

William Asleton (a.k.a. "Billy the Fiddler")

Rushworth Chronicle

12 February, 1897

A magisterial enquiry was held before Dr Heily, at the Court House, on Wednesday, touching the death of one William Asleton, alias " Billy the Fiddler" (a well-known resident of this and the Corop district some 30 years since), whose remains were found in the bush near Graytown on Tuesday last.

Constable Draper deposed that from information received he went to Bailieston and found the body lying about three yards from deceased's hut.

Dr. Christie deposed that he had made a post mortem examination of the body of a man between 60 and 70 years of age. Death resulted from diarrhoea, almost verging on dysentery.

A. McKenzie deposed that he last saw the deceased alive on the 30th ult. He appeared in his usual good health, but said he had fallen down a shaft and felt "a bit shaky on it." On Tuesday, the 9th inst., while travelling from Coy's to Graytown, he saw the body of William Asleton, and gave information to the police.

A verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

Footnote: Rushworth cemetery records include a listing for William Asleton.