

Robert Stewart

Murchison Advertiser

27 February, 1920

Shocking Fatality.

Residents of Rushworth and district were greatly shocked on learning on Tuesday morning last that Mr Robert Stewart, of Moora, had met his death that morning through a tree falling upon him.

It appears, as was shown by the evidence adduced at a magisterial inquiry held in the afternoon, that deceased was cutting wood in his brother's paddock on the Five Mile Creek and went to work as usual in the morning. About half past nine o'clock his brother (John Stewart) had occasion to go to the paddock, and noticed the horse and dray standing near the dam.

There was no sign of his brother and he went to investigate. He saw a recently felled tree, and on getting closer was horrified by the sight that met his gaze. His brother was stretched out on the ground and the trunk of the tree which he had felled was lying across his head.

On examination, he found that his brother was dead, his head being completely crushed.

Deceased was an experienced bushman and how the accident occurred is a mystery. It is thought by some that he must have expected the tree to fall a certain way and took it for granted that it would do so. A strong wind was blowing and the probabilities are that the tree fell the opposite way and that when deceased found it coming back upon him, he endeavoured to get out of the way, tripped and fell, the tree then falling across his head.

Deceased was a son of the late James Stewart, of Five Mile Creek, Moora, and was 52 years of age. He was of a very quiet, unassuming disposition, and was very highly respected by all who knew him.

He was a splendid fellow generally and regret was general on learning of his untimely death.

He was a married man and sympathy is extended his sorrowing wife and two children.

The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Wednesday afternoon, the funeral being very largely attended. The service was conducted by Mr Menzies Muller and the mortuary arrangements were in the hands of Mr E. F. Anderson.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

A magisterial inquiry was held by Mr E. A. Muhlhan, J. P., on Tuesday afternoon.

Alfred Stewart deposed the deceased was his father. He last saw him alive on the morning of the 24th inst., at about 7.30, when he left home for his work. His father was then in his usual health.

John Stewart deposed that deceased was his brother and was about 52 years of age. He was cutting wood in his (witness') paddock on the Five Mile Creek. About half-past nine, he had occasion to go to the paddock. He saw the horse and dray standing near the dam, and

as he could not see his brother he rode across. He saw a recently felled tree and on going up closer saw deceased lying on the ground with the tree across his head. He examined deceased and found that he was dead. He went for assistance, and first saw C. Clarke. Later he met Alex. McDonald, T. Dixon and Whiteacre and returned to the scene and levered the tree off deceased. He then gave information to the police.

Charles Edwin Clarke deposed that on the date mentioned John Stewart informed him that his brother Robert was under a fallen tree. He immediately went to the spot. He found deceased lying about six feet from the stump where the tree had fallen and pinned him to the ground by the head. He was quite dead. The axe lay between deceased and the stump. He thought the tree had fallen the opposite way to what the deceased had expected and that in trying to get out of the way he tripped and fell. He cut a lever and when the other men came they levered the tree off deceased's head.

Dr Utber gave evidence that he made an examination of the body of the deceased. The head was completely smashed, [word obscured] the right side of the scalp being 9word obscured] and the skull bones crushed and the body was lying at right angles to the tree trunk and from the circumstances concluded that deceased may have tripped and fallen under tree. Death was instantaneous.

Senior-Constable Harris deposed to visiting the scene, finding the man as stated above.

A finding was recorded that the deceased died on the morning of 24th February from injuries received through a tree falling and crushing his head and that the occurrence was accidental.

Murchison Advertiser

25 June, 1920

Moora. (From an occasional correspondent)

The residents of Moora South and surrounding district have presented Mrs R. Stewart, who has gone to reside in Rushworth, with a wallet of notes to mark the esteem in which she is held by them.

During her long residence in Moora Mrs Stewart endeared herself to all, and took a keen interest in all local affairs, especially in church and school matters.

She proved herself an ideal citizen, and will be greatly missed in the district.

Mrs Stewart has written, thanking all for their kind feelings and also for their valuable present.

The Honor Roll of the Moora South school has now been placed in the school. It contains the names of 28 past scholars who volunteered for active service in the Great War, six of whom paid the supreme sacrifice.