

Herbert Southam

Rushworth Chronicle

11 November, 1893

DEATH.

SOUTHAM.—On the 4th November, at Rushworth, Herbert M. Southam, beloved husband of A. Southam, accidentally killed by a fall of earth. Aged 50 years.

The tired hands shall toil no more,
The loving heart at rest;
God called him from his earthly home
To dwell among the blest.

An affectionate husband and a loving father.

—Inserted by his sorrowing wife and children—A., S., E., and L. Southam.

FATAL MINING ACCIDENT.

A melancholy accident, by which a miner names Herbert Morton Southam lost his life, occurred at the south end of Phillips street, Rushworth, on Friday afternoon last.

About half-past three o'clock Southam, who has been crippled with a disease of the knee, was working in a cutting at a depth of four feet under a large heap of mullock thrown up from some old workings, and was gouging under when the superabundant weight above forced the solid ground down on him, completely covering the unfortunate man.

A man named Jones, who was working a few feet away from him, heard the fall, and at once proceeded to extricate him, at the same time calling for assistance. A number of willing hands were soon on the spot, but it was not till about half an hour had elapsed that he was got out, when he was found to be quite dead. Dr Eadon used every means to reanimate the body, but without avail.

At a magisterial inquiry held by Dr Heily, J.P., on Saturday the following evidence was elicited:—

Thos. E. Jones deposed that he had been working about ten feet away from Southam, who in turn was about forty feet from his own house. About half-past three witness heard a fall of earth and a moan. He jumped out of his own shaft and ran to where deceased had been working. He found deceased covered with about three feet of earth, which had come away for about seven feet in length. Witness heard him breathe under the mass, and immediately

got a pick and commenced to work at the spot where he had heard him breathe, at the same time calling to his wife to get assistance. Several persons came, and in about half an hour the body was got out and carried into the house.

Dr Eadon deposed that when he arrived deceased was quite dead, the cause of death being suffocation.

Annie Southam, wife of the deceased, deposed that she was present when Jones and others commenced to rescue her husband, but was so overcome that she had to leave. He

was quite dead when brought into the house. Deceased was 60 years of age, and had been an invalid for about three years.

Constable Bowden deposed that he was present when the body was recovered from the hole. He sent for Dr Eadon, who used every means to induce animation He considered the affair was purely accidental. He had known deceased to have been a cripple from disease of the knee for about two years and a half.

A verdict of death from suffocation by an accidental fall of earth was returned.

Deceased leaves a widow and ten children.

The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Saturday afternoon, a number of friends following them to the grave.