SULLIVAN, Matthew 14 December 1896

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Shunter	Coolgardie	Shunting operations

Matthew Sullivan was 30 years of age when he was fatally injured by falling under wagons while shunting at Coolgardie. He lived in Coolgardie and is interred at Coolgardie Cemetery.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT COOLGARDIE.
A SHUNTER KILLED.
Coolgardie, December 14.
An accident occurred at the railway station this morning (sic), which resulted in the death of Matthew Sullivan, an employee of Messrs. Wilkie Brothers. It appears that Sullivan started work as usual about 7 o'clock, and shortly after that hour was assisting in shunting operations in the railway yards. In one of these operations he was sitting for a second on the end truck of several which were attached to an engine, when a sudden jerk threw him from his seat and he fell beneath the moving vehicles. The accident was noticed and the trucks were almost immediately brought to a standstill, but not before the unfortunate man had received fatal injuries. His shoulder was severely lacerated and his head also sustained very severe injuries. Some difficulty was experienced in extricating him from his position beneath the truck. This, indeed, could not be done before the wagon was bodily lifted to free his body. He was removed to too hospital as speedily as possible, but died on reaching that institution. The deceased had only been a few days in the employ of Messrs. Wilkie Bros. He was 30 years of age, and is understood to have been a married man.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Tuesday 15 December 1896 Page 5.*

COOLGARDIE JOTTINGS .
By Observer.
A sensation was caused in the town on Monday last by the intelligence of an accident at the railway station, in which a man named Matthew Sullivan lost his life. Sullivan, who is an employee of Wilkie Bros., was sitting on one of the trucks of a train which was passing through the station. The train, stopping rather abruptly, Sullivan was thrown to the ground. The driver noticed the man falling, and instantly brought the train to a standstill, but not before Sullivan had received fatal injuries by the truck passing over him. He was, with some difficulty, extricated from beneath the truck and immediately conveyed to the hospital, where he died a few minutes later. The body was, on the following day, conveyed to the Roman Catholic Church, whence the funeral proceeded to the cemetery. The Hibernians, of whose society the deceased had been a member, marched in processional order to the grave, wearing the badges of the Society. The only immediate relative Sullivan had in the colonies was a brother, who was a witness to the accident. There having existed an unusually tender attachment between the two brothers, the mourner is keenly feeling the sad and unexpected separation. The mortuary arrangements were carried out by Mr. McGovern, and the burial service conducted by the Rev. Father O'Dea.

Source: *Trove/The WA Record (Perth) Saturday 26 December 1896 page 11.*