

William Geyle

Bendigo Advertiser

23 May, 1868

Rushworth was thrown into gloom last night by a fatal accident to Mr William Geyle, a married man with five children, who was unfortunately killed by falling down the shaft in Ferguson and Co.'s claim on Nuggety Hill, Rushworth.

It appears that Mr Geyle and Ambrose Ayers were leaving work by the ladders as usual; when about seventy feet from the bottom, Mr Geyle lost his footing and fell, severely bruising Ambrose Ayers in passing, and nearly throwing him off the ladder, which it appears had been injured by a stone which fell from a basket in winding during the afternoon.

Mr Geyle's death must have been instantaneous, as the neck was dislocated, and both legs and several ribs broken.

Deceased was about thirty-eight years of age, and highly respected by all who knew him. He was working the claim on tribute.

Melvor Times
1868

22 May,

FATAL ACCIDENT AT RUSHWORTH.

Never before as this township been thrown into such great gloom as when it became known on Monday night that a fatal accident had happened to Mr. William Geyle, one of our oldest residents.

The deceased was ascending the ladder of the shaft in Storekeeper's Gully, in the claim known as Sullivan's, when near the top, the ladder gave way, and he was precipitated with it to the bottom and killed.

The supposition as to the probable cause of the accident is that a large stone had fallen out of the bucket when being landed, breaking one of the crossbars in its descent.

Mr. Ambrose Ayers, who was following the deceased up the ladder, was seriously injured, but retained his hold until a rope was lowered to him.

The deceased, who was 33 years of age and a native of Devonshire, leaves a widow and five infant children to mourn his loss. If it is possible to offer consolation to the bereaved widow and to the far-off parents, the writer of these few lines, who has known the deceased for many years, would desire to express his belief that no one, when considered in every relation of life, whether as husband, father, friend, or associate,--could have passed out from amongst us more generally beloved and respected.

Communicated.

Footnote: Rushworth cemetery records include a listing for William Geyle.