Mc INERNEY, Francis 20 March 1912

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Ganger in Charge	Spencers Brook	Unloading a wagon

Francis McInerney was 42 years of age when he was critically injured as he was crushed by a collapsing cabin while it was being unloaded at Spencer's Brook on 7 March 1912. Frank succumbed to his injuries at Northam Hospital on 20 March 1912. Frank lived at Mokine (10km West of Spencer's Brook) with his wife, Mary. He was the father of 7 children. Frank was interred in the PRESBYTERIAN section of the Northam Cemetery.

MR. FRANCIS McINERNEY.
OBITUARY
Mr. Francis Mclnerney, of Mokine, who was seriously injured at Spencer's Brook about a fortnight ago as the result of an accident, succumbed to his injuries in the Northam Hospital on Wednesday. From the first it was seen that his injuries were of so severe a nature that there was little chance of his recovery.

The funeral took place yesterday in the Presbyterian portion of the Northam cemetery, the Rev. B. Boss officiating. The chief mourners were Mrs. Mclnerney (wife), Messrs. Francis and James Mclnerney (sons), Miss May Mclnerney (daughter), Mr. Michael McInerney (brother), and Mr. Alex. Hamilton (brother-in-law).

The coffin was borne by Messrs. James Watson, Frank Trask, George Bardon and Dan McBride, members of the fettlers' gang at Mokine of which the deceased was foreman. The pall-bearers were Messrs. T. H. Wilding, Mr. L. C. Anderson (manager of the National Bank in Northam). Dr. Donald, Chas. Needham, Thomas Dick and Steve Paine.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. T. W. Purslowe.

The late Mr. McTnernev was born at Ballarat, and had been 15 years in Western Australia, during the last 14 years of which time he had been in the Government service. He had been four years at Mokine, and leaves a wife and seven children, namely, three sons and four daughters.

A number of wreaths were received, including one from members of the permanent way staff and another from comrades of the W.A.A.S.R.E.

Coronial Inquest
An inquest opened on Wednesday afternoon before the Coroner (Mr. W. D- Cowan) and a jury consisting of Messrs. A. J. Ivimey, C. Throssell, and J. S. Nicholls. After evidence of identification had been taken the inquiry was adjourned until Wednesday afternoon next at half-past two o'clock.

Source: *Trove/Goomalling-Dowerin Mail (WA) Friday 22 March 1912 Page 2.*

Death of a Ganger.
THE SPENCER'S BROOK
ACCIDENT.
The adjourned inquest as to the death of Francis Mclnerney, a railway ganger, of Mokine, who was injured at Spencer's Brook on March 7 through being crushed by a cabin falling from a railway truck and who died in the Northam Hospital on March 20, was -resumed at the Court House on

Wednesday afternoon before the acting-coroner (Mr. W. J. Stewart, J.P.) and a jury of three, of which Mr. A. J. Ivimey was foreman. Inspector Greig appeared on behalf of the Commissioner for Railways, and Mr. C. Needham watched the proceedings on behalf of the W .A.G.R. Association, of which deceased was a member.

Thomas Dix, railway employee, deposed that deceased was Ganger of the gang in which he was employed. On March 7 the gang were unloading a cabin at Spencer's Brook from an H truck. After undoing the wires which secured the cabin, they lowered the door on the south side of the truck. Stays were then used on the side, while one half was being taken away. We were getting ready to stay it, the deceased went between the walls of the cabin with the intention of staying it there, when with out any warning it fell over on the North side, pinning deceased between the walls. He was got out as soon as possible and placed on a goods train and taken to Northam Hospital, where he died. Witness had never been employed unloading a cabin previously. A plan (produced) showing, the manner in which the cabin was stayed, was correct, except one stay marked was not present. It would not be necessary to take the long stay away, but the short one would have to be removed before unloading. After deceased was extricated from under the cabin wall he asked how the accident happened. Witness was of opinion everything necessary for safely unloading, was done.

To Inspector Greig : Witness was not conversant with the rules under which he worked, although he had a copy. This rule stated that the onus of responsibility rested with the man in charge of any dangerous work, and the deceased was in charge on this occasion.

Dr. R. N. Rockett deposed that he saw the deceased, Francis McInerney, at the Northam Hospital on March 7. He had considerable bruising on the lower part of the abdomen, and also on the back. On further examination found he was suffering from a fractured pelvis and ruptured bladder. He died on March 20. The cause of death was exhaustion consequent on these injuries. He had the appearance of being a strong healthy man.

Frank Trask, fettler, residing at Mokine, knew deceased, and was at Spencer's Brook with the gang unloading a cabin. He corroborated the evidence of the witness Dix. Deceased said he would see where he could fix a stay inside and had just got between the two walls when witness saw the building shake. Witness called out, "It's coming," but it was too late for deceased to get out. He was pinned between the walls of the cabin. He called for assistance, and witness, and three others caught hold of the portion of cabin that was on him, but they could not remove it until further assistance came. On being released he was sent to Northam Hospital.

To the police : The ropes were removed before the stays were got to stay it. Witness thought it would have been advisable to stay it before removing the ropes. It was necessary for the deceased to have gone in between the walls. The door of the truck could not be opened before the ropes were removed.

To the jury : He did not see any one release the mainstay either at the top or bottom, and after the accident the bottom of the stay was still nailed to the truck. One stay was hanging loose when they arrived at the truck.

Constable Robinson gave evidence of identification.

The jury, after a brief retirement, returned the following verdict : — "We find the deceased Francis McInerney, came to his death through injuries received at an accident at Spencer's Brook on March 7 while in the execution of his duty."

Source: *Trove/The Northam Advertiser (WA) Saturday 30 March 1912 Page 4.*