BAILEY, William 22 June 1930

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Engine Driver	Kalguddering	Locomotive L248 derailed

William Bailey was 37 years of age when he was fatally injured when Locomotive L248 derailed and rolled over at the bottom of "Kalguddering Bank" near Kalguddering Creek while travelling from Wongan Hills to Northam. William was married and lived in Northam with his wife Dorothy and their three children, Bruce, Rene and Pattie. He is interred at Northam Cemetery.

ENGINE DRIVER KILLED
GOODS TRAIN DERAILMENT
The driver, William Bailey (34), married, of Duke Street, Northam, was killed, and the fireman, Alexander Guthrie (38), married, of Guildford Road. Northam, was seriously injured when a goods train was wrecked near Kalguddering Bank, 124 miles from Perth between Wongan Hills and Northam, on Saturday night.

As the train was travelling to Northam the engine left the rails and overturned. Most of the 25 trucks, about 12 of which were laden, piled on to the locomotive and were destroyed in the fire which had broken out. The only other man on train was the guard, Joseph Gunn, who was uninjured and who worked to extricate Bailey from the wreckage.

Despite three broken ribs, one of which is believed to have penetrated a lung, and severe shock, Guthrie made his way to Mr. Williams farm house nearby and telephoned for assistance. About two hours later, when Bailey was taken, shockingly injured, from the debris, he was treated by Dr. A. E. Stenning, of Wongan Hills, and was conveyed to Northam Hospital, where he died the next morning.
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Source: *Trove/Great Southern Herald (Katanning) Wednesday 25 June 1930 Page 3.*

KALGUDDERING DISASTER.
Inquest Opened at Northam.
NORTHAM, July 14.
At the Northam Courthouse, before the District Coroner (Mr. F. M. Read), an inquest concerning the death of William Bailey, engine driver, who was killed in the recent railway disaster at Kalguddering, was opened this morning.

William Harold Williams., railway employee, of Northam, said that he had never seen Bailey touch liquor Bailey was a capable driver.

The hearing was adjourned to July 22, when Dr. Stenning's evidence will be taken at Goomalling. The inquiry will then be adjourned to July 25, when it will be continued at Northam.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Tuesday 15 July 1930 Page 9.*

RAILWAY SMASH.
INQUEST ON ENGINE DRIVER
No one to blame for Accident.
NORTHAM, July 25

The inquiry concerning the death of William Bailey, engine driver, who died in the Northam Hospital on June 22, as a result of injuries received when a goods train left, the rails at Kalguddering, near Wongan Hills, the previous night, was continued at the Northam Courthouse this morning.

Francis Teulon Beamish said that he had attended to Bailey at the Northam Hospital. The cause of death was shock, following his injuries.

Alexander Guthrie, fireman, said that he was firing on the engine driven by the deceased. The train consisted of a mixed load of about 298 tons. The maximum load over the section was 310 tons. After pulling out of Wongan Hills they ascended an incline. He noticed a roughness as though the pony truck was rolling, and drew Bailey's attention to it. They could not account for it. After they reached the top of the Kalguddering bank Bailey shut the power off and they began to roll down towards, Kalguddering Creek at about 20 miles an hour a very moderate speed. They had almost reached the foot of the bank when he felt a lurch to the right. He did not remember any more until he felt some water go over him. This had brought him to his senses, and he had found himself on his hands and knees on the ground close to the engine. Deceased was a good driver. He could not say whether the roughness of the pony truck had anything to do with the accident.

Joseph Henry Gunn. guard, said that when near the bottom of the bank he saw that the engine was jumping on the sleepers and fire was falling out. As the wheels struck the engine disappeared from sight and he had just sufficient time to sit tight when the train piled over the engine and the van came to a standstill. He left the van, and went to where he heard groaning and found Bailey pinned down with sleepers over his legs and covered with mud and wheat. His head was under the tender. They lifted the sleepers off and freed him of the tender under the direction of Dr. Stenning. He was later placed in the van of the relief train and conveyed to Northam.

Frank Watson, assistant engineer, at Northam, said that the truck was in first class condition. From the way the wreckage was piled together he was of the opinion that the engine was exceeding the safe speed limit. He Considered that the line at the scene of the derailment was not more dangerous, than at dozens of other curves on the same line if the safe speed limit was not exceeded.

The' Coroner's verdict was that Bailey's death was due to injuries received when the engine he was driving was derailed at Kalguddering. The derailment, he added, was apparently accidental and no blame was attachable to anyone.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Saturday 26 July 1930 Page 18.*