

Obituaries

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MRS MARIA KUCHLER

Mrs Maria Kuchler died at Hawera Hospital on February 27th, after a long stay in there following losing both legs in a longer illness. She was beloved and admired by all the Swiss people and they came to her funeral as general admiration of her courage.

Mrs Kuchler earned the respect of the Maori community when she was housekeeper for the Maori Mission Priests at the Ketemarae Pa Prestpetrie where she worked for some years. She was like a mother to all of them from the Bishop down to the ordinary clergy. She knew how to care for them and many times she felt into her own pocket when nothing was about. For the priests themselves, they felt at home knowing that somebody would care for them. To pay tribute to her generosity not less than eleven Maori Priests were present at her funeral to say Mass.

To the Swiss people she loved all of them and especially liked a game of Swiss cards as long as she could hold them.

I would like to pay tribute to a few samaritan ladies who cared for her in her long illness. It must have been a consolation to have them around and calling quite frequently to cheer her up and also the staff of the hospital should not be forgotten in this.

A Patient Sufferer At Rest.

—W.R.

MR CHARLIE SCHULER

Charlie Schuler passed away suddenly at his home on Palmer Road, Kaponga, at the grand old age of 86 years.

He was born at Seewen, Kt. Schwyz, and as a young man worked on the railways.

A well known and respected member of the Swiss community, he came to New Zealand in 1909. His first job was on a farm on Palmer Road, later moving to Pungarehu where he sharemilked for some years with the late Alex Kalin.

In 1913 he returned to his homeland and while there was recruited for nine months in the Army. From there he went to America to try his luck but stayed only a short while. Returning to New Zealand he married Mathilde Kaufman in 1916, whom he had met on the voyage to America. After working again for some years at Pungarehu he returned to the Kaponga district where in 1934 he purchased his present farm on the Palmer Road where he spent the rest of his days.

He is survived by his wife, son Charlie, daughter Tilly, and five grandchildren.

—L.K.