GUILFOYLE, Denis 31 July 1891

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Guard	York	Fell from Mail Train

Denis Guilfoyle was 29 years of age when he died as the result of an accident at York. It was believed that he was knocked from the top of the train by low guttering and was fatally injured when the coaches ran over him. It is not stated whether he was married or single or where he lived. His was conveyed by special train to Perth for burial, and was probably interred at East Perth Cemetery. Denis was well liked and there was a very large turnout at his funeral, including senior officials of the Railway department.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON THE EASTERN RAILWAY,
A GUARD FALLS OFF THE TRAIN AT YORK AND IS KILLED.

The terrible accident which happened to Guard Guilfoyle on the Eastern Railway, formed the chief topic of conversation in Perth on Saturday, and the expressions of sympathy for the members of his family, and of regret at his untimely end were as unmistakably sincere as they were universal. From further particulars received, it appears that when noticed by Miss Hague on Friday evening, Guilfoyle was seen to leave the brake van when the train was between the station and the engine sheds, and get on top of the roof of one of the carriages with the evident intention of attending to a lamp. Shortly after this, an engine fitter named Clough, at work in the engine shed hears a noise resembling breaking glass, as the train passed by and when he went out to ascertain the cause he found a lamp lying on the side of the line, and the body of a man lying not far from it. He at once went to Mr. Hague, the stationmaster, and apprised him of what he had seen. Mr. Hague and Clough went back to the place and there found Guilfoyle's body. It was badly mutilated, the head and one of the feet being completely severed from it, and it bore the appearance of having been dragged along the line several yards. Two carriage lamps lay near him, one on each side, from which it would seem that when the accident occurred, he must have been carrying one in each hand. It is conjectured that he must have come in contact with the guttering that that runs from the engine sheds to the water tanks, crossing the line at a sufficient height to escape the engine stack, but not to allow a man standing Up to pass under it. This would have thrown him to the ground, probably between the carriages, as he was carried between eleven and twelve yards beyond the guttering. Further ground for this conjecture appears in the fact that some of the soot which collects on the guttering from the smoke of the engine as it passes beneath it, appeared to have been recently rubbed away, as the guttering at that place bore evidence of somebody having come into contact with it.

On Saturday morning, an inquest, was held in the courthouse, at York, before Mr. F. A. Hare, R.M., Coroner, and a jury consisting of Messrs. J. Pyke, E. Ingram, and F. Gatwood. Mr. G. Roberts, the Traffic Manager, was present, on behalf of the Railway Department. After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased came by his death by being struck from the top of the carriage by the guttering, and being run over. They attached no blame to anyone, but recommended that the guttering be removed, and signals erected there, to enable a train to be stopped after leaving the station.

THE FUNERAL .

The funeral of the late Denis Guilfoyle took place on Sunday afternoon. The funeral cortege left the residence of the deceased's mother, opposite the Central Station, shortly after four o'clock. By this time Wellington Street was lined with people and the crowd opposite the house from which the funeral started completely blocked the way. But it was not a crowd of careless sightseers eager to satisfy a curiosity awakened by the details of Guilfoyle's terrible death, which had collected there. When the cortege moved slowly forward the mass of people followed the body to the grave. There

must have been quite three thousand people to join in the procession which turned down Barrack Street on its way to the Roman Catholic Cathedral. What stronger proof could there be wanting to show that the deceased was rich in friends. First on either side of the hearse came the pall bearers; Mr. Vean (Commissioner of Railways), and Mr. Roberts (the Traffic Manager), on one side, and Mr. Mather and Mr. Hayden on the other. Then after the relatives of the deceased, the members of the Hibernian Society in their regalia, and after them again followed those friends of the deceased who perhaps had only known him in his business life, but learnt nevertheless to appreciate his value. The procession proceeded down Barrack Street into Goderich Street to the Roman Catholic Cathedral, where the funeral service was held, and then from the Cathedral to the cemetery, where the remains of the deceased were laid in their last resting place.

Author's Note:
It appears from the above that the cemetery was within walking distance of St. Mary's Cathedral. The only cemetery nearby at that time was the East Perth Cemetery. Denis Guilfoyle was almost certainly interred at East Perth Cemetery, however, there is no clear indication that this is the case.

Source: *Trove/Western Mail (Perth) Saturday 8 August 1891 Page 8.*