

Frank Hilburn

Rushworth Chronicle

27 August, 1920

SHOCKING ACCIDENT.

A shocking accident, attended with fatal results, occurred at the Waranga Basin Bank on Wednesday morning. The victim was Frank Hilburn, a Rushworth lad, 19 years of age, son of Mr Ben Hilburn.

This accident, as is often the case, occurred in an astonishingly simple manner. Deceased was driving a horse and empty dray, and the mishap occurred just as the vehicle was passing through a gate. The dray struck the iron stay at the side of the gate and apparently ran up it for a few inches, until it capsized, falling on Hilburn, the guardrail striking him across the shoulders and back and pinning him to the ground.

The poor fellow cried out two or three times, and several persons rushed to the spot and extricated him. He appeared to be in a dying condition, and Dr Graham was at once sent for.

Before his arrival, however, the young fellow had expired, and the doctor could do nothing but pronounce life to be extinct.

The news of the sad occurrence cast a gloom over the entire district, as the young fellow, by his kindly disposition and inoffensive manner, was a general favourite with his workmates and all who knew him.

A magisterial inquiry, touching the death of Frank Hilburn, was held in the court house, Rushworth, on Thursday, before Mr H. Cattlin, J.P. Evidence was tendered by Geo. F. Hilburn, Henry A. McLennan, J. J. Kearney, Daniel Raleigh, E. C. Roderick, Constable Theobald and Dr. Graham.

This went to prove that deceased was driving a dray, and when passing through the gate the horse, from some inexplicable reason, swerved off, causing the off wheel to climb the gate, which threw deceased out on his stomach, the dray immediately coming down on top of him, the guard iron and back wheel striking him in the back.

The dray was immediately removed and and it was then seen that deceased was badly injured. He was carried by the men to Mr. Robinson's hut and Dr. Graham sent for, but he dies about 20 minutes later, before the doctor arrived.

A verdict was therefore recorded that death was caused by injuries received through the overturning of a dray.

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3 September, 1920

The funeral of the young man, Frank Hilburn, of Rushworth, who was accidentally killed at Waranga Basin on the 25th inst., were interred in the local cemetery on Friday afternoon last. A large number of sympathisers followed the remains to the grave.

The Rev. Nelson conducted the funeral service.