SMITH, Stephen 29 June 1922

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Ganger	West Guildford	Struck by a passing train

Stephen Smith was 54 years of age when he was fatally injured by being struck by a train at West Guildford. Stephen died while being transported to Hospital. He lived in Perth and was interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (GENERAL/AA/0092).

RUN DOWN BY TRAIN
FATALITY AT GUILDFORD.
Perth, June 29. Stephen Smith, aged 54, a member of a gang engaged in relaying the railway line between Fremantle and Northam, was knocked down by a train in the vicinity of the West Guildford station today, and sustained such injuries that he died while being conveyed to hospital.

Source: *Trove/Kalgoorlie Miner (WA) Friday 30 June 1922 Page 3.*

RAILWAY RELAYING TRAGEDY
DEATH OF STEPHEN SMITH
THE CORONER'S INQUEST.
An inquest was opened at the City Court yesterday afternoon and continued this morning, into the circumstances surrounding the death of Stephen Smith (50 sic.), laborer, who was run down by a train near West Guildford on June 29 while engaged on relaying operations.

Bert Johnston conducted the inquiry, and Inspector T. W. Clark watched the proceedings on behalf of the Commissioner of Railways.

John Thomas Edwards deposed that he was driving the No.28 passenger train, ex Midland Junction, at 12:50 p.m. on June 29. Nearing West Guilford station, at about 1:05 p.m., he saw a relaying gang at work. He sounded the whistle when he first sighted them, and upon getting nearer noticed that two men were still on the line. He again whistled, whereupon the man nearest the engine stepped clear of the line but the other man (deceased) stepped right onto the center of the line on which the engine was travelling. In doing so he stood still and straightened himself up. Evidently someone drew his attention to the approaching train, as witness saw him look towards the engine. The distance was then too short to avoid an accident. Steam was immediately shut off, and the brakes applied, the train being brought to a standstill a couple of seconds too late. The injured man was placed in the brake van by some of his mates, and brought to Perth. Witness did not leave his engine, as he knew the guard was a first aid man.

John Forkin, the fireman, corroborated the greater part of the first witness evidence. When the engine struck deceased he said to his mate, 'We've hit a man, but he is thrown clear off the line.

Walter Owens, a member of the relaying gang, said that at 1:10 p.m. they were working about 500 yards east of the West Guildford station, when a train approached from the Midland Junction side. The driver blew the whistle. Stephen Smith was then standing on the up line with his back to the engine, and witness cried out, 'look out.' He glanced up as though startled, and made a leap to the south side of the line on which the train was approaching. Witness was about 18 yards from deceased at the time, and thought he had jumped clear. The train pulled up, and witness went with others, and saw deceased lying alongside the rails. He did not speak.

Evidence of identification was tendered by Andrew Saunders, and corroborative testimony given by Henry Williams, a ganger, and William Webster, who was walking along the railway line when the accident occurred.

Dr. D. B. McKenzie (R.M.O., Perth Hospital), gave medical testimony. He deposed that deceased was dead on reaching the hospital.

The Coroner, Mr. F. A. W. Mullen, returned a verdict that deceased died at Perth on June 29 from fracture of the skull and rupture of the brain, injuries received on that date on the railway line near West Guildford, the result of being accidentally struck by the engine of a travelling train.

Source: *Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Friday 14 July 1922 Page 1.*