

1254
Dec 7th 1890

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST
held upon the body of

Eliza Jane Nean
Martha Nean

at
Portland

Received at the Crown Law Offices,
Dec 10th 1890

James Henry J.P.
Coroner.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

VICTORIA,
Western BAILIWICK,
 To Wit.

RECEIVED
 10 DEC. 1907
 C. L. O.

A MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY on behalf of Our Sovereign Lord the King,
 taken at *Portland* in the *Western*
 Bailiwick of Victoria, this *seventh* day of *December*
 in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and *seven* before
 the undersigned *James Long* Esquire, one of
 His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Bailiwick, upon view of
 the body of *Eliza Jane Long Kean*
 then and there lying dead.

Having duly inquired when, where, how, and by what means the said
Eliza Jane Long Kean came by her
 death, I say that the said *Eliza Jane Long Kean*
 died at *Portland* in the said
 Bailiwick on the *sixth* day of *December* 190*7*
 from *drowning* but there is no evidence
 to shew the state of deceased's mind at
 the time.

As witness my hand this *seventh*
 day of *December* 190*7*

James Long J.P.

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

VICTORIA,
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 To Wit.

A MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY on behalf of Our Sovereign Lord the King,
 taken at *Portland* in the *Western*
 Bailiwick of Victoria, this *seventh* day of *December*
 in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and *seven* before
 the undersigned *James Long* Esquire, one of
 His Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said Bailiwick, upon view of
 the body of *Martha Kean*
 then and there lying dead.

Having duly inquired when, where, how, and by what means the said
Martha Kean came by her
 death, I say that the said *Martha Kean*
 died at *Portland* in the said
 Bailiwick on the *sixth* day of *December* 190*7*
 from *drowning*. And I am of opinion
 that the deceased was drowned in her
 effort to save her sister's life

As witness my hand this

day of

seventh
December 190*7*

James Long J.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I am a brother to deceased Martha Kean
 aged 60 and Eliza Jane Kean aged 47,
 I last saw the deceased alive about half past
 four yesterday afternoon, they were at Dr.
 Scott's home, they appeared to be in their
 usual health and spirits, my sister
 & Eliza was troubled during the last
 three months with melancholia, I left
 both of my sisters at Dr. Scott's at four
 thirty & went home for tea, I went
 to the new pier about 5-45 pm to fish,
 my attention was drawn to two women
 on the beach apparently bathing, opposite
 the Catholic Chapel, when I first saw
 them they appeared to be bathing in
 the surf, they were both standing
 up, the water was about up to
 their knees, there was a heavy surf,
 from when I was fishing to when
 they were bathing would be about
 three hundred yards, in about five
 minutes I lost sight of them & came
 to the conclusion something was wrong,
 I became alarmed & ran down the pier
 and on to the beach to where I last
 saw them, it took me six or eight minutes

Taken and Sworn before me the 7th day
 of December 1907 at Portland
James Long JP
 Coroner.

to
 Joshua Kean

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

to get round as I am lame, on arrival at the spot I found both my sisters in the sea, four downwards about ten feet apart, the bodies were lying in water about eighteen inches deep. I dragged both bodies up to dry land. Mr. Matheson came to my assistance, they showed no sign of life, my sister Martha's tongue was hanging out, I helped with Mr. Matheson to restore animation, Dr. Lewis arrived soon after, efforts to resuscitate them were kept up under Dr. Lewis' direction, the bodies were in the water about fifteen minutes. I saw them both go into the water one was about four or five feet in front of the other. I never heard my sister Eliza threaten to commit suicide. When they went into the water they appeared to be running and were fully clad with exception of their hats.

Joshua Keane
Further examined. I believe I called out for help before Mr. Matheson came.

Taken and Sworn before me the 4th day
of December 1897 at Portland
James Long J.P.
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I arrived at the scene of the occurrence at 6-50 p.m. and at once proceeded to restore animation on the two bodies lying on the sand by Dr. Sylvester's method, whilst so employed I gathered from people around that very nearly three quarters of an hour had elapsed before I arrived. I continued my efforts for twenty five minutes without any sign of returning life & accordingly pronounced them dead. The cause of death was drowning.

J. P. Leri. 9118

Further explained.
(H)

I believe I called out for help before Mr. Matheson came.

Taken and Sworn before me the 14th day
of December 1907 at Portland
James Long
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent

John Dugald Matheson

on his oath saith, I am a

the caretaker of the Public Baths

residing at

*Portland** Christian and
Surname in
full.

My attention was drawn to two women walking along the beach towards the baths about 6.30 last evening, one appeared to be carrying a parcel, I could not recognize who they were, the bodies I have received are the same, after seeing them walking along the beach I went into the office & did some writing, about ten minutes after I heard someone calling for help, on looking out towards the lighthouse I recognized Mr. Joshua Kean in the water endeavouring to draw someone out, I immediately proceeded to the spot and lent assistance to bring the bodies out onto dry land, the bodies were about two hundred yards from the baths, both women appeared to me to be dead when I arrived, I at once proceeded to restore animation, first I tried to empty the lungs of water by placing a blister under the stomach and ran downwards, treatment was kept up altogether for about 40 or 50 minutes, I was treating the deceased for about fifteen or twenty minutes before the D. arrived when I found I could not get any

Taken and Sworn before me the *4th* day
of *December* 1897 at *Portland*
James Lowe
Coroner.

C. D. Matheson

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*.....

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h oath saith, I am a.....

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at.....

water from the lungs I turned Martha
on to her back, ~~the~~ before the Dr's
arrival I emptied the sand from the
mouths of both, I saw Const. Taylor &
O'Donnell present at the scene of the
accident & they also assisted to restore
animation.

C. D. Matheron

Taken and Sworn before me the 14th day
of December 1897 at Portland
James Long
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

From information received I proceeded to the beach in front of the Lament about 6-40 pm ~~on~~ yesterday. I saw two bodies, who I was informed were two sisters named Kean, lying on their backs on the beach. Several men were assisting to restore breathing, under the direction of Dr. Lewis, on both the deceased. I assisted to restore animation. When Dr. Lewis stated that life was extinct I procured stretchers and had the bodies removed to their home in Gawler Street, with Const O'Donnell's assistance. The bodies were arrived by me on the same.

A. H. Taylor
Const 4/21

Taken and Sworn before me the 17th day
of December 1897 at Portland
James Long
Coroner.