (Matong), Keith (Ganmain) and Ptes. James and Ken Ceely, of the A.I.F. in Singapore. The deceased is also survived by two sisters, Mesdames G. Noye (Ruffy, Vic.), W. H. Gibbs (Hay), Tom Plane (Ganmain) and James Logan (Matong).

The funeral was held in Ganmain on Tuesday, April 14th, and was very largely attended, showing the high esteem in which the deceased was held.