BRYAN, Christopher 5 May 1909

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Navvy	Norseman	Fall from ballast wagon

This death was originally reported as O'BRIEN, Christopher 6 May 1909. Christopher Bryan was 35 years of age when he fell from a ballast wagon and was crushed against the wall of a cutting. Christopher died at the scene of the accident. It is not known if Christopher was buried at Norseman or if his body was repatriated to his native Sale in Victoria where his father lived.

FATALITY ON N0RSEMAN RAILWAY
MAN CRUSHED BY TRAIN.
Norseman. May 5.
A fatality occurred on the Norseman railway line this morning. Christopher O'Brien (sic.), an employee of the contractors, who was engaged in ballasting near the causeway, was sitting on the top of the ballast on a truck, and fell into the cutting, A train was passing and Bryan received terrible injuries by being jammed between the train and the narrow cutting. The deceased was 35 years of age, and a native of Sale (Victoria). An inquest was opened and adjourned.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA) Thursday 6 May 1909 Page 4.*

NORSEMWAN RAILWAY FATALITY
Norseman, May 14.
The adjourned enquiry concerning the death of a man named Christopher O'Brien or Bryan, who was killed on the Norseman railway line near the Causeway, on 5th inst., was continued on Wednesday before Mr. L. L. Crockett, district coroner, and a jury of three. Corporal McFee conducted the enquiry on behalf of the police. The following evidence was taken :

G: W. T. Moffat, representative of the Kurrawang Firewood Company at Norseman, stated that the deceased man, Christopher O'Brien, was in the employ of the company. On the morning of the 5th., inst. He received a report 'from James Lannin, railway guard,. that an accident had occurred near the Causeway, and that' O'Brien had been killed. He subsequently saw his body taken out of a truck, and conveyed to the morgue; he had since received telegrams, from the deceased, man's father from Sale, in Victoria, and also from his brother, and the officer in charge of police in that place. The deceased was referred to as Christopher Bryan.

James Lannin; guard in the employ of the railway contractors, said "that on the 5th inst., he was in charge of a ballast train carting stone for ballasting the line near the causeway. Four trucks were attached to the engine. After coupling the trucks, the train proceeded back for another load. The deceased was in a truck next to the engine, with three other men. After having proceeded three or four hundred yards on the return journey, and at a point 150 yds North of the causeway when the train and almost at the same time saw a man in the act of falling out of the first truck. The train was stopped after proceeding about a chain. He saw O'Brien's dead body in the cutting, and assisted to place it in a truck: It was then conveyed to Norseman He could not say the position O'Brien was in when riding in , the truck. The trucks have fasteners at both ends, and it was the 'duty of the men engaged in ballasting to see that they were secured.

Timothy Murphy said that he was working with the deceased at the time of the accident. The deceased was sitting on the door of the truck, which had not been unfastened. He saw him fall out, and the door fell at the same time. The engine was stopped as quickly as possible. Witness found O'Brien in the cutting he did not appear to be dead at the time he first saw him.

By the Coroner: The door of the truck could not be pushed open if it had been securely fastened.

Dr. R.. R. Harvey' said that he saw O'Brien's body on the arrival of the train at the Norseman railway station. He had been' dead about half an hour. On the following day he made a post-mortem examination. The body was much disfigured. A broad mark extended from the left arm pit to the left side of the waist. There were also extensive marks on the chest, neck, and the lower part of the face. All the bones in the track of the ,injuries were broken, and the -tongue was torn from the deceased mouth and was caused by being crushed between the wheels of the train and the rails.

By a Juror: Falling from' the door of the truck on to the cutting would not account for the injuries, and he was strongly of opinion that the wheels of the train passed over the man's body:. '

John Griffiths, who was working in the truck with the deceased, said that he was sitting on the door of the truck cutting a pipe of tobacco when it suddenly gave, way. He saw O'Brien fall into the cutting clear of the rails. He had heard the ganger warn the men not to ride on the doors of the trucks. He did not think it was possible for the train to pass over the man's body. The trucks weighed about 4 tons.

James McLaughlin, in charge of the ballasting gang, after describing the accident, said that he had repeatedly warned the men not to ride on the doors of the trucks. He also said that the body was lying outside the rails, and was positive that the wheels of the train had not passed over the body. It was possible for the boxes of the engine to have struck the deceased.

Michael O'Donnell said that he had known the decease for 20 years. His proper name was Christopher Bryan.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, no blame being attachable to anyone.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA) Thursday 6 May 1909 Page 4.*