

Richard Salmon

Rushworth Chronicle

18 September, 1896

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

An inquiry was held before Mr W. Wigg, J. P., at the court house, Rushworth, on Wednesday touching the death of Richard Salmon, who had been found dead in his bed at Chinaman's Flat on the previous day.

W. Steward deposed that he had known the deceased for about 30 years. He last saw him alive on the day previous, about 10.15 a.m. After a short conversation deceased asked him to lend him his gun to go and shoot a rabbit. He had lent the gun to deceased before. He seemed in good spirits, and did not seem strange in any way. He told deceased to go to his (witness') wife and she would let him have the gun, which was loaded in both barrels. About

11.30 he heard a dull report of a gun, and about half-an-hour after he went over to deceased's hut. The door was closed. He opened it and saw deceased lying on his bed with the gun between his legs. He never heard deceased threaten to take his life. He had been in bad health for some years and during the last six weeks had hardly been able to get out of his hut. He was in very poor circumstances. The deceased was about 63 years of age. The gun produced was the one lent to Salmon. There was no string on it when it was lent to him.

Constable Draper deposed that he found the deceased, Richard Salmon, lying on his back on his bed and a double-barrelled gun between his legs. He had a cord tied on to the left hand trigger and on to his right foot. His left hand was lying across his breast and powder marked. He examined the body and found that the muzzle of the gun must have been placed by deceased in his mouth and then discharged. The whole of the charge lodged in deceased's head.

A verdict was returned that deceased died from a gun-shot wound self-inflicted.

Richard Salmon is shown in Rushworth cemetery records, grave 51 in the Anglican section.