BERRIGAN, Patrick 18 August 1897

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Guard	Denmark, Millars	Fell from log train

Patrick Berrigan was 21 years of age when he died as the result of falling under the wheels of the train he was guard on. Patrick had two brothers and sisters living at Denmark. He was interred at Albany Cemetery.

ALBANY, August 19.
An inquest was held yesterday at Denmark by Mr. Lottie, Coroner, and a jury of three, as to the cause of death of Patrick Berrigan, who was run over and killed by a Denmark train. The evidence showed that the train started with the brake on the last truck, and the wheels were skidding. The deceased got on the lever and attempted to release the brake, but slipped and fell on the rails. The wheels dragged him along for several yards and then passed over him. The deceased did not speak, and died almost immediately. A verdict of accidental death was returned. The body was brought from Denmark today and buried in the Catholic cemetery, the coffin being carried from the station by four comrades, and followed by over two hundred of Berrigan's fellow workmen from the mill.

Source: *Trove/Western Mail (Perth) Friday 27 August 1897 Page 22.*

CORONER'S INQUEST.
A MAN KILLED AT DENMARK.
An inquest was held on Wednesday at Denmark before Mr. B. C. Loftie, district coroner, and a jury consisting of Messrs. Stephens, Parlor and Hume into the cause of the death of Patrick Berrigan, who was run over and killed by a train at Denmark the same day.

Frederick James Godfrey said he was employed looking after the railway trucks on the Denmark line. Before the train started that afternoon deceased was talking to witness as he was oiling the tracks. Deceased then walked along the line towards the engine and witness did not see him again until the whistle blew for the train to start. Deceased jumped into the last truck. As the brake was down and the two hind wheels were skidding, deceased walked along the wagon and appeared to get down on the lever. The usual way was to sit down and with one hand on the truck put the foot on the brake lever. Witness next saw deceased hanging on the truck ; then he suddenly went down and the wagon passed over his body. Before the wheel passed over him he was dragged the length of a truck. Witness called out to the engine driver to stop, but the latter did not bear him until too late. When the train stopped Berrigan was clear of the train. Witness ran up and found deceased lying on the line. Deceased moved his head but never spoke, his foot was twisted right round. Two wheels passed over the body. It was usual to take the brake off before starting, but sometimes it was done after. There was always a risk in doing it while the train was moving. Deceased had been guard of the train for several months. Witness drew deceased's attention to the fact that the wheels were "skidding" where upon deceased went forward to take off the brake. The guard usually started the train, but witness could not say whether he did so in this instance.

Henry Smith, mill manager, said he was in the store about 2 pm. when he heard a noise and, going outside, saw deceased lying on the rails with his face downwards. His legs were between the rails. Deceased drew one or two breaths and then appeared to be dead. It was customary to release the brake in the last truck after the train started. Witness thought deceased's foot must have slipped off the rails. Deceased was a steady, sober man.

John Thomas Clarke, engine driver, said Berrigan gave him the signal to start. Witness heard Godfrey call out to stop and he also held up his hand. At first witness only cut off steam as he thought Godfrey was speaking to the guard. When the train was brought to a standstill he saw Berrigan lying on the rails. Witness could not account for deceased falling off unless the brake was tight and in attempting to release it he had fallen off. It was usual as soon as the coupling was completed to release the brake and Berrigan should have done so.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

The body of the deceased was brought in from Denmark by train on Thursday afternoon. Eight of his late comrades carried the coffin from the railway station to the Roman Catholic church where the funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Father Mateu.

Over 200 men from the Denmark Mills followed the coffin to the Catholic cemetery, where deceased was interred. The men returned to Denmark by train the same afternoon. Deceased had only recently visited the Eastern Colonies for a holiday and was held in high esteem by all who knew him.

Source: *Trove/Albany Advertiser (WA) Saturday 21 August 1897 Page 3.*

ALBANY.
ALBANY, August 19.
An inquest was held yesterday at Denmark by Mr. Loftie, Coroner, and a jury of three, as to the cause of death of Patrick Berrigan, who was run over and killed by a Denmark train. The evidence showed that the train started with the brake on the last truck, and the wheels were skidding. The deceased got on the lever and attempted to release the brake, but slipped and fell on the rails. The wheels dragged him along for several yards and then passed over him. The deceased did not speak, and died almost immediately.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.

The body was brought from Denmark today and buried in the Catholic cemetery, the coffin being carried from the station by four comrades, and followed by over two hundred of Berrigan's fellow workmen from the mill.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Friday 20 August 1897 Page 5.*