PENNEFATHER, Thomas Frederick 22 January 1905

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Fuelman	Southern Cross	Struck by passing train

Thomas Pennefather was 49 years of age when he was struck and killed by a passing express after he fell asleep near the line at Southern Cross. Thomas lived in Southern Cross with his wife Honoria and they had twelve children. Thomas was interred at the Southern Cross Cemetery. A benefit was held for the support of Honoria and those children still living with her.

Killed by a Train.
SOUTHERN CROSS. Jan. 23.
A terrible accident occurred here last night. The goldfield's express was heard giving the distance signal
followed immediately after by a short, sharp warning whistle and the sudden pulling up of the train. Enquiries elicited the information that a man named Thomas Frederick Pennefather had been run over and dragged some distance. The cow catcher had evidently cut his head almost in half. He had been to the railway barracks for a bath, and it is presumed that he was returning home across the line. A towel and soap were found inside his shirt. The deceased, who had been working night shift, and unable to sleep owing to the heat of the day, when he reached the railway evidently sat down and fell asleep near the line. Pennefather leaves a widow and 12 children. Several of his children were on the platform, and his son-in-law was just going on duty on the express. An inquest was opened to-day and adjourned.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA) Tuesday 31 January 1905 Page 25.*

INQUEST.
Au inquest into the death of Thomas Frederick Pennefather, who was killed on the railway line on Sunday night, was held in the Courthouse on Tuesday evening, before Acting-Coroner H. Gaston and a jury, Corporal Slattery conducting the case.

Evidence of identification was given by M. C. Keetley, who was the last person to see deceased alive about half an hour prior to the accident, at which time he was perfectly sober and sensible.

Peter D. Barrett said he was driver on the Northam to Goldfields express on Sunday night. When about 40 yards from the up distant signal he noticed an object lying near the line and he at once applied the vacuum brakesr and gave a warning whistle. The train would be going about 15 miles an hour. When nearer he saw
that object was a man. The cowcatcher caught the man and dragged him along, afterwards throwing him clear of the line. The train would then be going about twelve miles an hour. When the train had pulled up he got off hid engine and went back, finding the dead and mutilated body of Pennefather. On the cowcatcher there were traces of blood and hair.

B.C. McGovray deposed to finding the body just off the line.. The head was badly cut.

Dr. Humphry said that death had been caused by a blunt instrument. The cowcatcher of an engine would inflict such injuries.

Corporal Slattery stated that he was at the scene of the accident about 15 minutes after it occurred and had the body removed to the morgue. The towel and soap produced were found inside deceased's shirt, and the money was in one of the trouser pockets. He had made careful

investigation but could find no reason for deceased being on the line. He had ample evidence that Pennefather was not drunk, in his opinion death was caused by the cowcatcher of the engine.

The Acting Coroner in summing up said it was possible that the man had sat down and fallen asleep, or that he
may have had a fit and fallen on the line, or, again, that he might have been struck by the lighting which was very bad that night.

The jury found that Thomas Frederick Pennefather came to his death on the railway line by being struck by the cowcatcher of the express engine but there was no evidence to show how he came there, or of any foul play having taken place.

Source: *Trove/The Southern Cross Times (WA) Saturday 28 January 1905 Page 2.*