

## George Williams (a.k.a. George Biggery)

Mclvor Times

13 August, 1869

George Williams, or George Biggery, a miner, about 53 years of age, and an old resident on Whroo, committed suicide, by hanging himself to one of the rafters of his hut, between eleven and twelve o'clock on Tuesday last.

For some time he had been employed to feed the stampers at Messrs. Darrock's **[Darrock's]** crushing engine, and for about a week previous had been very unsettled in his mind, frequently fancying that he heard the stampers and whistle going when the machine was not at work. No doubt living alone and close to the engine had produced this effect.

The attention of the police was called to Mr Williams' case some days before, but from that time he appeared to recover.

Dennis Keys, a near neighbour, spoke to him about half-past ten on Tuesday, and he declared himself well again and ready for work. Mr. Keys called to him again soon after twelve, but receiving no answer pushed the hut door open, and found him hanging with his feet nearly touching the ground. Unfortunately it was a considerable time before he was cut down.

Mr. Williams had every attention paid him by his neighbours, who strangely opposed his being taken in charge by the police **[for his own protection]**.

Mr. Benbow held a magisterial enquiry on Wednesday evening, about four o'clock, a most inconvenient hour, which kept the witnesses waiting from twelve o'clock till six, after which hour the interment had to take place. The verdict is very unsatisfactory, being simply "Hanging," without stating any of the circumstances, or even if done by himself or another.

*Cemetery records indicate that the interment mentioned occurred at Whroo, unsurprisingly.*