

Percy C. Robinson

Rushworth Chronicle

23 October, 1896

A terribly sudden death occurred at the Tatura Show yesterday, the victim being a young man named Percy Robinson, a well-known resident of Rushworth. Robinson was in one of the side show tents when he suddenly fell back in a fainting condition. He was immediately removed to the open air, but expired in a few seconds and before medical assistance could be obtained.

Deceased, who was about 25 or 26 years of age, was of a robust and healthy appearance. His death is surmised to be due to heart disease. Much sympathy is felt for his widowed mother and other relatives in their sad and shockingly sudden bereavement.

A magisterial inquiry as to the cause of death is to be held at Tatura to-day. A report of the inquiry will appear in our next issue.

Rushworth Chronicle

30 October, 1896

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY

An inquiry was held by C. J. Wilson, Esq., at Tatura on Friday last, touching the death of Percy C. Robinson, a resident of Rushworth, who had died very suddenly at the Tatura show on the previous day. The following evidence was adduced:—

James Henderson deposed that he was a laborer looking for work. He identified the body as that of a man who had dropped down while viewing the performance of an armless boy in a boxing tent at the Tatura show on the previous day. Deceased groaned while a number of persons carried him out into the open air, but died immediately afterwards. The showmen were outside at the time trying to induce the crowd to come in. He (witness) was not connected with the show. It was very close and sultry inside the tent. He had never seen deceased before.

William John Ditcham deposed that he was a travelling showman. He identified the body as that of a young man he had seen a number of persons carry out of his show tent on the day previous at the Tatura show. He did not see deceased fall, as himself and his party were outside inducing the crowd to come in. Had not seen deceased before, and he (deceased) had not boxed with any of his party that day. It was about one o'clock and they had not held any previous show that day.

Reginald Robinson, Rushworth, deposed that he identified the body as that of his brother, Percy Robinson, a blacksmith by trade, residing at Rushworth Deceased left Rushworth the previous morning for the Tatura show, and was apparently in his usual state of health, which was good. A few months ago a doctor had told deceased that he had heart disease. He did not seem alarmed at what the doctor told him, and took no notice of it. Deceased used to complain very much about the heat on hot days His brother Fred, aged about 12 years, had informed him (witness) that he followed deceased into a show tent, where a cripple was performing. Deceased said—"How did you get over, Fred?" He immediately afterwards fell down and expired. Fred said deceased had not been boxing to his knowledge. Deceased was about 24 years of age.

Francis Dainty, constable in charge of the Tatura police station, deposed that he identified the body as that of a young man who had died in the Tatura showgrounds on the previous day. He was informed that a man had taken a fit, and found deceased lying on his back in front of a boxing tent conducted by a man named Ditcham. Someone was sprinkling water on his face. He felt his pulse, which was not beating, and in his opinion life was then extinct. Dr McKenna arrived soon after, and said deceased had died of heat apoplexy or the bursting of a blood vessel. He could not find any marks of violence on the body. As far as he could ascertain deceased had not been boxing that day. He found £110s 6d in deceased's pockets. He had the body conveyed to the Bush Inn, where it now lies.

Dr Henry McCarthy, medical practitioner, deposed that he had made a post-mortem examination of the body now lying at the Bush Inn. He had been told that deceased's name was Percy Robinson, a resident of Rushworth. On stripping deceased he found him to be a well-nourished, muscular man of 24 or 25 years of age. There were no external marks of violence. He found the brain engorged with blood and the heart very fatty The other internal organs presented a healthy appearance. The cause of death in his opinion was cerebral apoplexy and fatty heart.

A verdict was returned in accordance with the medical testimony that deceased, Percy C. Robinson, a resident of Rushworth, had died of cerebral apoplexy and fatty heart.

The remains were conveyed to Rushworth and interred in the local cemetery the same afternoon, a large number of residents showing the last tribute of respect for deceased by following his remains to their last resting place. The Rev J. R. Walker officiated at the grave.