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Groperland's Oldest Inhabitants sustained a gap last week in the death of pioneer colonist George Bell. Over seventy years ago, the colony having been founded not quite ten years, he arrived, a man of 20 years of age, and straightaway set about carving a home in the wilderness. Mr. Bell was a builder and architect of some skill, and put in some good work on the present Perth Town Hall, and other public buildings. In connection with Mr. Bell the story is revived of the convicts who assisted to build the Town Hall cutting the huge broad arrows in the embrasures high up in the clock tower. The building had been completed, and the event was being celebrated in the boss-swipa of the period at some other public hall, when a number of convicts engaged in removing the scaffolding got to work with mallets, chisels, etc., and rapidly turned the plain window slits on the freestone angles of the tower into the sinister broad arrow. Heated contro-

versy raged AFTER the scaffolding had been removed, but though much was threatened nothing was done; the huge sign of lagdom remaining exposed to the free public's scoff and the bondman's jeer. The funeral of Mr. Bell was attended by a rare crowd of Westralian identities, the majority of whom could (if they would) relate some rare old reminiscences of Fitty Years Ago.

