O'DRISCOLL, Patrick 29 October 1898

Designation	Accident Location	Accident due to
Ganger	Denmark	Fall from trolley

Patrick O'Driscoll, (A.K.A. Patrick DRISCOLL in WAGR records) was a Ganger on the Great Southern Railway and employed by the WAGR. Patrick was killed and his companion, John Shaw, was seriously injured when their per-way tricycle was run down by a train at Hick's Siding (Later Gwambygine) about ten miles (16 kilometres) south of York. Patrick lived in Newcastle (later renamed, Toodyay) with his wife and two children. He was interred at Newcastle (Toodyay) Cemetery.

RAILWAY FATALITY.
A ganger named Patrick O'Driscoll, employed on the Great Southern railway, was killed on Saturday evening near York by being run over by the Albany express. The deceased and a man named Shaw were riding a railway tricycle when the express overtook them. Shaw escaped with a severe shaking.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950) Tuesday 1 November 1898 page 5.*

FATAL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.
THE INQUEST.
SHAWS CONDITION PRECARIOUS.
In connection with the railway accident, which resulted in the death of Patrick O'Driscoll and the infliction of serious injuries on his mate, J. Shaw, who were riding on a tricycle from York to Beverley on Saturday evening when a train crashed into them, further particulars have been received.

O'Driscoll was killed instantly, but Shaw escaped with injuries to his back and loins. Shaw received immediate attention from Dr. Blanchard, who fortunately was on the train. O'Driscoll was married, and leaves a wife and two children. He had been employed on the railway as ganger for the last eight years, and was highly respected by his officers and men. He was a member of the York Druids' Lodge.

The inquest was held at the Court house, Beverley, yesterday before Mr. Horace Smith, the acting coroner. The deceased's companion, John Shaw, who lies in the hospital in a precarious condition, was unable to attend. His depositions were taken. They are to the effect that the deceased and he left the Sand Hills camp at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday for Beverley, and returned in the 6.40 p.m. train, bringing the tricycle with them. They got out at Hicks's siding, and after remaining there for some time started to return to their camp on the tricycle. The camp was about a mile from the siding. The next thing he remembered was seeing a light dash, from the mail train behind. He shouted to O'Driscoll that the train was coming and then jumped from the tricycle. He remembered no more. When they left Beverley O'Driscoll was considerably under the influence of drink, and this accounted for the delay in leaving the siding.

William Ohlenschlager, the engine driver of the mail train, said that when passing Hicks's siding the train was travelling at the rate of about 25 miles an hour. He noticed a dark object on the line about a chain ahead. He shut off steam immediately and applied the brake. The whistle was sounded at about 400 yards before the train reached the siding. The train travelled about 100 yards after he shut off steam. There was no light on the object on the line.

William Robert Palmer, the guard on the mail train, said that there were no passengers for Hicks's siding. He gave the free light not to stop at the siding. The train was travelling at about 25 miles an hour, and went about two chains after the accident before it was pulled up. He saw the deceased lying in a pool of blood.

John Jeffries, the fireman, corroborated the evidence of the engine driver.

Dr. Blanchard said that he was returning from Perth in the mail train, which stopped suddenly at Hicks's. The guard called him, and told him that two men had been run down by the train. He found O'Driscoll lying on the left side of the line about 3ft. from the metals. He was in a pool of blood. His companion, Shaw, was lying on the right hand side of the line, and groaning. Blood was flowing freely from the head of the deceased, and he expired a few seconds after he first saw him. On examining the body of O'Driscoll he found that the right side of the skull had been smashed in, some of the brains and integuments protruding. He examined the engine a short time after the accident, and found blood stains and hair on the front of the smoke-box, where the deceased's head had struck, and also over the entire front of the engine. In his opinion the deceased met his death by a fracture of the skull and laceration of the brain.

A verdict was returned that the deceased met his death by having been knocked off the railway line by the engine of the mail train on the night of October 29, and that he was under the influence of the drink at the time.

The jury considered that he was much to blame in not having observed the printed regulations regarding the use of the tricycle, and that no blame was attachable to anyone else.

Dr. Blanchard stated last evening that Shaw was suffering from a punctured wound in the lower part of the spine, and that he had had considerable hemorrhage for two days, but was slightly better. However, he was still in a precarious condition.

The body of O'Driscoll was conveyed to Newcastle in yesterday evening's train for interment today.

Source: *Trove/The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth) Friday 4 November 1898 page 13.*