

**The Argus (Melbourne, Vic)
Monday 10 April 1916**

THOMAS - THOMAS. - On the 8th March, 1916. at Rosebrook, Port Fairy, Walter, eldest son of the late Cr. Moses Thomas, of Mayfield, Mernda, and his wife, Janet Thomas, to Jean Barclay, youngest daughter of the late David and Mary Thomas, of Blair Athol, Rosebrook, Port Fairy.

**Evelyn Observer and Bourke East Record
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ROSEBROOK
[CONTRIBUTED]

On the 8th inst., Cr Walter Thomas, of "The Poplars," Mernda, was married to his cousin, Miss Jean Barclay Thomas, of "Blair Athol," Rosebrook, Port Fairy. Miss Thomas is the youngest daughter of the late David and Mary Thomas, two of the pioneers of the far-famed Western District. Miss Thomas is a native of Rosebrook, and has taken a keen interest in all that tends to advance her native place. She has been for more than a quarter of a century a tower of strength to the Sunday School, in which she was always a teacher, and much beloved by the children, who very much regret her departure from the district, their parents and residents also being very sorry at Miss Thomas' departure from their district, as they realise her place will be hard to fill. On the 7th inst., a most cordial send off was given to Miss Thomas by the leading residents of the district, the Sunday school scholars and the inhabitants generally. The gathering was held in the commodious Rosebrook State School. About 130 (?) persons were present, and the chair was ably filled by Cr James Steele, J.P., Superintendent of the Sunday School in which Miss Thomas taught. The Chairman had on his right hand the Mayor of Port Fairy, Cr James Goldie, J.P., and on his left Miss Thomas and her intended husband, Cr Walter Thomas. A most enjoyable evening was spent, and during the evening the Chairman addressed the large gathering, and in feeling terms alluded to the great loss they were sustaining, viz. the departure of Miss Thomas, whom they all knew and loved. He said from the high character and well-known capability of Miss Thomas, he was sure Mr Thomas must consider himself a very fortunate man in winning her - (Cr Thomas: "I do". Laughter, in which the Chairman joined) - but he was sure what was their loss would be Mernda's gain, as Miss Thomas was bound to do good, earnest work wherever she went. He himself, as an old school-mate in the Sunday School, also in the State School, and a co-worker with Miss Thomas in the former, wished her every happiness in her new life. This he felt sure she would have, as her future husband was a well-known man of culture and ability and was not a stranger to them. He called on the Rev. Mr Harris to say a few words. This Mr Harris did in a semi-humorous vein, at the same time saying Mr Thomas was taking away probably the best worker in good works in their district. Miss Thomas was ever a faithful worker in all good works in the district and would be sadly missed among them. He had not known Miss Thomas as long as some of them, but her singularly honest and straightforward character, as well as her lovable disposition, appealed to them all, and he heartily wished her every happiness in her new sphere, and he was certain she would be equally as much beloved in her new home as she was in her old. The Chairman then called on the Mayor of Port Fairy (Cr James Goldie, J.P.) to say a few words. This the Mayor did, and in doing so said no one more keenly regretted the departure of his old schoolmate

and fellow-scholar in both Sunday School and State School than he did. A woman of the highest character, an earnest worker for the good of the district, a member of one of the most respected families amongst them, and of a most lovable disposition, was it any wonder they regretted her departure? Why, the children could hardly realise that they were losing her, but he could say this of Miss Thomas, she had been a good and faithful servant to all in Rosebrook, and he wished her every happiness in her new sphere of life. In marrying Mr Thomas she was marrying a well-known gentleman in public life, and a man respected in his sphere; and he heartily wished them both every blessing in their home. After a few musical items Mr Steele called upon the Mayor to make a handsome presentation to Miss Thomas on behalf of the people of the district. This the Mayor did in feeling terms, saying that although the gift was handsome and very valuable, it was only as a small memento of the kindly and loving feelings held by them all towards Miss Thomas. Cr Thomas replied for Miss Thomas, and in doing so, said when he heard them all speaking as they did that night, he felt very like a thief for taking Miss Thomas away from them. But there was another side to the question; he himself was left a lonely man, and in his district there was also plenty of room for good works, and his cousin, in taking compassion on him for his loneliness, could, with Divine help, also do good in the Plenty district. He would just like to say a few words to the Sunday School scholars and other children present; he would earnestly impress upon them to be attentive to their various duties, and especially to take every advantage of the splendid changes that they had in the way of education, and thus grow up good men and good women. On behalf of Miss Thomas he sincerely thanked them for their kindness; and for Miss Thomas' future, he could only say he would do all he could to make her happy in her future life; and he felt sure she would do likewise by him. In conclusion, he could only say for Miss Thomas and himself he hoped God would help and care for them all. The gathering, after refreshments and a few more musical items, broke up, and, after a hearty handshake at the door by old and young, bid farewell to their loved teacher and friend, her intended husband being also cordially bid adieu.

On Wednesday, the 8th inst., the marriage of Cr Thomas and Miss Thomas was celebrated at "Blair Athol," Rosebrook, by the Rev. Mr Beck, Presbyterian clergyman at Port Fairy, joining in bonds of holy matrimony the two persons above-mentioned. The wedding was a very quiet one, being strictly restricted to members of the two families. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr Moses Thomas, of "Bessiebelle," and the bridegroom was supported by his brother, Mr Moses Thomas, of Mayfield, Mernda, as best man, the bridesmaid being Miss Georgina Thomas, sister of the bride. Among those present were Mr Lewis Thomas, B A, his wife and daughter, Mr Thomas being a brother of the bridegroom, and State School Inspector for Warrnambool district, and Mr and Mrs McKinnon, of "Carron," Donald, Mr James Thomas and his wife, of "Bessiebelle," Mr David Thomas, of "Bessiebelle," also Mrs Craig, Mr William Thomas and Mrs Merritt, relations of the bride. The wedding breakfast, which was held in a large marquee erected for the occasion, was presided over by Mr Beck, and the good things provided were done ample justice to. The Rev. Chairman proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom in a few well chosen words. He had no personal knowledge of the bridegroom, but he had heard good reports; but of the bride he could only say that which was good, and the district here would sorely miss her as there were few workers like her to be found in good works in any district, but he was sure they all wished the newly married couple every happiness. The toast was duly honoured. The Bridegroom responded by thanking

them and assuring them that he had no fear for the future; his bride and himself thoroughly understood each other, and with God's help he had no doubt that they could still do some good in the world, even if his wife had to work in another sphere. The Bridegroom proposed "The Bridesmaid and Best Man" in humorous terms, to which his brother responded in his usual pleasant way. It appears this is the ninth occasion on which Mr Moses Thomas has acted as best man, and rumour has it that Mr Thomas is seriously thinking of emulating the good example of his brother. However, he responded pleasantly and well. The health of the clergyman officiating being duly honoured the party broke up, Mr and Mrs L Thomas and his brother motoring to Warrnambool. An amusing episode occurred as they motored through Rosebrook. A number of adults and children were ready with rice, confetti, &c., and Mr Moses Thomas tried to induce them to honour them with it by putting his hand on his breast. But this was too much for the staid Inspector, and he gave them to understand that the bridal pair were coming. This they did, and as they motored through Rosebrook were saluted by tin cans, confetti, rice, &c., &c. There were very large numbers calling out to bid farewell to the bride, who was very popular in Rosebrook. The honeymoon was spent in Warrnambool.

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