

Q1. 331 1906

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST
held upon the body of

John Williams

at

Boston

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

7 2 1906

John A. ...
Coroner.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

VICTORIA,
 BAILIWICK,
 To wit.

A MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY on behalf of Our Sovereign Lady the Queen,

taken at *Foster* in the *Eastern*

Bailiwick of Victoria, this *26th* day of *January*

in the year of our Lord One thousand ~~eight~~ *nine* hundred and ~~ninety~~ *six* before

the undersigned *Frumrod* Esquire, one of

W.H. Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Bailiwick, upon view of

the body of *Septa Williams*

then and there lying dead.

Having duly inquired when, where, how, and by what means the said

death, I say that the said *Septa Williams* came by his
Septa Williams

died at *Frootarra* in the said

Bailiwick on the *23rd* day of *January 1906* ~~189~~

from *burns received in a bush fire at Frootarra on the*
23rd day of January 1906 & that no blame is attributable
to anyone.

As witness my hand this *26th*

day of *January 1906* ~~189~~

Frumrod

J.P.

Magisterial inquiring
CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * William Stewart

on his oath saith, I am a Farmer

residing at Turton Creek

* Christian and Surname in full.

I remember on 23rd inst I was working up to Williams house on Turton Creek road. At about 10 o'clock am ~~when~~ I noticed the fire coming toward us i.e. my mate Johnson & I. The fire at this time was about half a mile from us & later on the sparks from big trees began to drop about us.

We then made for our camp got our straps & brought them up to Williams house when we found the gran about the house on fire. We dropped our straps & Mr Williams asked me to try & save the separator & succeeded in doing so after considerable difficulty. After getting the separator out of danger we rushed to the house which was on fire at the time to save anyone that might be in the house which was ~~on fire at this time~~ ^{was} ~~on fire~~ ^{at this time} - ~~was~~

We found only the deceased there. ^{he was a cripple.} His name is Lepther Williams. I took him on my back & ran out on to the road with him. My mate in the meantime going again through the to see if any other person remained in the house - He could find no one & then came to my assistance to carry deceased out. The fire at this time was completely round us ~~at this time~~ ^{was} & we were blocked but we made along the road in the direction of Berry's place & had got about 6 or 7 chains from where we had started with the boy the heat & smoke became so intense we had to drop him as we were so exhausted & run to save our own lives. We could not possibly carry him further as it was uphill & we had hardly the strength to save ourselves but we believe that the deceased was unconscious when we dropped him as he had not spoken for the last part of the way previous to our dropping him.

Taken and Sworn before me the 26th day
of January 1906 189 at Falio

W. Stewart

Freyrood JP

Coroner.

VICTORIAN POLICE-[74B.]

Name of Witness.	Statement.
	<p>him. & he did not speak when we left him & I saw his charred remains some hours afterward lying in the same position & situation as we had left him.</p>
<p>Taken & sworn before me The 26th January 1906 at Fortis</p>	<p>Hywood J.P.</p>
	<p>W. Stewart</p>

Magisterial inquiry
CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * *Henry Johnson*

on his oath saith, I am a *Labourer*

residing at *Furlins Creek*

* Christian and Surname in full.

I have heard the evidence given by the previous witness (William Steward) relative to the death of Lepta Williams & I fully corroborate the whole of it

Taken and Sworn before me the *26th* day
of *January 1906* 1899 at *Forte*

Frederick J. P.

Coroner.

Henry Johnson

Magisterial inquiry
CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent * Thomas Patrick Olive

on his oath saith, I am a Constable of Police

residing at Foster

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I remember the 24th inst. At 7 am on that date it was reported to me by a man named John Anderson that a man named Eptha Williams had the previous day been burnt to death at Woorarra & that his body was lying on the road there. I had a magisterial enquiry to conduct at Hoddle Range touching the death of a woman who had died there & started in company with Dr Taylor & Dr Mr Jackson Esq for her late residence at 8 am; held the enquiry, returned to my station at 1 pm & started for Woorarra to bring in the body of the deceased at 1.30 pm arriving there at 5.30 pm in company with George Phillips. I found the body on the road as reported to me about 150 yards from a Mr Berry's residence

The body had only boots & socks & a tress on, everything else being burnt off it. The body was lying on its back, the arms & legs being drawn up & the flesh was hanging off the legs & arms; the body from head to feet being badly burnt & charred. With the assistance of Mr Sherry & C & J. Stafford John Lee & G Phillips we carried the body two miles to where we had a conveyance waiting it not being possible to drive further on account of the fallen timber, & removed it to Makeham Hotel Foster for the purpose of a magisterial enquiry.

The deceased was a resident of Woorarra for the past five years. He was 25 years of age & a cripple.

Taken and Sworn before me the 26th day
of January 1906 at Foster

Trurood Esq

CORONER.

T. P. Olive

W. Constable 4395