KEARNEY, David 21 November 1896

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Driver	North Fremantle	Struck by locomotive

David Kearney was 32 years of age when he died as the result of being struck by a train near North Fremantle station. He was not on duty at the time and investigations did not reveal why he was lying near the tracks. He was married and his wife was residing in Sydney at the time of his death. He was buried on 23 November 1896 but no cemetery is mentioned in reports.

KILLED ON THE RAILWAY.
MYSTERIOUS OCCURRENCE.
AN ENGINE DRIVER KILLED.
An engine driver named David Kearney was killed on the railway line in the vicinity of North Fremantle on Saturday night. As the 9:10 p.m. train from Perth ,was approaching the locality named, the driver discerned a dark object lying across the line some distance ahead. He was unable to pull up and as the cow catcher caught it and removed it clear of the line, the driver saw that it was the body of a man, he reported the matter on arriving at the station, and an investigation revealed the body of Kearney. He was unconscious and a very few minutes afterwards breathed his last. On the back of his head, behind the right ear, was noticed a deep gash, which had apparently been caused by the cow catcher of the engine, and on the left arm was an extensive flesh wound. The body was taken to Fremantle and deposited in the morgue.

Deceased was an engine driver and had been employed in the harbor works for about two months. He ceased work on Saturday afternoon, but there is nothing to suggest that he was under the influence of liquor later in the day. On the contrary, Kearney was known to be a sober and steady man. How he came to be lying across the rails at night, therefore, is a mystery. Deceased leaves a widow, who, it is believed is residing in Sydney.

Source: *Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Monday 23 November 1896 Page 3.*

FATALITY ON THE RAILWAY.
AN ENGINE DRIVER KILLED.
An engine-driver named David Kearney was killed on the railway line at about 400 yards from the North Fremantle station on Saturday night, through being struck by the engine of the 9.10 p.m. train from Perth to Fremantle, whilst the train was approaching North Fremantle. It appears that Driver Thomas Jolly, who was in charge of the passenger train when running into North Fremantle station, noticed a dark object lying near the line. The train was at that time travelling at from 15 to 20 miles an hour. He crossed to the opposite side of the footplate and looked at the object, in which he discerned a resemblance to a man. As the train came up to it his apprehension was confirmed. Unable to pull the train up at the rate it was travelling he was horrified to see that the corner of the cowcatcher on the front of the engine struck the man on the head or the upper portion of the body and threw him clear of the line. He reported the matter at the North Fremantle station, and the engine was run back to the spot, where the man was picked up apparently dead. There was a terrible gash under the right ear, and bruises on the head. The unfortunate man was found to be quite dead on examination. He was at once identified as David Kearney, an engine driver, aged 32, employed on one of the harbor works locomotives. He had knocked off work at 2.30 on Saturday afternoon, and appeared to be in good health and spirits. Inquiries fail to elicit that he had been drinking during the afternoon, and as he was always sober and steady and an employee who gave

general satisfaction, how he came to be lying alongside the railway line is a matter for conjecture. Mr. B. B. Campbell Locomotive Super-intendant, states that Kearney had been employed as engine driver by the department for the past two months, and was considered a capable officer. It is stated that deceased was a married man, his wife being at present a resident of Sydney. An inquest will be commenced to-day at 2.15 p.m. The funeral of deceased takes place at 3.30 p.m.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Monday 23 November 1896 Page 5.*