BIDWELL, Edward John 25 November 1909

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
District Linesman	Spring Hill	PW Tricycle train collision

Edward Bidwell was 43 years of age when a train ran into his tricycle at Spring Hill between Northam and Spencers Brook. Edward lived at Northam with his wife Jane and their five children under 16. He was interred at Northam Cemetery.

RAILWAY FATALITY NEAR NORTHAM.
TRAIN DASHES INTO A TRICYCLE.
DISTRICT LINEMAN KILLED.
Northam, November 25.
A fatality occurred on the railway line four miles on the Perth side of Northam to-night. Shortly after 7 o'clock a train, driven by Driver Harewood, left the West Northam station to join the Albany to Perth train at Spencer's Brook. Near Springhill, which is about a mile on the Northam side of Spencer's Brook, there is a down grade and on the turn at this spot Driver Harewood noticed a man on a rail way tricycle heading for Northam. Although the brakes were applied with such suddenness as to throw passengers across the compartments the engine dashed into the tricycle. When the man's body was extracted from under the cowcatcher of the engine it was found to be that of Edward Bidwell. It was fearfully mutilated, and death must have been instantaneous. The wheels of the engine did not pass over Bidwell, and from appearances it is thought that the outrigger of the tricycle which he was propelling cut through his skull and also one of his thighs. The deceased occupied the position of district lineman on the railways. He had charge of the electrical appliances, and with a couple of assistants had been engaged during the day in repairing the lines in the vicinity of Spencer's Brook. He was returning to his home in Northam when the fatality occurred. How he came to be on the line when a regular train, of which he had full knowledge, was due on the section is not known. Bidwell was an enthusiastic bandsman, and it is probable that he was eager to get back in time to attend the band practice tonight, or to attend the annual school concert at Northam, at which some of his children were to take part. He was very popular among his fellow employees and band colleagues. He came to the State 17 or 18 years ago under engagement to the Great Southern Land Company, and worked on the Albany to Beverley line until it was taken over by the Government. He had been stationed at Northam for about six years. The deceased leaves a widow and five children, the eldest of whom is about 16 years of age.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Friday November 26 1909 Page 5*.

Shocking Fatality
Death of Edward Bidwell.
Killed on the Railway Line.
A shocking fatality occurred on the railway line near Northam on Thursday night, resulting in the instantaneous death of a well-known resident Mr. Edward Bidwell. A little after seven o'clock the train from Northam to Spencer's Brook, in charge, of Driver Harewood, was proceeding on its journey near Springhill , and when near Springhill, which is about, a mile from the Brook it dashed into a tricycle being propelled by Bidwell. The engine driver noticed the tricycle and applied the brakes, but it was too late, and the unfortunate man was killed outright. The body was not very much mutilated the principal injury being caused by a large splinter from the troll y penetrating the skull, this being sufficient to cause instantaneous death.

The news of the tragedy reached Northam, in a very brief space of time, and cast a gloom over the town. A distressing feature of the occurrence was the fact that the widow was attending the school

children's concert in the Town Hall when informed of the occurrence, and it is supposed that the deceased was making for home with, the intention of also going to the concert, in which some of his children we're taking part.

The deceased was a lineman in the Railway Department, and was in charge of the electrical appliances on the Northam section. He had full knowledge of the running of the train which encompassed his death, and it is surmised that he must have dozed off when returning after his day's work in the vicinity of Spencer's Brook. Mr. Bidwell was a very, popular man in Northam and had been for a long time prominently associated with the Town Band. He was a capable instrumentalist, and had done a great deal to help the band at various times. He came to Western Australia many years ago and was employed on the Great Southern Railway before that line was taken over by the Government.

Source: *Trove/Northam Courier (WA) Friday 26 November 1909 Page 5.*