WAKEHAM, William Herbert "Bert" 13 February 1951

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Driver	Roelands	PWD G class runaway

William Wakeham was 60 years of age when he was crushed to death as his runaway train derailed at Roelands. The guard and fireman were injured in the derailment. William lived at Shenton Park with his wife, Lilian, who survived him by 16 years and they are both interred at Karrakatta Cemetery (WESLEYAN/FA/0537).

DRIVER KILLED IN RUNAWAY TRAIN

BUNBURY, Feb. 13: When a train loaded with huge lumps of quarried stone ran downhill out of control and smashed into the side of a cutting near Roelands this afternoon, the driver was killed and the fireman and the guard were injured. The driver, William Herbert Wakeham, of Herbert-street, Shenton Park, was crushed to death under the lumps of stone when the trucks telescoped as the locomotive struck the side of the cutting. The fireman, Edward Sloan, of Stirling Street, Bunbury, and the guard, Thomas Irwin Thompson, of Roelands who jumped before the crash, were taken to the Bunbury Hospital and admitted.

The train, which was operated by the Public Works Department, was travelling from the Roelands quarry to the new Bunbury harbour works when it got out of control while running down a decline not far from the quarry. It is believed that for about two miles the driver and crew struggled to regain control, but they could not succeed and the engine jumped the rails on a curve and ploughed into a bank. Stones were showered over the engine as the trucks overturned and telescoped. The guard was the first to jump and he was followed by the fire man a few minutes before the crash. A witness who saw the train rushing towards the cutting said tonight that he saw Mr. Wakeham hanging on to the footplate of the engine a few minutes before it hit the bank. As the engine left the rails, Mr. Wakeham, it is thought, was pushed back from the wall of the cutting. His body was trapped under the smashed trucks. The crash occurred about 2.30p.m., and a team of 20 men was still working late tonight, with oxy-acetylene equipment to, extricate the driver's body. The engine, was travelling bunker first to provide more effective braking. Stone obtained at the Roelands quarry is used in connection with the extension of the Bunbury harbour.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Wednesday 14 February 1951 Page 1*.

FAMILY NOTICES

WAKEHAM: Accidentally killed at Roelands, February 13, William Herbert (Bert), beloved husband of Lilian, brother of Jean, loved father of Rose, Jack, Jim, Ruby, Vi, Doug and Alberta, loved grandpa of John, Margaret, Bertie (deceased), Barbara, Jimmy, Lilian, Robert, Russell.
At rest.

Source: *Trove/The West Australian (Perth) Thursday 15 February 1951 Page 24.*