

20 August 1873
January 7th 1873

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

Richard Jordan

at the Sydney Gardens Hotel
Sandhurst

Received at the Crown Law Offices,
January 10th 1873

12/11/73
12/11/73

J. J. Saunders



Coroner.

District of Sandhurst
County of
Dundigo

[No. 64.]

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

INQUISITION.

Colony of Victoria,
to wit.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at *The Sydneyham Gardens Hotel, District of Sandhurst* in the Colony of Victoria aforesaid, the *Seventh* day of *January* A.D. 1873 in the thirty *Sixth* year of the Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me *James D. Baker* Esquire Gentleman, a* Coroner

* City, Town, County, or District, as the case may be.

of our Lady the Queen for the said Colony, upon the view of the body of *Richard Jordan* - aged 69 years - then and there lying dead, upon the oaths of† *the following jurors* -

† Jurors' Christian and Surnames in full.

John Henry Wilson - foreman -

James Gripps

John Leuscar

Andrew Hays Bell

Dabrick Lyons

James Gray

Wilhelm Guischel

Charles Lockton

Joseph Rogers

John Younger

William Marson

Thomas Spelling

good and lawful men of *The District of Sandhurst* in the said Colony, who being duly sworn and charged to inquire, upon the part of our Lady the Queen, when, where, how, and by what means the said

‡ His or her.

§ Here state cause of death, if known; if unknown, doubtful, or no evidence, state the fact accordingly, using the words of the verdict of the Jury.

Richard Jordan came by† *his* death, do say upon their oath that§ *about midnight on Saturday the 4th instant, the deceased Richard Jordan was accidentally drowned in a fourteen feet diggers water hole upon the Long Gully Road near the Sydneyham Gardens Sandhurst, whilst under the influence of drink - There were no marks of violence upon his body*

In witness whereof as well the aforesaid Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid, have to
this Inquisition put their hands and seals, on the day and year, and at the place above
mentioned.

James D. Gound

Coroner.

Here let each Juror sign his
own name, or make his own
mark, and affix or acknowledge
his seal.

* John Henry Wilson Foreman

James Griffin

John Plummer

Andrew Hays Bell

Patrick Lyons

Harry Gray

Wilhelm Gutten

Charles Jackson

Joseph Travers

John Young

William Mason

Thomas ^{tip} Spelacy Witness
mark

To mark

William Redwell

Count 2261

Sandhurst
Colony
Victoria }

TO WIT.

* All names of Witness.

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

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CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 66.]

DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

THE Examination of * *John Stuart, Surgeon &c*
residing in the City of Sandhurst. Colony
of *Victoria* taken on oath this *Seventh*
day of *January* A.D. 1873, at *the Sydneyham Gardens Hotel*
before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said † Colony at Sandhurst
The deponent *John Stuart, aforesaid*
on his oath, saith as follows:— I have examined the body of the deceased
Richard Jordan here viewed dead by this jury. It was that
of a healthy old man. he was fully clothed, the clothes were
not disturbed in position — There was a stress for rupture on the
body which was also in position — the clothes and the body
were covered with mud — There was a shilling fixed with
mud in the deceased's shirt, there were no external
marks of violence — the hands were clenched and full of
mud — the skin of the hands showed that they had been
for more than 24 hours in water — On opening the body I
found all the organs healthy — The lungs contained water.
— The stomach was greatly distended, ^{with fluid} and the contents smelt
of beer — The cause of deceased *Richard Jordan's* death
was asphyxia from drowning — From the circumstances
of the body I infer that, deceased had fallen head foremost,
had he done so there might be concussion of the brain which
would leave no trace, but might have rendered him unable
to recover himself —

John Stuart

Taken and sworn before me the *7th*
day of *January* A.D. 1873
at *the Sydneyham Gardens*
Hotel, District of Sandhurst

A. D. R. R. R.
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,)

TO WIT.

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent*

Eliza Martha Pance This 7th of January 1873 -
 on her oath saith, I am *the only child of the deceased Richard Jordan* living
 residing at *Huntley - District of Sandhurst, Colony of Victoria*

The deceased *Richard Jordan* here viewed dead by this
 jury was my father. - He was 69 years old. - He did not
 reside with me, he lived alone and had out door relief
 from this Benevolent Asylum. - He had not worked for a
 number of years, except as far as I know, that he used to do
 a little writing or accounts for *M^r. William Knight*, a
 Saddler in Sandhurst - I had not until today seen
 my deceased father for six weeks. - Then he was in his
 usual good health. - He had no stimulants for a
 long time as I learn until last week, when friends of
 his gave him money, which I fear he put on stimulants
 during the past festival - I cannot speak as to the
 cause of his death - I never knew the deceased to be at all
 of unsound mind - I often feared he would get lost in
 some of the holes about where he would live here -

Eliza Martha Pance

Taken and Sworn before me, the *Seventh* day
 of *January*, 1873, at *the Sydney Gardens*
Hotel, Sandhurst
A. D. Gaud Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent*

Andrew Byrne, this 7th of January A.D. 1873 —
 on his oath saith, I am a *laborer, working at these Sydney Gardens,*
 residing at *this Hotel of Henry Neibey, Sandhurst* —

About a week ago I first saw the deceased Richard Jordan here in this bar, about the middle of that day. — I don't think I saw deceased after that until last Saturday evening late, and then in the bar here about 7 o'clock. — then I could not say he was much the worse for liquor. I saw him sipping out of a couple of pint belly at the counter now and then as I came in and out occasionally being about my business. Between 10 and 11 o'clock that night being deceased tipsy, deceased asked me to see him home, and of my own free will I offered to do so, and we left together, and when I got less than a quarter of a mile, and at Michael Cunlivans fence, I wanted him to go into Mr. Cunlivans but he would not, he wanted to go home and yet he would not. — I did not know his house, but he said he knew all about it, and seeing he would not do one thing or the other I left him sitting down there on the side of the road, not thinking anything would happen him — I returned home here as it was so late — Mr and Mrs Cunlivans were from home. Their daughter Mary was at their door, and I enquired of her if her father was home to help me to get him deceased home, or to keep him in his place. —

to a juror —

From the time I left here until I returned about 12 or after to this house I met no one on the road. — The deceased had several falls on the road — he had nothing in his belly leaving this, and on going they refused him beer here. — It was very dark, and I did not know there were any holes about where I left him sitting — On leaving him the last word he said was, that he would go home. —

I saw the water hole today where Mr. Keef found the body and it lies a few yards from where I left Jordan sitting as I said but in the dark night I could not see it nor anything but the closed road. —

Taken and Sworn before me, the *Seventh* day

of *January A.D. 1873*, at the *Sydney Gardens Hotel, Sandhurst*

Coroner.

*A. D. G. G. G.**Andrew Byrne*

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 60.
Stereo.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent*

Raymont Ruff. This 7th of January 1873 —
on his oath saith, I am a *day man on the Iron Bark Ranges —*
residing at *Long Gully. Iron Bark, Sandhurst —*

I live close to where the deceased Richard Jordan lived on the opposite side of the road a quarter of a mile beyond Michael Cunlivan's and half a mile from this hotel — Where the deceased lost his life that spot is on that road, and there is a number of diggers holes at that place, some 8 some 10 and fourteen feet deep. — Knowing deceased had not been found I went to look for him yesterday among those holes, and having searched 4 or 5 of them I came to one I saw a billie on the water, and saw it whirling round and then sink. — I then suspected it was Jordan's, and I went to Michael Cunlivan and told him, he came with me and with a long stick I could feel something like a bundle of rags in the water hole. Mr. Wilson — the foreman of this jury — Michael Cunlivan and I baled out the water, and found the body of the deceased with his head down and his legs up. — we did not touch the body until I went to the White Hills and brought Constable Nedwell here present, and then he and I with another man got up the deceased Richard Jordan's body — he was then dead. — A drunken man would easily get into that hole off the road, it was about 14 feet deep. — Michael Cunlivan is here present — I saw deceased drunk two days this new year, but for 12 months before I did not see him under the influence of drink. — he lived by himself in a hut, but did not do any work — I don't know how he got drink lately — I cannot say whether there was water or not in that hole before the heavy rain last Sunday evening — I heard Cunlivan bring the deceased home last Friday night about 9 o'clock — I believe deceased was then drunk from the way he spoke, and that Cunlivan was then sober — I believe

Taken and Sworn before me, the *Seventh* day
of *January* A.D. 1873, at *the Lydenham*
Gardens Hotel Sandhurst
J. D. Brown Coroner.

Richard Jordan's death was accidental
Raymont Ruff

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 60.
Stereo.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent*

Michael William O'Reilly, this 7th of January 1873
 on his oath saith, I am a *laborer of St. Neveys* —
 residing at *this place, the Sydney Gardens Hotel* —

I was in this bar on last Saturday night, and was
 then quite sober. — I saw the deceased *Richard Jordan* here
 then, he was drunk — he had been here that day and on
 the previous day, Friday the 4th inst. — and both days he
 had been drinking here — On Saturday night he was
 drinking beer out of a small belly can on the bar counter. —
 I saw some of his friends that day treating him to
 nobblers — About half past 10 on Saturday night
 I heard Andrew Dwyne offer to take deceased home as
 he — deceased, was not in a fit state to go by himself —
 and I saw them leaving the bar door together — Dwyne
 was quite sober, and quite friendly towards deceased —

That was the last time I saw deceased alive —
 There was no quarrelling here, and when they left
 only *St. Neveys* ^{was} in the bar — "myself and another
 old man" — Dwyne might have been over an hour
 away or more, and when he returned he said he
 had left Jordan on the way home — From what
 I know of Dwyne I think it would be quite the reverse
 with him to do deceased any harm, the way he offered
 to see deceased home shows me that he would not hurt
 the old man —

M. W. O'Reilly

Taken and Sworn before me, the *Seventh* day
 of *January* 1873, at *the Sydney Gardens Hotel - Sandhurst*
A. D. Dwyne Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 60.
Stereo.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent*

Henry Newey the 7th of January 1873
on his oath saith, I am a *Licensed Dubliner*

residing at *this Sydney Lane Gardens Hotel - Sandhurst*

I never saw this deceased until last Thursday the 2nd instant, that day he came in and had two or three drinks here and went away sober. - James Griffith one of the jurors saw him,

On Friday forenoon deceased again came here & bought a shillings worth of beer - 3 pints - in the same cilly found with his body - and took it away, he was then also sober - That afternoon he again returned and paid for another shillings worth of beer which he sat in the bar and drank with some biscuits and cheese out of the same cilly. - then he sat there about three hours, he wanted more, which I refused him and he left about dusk alone -

On Saturday afternoon the 4th deceased came here again about 4 o'clock and then I believe he had a little drink before he came. - again he got 7/- worth of beer in the same cilly which he drank or divided in the bar. -

He wanted more and I refused. Then about half past 9 o'clock or 10 - I had no clock in the bar going - as he was drunk then I insisted on deceased going and my man Andrew Dwyne offered to take deceased home and they left together - The Dwyne was quite sober. - From what I know of Dwyne I believe him incapable of doing deceased any harm - There were no quarrelsome people here that night and but my own other two men with me in the bar when they left

Henry Newey

Taken and Sworn before me, the *Seventh* day

of *January* 1873, at *the Sydney Lane Gardens Hotel - Sandhurst*

A. J. Dwyne Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

*Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent* *Mary Conlivan* this 7th of January A.D. 1873—
~~sworn~~ ^{sworn} ~~statement~~ ^{statement}
 on her oath saith, I am a daughter of *Michael Conlivan* here present
 residing at *his house not far from this hotel*—

Last Saturday night my father and mother were in
Sandhurst and I was minding the house. — Hearing *Andrew*
Dyane calling I came out, and saw him with *Richard*
Jordan, who was drunk. — *Dyane* asked me the way to
Jordan's house and I showed him. — *Dyane* then
 brought *Jordan* out to the road on this way, it was
 dark, and I did not see them after. — *Dyane* was
 anxious to get *Jordan* home and was kind & kind.

Jordan wanted to go the wrong way along a fence
 and *Dyane* would not let him, I said that was not
 the way — *Jordan* had fallen in the gutter and *Dyane*
 lifted him up and took him to the road the way I
 told him — *Mr Dyane* was not in any passion or
 anger with *Mr Jordan* and he was quite sober then.
 — Still the truth this I have not gone to school — to
 be taught — I am I believe about 8 or 9 years old,

Mary Conlivan
 her mark

Witness to mark

William Redwell
Const 2241

Taken and Sworn before me, the *Seventh* day
 of *January* A.D. 1873, at *the Sydneyham*
Gardens Hotel, Sandhurst
A. D. D. D. Coroner.

Sandhurst District
White Hills Police Station
6th January 1873

Constable Ryan 1098 reports for the information
of the District Coroner that the man named
in the margin was found drowned at
6 P.M. this afternoon in a water hole about
13 feet deep convenient to the Lydenham Garden
Hotel the deceased was drinking freely for
two days and the last time he was seen alive
was at 12 A.M. on the morning of the 5th January instant
he was then under the influence of drink
The body now lies at the Lydenham Garden
Hotel near the White Hills

Richard Jordan
Aged 69 years

J. B. Pounds Esq.
District Coroner
Sandhurst

Thos Ryan
Constable 1098-

