LINDSEY, William 26 December 1884

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Guard	Claremont	Fell from train

William Lindsey Died as the result of falling from a train near Claremont. It is believed that William was moving along the running board of a passenger coach checking tickets when he fell and was killed as the coach ran over him. The coach derailed and caused the train to stop. William was married and had one child at the time of his death. William lived at Fremantle and is interred at Fremantle Cemetery.

RAILWAY TRAGEDY

A dreadful accident occurred on the Eastern Railway at about half-past eight o'clock on Friday evening. A special train from Fremantle under the charge of Guard Lindsey, had proceeded about a quarter of a mile beyond the Claremont platform, when some of the passengers heard a sudden shriek. Directly afterwards a first class saloon carriage, running second from the engine, left the rails and began to thump about along the metal in a most alarming manner. The engine driver soon brought the train to a standstill, when an examination was made to discover the cause of the accident. To the horror of all poor Lindsey's body was found lying in the rear of the train, cut literally to pieces. The limbs were severed from the trunk, which was smashed into pulp, and the lower part of the face had been cut away from the head, Death would , of course, have been instantaneous. Strange to say the poor fellow's watch was picked up quite undamaged and going. The Traffic Manager Mr Roberts, who happened to be in the train at the time, behaved in the most cool, collected, and capable manner; and thus prevented the occurrence of a panic among the passengers. After some delay the derailed carriage was replaced on the line, and the train arrived in Perth at about a quarter past eleven o'clock. The remains of the deceased were at once forwarded to Fremantle, where they were buried yesterday. An inquest will be held tomorrow.

Poor William Lindsey, who was universally respected and liked, has left a widow and an orphan to mourn the terrible loss they have so suddenly sustained

On Tuesday last, before Mr. L. W. Clifton, J.P., acting as coroner, the adjourned inquest on the death of the unfortunate guard, Lindsey, was held. The evidence of a number of witnesses was taken but nothing was decided upon. Which any opinion could be formed, as to the immediate cause of the accident, and the jury returned the following verdict : "That William Lindsey came by his death on the evening of the 26th inst., by being run over by a railway train near Claremont, and that there is not sufficient evidence to show by what means it occurred, and we recommend that in future the railway rules should be more strictly enforced;"

The latter part of the verdict no doubt refers to the rules against the custom of collecting tickets whilst the train is in motion, in the process of which the ticket collector has to move outside the carriages. It is but right to add that the report circulated to the effect that poor Lindsey was the worst for drink on the evening the accident took place was contradicted by all the witnesses who were examined, on that point.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian Saturday 3 January 1885*