

## **Fritz Hohmann**

### **Rushworth Chronicle**

**14 June, 1895**

A miner named F. Homann, [sic] who resides about four miles on the Coy's Diggings side of Graytown, met with a very serious accident on Wednesday afternoon. It seems that he had been to Rushworth with his horse and dray, and while returning home he met the mail boy, who was on horseback, about midway between Whroo and Coy's, and his horse becoming frightened by the mail bags that were fastened to the pommel of the boy's saddle it bolted, and the dray coming in contact with a stump was capsized, one of the guard irons falling across Homann's back, pinning him to the ground.

The boy, finding that he was not strong enough to release the man, rode post haste and informed Mr Neilsen of what had happened, and the latter immediately went to Homann's assistance and brought him in to Whroo, where he now is suffering from three dislocated ribs, rupture of the ligaments of the liver and general shock to the system.

Dr Gmelin, who is attending him, states that he was slightly better yesterday.

### **Rushworth Chronicle**

**21 June, 1895**

A magisterial inquiry was held by Dr Heily, J. P. , at the Whroo Inn on Sunday as to the cause of death of Fritz Hohmann, who expired at Mr Neilsen's the same morning.

John Bernard O'Neill deposed that he was carrying the mails between Rushworth and Coy's Diggings on Wednesday, the 12th inst. When coming from Coy's to Whroo and when a mile off the Whroo Inn, he met a man driving a horse and dray. Witness was going at a walking pace. When the man got opposite him his horse shied and bolted into the bush about a chain, when the cart capsized.

He went to the dray and asked the man if he were hurt, but he received no reply. The man was pinned down by the body of the dray as it came over upon him. He tried to move the dray, but found he could not do so. The horse was thrown down and lay on its side.

He then galloped into Whroo and told Neilsen of the accident. The man's head and shoulders were clear of the dray. He did not know whether the man was dead or not.

N. Neilsen deposed that he identified the body as that of Fritz Hohmann, a miner and farmer residing about four miles from Graytown. The previous witness reported the accident to him. He went off in a spring cart with his son to the man's assistance and found him with the guard iron lying across the top end of his thighs and the wheel resting on his back. He then found that he was unable to raise the dray off the man and sent his son for assistance, which arrived in about a quarter of an hour. Deceased was unconscious all that time.

With the assistance of the others he got the man from under the dray and to his house. He had previously sent for a Doctor. The deceased regained consciousness on Friday and on Saturday morning he seemed to be getting all right, but at 10 o'clock p.m. he took suddenly worse and expired about midnight. Every possible attention was shown to deceased and the Doctor's orders were adhered to.

He had known deceased about six years; he would be about 70 years of age. It would have been impossible for the boy O'Neill to have got the man from under the dray. The horse

appeared to be a young and spirited animal and to be too well fed to be under the control of such an old man.

Dr Ometin deposed that he had seen the body of deceased. It was that of the man he had been called to see on the previous Wednesday. On examining the man then he found him in an unconscious state. The four last ribs of his left side were disarticulated [separated from the joints]. The liver was floating in the abdomen, probably due to the rupture of the ligaments. Extreme nervous shock was marked and deceased was in great peril. The deceased regained consciousness and the use of his limbs to such an extent that on Saturday he was able to stand for a moment without assistance. He conversed cheerfully with Neilsen and witness and seemed to be doing very well. He was given wine, soup and other stimulants, as required. This was the last time he had seen him alive and on that (Sunday) morning he was informed that he had expired during the night.

Death was probably due to the failure of the heart and the great shock his nervous system had sustained during the time he was under the dray.

A verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned.

*Whroo cemetery interment list, and the cemetery plaque, both include Fritz Hohman (not Hohmann), June 1895, making three spellings possible.*