

## John Thomas Ryan

Rushworth Chronicle

3 November, 1916

### MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

A magisterial inquiry was held at Rushworth on Friday evening last by Mr E. A. Muhlhan, J.P., touching the death of a child named John Thomas Ryan (better known as Nash) who died very suddenly at his parents' residence during the early morning.

William Patrick Ryan deposed that he resided at Stanhope Road, Rushworth, and deceased was his son. He was two years and nine months old and was a strong healthy child. His wife gave deceased a hot bath, rubbed his chest with oil, and put him to bed. Several times he looked at deceased and he appeared all right. About 3. 30 deceased was coughing violently and he picked him up as he seemed to be choking. He then rubbed mustard and oil on the child's chest and he soon appeared easier.

He then went for Dr Utber. This was about 4 30 a.m. but the doctor told him to bring the child up to his surgery. When he got back he could see that the child was dying. He sent for the doctor again and he arrived about 7 o'clock, but the child was then dead.

Dr Heily deposed that he had viewed the body and made an examination. There were no external marks of violence on the body, which was that of a well grown and well-nourished child. The child had suffered from whooping cough and had probably died from laryngeal spasms brought on by the coughing. There were no suspicious circumstances and he did not think a post mortem examination necessary.

Sergeant Woodyatt deposed that he had made inquiries into the child's death and was satisfied there were no suspicious circumstances. He examined the body carefully but could not find any external marks of violence.

A finding was recorded that deceased died from laryngeal spasms, as disclosed by the doctor's testimony.