

19 - 5 614 189 6

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST  
held upon the body of

John Parker

at

W. Phillips Clerk

Received at the Crown Law Offices,  
25 - 189 6

CPY "forwarding" 9/19/96  
S

W. W. Greene  
Clerk

## Coroner's Inquest

This deponent on her oath saith:—  
my name is Sarah Aplin, I am  
a spinster staying here at present  
with Jennie Fuller, the wife of the  
deceased John Fuller, and who is  
my mother. Yesterday between  
12 & one o'clock pm. I went to  
look for my step father to call him  
to dinner, but not finding <sup>him</sup> about  
the yard or paddock I looked about  
the farm-house, and saw him, as  
I thought, standing looking at the  
fens, I said "Dad dinner's ready"  
and went to remove a horse, I  
then went back to the farm-house  
& saw him as before, & went  
close up and saw that he  
had had leaped himself, I  
think his feet were about 2 inches  
from the ground, and a rope  
was round his neck and fastened  
to the rafter. I then ran to the house  
& told my mother that he had hung  
himself.

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himself. My mother told me  
to go for Mr. Nicholls, who lives  
across the road and about  
4 or 5 hundred yards away,  
I did so and Mr. Nicholls  
returned with me at once and  
cut down the deceased's body.  
Mr. Nicholls said he was dead  
and that I should go straight  
for the police. I did so.

~~Deceased~~ rose from bed yesterday  
morning between 10 and 11  
o'clock, but took no breakfast.  
He would do this about 4 or 5  
times in the month, and has done  
so since the beginning of this year.  
He used to go to bed generally  
between 11 and 12 o'clock. ~~But~~  
There was a bush fire here on the  
1<sup>st</sup> Jan. last, and it burned some  
of our fencing and grass and  
~~he thought~~ was afraid at the time  
of the fire coming into the garden  
& to the house, it broke out  
again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

Ever

Ever since that, he has complained frequently of pain in his head, and of being ill and weak. He was mostly sad, he used to read a great deal, novels, stories, newspapers, and the Bible occasionally. I was very much surprised when I found him. He never spoke in any way particularly about suicide. I think I have heard him say lately that he was tired of his life, but we thought he was just saying it in fun.

Sarah Geresa, Amelia Aplin

And this deponent Jennie  
Felder on her oath with, the  
decedent, John Felder, was my  
husband, we have been married  
about 10 years, I have heard  
the evidence read over which my  
daughter has given, it is quite  
correct, I knew him about  
2 years before we married.

About 7 years ago he had a  
melancholy fit and that lasted  
3 years he did no work,  
and would walk about the paddock  
muttering to himself, I saw Dr.  
Wolfenden of Dunolly at the  
time and he examined him  
here and we got him to the  
Dunolly Hospital where he stayed  
about 5 months & came back  
not much better. Lately  
he has had financial troubles  
and they seemed a great burden  
to him, and the last season  
which was a bad one, seemed to  
overpower him altogether.  
He was a farmer & fruit grower,  
He has not appeared to be eccentric  
lately as he was 7 years ago.  
He got a summons a week or

So app, for the rabbits, and  
he thought that he would never  
be able to destroy them, and  
that there would be an execution  
in the house for the pines.  
He said "It's all up Ma"  
"this will kill me". He never  
threatened to kill himself. I  
don't know that he ever  
said that he was tired of life,  
and I did not think that  
he would do it.

I believe he had a fall  
from a cart many years ago.  
He appeared to be strong always  
but for the last 6 or 8 months  
he has done no work, only  
walking about & reading.

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Jessie Falden

and this deponent on his oath  
with my name is Samuel  
Nicholls, I am a farmer &  
pageir and a Justice of the Peace  
and reside about 500 yards  
from this house of the deceased.  
I have heard the evidence  
given by the first witness  
and it is correct so far  
as it applies to me.

When I found the body the  
hands were cold, but there  
was warmth in the arm, he  
was foaming at the mouth  
and black and blue round  
the neck and also in the  
face.

I have known deceased  
for 38 years. About 15 or 16  
years ago he had an accident -  
was thrown out of a stage cart,  
and fell on one side of his  
head, whereby the hearing on  
that side was injured, and he  
often has complained to me of  
pain in that side of the head.  
Before that I never noticed  
any

anything about him out of the ordinary. He was always a great reader, would read all kinds of literature, and in his youth was a great bible student. He was always rational so far as I know. I did not consider him particularly eccentric. He has been despondent since the ~~last~~ fires. I never heard him threaten to kill himself. Last Sunday week I last saw him and he then said "nothing is troubling me, nothing else. if I had £400 I would be right."

He was about 52 years of age. He ~~had~~ had no peculiar religious views, he was merely a staunch Wesleyan and was formerly a local preacher. I saw no signs in him of religious mania at any time. I consider that the want of money was what caused his depression.

J. Nicholls

And this deponent on his oath  
saith as follows my name  
is Charles Edward Felder  
I am a miner at Tamayulla  
Deciad was my brother,  
He was about 52 years of  
age. He was ill for some  
8 or 9 months after the fall  
from the cart, for the 1<sup>st</sup> 6  
weeks he could do no  
work, His mind did not  
seem to be affected from the  
fall after he recovered,  
but while ill for the 1<sup>st</sup> 6  
weeks and occasionally  
afterwards, till he got  
quite well, he appeared to  
wander at times.

He became despondent  
about 7 or 8 years ago, he has  
been better since 1893 till  
the bush fire, I did not think  
him unsoared in his mind  
beyond being despondent.  
I have not seen much of him  
lately only once in 2 or 3 months

C. E. Felder

And this deponent on his oath  
saith as follows: my name  
is Philip Henry Donovan, I  
am a legally qualified medical  
practitioner at Tainuihalla.  
Yesterday afternoon at about  
3 o'clock I examined the  
body of deceased, and found  
he was dead. I made a  
superficial examination and  
found a discolored groove  
on the front of the neck and  
a bruised line along each side  
of the neck. Blood and saliva  
had escaped from the mouth.  
There were no other marks of  
external violence, death had  
taken place between 2 & 4  
hours previously. In my  
opinion death was caused by  
strangulation.

The foregoing depositions of  
Sarah Theresa Amelia Apelin,  
Jeannie Fielder, Samuel Nicholls,  
Charles Edward Fielder and Philip  
Henry Donovan were taken and  
sworn before me at Murphy's  
Creek in the Colony of Victoria the  
19<sup>th</sup> day of May 1896

Philip H. Donovan

M. J. Speer,  
Coroner.

(9)

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

INQUISITION.

Colony of Victoria, }  
to wit. }

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at  
*Murphys Creek* in  
the Colony of Victoria aforesaid, the *nineteenth* day  
of *May* A.D. 18*96* in the *fifty ninth* year of  
the Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me *William Wentworth*  
*Greene* Gentleman, a\* *District* Coroner  
of our Lady the Queen for the said Colony, upon the view of the body of

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

*John Falder* then

and there lying dead, upon the oaths of †

† Juror's Christian and surnames in full.

*Thomas Page (Foreman)*  
*Joseph Whittaker*  
*Henry Radmall*  
*Edward Toole and*  
*William Lewis*

good and lawful men of *Tamapulla* 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 *John Falder*  
came by ‡ *his* death, do say upon their oath

‡ His or her.

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

*John Falder met his death*  
*on the 18th May 1896 at Murphys*  
*Creek by hanging, and that it was*  
*a case of suicide, and that*  
*at*

at the time he was of unsound  
mind the cause being financial  
difficulties and other troubles

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.

*M. J. [unclear]*



Coroner

*Thomas Page*



*Joseph [unclear]*



(L.S.)

*Henry Radwell*



*Edward Love*



*William Lewis*



(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

\* Here let each Juror sign his  
own name, or make his own  
mark, and affix or acknow-  
ledge his seal.