

Robert Peel

Rushworth Chronicle

15 November, 1895

A very sad accident, resulting in the death of Robert Peel, a nine year old son of Thos. Peel, a miner residing on the Moora road, Rushworth, occurred on Sunday morning last.

The unfortunate lad, with two younger brothers and another lad named A. Corner, went out for a stroll bird-nesting and on coming to an old claim deceased went to search if there were any nests in the logs over the shaft.

While engaged in this occupation, and when about four feet on the south side of the shaft the earth banked up against the logs suddenly gave way and young Peel slipped down behind the logs into the shaft, falling a distance of 130 feet.

Information on the accident was at once conveyed to the lad's father, and in the meantime Frank Folvig, a young man living in the neighborhood, procured a rope by means of which he pluckily descended the shaft and recovered the body.

On being brought to the surface it was found that the poor little fellow was quite dead, his neck having been broken. Folvig's act was a most courageous one, as he ran very great risk himself, some idea of which may be gathered from the fact that a quantity of loose earth fell down the shaft and he had to remain in a drive for a time for fear some of the earth might fall on him while he was climbing up the rope again, which he did unaided.

His hands were severely blistered by the effort.

It is the intention of Dr Heily and Senior-Constable Turnbull to bring Folvig's bravery under the notice of the Royal Humane Society, this being a case which undoubtedly is deserving of recognition at the hands of the Society.

Deceased's remains were interred in the Rushworth Cemetery on Monday, a large number of his playmates as well as adults attending the funeral.

The Rev. J. R. Walker conducted the burial rites, and the mortuary arrangements were carried out by Mr Medhurst.

Rushworth Chronicle

27 December, 1895

The bravery displayed by the lad Frank Folvig in going down the abandoned shaft in Long Gully, Rushworth, to recover the body of the child of Thomas Peel, who was accidentally killed by falling down it on Sunday, the 10th November, has been recognised by the Victorian Humane Society, the committee having decided to present him with their bronze medal.

We congratulate Folvig for being the recipient of such a distinguished badge.