

BEN RIXON

The late Mr. Benjamin Rixon — Who in this colony had not heard of the celebrated "Ben Rixon", who for well nigh half a century was the most famous and successful tracker in Australia. In the course of the active portions of his long life, he tracked many a man over hill and dale alike in the interests of humanity and law and order but now at last, he himself had crossed the bourne from which no traveller returns. After a protracted illness of two or three years, he died on Tuesday last at the residence of his son, Mr. James Rixon of Bulli. In the course of his life he rendered much valuable service to the country, in a public sense as well as privately, to persons his aid as a tracker. Many a person was rescued from the wilderness by Mr. Rixon. As a tracker, he was superior to any of the quick eyed aboriginals of the country. And his un-equalled power in that respect caused him to be sought after far and wide when any persons were lost in the bush, or the Government required the whereabouts of some desperado to be ascertained by the police. He was a native of Parramatta, being one of a triplet birth. After living in that locality and the Campbelltown district, for a time he settled at American Creek, near this town, on the farm now owned and occupied by Mr. Deighton Taylor. There he reared a somewhat large family, but about fifteen years ago this land passed out of his hands. Since then he has resided with members of his family, and occasionally with Mr. F.R.Cole, the Customs officer of this port, who at all times treated the old man most hospitably. Never was any man treated more unfairly by his country than was the deceased. So many and so great were the services he rendered to the Government and his fellow men, that in justice to him he should have been in the receipt of a liberal pension, during the last thirty years at least. But although the Government of the country failed so much in doing their duty to Benjamin Rixon it is to be hoped that the people of this district will do honour to his memory in some suitable manner. He was 80 years old.

Illawarra Mercury, 22nd. July 1886