BOHAN, William Joseph 6 February 1914

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Fettler/Length Runner	Nannup	Per way Trolley Struck by reversing train

William Bohan was about 35 years of age and died instantly when his rail trolley was run down by a reversing train between Barrabup and Nannup. William lived in Boyanup with his wife and infant son. He was interred in the Roman Catholic section of the Boyanup Cemetery. An inquest determined that his death was accidental.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE
NANNUP LINE.
Railway Fattier Killed.

A shocking accident occurred at about eleven o'clock this morning between Barrabup Junction and Nannup, when a railway fettler named William Bohan was run over and killed.

Only meagre particulars are to hand, but it is stated that deceased was on a tricycle on the line, when a train which was picking up sleepers backed up on him, and the wheels of the van passing over him, severed the head from the body. Bohan's age is stated to be about 35 years. He leaves a wife and one child. Police Constable Naismith left by this afternoon's train for the scene of the occurrence.

Source: *Trove/The South-Western News (Busselton WA) Friday 6 February 1914 Page 2.*

DEATH OF W. J. BOHAN.
The Inquest.

An inquiry into be circumstances surrounding the death of William Joseph Bohan, who was killed on Friday last, was opened at Nannup on the same evening. Mr. Jas. Kearney, jun., was acting coroner, and the jury comprised Messrs. R E Naylor, G Staples, and J. Kearney, sen. At the request of P.C. Naismith. the proceedings were adjourned to permit the attendance of necessary witnesses.

The proceedings were continued yesterday. Mr. Cameron, traffic inspector, was present on behalf of the Railway Department, Mr. Hehir, for deceased's friends, and Sen. Const. Cahill on behalf of the Crown.

Evidence was given by J. J. Hislop, guard, Jas Buck, engine driver, Geo Green, carter, N. Abbey, ganger, T. Kearney, and Dr. Lonergan. From the statements of the witnesses, it appears that deceased went into Nannup on a railway tricycle as usual to make the daily inspection of the line. At the town site he visited one or two places, and then returned to the line, Thomas Kearney being the last person, so far as is known, to see him alive. At the road crossing three miles from Nannup, a sleeper train was picking up timber, and while the trucks were blocking the line, the witness Green, who was driving a tradesman's cart, approached. He waited some time for the train to move on, but as it did not do so he asked the driver to steam back a little distance to allow him to cross. It is surmised that while this was being done Bohan came round a bend in the line, and met the back of the train. None of those in charge of the train or in the vicinity, saw deceased, and the first intimation of the affair was when driver Buck noticed the headless body lying between the rails. The opinion was also expressed that Bohan must have seen the approaching guard's van, and was endeavoring to get the tricycle clear of the line when he was struck. Had the tricycle been on the line

it is stated that the comparatively slow pace at which the train was moving would have merely kicked it back along the line, instead of that it was found reduced to splinters.

The jury returned the following verdict: "That William Joseph Bohan came to his death on the 6th February, at the 178 mile 32 chains crossing on the Nannup line by being acccidently killed through being run over by a goods train, no blame being attachable to these in charge of the train."

A rider was added by the jury to the effect that in their opinion the Railway Department should not allow the dumping of sleepers along the line within at least the length of an average train on either side of a road crossing.

The funeral took place on Saturday afternoon, when the remains were interred in the Boyanup cemetery, the Rev. Father McCormick conducting the burial rites.

Source: *Trove/The South-Western News (Busselton, WA) Friday 13 February 1914 Page 2.*

Workmen's Compensation Claim.

A claim on behalf of Michael Bohan, an infant, against the Commissioner for Railways, for damages under the Workmen's Compensation Act was mentioned at the Busselton Local Court this morning. The case arose out of the death of applicant's father, William Bohan, a fettler, who was killed in an accident on the Nannup line. Mr. Holmes, who appeared for the applicant, stated that the Commissioner for Railways had agreed to the payment of £398, and it was desired that an order be made by the Court for the disposal of the amount. As all the parties now concerned were living at Perth, it was suggested that the matter be remitted to the Perth Local Court for hearing. , Mr. Owen agreed to the latter course, and made an order accordingly.

Source: *Trove/The South-Western News (Busselton, WA) Friday 19 June 1914 Page 2.*