Mc CUSKER, Arthur 14 December 1893

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Guard	Gregson's Tank	Shunting operations

Arthur McCusker was 28 years of age at the time of his death. Arthur died a week after a shunting accident at Gregson's Tank near Burges on the Great Southern Railway. Arthur was trying to execute a "Fly" shunt (A dangerous manoeuvre at any time.) when he fell while trying to uncouple wagons. He was severely injured when struck by the axle boxes. Arthur lived at Guildford and is interred at Guildford Cemetery.

THE RECENT FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE EASTERN RAILWAY.
INQUEST.
Held on Saturday last on the death, of Arthur McCusker who died in the York Hospital on the 14th of December, 1893, from injuries received on the 7th instant.

The R.M. acted as Coroner, while the jury consisted of Messrs. M. Williamson (foreman), Messrs. C. Dancker and H. Hunter. The follow ing evidence was taken:

Thomas Netherwood said, "I am an engine driver driver on the Eastern Railway, and was in charge of the Mixed Train on Thursday, the 7th instant. Arthur McCusker was guard of the train on that day. He stopped the train about 100 yards from the point. Deceased got out of the brake van and detached from the train what he was going to put off on this siding. He then walked forward to the points and took the scotch blocks off and unlocked the point? He then came back to the train and gave us the signal to start. We had only just started when the fireman sang out to me: "Whoa! Arthur has slipped down." We stopped at once. Deceased sang out to me: " Hook the brake on and put me in the brake van." We did so and proceeded to York as quick as possible.

By the jury.- Deceased at the time was running between the wagons with a view to taking the pin out. There is no other way of doing this work. It is a dangerous practice at any time. The only remedy to avoid this is to have points at each end of the siding. I have known several accidents occur in this manner.

By the Coroner.-This is the practice all through the colony. I have been on the railways in England and in the Eastern Colonies for about 26 years. This practice is followed in England although not strictly allowed. It cannot be avoided here unless by roping in, which is equally as dangerous. The Guard is bound to draw the pin out while the train is in motion. By having double points the train could shunt back, and by this means avoid allowing the Guard to draw the pin out while the train is in motion. This is the only fatal accident I know of in this colony. I have known of minor accidents here occurring through a similar cause. Deceased was caught underneath the axle-boxes.

John Litton, fireman on the train in question, said lie saw deceased fall and roll down the bank after having given the signal to go ahead. Cross examined, witness said deceased was a careful smart man. Deceased told him that the wheel did not go over his leg. He slipped on the gravel and the axle box did the injury. [Witness also corroborated Netherwood's evidence.]

P.C. Edmonds gave evidence to the effect that he assisted in conveying the deceased to the hospital on the 7th instant. He also saw his dead remains in the morgue on the 14th.

J. A. O'Meehan, Government medical officer, said-Arthur McCusker was brought to the Hospital on the afternoon of the 7th instant. He was suffering from a compound fracture of the right leg, and a

lacerated wound on the right thigh. His leg was attended to. On the following Tuesday it was decided to take off his leg as being the only chance of his living. , His leg was amputated on Wednesday afternoon and he died the next morning about 5 o'clock.

By the jury. At first the case was not hopeless, there was a chance of deceased recovering, but the chances were against it.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that "Arthur McCusker came to his death by accident while shunting some trucks on the 7th instant at Burges siding, no blame being attached to anyone.

The jury are of opinion that the present danger in shunting could be avoided by having double points, at that the siding.

The attention of the Government should be drawn to the matter.

Source: *Trove/Eastern Districts Chronicle (York) Saturday 23 December 1893 Page 2.*

FUNERAL NOTICE.
The funeral of the late ARTHUR McCUSKER will leave his late residence, Guildford for interment, at 4.30 this afternoon. Friends will please accept this invitation.
W. N. HOWELL,
Undertaker.
Guildford.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Friday 15 December 1893 Page 4.*