

18th October 1928  
1230

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

WILLIAM MURPHY

at Melbourne Morgue

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

19 OCT 1928 19

C. L. O.

6.

D. Berriman  
2489

Coroner.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

---

## INQUISITION.

---

VICTORIA }  
To Wit. }

AN INQUISITION for our Sovereign Lord King George V., taken at the Morgue, Melbourne, in the State of Victoria, the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October A.D. 19 28 in the nineteenth year of the reign of our said Lord the King, by me, Daniel Berriman, gentleman, a Coroner of our Lord the King for the said State, upon the view of the body of William Murphy then and there lying dead.

Having inquired upon the part of our Lord the King when, where, how, and by what means the said William Murphy

(1) His or her.

came by<sup>(1)</sup> his death, I say that

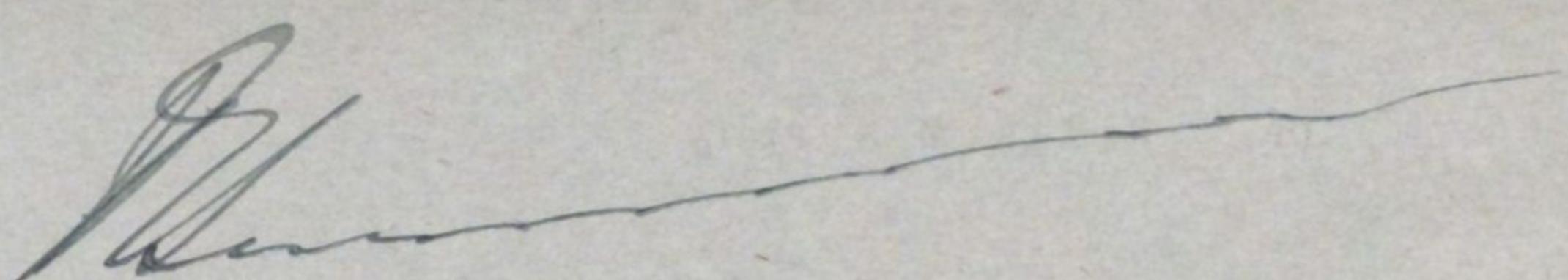
on the 7th day of October 19 28

(2) Here state cause at<sup>(2)</sup> 12 Toward Street, Murrumbeena the said William Murphy died from a wound in the throat

Self inflicted.)

In witness whereof, I, the aforesaid Coroner, have to this Inquisition  
put my hand this 18th day of October

A.D. 19 28



Coroner.

# Victoria Police---47

Murrumbeena

Station

South Eastern

Police District

8th October 1928

REPORT of H. De La Rue. Senr Const 5140.

Relative to conveying the body of William Murphy to the Morgue.

D. Berriman Esq. P.M.

City Morgue.

Inquest  
Coroner  
8.10.28.

I have to report that about 6.30 p.m. on the 7th inst- Dr Tulloh of Murrumbeena reported to me that Mrs Murphy, wife of deceased, telephoned him to come to her home at No 12 Toward Street, Murrumbeena. On arrival he found the body of deceased lying on his back in a motor shed at the rear of the house, the throat had a deep cut severing the arteries and windpipe, and death had taken place.

A blood stained razor was lying beside the body. The doctor had never attended deceased previously.

I went with the doctor to the shed where deceased was lying, and took possession of the blood stained razor. Deceased apparently had cut his throat opposite a small window in the shed, as blood was spattered over the window, on a work bench, and high up on the walls. Where deceased was lying was a large pool of blood.

I then had a conversation with the wife of deceased. She informed me that deceased was 57 years of age, of independent means, that lately deceased was very depressed owing to ill health and a recent rupture, and had threatened to take his life, that about 5.p.m. yesterday she heard a peculiar noise in the shed, and on going out found the door locked. She looked through the window and saw deceased bleeding from a wound in the throat, that her son smashed the window and got inside the shed and opened the door, but she could do nothing other than take the razor from his hand.

hand. She also informed me that deceased had been under treatment of a herbalist for kidney trouble, and was suffering great pain, that deceased had not been attended by any doctor for years, that deceased had lately tried to kill himself with a matchet, and that the taking of life was no surprise to her as she had heard him threaten to do so repeatedly.

I then conveyed the body to the Morgue.

*H. G. Lachae*

Senr Const 5140.

# CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent\*

ALEXANDER BALCOMBE MURPHY

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h IS oath saith, I am a GRAZIER

\*Christian and Surname  
in full.  
residing at " THE BRIARS " MORNINGTON

At the City Morgue on the 8th Inst I id-entified the body of William Murphy aged 57 years. I last saw him alive about 18 months ago. He had not been in good health for some years. He was my half brother. He did not say that he had kidney trouble. About two years ago he said that he felt wonderfully well, and that a few months before, it was difficult for him to keep the idea of suicide from his mind. He had no worries that I know of.

A.B. Murphy

Taken and sworn before me the 18<sup>th</sup> day  
of October 1928 at Melbourne

Coroner.

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent\*

William Edward Yule

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

\*Christian and Surname  
in full.

on his oath saith, I am a legally qualified medical  
practitioner

residing at 29 <sup>at above 4 pm</sup> Murray Road

On Sunday the 4th Oct 1928 I received an urgent  
call to attend a Mr Murphy at 12 Howard St.  
The boy aged about 12 years, who brought the  
message stated his father had cut his throat  
Arriving about 10 minutes later I found Mr  
Murphy dead. He was lying on his back with  
his head on two pillows & the housepaper  
was knotted at his head. On examining  
the body I found an extensive wound of  
about 20 cm. in length, extending from the  
larynx to the cervical column. The body was in a  
pool of blood. The clothes were saturated  
& there blood on the walls window, & bushes.  
Apparently death had taken place a few minutes  
earlier. On questioning the housekeeper I was told  
Mr Murphy had been in ill health for some years  
with kidney disease, & for the past few days  
he was very depressed, especially on the day of  
his death. On previous occasions he had threatened  
to take his life & had actually attempted to  
do so earlier in the day with a hammer. A  
little time before the occurrence he had rushed  
into the shed & locked the door. He heard a  
noise & looking through the window saw  
blood spurting everywhere. The eldest boy  
broke the window & got into the shed & found  
deceased struggling about the shed, bleeding profusely

Taken and sworn before me the

day

of

192 at

Coroner.

# CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent\*

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on h<sup>is</sup> oath saith, I am a

\*Christian and Surname  
in full.

residing at

with a razor. He, the boy, unlocked the door & let the Housekeeper in. She took the razor after he had fallen to the floor & placed it on the bench. Twenty minutes later I reported the snuffbox to Senior Constable De la Rue & together we unfixed the body, with the result I have detailed above.

9.10.28.

W. G. McAllister

29 M'lema Rd  
M'lema

Taken and sworn before me the 18<sup>th</sup> day

of October 1928 at Melbourne

Coroner.

# CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent\* **ALMA VICTORIA GRAFF**

**VICTORIA, TO WIT.**

on h HER~~b~~ath saith, I am a **SPINSTER**

\*Christian and Surname  
in full.

residing at **12 TOWARD STREET MURRUMBEENA**

I knew the deceased. I have kept house for him for 5 years. During that time he was not healthy. For the past three months he was becoming more depressed. He complained that he was nearly blind and that his kidneys were in a bad state. On the 7th Inst he appeared strange in looks and manner. He had good breakfast and moved about the place aimlessly. At 4 15 p.m. I went to the back of the house to get him to come in and have a cup of tea. I could not see him and he did not answer when I called out to him. He made a peculiar sound and I opened the door of the garage and I saw blood running down his face. I said to him what have you done. He replied I have not done it yet, come and see. He took my hand and led me into the garage and he showed me a sledge hammer and a french hoe and a rail, attached to the rafter of the shed. He said I did not know that my skull was so hard. I took him inside the house and gave him some tea. I then said that I was going to ring his brother in law to come and see him. He did not reply. I went to the telephone and whilst there I heard the back door bang. I rushed out of the house to the Garage again and when I got to the garage door it was locked. I rushed to the window, I looked in and I saw blood spurting onto the window. I smashed the window and one of my boys got into the garage and opened the door. When I looked through the window I saw the deceased with a razor in his right hand gashing at his throat. When I got into the garage I found the deceased lying face down on the floor. The razor produced is the one he had in his right hand. I took the razor and turned him to his back. I sent for the Doctor. Dr Tulloh arrived shortly after. During the 5 years I had been with him he often said that he would take his life. Latterly he said that it was because of his blindness and general health.

Taken and sworn before me the 18<sup>th</sup>

day

of October 1928 at Melbourne

*Alma Graff.*

Coroner.

# CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\* HERBERT DE LA RUE

on h IS oath saith, I am a SENIOR CONSTABLE

\*Christian and Surname  
in full.

residing at MURRUMBEENA

On the 7th Inst at about 6 30 p.m. I went to the residence of deceased. I saw the body of deceased lying on his back in the Garage. I found the razor produced on a bench close to the body. It was covered <sup>with blood</sup>. Deceased's throat was cut. I found nothing suspicious,

H. L. De La Rue

Taken and sworn before me the

18<sup>th</sup>

day

of October

1928

at Melbourne

Coroner.