

William Moffatt

Mclvor News (Heathcote)

30 May, 1862

Another Fatal Mining Accident. — It is my melancholy duty to record the sudden death (by accident) of Mr William Moffatt, one of our oldest and most respected quartz-reefers, and a partner in the firm of Francis, Jones, and Co., of the Albert Reef, Whroo.

It appears, from the evidence adduced at the inquest, held by C. E. Strutt, Esq., the District Coroner, on Thursday evening last [5 June], that at about eight on the morning of that day, the deceased was being raised from the bottom of the new engine shaft, which is about 180 feet deep, and when near the top, a coil of the rope slipped from the drum of the horse whim, which at once released about twenty-seven feet of slack rope, and the suddenness of the fall must have thrown Mr Moffatt — who was standing on the edge of the bucket — off his balance, and he was precipitated to the bottom of the shaft, dislocating his leg and breaking one leg and arm, as well as fearfully fracturing the back part of his skull.

Death must have been instantaneous.

It was also shown in evidence that the horse whim does duty for two shafts on the same claim alternately, and that on Wednesday evening the ropes had been removed from one shaft to the other, and left, as everyone supposed, ready for work, the unfortunate deceased assisting while this was being done. The rope having a tendency to rise above the drum, a roller had been fixed for the rope to pass under to obviate this, but on examination after the accident it was discovered that it had been passed over instead of under.

John Boyle, who was at the bottom of the shaft, had a narrow escape.

A verdict of accidental death was returned. Mr Moffatt, who was only twenty-nine years of age, leaves a young wife and child to deplore his loss, deeply felt by the whole district.

The interment took place at the Whroo Cemetery, at four o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The body was followed by above 200 of our oldest and most respectable inhabitants, and all work was suspended. Mr Charles Baud read the very beautiful funeral service of the Church of England at the grave; the weather was very unfavourable.

The claim will commence work again, on Monday, Mrs Moffatt remaining a partner, and no alteration will take place in the firm.

The Argus

11 June, 1862

(In the SUPREME COURT of the COLONY of VICTORIA: Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction - In the Goods of WILLIAM MOFFATT, late of Whroo, in the Colony of Victoria, Deceased. Notice is hereby given, that, after the expiration of fourteen days from the date of the publication hereof, an application will be made to the Supreme Court of the colony of Victoria, in its Ecclesiastical jurisdiction, that LETTERS of ADMINISTRATION of all and singular the goods, chattels, rights, credits, and effects of the said deceased, may be granted to Elisabeth Moffatt, of Whroo, aforesaid, the widow of the said deceased.

Dated this 10th day of June, 1862. BENNETS and TAYLOR, 107 Collins street west, Melbourne, proctors for the said Elizabeth Moffatt.