

860

10th to 20th October 1879

PROCEEDINGS of INQUESTING
held upon the body of

John Thomas

at 1 Pall Mall

The Honorable
the Attorney General
8/10/79

Received at the Crown Law Offices,
October 3rd 1879

Deceased John Greenwood died
on the 30th ult at the Pall Mall
Residence of the deceased, in consequence
of injuries received through
accidentally falling down a
shaft in a mine
by

W. S. Thompson Esq. Coroner.

Returned by direction for the information of
Her Hon. the Privy Council of the Indies.

Law Offs.

3.10.79

B. C. R. R.
Recd. 4. 10. 79
Retd. 8. 10. 79

Noted and returned to the Honorable
the Attorney General.

W. S. Thompson

Chief Inspector of Mines

6/10/79

W. S. Thompson
Secretary

South Western Police District.

Ballarat Station.

30th Sept 1879

REPORT of Sergeant Cresson

relative to a death through a Mining accident—

I beg to report that a man whose name is not now properly known by me died in the Ballarat Dist. Hospital this evening from the effects of an accident or injury received in a mine at Sebastopol.

I will report to the Mining Inspector early tomorrow and you will please state when you will hold an inquest on the body which lies at the Hospital. I have just heard that the name of deceased is John Green.

Richard Cresson
Sept. 244.

John C. Thomson Esqr.
Coroner

At a Magisterial Enquiry
held by me the undersigned
one of Her Majesty's Justices
of the Peace for the Southern
Bailiwick of the Colony of
Victoria on the first and second
days of October 1879 at
Ballarat in the said
Bailiwick touching the
death of one "John Greeno"
I find that the said John
Greeno died at the Ballarat
District Hospital on the
30th day of September last
past in consequence of
injuries received from
accidentally falling down
a shaft in a mine.
Given under my hand
this 2nd day of October
1879 at Ballarat
e e Shoppee J.P.

Richard Bruce Owen
own with I am the House
Surgeon at the Ballarat
District Hospital I was
present when the deceased
man John Bruno was
admitted about half
past two o'clock in
the afternoon yesterday
I examined him & found
him suffering from
extensive lacerated
wounds of the scalp,
slight wounds on the
hands & fore arms.
A severe contusion
on the right lumbar
region

30 Sept/79

region. He was in a
very low state & gradually
sank & died a little after
Six P.M. - He told me
that he had fallen down
a shaft - When I asked
him "What shaft?" he
said it was his own.
I attribute the cause
of death to internal
injuries occasioned by
the said fall -

I signed & sworn
before me this
first day of October
1879 at Ballarat

P. S. O'Brien
Shoppes J.B.

James Martin sworn
saith I am a Miner
I have been living with
Deceased John Green
for the last four years
at the Woolshed near
Sebastopol -

About 1/2 past 12 o'clock
yesterday I was working
in a tunnel with my
Mate William Brady -
My Mate & I were coming
out of the tunnel when
we met deceased about
20 feet in - He asked
me where the body was
& I said "You will find
it"

it at the side of the
Drive" I gave him a
box of matches, I asked
him if he could manage
by himself - He said "Yes!"
I took the matches & fix
ed a tap upon a tub which
discharges water into the
~~tunnel~~^{shaft} to expel the foul
air - this was a new
invention or contrivance
of his own - I started
out with the truck & emptied
it I had to go about 150
feet - I turned over a
couple of truck loads
of dirt, when I heard
groaning

foaming I went into the
tunnel about 30 feet
when I went deceased
coming out. He was
foaming & his face
was all covered
with blood. No one
else was in the tunnel.
He said "take me home"
I took him out to the
mouth of the tunnel
when he begged me to
lay him down & I
did so. I then said
"go for a doctor!" I
went to start off to go
when he begged me to
stay

stay - I did not call
for help - & then William
Brady came down the
well for a cat - Deceased
said he "fell" "slipped & fell"
he would have to reach
across the shaft to fix
the tap as he proposed to
do - He could have
gone round the shaft
but it would have been
more troublesome &
he evidently did not do
so -

Soon after this Brady
brought a cat & we took
him to the Hospital -
This

He was about half past
two o'clock - He did not
speak intelligibly on the way
in - I & my brother
visited him again about
5 o'clock on that afternoon
He was then insensible
to Mr. Choppe & I.

Deceased was an old man
It might be ten minutes
or a quarter of an hour
from the time I gave the
watches & deceased till I
heard him groaning in the
tunnel.

No one else was in the
tunnel -

Sergeant Carden

Deceased was the occupier
of

of the Land on which the
mine was -

The mine is worked by
a tunnel on the side of
the hill and about 15^{feet}
in, there is a shaft of
a depth of 47 feet and
above this shaft is the top
stap which I have referred
this is the shaft down
which deceased men
have fallen -

This shaft is timbered
with boards or slabs about
six inches apart, and
it would be easy to use
these slabs as a step
ladder

ladder in ascending or
descending the shaft -

The deceased must evidently
have got up by this
means -

I was employed by deceased
who paid me £1 per week
board - we were very

good friends -
I Mr Shoppe J. A.
have been living with
deceased for nearly four
years - He owed me about
two years wages
at the bottom of the shaft there

is a well covered with boards
upon which deceased must

have fallen James ^{his} ~~Mark~~ ^{Mark}

Taken and sworn before me at
Ballarat this 1st day of October 1879
J. Shoppe J. A.

William Brady sworn & said
was working with the ash
witness (my mate) in the tunnel
of Deceased's claim yesterday
we had knocked off for
dinner & were coming
out of the tunnel about
12 o'clock when we
met deceased he asked
my mate who was before
me where the light was
he told him to give him
a box of matches -
I heard him say he was
going to fix
the pipe that goes from
a tub at the top of the
shaft & turn water down
to

to turn out the foul air
I went home & had my
dinner & about half
an hour after my going
home I heard my mate
calling; I ran down to
the claims - it might be
about $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile away -
I saw deceased lying
on the grass - I said to him
"What's happened?" He
said - "I fell down the
shaft" I said "from the
top?" He said "Yes!" -
Then I brought a
cab & my mate &
I and another man
accompanied

accompanied him to the
Hospital -

My Mate & I were both
working for deceased
on wages - I have only been
working for him for about
six weeks - but my
Mate "Jim" has been
with deceased for about
four years to my knowledge.
He & Deceased were the
best of friends I liked him
well

Taken and sworn before
me this 1st day of October
1879. at Ballarat

William Brady

e e Shoppee J.P.

Enquiry adjourned till Thursday the 2nd
October 1879 @ 3. pm at the City Police Court

In the hearing on the 2nd day of October 1879

This Dependent Charles Stewart sworn said:

I am Inspector of Mines for the District
of Bonnat.

This morning I inspected

the scene of the accident & found the shaft
to be 181 feet 8 inches from
the mouth of the tunnel
the shaft itself is only
4 feet by 3 & is forty seven
feet deep -

In approaching the shaft
there is a small platform
3 feet wide & about 1 foot
above the level of the
drive and it is my
opinion that deceased
must have struck his
shin too

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~~spin~~

~~He~~ against this platform
and been precipitated
head first down the
shaft - the man so
as the candle had not
been lit and also that

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~~found~~ a tomahawk
a screw driver, a gimlet,
a wooden cleft which
~~deceased~~ had in his
hand were discovered
at the bottom of the shaft.
There is a well at the
bottom which is
covered by three
boards on the edge
of one of which I
found

found some blood -

The shaft was quite
sufficiently timbered
and I do not think
that any blame is
attachable to the person
working in the mine

Iakum and I swore } Charles Stewart
before me this
2nd day of October
1879 at Ballarat
J. E. Shapley J. O.