KENNEDY, John 17 November 1891

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Navvy (Acting Guard)	Gingin	Shunting operations

John Kennedy was a Navvy who was acting as Guard at Gingin on the MRWA line. He died by being dragged under the wheels while attempting to apply a brake on fast moving wagons. John lived at Gingin and, by all accounts, was well respected in that community. His age is listed only as adult in the births, deaths and marriages record and his marital status is not stated. He was interred at Guildford Cemetery in November1891

GINGIN.
Monday
(From a Correspondent.)
On Monday last there occurred a most lamentable accident, which resulted in the death of a young man named John Kennedy. He was a comparative new arrival in the colony, as he came from the neighborhood of Ballarat, Victoria. Since he came to the colony he had been employed by the contractor of the Midland Railway in the capacity of guard of the ballast-trucks. It would appear that at a level crossing near the townsite of Gingin he was required to put the brake down on a truck which was travelling at a considerable rate of speed. The brakes used on the trucks of the Midland Railway Company are both inconvenient and highly dangerous. In putting on the brake Kennedy had to lean considerably outwards, and his arm came in contact with the post at the crossing. This threw him under the truck, which passed over him, mutilating his body dreadfully. Death must have been instantaneous.

At 11 o'clock on the following morning the local magistrate (Mr. H. Brockman) held an inquest on the body of the deceased, and a verdict was arrived and in accordance with the evidence. John Kennedy died as the result of an accident.

Mr. Risely, the construction manager, very kindly put on a special train, and all brother navvies from Moore River downwards attended to pay their last respects to the deceased, there were about 150 persons present, including the members of the Cheriton Lodge of Good Templars, of which tbe deceased was a member, besides many residents of Gingin by whom the deceased was held in high respect. The body was conveyed to Guildford and the funeral rites were conducted by the Rev. Father Kelly. Too much praise cannot be awarded to Mr. Risely, who was ably assisted by Mr. O'Mara, the travelling pilot, for their kindly action, more especially the former, who took upon himself the responsibility of paying all the debts, both personal and those incurred in the funeral expenses. It's pleasing to record that this was not rendered necessary, as his fellow navvies very generously donated 1 pound each, so that all expenses in connection were defrayed, and a tombstone in addition will be raised to the memory of the deceased, without any expense to the Railway Company. Mr. Newman has undertaken the arrangements in regard to the erection of the tombstone. November 18.

Source: *Trove/The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth) Friday 20 November 1891 page 6 Article*

Author's note: *John Kennedy lived in Gingin and, by all accounts, was a well respected member of that community and was highly regarded by his fellow workers, he was interred at Guildford Cemetery in November 1891.*
(MM April 2016.)