

ARMSTRONG Richard

these biographical notes were curated by John McAlpine,
and they await confirmation/correction, and further detail/expansion from family descendants ...

Born: c 1842

Died: 30 Nov 1872, aged 30 years.

Buried: 2 Dec 1872, in Saint Peter's Church Cemetery, Onehunga.

CORONER'S INQUEST: Daily Southern Cross, 3 December 1872

A Coroner's inquest was held yesterday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, at the Prince Alfred Hotel, Epsom, before Dr Philson, Coroner for the District.

The object of the Inquest was to ascertain the cause by which **Mr Richard Armstrong** came by his death on Saturday morning, the 30th of November. A jury was sworn, of which Mr Samuel Woolfield was chosen as the foreman. Mrs Walsh and Sergeant Pardy were the two non-medical witnesses who were examined by the Coroner.

From the evidence, it appeared that the deceased was a bushman who had formerly been in the employ of Mr M. H. Roe, of the Cornwallis Sawmill. For the last three months the deceased had been working at some sawmills in the Thames district, and on Saturday morning he was in the act of returning to Mr Roe's place. Mrs Walsh saw deceased about 8 o'clock on Saturday morning going along the Epsom Road in the direction of Auckland. He was on horseback, and the heat was very great at the time. He got off the horse and walked a little way, when he got on the horse again, but afterwards came off and lay down at the side of the road apparently in pain. She spoke to him, and he informed her that he was ill. He complained of a severe pain in his chest, especially on the left side. He told her he was ready to vomit, and she then sent to a neighbour's house to get some mustard and water to make him vomit. While this was being done, a man named Henry came up who had known him formerly, and the deceased complained to him of being very bad. A spring-cart was coming past at the time; it was decided that the best thing to do was to take him to the hotel, and he died before he was got out of the cart. Sergeant Pardy, passing at the time, assisted in taking care of the man and what property he was possessed of. He communicated with Inspector Broham, who at once informed the Coroner of the occurrence, and hence the Inquest.

Dr Zinzan, of Onehunga, having made a postmortem examination of the body, deposed to finding the heart in a diseased state.

The indications of disease described did not satisfy the Coroner, who requested Dr Zinzan to go back and make a complete examination of the body. On opening the skull, he found a quantity of blood and serum on the brain. He gave it as his opinion that death resulted from apoplexy (i.e. 'cerebral haemorrhage' or 'stroke')

A verdict was returned in accordance with the medical testimony.