

## WHERE IS THE FINAL RESTING PLACE OF JAMES STEPHEN CARR?

**On Monday last a rumour reached York that the dead body of a man had been discovered near Chidlow's Well. It proved to be the remains of a man named James Carr, well known in those parts. This poor fellow was accustomed to receive remittances from home occasionally which led him into excesses while they lasted. It seems that he lately received a sum of money which unfortunately caused him to give way and led to his untimely death. It is said that he had been "on the spree" last week; for on Sunday he was seen several times near Chidlow's Well, and early on Monday morning, he was observed lying on the ground on his face, when it was ascertained that he was quite dead. I do not hear that there is any suspicion of foul play.**

The West Australian  
2 February 1885, p.3

Road that a woman, Leah Penny, had found the body of a navy (railway worker) named James Stephen Carr at a spot about 300 yards (c.300 metres) from the Oxford Inn (now the Chidlow Tavern) close to Mr Keane's stables on the York Road, at Chidlow's Well (Chidlow).

Police Constable (PC) Joseph O'Hara left the station at once, accompanied by Mr Woods, who showed him the body. PC O'Hara searched the area around the body but could

The MHHS often encounters historical mysteries, that test the research skills of our members. Locating the final resting place of James Carr is one such mystery.

At 10am on 26 January 1885, a Mr Fisher Woods reported to the Lakes Police Station on York

not see any indication of a struggle. He made inquiries into Carr's death and was informed by Mr John Symonds, proprietor of the Oxford Inn, that Carr had been seen in Perth drinking for about five weeks. Returning by the midday train to Chidlow's Well on 24 January, he had complained of feeling very ill on his arrival.

PC O'Hara travelled by train to Guildford to arrange for the body to be brought there. After reporting to Sergeant Cunningham, PC O'Hara returned to Chidlow's Well with police horse 'Bethany' and a hired cart. The following morning PC O'Hara took the body to Guildford Hospital for an inquest. The Guildford hospital was the former convict hospital which was located on the site of the current Post Office.

An inquest held at the Guildford Court house on 27 January determined the cause of death was due to 'apoplexy [heart attack] accelerated by intemperate habits and the heat of the weather'. Witnesses gave evidence that James Carr was employed on the third section of the Eastern railway line, which opened in June 1885, and that he was addicted to drink.

The sad story of James Carr is not complete as his burial location is unknown. Detailed research has yet to answer this question. Can the readers of the *Darlington Review* assist? Contact the **MHHS** if you can contribute to James Carr's story.

- Next **General Meeting** 20 November 2021.