

William Mumford

Rushworth Chronicle

3 December, 1886

William Mumford, a well-known resident of Rushworth, who has been drinking very heavily lately, and is suffering from delirium tremens, was given in charge on Tuesday last by Mr Wigg, J.P., for being illegally on his premises. On being brought before the Bench he was remanded for treatment.

(Rushworth Chronicle, 26 November, 1886)

Very general regret was expressed when it became known that Mr W. Mumford had died. He was a favourite with all who came in contact with him, and an old resident of the district.

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William Mumford is listed as occupying grave 99 in the Rushworth cemetery.

A Magisterial inquiry was held on Monday last before Wolton Wigg, Esq., J.P., touching the death of William Mumford, who died in the lockup on the previous day, when the following evidence was adduced.—

William Greenaway, sworn, deposed—I am a mounted constable, residing at Rushworth. I have known the deceased, William Mumford, for four years. On the 22nd of this month Constable Hunter arrested deceased on a charge of being drunk and disorderly. On the following day, as he was apparently suffering from the effects of drink, I had him remanded for three days. On the 26th inst. deceased was again brought before the Bench and remanded for another three days, as he appeared not yet sufficiently recovered to be dealt with. Whilst in the lock-up deceased received every attention and had every comfort, and appeared to be getting better. On the evening of the 27th the deceased said he was going on very well. About half-past eight on Sunday morning, on entering the lock-up I found deceased sitting on the floor, apparently dying—sinking fast. I immediately went for Dr. Heily. As he was not at home I went for Dr. Meyers. He also was not at home. On my return to the lock-up deceased got much worse, and died in a few minutes. I then reported the circumstances of the case to Mr. W. Wigg, who ordered a post mortem examination. The deceased has been frequently convicted of drunkenness during the last four or five years. I have been informed that the deceased owns about 40 acres of land in the parish of Moora, worth about £3 or £4 per acre. He owns no other property that I am aware of.

John Hunter, on oath, deposed—I am a foot police-constable, residing at Rushworth. I have known the deceased, William Mumford, since I have come on duty to Rushworth. He was a

a ship carpenter by trade, and about 57 years of age. When he was not drinking he was a quiet, most respectably conducted man, of superior education. In consequence of his drinking and lying about, I arrested him on a charge of being drunk and disorderly (he having been drinking then for about fourteen days), and placed him in the lockup. Every care was taken of the deceased, not only by the police, but by all the neighbours round, everything likely to do good being freely supplied. I saw the deceased frequently myself, the last time being after midnight on the day previous to his decease. On the morning of the 28th instant, about 2 o'clock, I went in and saw the deceased. He wanted a drink. I gave him some weak brandy and water. He seemed in fair health and spirits. I then left him, as he desired nothing further. I saw deceased again about nine o'clock on the morning of the 28th inst. He seemed to be dying and I went away for medical aid. Before the doctor reached the lock-up, deceased was dead. He had no money or other valuables on his person.

J. V. Heily deposed.—I am a duly qualified 'medical practitioner residing at Rushworth. I have known the deceased, William Mumford, for 31 years. During all that time he was subject to an affection of the heart. He was also the victim of periodical attacks of dysomania, which were more frequently repeated of late years. He was most careless of himself when drinking, and had frequently to be confined in the lockup to allow him to come round. I was called by the police on the 28th instant to see the deceased at the lockup at Rushworth. He had just died before I arrived. I made a post mortem examination upon the body of deceased and the immediate cause of death was chronic disease of the heart and lungs. Syncope of the heart, from alcoholic paralysis, was what so suddenly killed deceased. I had often warned deceased of the consequence of his drunken fits. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

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