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PROCEEDINGS of INQUIRY
held upon the body of

Robert Green

and

Henry Birch

at

Leora

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

31

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190

6

W. E. Warner
Prothonary.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

VICTORIA,
Eastern BAILLIWICK,
 To wit.

Lord the King

A MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY on behalf of Our Sovereign ~~Lady the Queen.~~

taken at *Toora* in the *Eastern*
 Bailiwick of Victoria, this *25th* day of *January*
nine hundred and six
 in the year of our Lord One thousand ~~eight hundred and ninety-~~ before

the undersigned *William Edward Warner* Esquire, one of
~~His~~ Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Bailiwick, upon view of
 the body of *Robert Swan and Henry Crisp*
 then and there lying dead.

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

Robert Swan and Henry Crisp came by ~~their~~
 death, I say that the said *Robert Swan and Henry Crisp*

died at *Woorarra* in the said
Eastern Bailiwick on the *23rd* day of *January* *1896*
 from *Suppocation*

As witness my hand this

day of

25th
January *1896*

W. E. Warner J.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

Ernest Henry Burr

Labourer

Woorarra

* Christian and
Surname in
full

I remember the 24th inst. I last saw the two Deceased alive on the 23rd inst. I viewed both bodies and identify them as Henry Crisp and Robert Swan. I was working with them cutting scrub for Mr. Hans Peterson. Swan had a contract from Peterson cutting scrub I was working for Swan. A Bush fire started at 11 a.m. coming from the West. Mr. Peterson left us and went to Charlie Reddicks to tell him the fire was coming towards them. I went to assist Swan and Crisp to save Swan's house about 200 yards distant. I said it is very foolish to try and save the house it is too risky they both said they would go. Crisp said "I will stick to you". The last words Swan said we will die together if the fire should overtake us. I went saw no more of them that night. Next morning James Messner and I went to look for Swan & Crisp at 6 a.m. I found both Swan and Crisp lying Swan face downwards and Crisp on his back about one yard apart. I then went to Charlie Reddicks and told him. I said the best thing to do is to come in to Toora and

Taken and Sworn before me the 25th day

of January 1906 at

Toora

W. E. Warner J.P.

Coroner.

Ernest Henry Burr

Continued

[No. 53.]

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

Ernest Henry Burr

on his oath saith, I am a

Labourer

residing at

Woorarra

* Christian and Surname in full

and inform the Police "I did so." In my opinion they both died from heat and suffocation with the Bush fires. Both Swan and Crisp were in good health, the day of the fire. I was working with ^{them} that day. I was working for Swan cutting scrub on Hans Petersens land at ~~1/-~~ ^{2/-} per day, and I have about £5 coming to me from Swan. I have received no money since I started work.

Ernest Henry Burr

Taken and Sworn before me the *25th* day
of *January* 190*6* at *Torosa*
W. E. Warner J.P.
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h^{is} oath saith, I am a

residing at

James Messiney

Labourer

Woorarra

* Christian and
Surname in
full

I remember the 24th inst. I was with Mr Ernest Burr. I said I cant see Swan and Crisp where are they. He said there they are pointing to where they were lying dead. We went to Mr Charles Reddicks house. I then left Burr and went to Mr Petersons, and from there I went and put Sheets over the dead men and waited to see what could be done, Mr Selzer came up and asked me to assist ~~me~~ ^{him} to carry the men to Toora. I assisted him and conveyed the bodies to Toora and arrived at 7.30 pm. and informed the Police. The two Deceased were in good health I was talking to Swan on the 22nd inst. In my opinion both were suffocated in the fire and smoke. There was no hope whatever of them escaping through the fire. Swan had a Contract from Hans Peterson scrub cutting. for £45. the job would be completed in 4 days. Mr Peterson told me last week that he paid £30 into the Bank at Toora for Mr Swan, Mr Swan ~~owes~~ owes me no money and I am a disinterested party.

Taken and Sworn before me the 25th day
of January 1906 at Toora
W. L. Warner J.P.
Coroner.

James Messiney

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

Hans Petersen

on his oath saith, I am a

Crazier

residing at

Woorarra

* Christian and
Surname in
full

I remember the 24th inst I was at Woorarra. Robert Swan and Henry Crisp were scrub cutting for me they had a contract, I last saw them alive at about 11 a.m. on the 23rd inst. I said we will go to Charlie Reddicks to see if they were safe, as they were adjoining our scrub. I went to Reddicks and found everything safe. Before I came back to my house I found my scrub on fire, next morning the 24th inst I sent Messerey and Burr to look for Swan and Crisp. They found the two bodies they said both were dead. I sent Burr to Toora to inform the police. I assisted to carry the bodies to the road. They were then conveyed to Toora. In my opinion they were both suffocated in the fire and smoke. They were strong healthy men. In my opinion no man could get out alive. Swan had a contract from me cutting scrub - £40 - for the lot about 50 acres. He Swan has drawn £35 - 3 - 11 on the contract. I paid Swan £35 - 3 - 11 in cheques altogether. I thought Swan and Crisp was burnt when I sent Burr and Messerey to look for them.

Taken and Sworn before me the 25th day

of January 1906 at Toora

W. E. Warner J.P.

Coroner.

Hans Petersen

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

Thomas Caygill

on his oath saith, I am a

Labourer

residing at

Woorarra

* Christian and
Surname in
full

I remember the 24th inst I was at Woorarra. I am working for William Cope at Woorarra, on the 24th I went to Herbert Reddicks and I saw Mrs Reddick and said Swan and Crisp are burnt in the bush fires at Hans Petersons, I went to Petersons and carried two stretchers to convey the Bodies to Toora, Messner and Selzer assisted me also Hans Petersons assisted and conveyed them to Toora. When we got to the bodies of Swan and Crisp we found them covered with salvaged iron and a sheet. In my opinion there was no hope of any man escaping through the fire and smoke as there was 50 acres of cut scrub all round Henry Crisp is my Brother in Law his age is about 26 years. He was working on wages for Robert Swan on Hans Petersons Land.

Thomas Caygill

Taken and Sworn before me the

25th

day

of

January

1906

at

Toora

W. E. Warner J.P.

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

* Christian and
Surname in
full

This Deponent* Francis Joseph Arthur Selzer
 on his oath saith, I am a Labourer
 residing at Woorarra

I remember the 24th inst. I viewed the
 bodies and identify them as the bodies
 of Robert Swan and Henry Crisp
~~near~~ ~~I last saw them alive.~~ I came to
 Toora on the 24th inst I met Ernest
 Henry Burr on the road and he told
 me he could "not see," and asked me to
 convey the bodies of Swan and Crisp
 to Toora. I did so, at about 11.30
 a.m. I saw the bush fire raving
 coming from the West towards
 Hans Petersons. It swept through
 Petersons to Binjiminwarri & on
 5 miles. When I found Bob Swan
 he was lying face downwards
 and Henry Crisp on his back, they
 were both dead. In my opinion
 no man could get out alive
 as there was cut scrub and
 fire and smoke all round.
 I know both Burr and Messney they
 are both hard working and respectable
 men.

Francis Joseph Arthur
 Selzer

Taken and Sworn before me the 25th day
 of January 1906 at Toora
W. E. Warner J.P.
 Coroner.

VICTORIAN POLICE. - [74B.]

Name of Witness.

Statement.

John Hall
M.C. 289.

On his Oath I say I am a mounted
Constable stationed at Toora I remember
the 24th January Ernest Henry Burr
came to Toora and reported that
Robert Swan & Henry Crisp had been
buried in a bush fire at ^{Woorarra} ~~Beninarra~~
and that they were being conveyed
to Toora. I examined the bodies
and found them charred, and
assisted to coffin them. They were
both suffocated in a bush fire

John Hall M.C. 289

Taken and sworn before me
the 25th day of January 1906
at Toora.

W. E. Warner: J.P. Coroner