

The Rockwood Review.

JOHN FORSTER'S DEATH.

(From the Oakville Star, Oct. 15.)

On Thursday evening last death visited the home of the editor of this paper, and removed the happy presence of our aged father, John Forster. His weakness extended back for a couple of years, but the fatal illness only lasted about ten days. He was stricken with paralysis last December, from which he never fully recovered. The remains were laid to rest in St. Jude's cemetery on Sunday afternoon. Service was held in the Methodist church, Rev. G. W. Calvert preaching an eloquent sermon. The attendance was large a number of old and worthy friends from the neighborhood of his former home attending to get a last glimpse of a face they had known so long.

John Forster was born at Brampton, Cumberland county, England, and at the early age of nine years sailed to Canada with his parents. This country was then a dense forest, with the nearest store and grist mill at Little York, now Toronto. With much courage the party endured the hardships of the rude means of travel of those days and finally located on a bush farm near Britannia, Toronto township, Peel county. Busy hands soon provided a shelter, and the axe quickly made a sufficient clearing to produce a living. Energetically the work went on until the family found themselves possessed of several hundred acres of cleared land.

Deceased made an early start for himself and for over fifty years resided on his homestead, removing to Oakville in March 1886, where he has enjoyed a well earned retirement.

Mr. Forster was married twice, raised a large family, and lived to see them all settled and six stalwart grandsons had the honor of carrying him to his last resting place. His retiring disposition caused him to lead a quiet life, giving careful and active attention to the pursuit of his choice, his public services only being along a religious line. All his life he was connected with the Methodist church, and officially for thirty years. Politically he was a staunch Liberal, and stood up for the principles of that party during the stormy times of the family compact. Then there was open voting which lasted for a week and the chief law was canes and clubs. Often had he seen his friends roughly handled and some even prevented from voting at the risk of their lives. However, he lived to see a far different political condition. In 1837 he was a volunteer and saw active service at Niagara in quelling the Mackenzie rebellion. Of this small war he told many interesting stories, having had several thrilling experiences himself. In home life he was patient, considerate and mirthful, ever wishing to add to the comfort and pleasure of those about him, while in the hour of tribulation his was a nature that responded cheerfully with a kind act and sympathetic word. His family received his good and trusty counsel and his life will ever linger fondly in their memories.