WATSON, James 13 July 1922

Designation	Accident Location	Accident Due to
Driver	Maylands	Fall from train

James Watson was 41 years of age when he died as the result of being run over by his own train. James told his firemen he was ill after stopping the train at Mt.Lawley and that he was going back to the brake van to lie down and that the fireman should carry on alone in the cab. On the return journey, between Maylands and Mt.Lawley James' body was discovered between the rails. It is not known how he came to be there. James lived at North Fremantle with his wife Charlotte and he is interred at Fremantle Cemetery (PRESBYTERIAN/MON E/0242).

ENGINE DRIVER KILLED
FATALITY AT MAYLANDS
IN EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENT

James W. Watson, a locomotive driver in the employ of the Government railways, and resident in Mason-street, North Fremantle, was killed through being run over by a train in the vicinity of Maylands early this morning. There are certain features of the tragedy of a most extraordinary nature, and some of the circumstances surrounding it appear to be inexplicable.

The deceased was in charge of a goods train that left Fremantle after midnight, the fireman being Cecil G. Johnston and the guard J. F. Reeves. Upon arrival in Perth a passenger coach was attached and the journey to Midland Junction resumed about 3 a.m. There seems to be a doubt, as to exactly what happened during this part of the journey. Inquiries, for railway headquarters furnish the following story: Upon reaching Mt. Lawley platform the Train was brought to a standstill. Watson is then alleged to have told his fireman that he was sick, and to have indicated his intention of going to the brake van to lie down. It is stated that the Guard did not see the driver from the time the train left Perth. However, the information goes that the train was taken on to Midland Junction, and after some little time there, preparations were made for the return journey. When about 200 yards on the Perth side of the Maylands station the guard is reported to have noticed a body lying between the rails. The train was brought to a standstill, and it was discovered that the body was that of the driver. The body was severely mutilated, and evidently had been dragged some distance, the manner in which deceased came to be on the line or his movements following his departure from the engine on the outward journey are said to be unknown.

An inquest will be held and in all probability a departmental inquiry will be conducted.

Source: *Trove/The Daily News (Perth) Thursday 13 July 1922 Page 8.*

Author's Note: *Subsequent reports indicate that the coroner determined that James' death was an accident and that the fireman was later penalized for a breach of departmental regulations.*