

Maurice Frowd

Murchison Advertiser

6 March, 1914

Shocking Fatality.

Quite a gloom was cast over Rushworth on Wednesday morning last when word was brought into the town that Mr Maurice William Frowd had been found just inside the gate of one of his own paddocks at Moora crushed to death under the wheel of his waggon, which was loaded with wood.

From the position in which deceased was found it can only be conjectured as to how he came to be under the waggon, but it would appear from the fact that he had his hand on an axe under the waggon as if he had got down to repair something. He was found lying underneath the hind wheel, which, however, had only gone partly over his body just under the left shoulder, crushing his lungs fearfully and causing instantaneous death. He had apparently lain there for some time before being found. The wheel was still on the body when deceased was found. He was found lying face downwards, and there was not the slightest sign to indicate that deceased had struggled in any way.

Deceased was a hard-working and highly respected farmer, 46 years of age, and it was very hard luck indeed that he should come to such an untimely end. About two years ago deceased married a Miss Russel, and much sympathy is felt for his wife in her terribly sudden bereavement.

The remains were interred in the local cemetery yesterday afternoon, a large number of sympathisers following to the last resting place.

Magisterial Inquiry.

A magisterial inquiry touching the death of Maurice William Frowd was held by Dr Heily at the court house, Rushworth, yesterday (Thursday).

Mary Frowd deposed that she resided at Moora and deceased was her husband. She last saw him alive about 7 a.m. on Wednesday morning, when he went off with the waggon and four horses to cart wood. Deceased did not drink and was in his usual health. She did not see him again until he was brought home dead about mid-day. They had been married one year and seven months and had no children. She produced deceased's watch, which was crushed and stopped at twenty minutes past ten.

Wm. Jones, Rushworth, deposed that he was cutting wood for deceased. He assisted deceased about 9.45 a.m. to load his waggon in the paddock known as "The Sawmill Paddock." Deceased left for Rushworth with his load and about an hour later he (witness) also set out for Rushworth. He found deceased at the gate of "The Sawmill Paddock," under the off hind wheel of the waggon. Deceased was lying on his face and was quite dead. He then went and reported the matter to the police. There was an axe under the waggon and deceased had his hand on it. The tyres of the waggon had been loose and he had seen deceased knocking them on with the axe. Where deceased was lying was about three-quarters of a mile from where they loaded the waggon.

Dr Christie gave evidence as to finding deceased under the wheel as described above. The wheel was pressing on the thorax over the heart, the ribs and lungs were compressed and also the heart in such a way as to have rendered death instantaneous.

Constable Hannah deposed to finding deceased as described. There were no suspicious circumstances and the facts were as stated.

His Worship found that deceased met his death by being crushed under his waggon wheel.