

William Rippingale's Inquest, Sydney Morning Herald
From Wayne Hill

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CORONER'S INQUEST.—Yesterday, an inquest was held before the Coroner at the Royal Oak Tavern, Miller's Point, upon view of the body of William Rippingale. From the evidence it appears that deceased was a seaman belonging to the barque Proteus, now lying at Smith's Wharf. On Thursday morning he was engaged in scraping the seams outside the vessel. The plank he stood upon was a narrow one, and his weight being heavy, and the pressure of scraping giving additional weight, the plank gave way, and he fell into the water. He sank immediately. A shipmate, Alfred Roberts, dived after him but could not find the body. Assistance being procured, drags were used, and the body was soon found, but life was then extinct. It was supposed that in rising the deceased must have struck the ship's bottom. He was a fine young man, about twenty years of age. Verdict, accidental drowning.

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