

## Mrs Delia Smith

Rushworth Chronicle

30 September, 1892

DEATH.

SMITH.—On the 24th inst., at Hard Hills, Rushworth, Delia Augusta, wife of William G. Smith, Murchison, and third daughter of Charles Allen, Rushworth.

For years and years our family chain  
Was gently linked together;  
But ah ! that chain is broken now,  
One link has gone for ever.

DETERMINED SUICIDE.

A young married woman named Delia Augusta Smith, who resided with her father, Mr Charles Allen, on the Hard Hills, Rushworth, committed suicide in a most determined manner a little before 8 o'clock on Saturday evening last.

It seems that the unfortunate creature, who from her birth had been of weak intellect, after tea had been partaken of on the evening in question, engaged in some fancy work in company with her sister, while the parents were playing draughts. She laid her work down in an apparently unconcerned manner and went out.

Owing to her weakness of intellect she had always been watched as closely as possible, and as she was absent rather longer than usual her sister, and subsequently her mother and father, went to look for her. The search was unavailing and the whistle at the Crown Cross Company's claim (where Mr Allen is employed) was sounded, several of the men turning up in response. Lanterns were procured, and by their aid an apron which she had been wearing was found on the bank of the company's dam, as also footmarks leading to the water.

A blacksmith at the claim, named J. Slee, stripped off and entered the dam, eventually finding the body in about 6ft. of water. The dam was fenced off, and there were no signs of a struggle on the bank, which is a sloping one, and there is no doubt the deceased could have got out had she chosen to do so. When recovered the body had not been more than an hour in the water.

The dam was about 80 yards from the house.

From evidence given at an inquiry held by Mr W. Wigg, J. P., on Sunday it would appear that the family had always been a very happy and united one, and no one had any idea of such a catastrophe taking place.

Dr Heily, who was sent for as soon as the body was recovered, deposed that the body presented all the appearances of drowning. The doctor also stated that the probable cause of the rash act was the pains of childbirth approaching or manifesting themselves.

A verdict of "drowning by intentionally walking into the dam of the Crown Cross mine" was returned.

The remains were interred in the Rush worth cemetery on Monday.

