

William Gaynor

Rushworth Chronicle

23 February, 1912

Shocking Fatality. Struck by Lightning.

Word was received in Rushworth on Friday evening last that Mr W. C. Gaynor, contractor, had been struck dead by lightning during the afternoon, and the news was received by those who knew deceased with expressions of regret at his sudden death.

From particulars to hand later it appeared that an auction sale was being held at a Mr Pieper's, Bamawn (near Rochester) on Friday, and a thunderstorm broke over the place shortly after dinner-time. Just about two o'clock there was a blinding flash, followed by a terrific clap of thunder, and deceased and a settler named Dan Bourke, of Restdown, who had just arrived on the scene, were seen to fall.

Assistance was quickly rendered, and although it was recognised that Gaynor had been killed instantly, both men were taken by motor-car to Dr Littlewood's, Rochester. An examination showed the correctness of the surmise in Gaynor's case, but Bourke was found to be suffering from concussion, and he has since recovered.

Deceased's chest showed traces of the effects of the lightning, while his trousers and boots were nearly torn off. Needless to state, the affair caused a great sensation amongst those present.

Deceased, who was 44 years of age, was a son of the late Mr John Gaynor and Mrs Gaynor, who still resides on the old home near Lake Cooper, and much sympathy is felt for his mother and the other members of the family in their untimely bereavement.

The remains were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Sunday afternoon, the funeral cortege being a very lengthy one.

The funeral obsequies were conducted by the Rev. Father Dunn.

It is said that this is the third occasion on which the man Bourke has been struck by lightning.