

## John Bryce

Waranga Chronicle

27 June, 1872

The grim reaper Death has been busy with his keen sickle, and has gathered the bearded grain at a breath and the flowers that grow between. The ravages which the "fell destroyer" has made in our number during the last week has been unprecedented in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Two funerals took place on Monday last and two on the Saturday preceding it. The funerals on Saturday were those of two children, named respectively John G. Bryce and Muhlhan, and on Monday those of Messrs J. Sloane and T. Fitzpatrick took place.

The weather was exceedingly stormy on Saturday, in consequence of which the funerals were sparsely attended.

On Monday the weather was much finer, and the number of mourners who attended the funerals of the adults testified in an unanswerable manner to the great respect and esteem in which they were both held.

It is fortunate that it is owing to no epidemic that we have to attribute our numerous losses; the two children died, one of sanguineous apoplexy, the other of hooping [whooping] cough; the adults one of serous apoplexy, the other of disease of the lungs.

The illness of John Bryce was of very short duration, as he was attacked with a violent convulsion at three o'clock on Thursday afternoon, and succumbed to its virulence at three a.m. on Friday, he was 11 years old.

### MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

An inquiry was held before T. W. Benbow, Esq., J P., on Friday last, to ascertain the cause of death of John Brice, aged eleven years, who died somewhat suddenly the same morning.

H. E. Hobday, sworn, said: I am a schoolmaster, residing at Rushworth; I last saw the lad as he was leaving the school at half-past twelve noon; he appeared in his usual health, and did not complain.

M. A. Brice deposed: I am a sister of the deceased; I saw him before he went to school on Thursday morning; he had his breakfast, and was as well as usual; & did not hear him complain; I also saw him when he returned from school at half-past twelve noon; he went inside the home, and stayed there about a quarter of an hour; he then went outside to play; soon after his cousin ran in and said that John had fallen down; I went to him and asked what was the matter, but he made no answer; I then ran inside and got assistance.

G. G. Brice, sworn, said: I am a butcher, residing at Rushworth; deceased is my son; I saw him well on Thursday at about a quarter to one, when he returned from school; he came into the shop, and soon after went out of the front door and round towards the back of the house; in a few minutes I heard cries in that direction, and on going out I saw Mrs Ingram and Mr Lambert carrying my son in; he was insensible; his lips were blue and his eyes were bloodshot; I sent for the doctor, and put deceased in a warm bath, and put cold water to his head; the deceased died at half-past three this morning. About four months ago, while at the Moora Pound, a slab fell on deceased, striking him on the front of the head; he was

weak from loss of blood, but soon recovered; he has not complained of the blow since; he never had fits before to my knowledge.

John Vickers Heily deposed: I am a duly qualified medical practitioner, residing at Rushworth; I have made a post *mortem* examination on the body of deceased; he died of sanguineous apoplexy; there was no fracture of the skull; he died from natural causes; sanguineous apoplexy is usual in children as well as adults; the usual remedies were tried but without avail.

The following verdict was given: 'That John Brice's death was caused by sanguineous apoplexy.'