

## **William Cannon**

**Murchison Advertiser**

**11 September, 1903**

### **MISTAKEN IDENTITY.**

A peculiar case of mistaken identity occurred in connection with the death of a young man, named W. Cannon, which occurred at the Basin on Friday last.

Deceased, who was known at the Basin under the name of Johnson, contracted pneumonia, and on his death, as he was apparently without relatives, the police took charge of the body. A search of deceased's effects disclosed letters which had been forwarded from relatives at

Kew and also from relatives at Werribee. The result was that relatives of the man Johnson (from Werribee) and relatives of the man Cannon (from Kew) arrived at Rushworth on Monday by train for the purpose of attending the funeral.

Singularly enough the man named Johnson, who had relatives at Werribee, was also working at the Basin. The mistake was discovered, but not in time to rectify the error and disillusion the party from Werribee. On arrival at the Rushworth station they were met by Constable Berkery, who conveyed to them the joyful intelligence that their connection was not dead. Johnson, who had been kept in the background, was then brought on the scene, and the meeting with his aged mother was of a very touching nature.

The relatives of Cannon viewed the dead body at the police station and positively identified it as Wm. Cannon. Deceased was highly respected at the Basin, and on his falling sick the Basin Medical Society (although he was not a member) immediately obtained medical attendance for him. Further, on his death, a sum of no less than £10 10s was readily contributed so as to afford him decent burial.

The remains were conveyed from the Camp to Rushworth on Sunday and almost the whole Camp accorded him the last tribute of respect by following his remains for some distance.

**Bendigo Advertiser**

**8 September 1903**

**SINGULAR CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY. A LABORER'S DEATH.**

Rushworth, 7th September.

An unusual and painful case of mistaken identity took place here on Saturday over the death of a man named William Cannon, which had the result of bringing two mothers and two different families to Rushworth to bury the same corpse.

The unfortunate circumstances were brought about by the deceased, Cannon, who hailed from Kew, working under the name of Johnson at the Waranga Basin, works, where he succumbed to an attack of pneumonia. Deceased had called at the Post office for letters for Johnson and had received letters belonging to another man named Johnson from Werribee, which he had kept.

On his death his effects were searched, and the letters, some of which were his own, were found by the police, who telegraphed to the writers at Kew and Werribee, informing them of the supposed Johnson's death, whilst the real Johnson worked on in ignorance of the fact that his people had been informed of his supposed death.

The train arrived at the Rushworth station at midday to-day, bringing the right mother and family from Kew greatly grieving, also Mrs. Johnson and family, from Werribee, similarly sorrowing. They were met by the police, and informed of the confusion, which was explained, whilst the real Johnson, who had also become aware of the facts, was on the station to meet his mother, who had come to bury him. The coffin of the deceased, Cannon, was opened, and the body fully identified, after which the funeral took place.