

Edward C. Leather

Bendigo Advertiser

23 July, 1869

WHROO. (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) Tuesday, 20th July.

A sad accident happened close to the township, at the Nine Mile rush, on Saturday night or Sunday morning, by which a miner named Edward C. Leather (from London) instantaneously met his death.

Mr Leather was about thirty-five years of age. After leaving the township on Saturday night to return to his hut, he left his mate and lay down near a large tree which was then on fire. During the night the tree fell across his face and crushed his skull.

When found by a woman about eight o'clock on Sunday morning his left arm from the wrist to above the elbow was completely burnt away. The police removed him to his hut, and a magisterial enquiry took place yesterday, resulting in a verdict of accidental death.

He was buried last night in the Whroo cemetery.

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Accidents to persons unknown are of frequent occurrence, and it is well to publish them that surviving friends may be apprised of them.

On the 18th of July a man named Edward C. Leather, aged about thirty-five, was killed at the Nine Mile by the falling of a tree. He was respectably connected, as was shown by correspondence and documents found on his person.

One letter was from a niece, signed J. M. Austine, 91 London Wall; another letter which may lead to more immediate identification was from J. Wheeler, Eaglehawk.

Deceased had a mate, but he knows little or nothing of him or his friends.

Other reports were published in the *Waranga Echo* of 22 July 1869, which indicate that Mr Leather and his mate were "the worse for drink" on their journey.