

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
C. L. O.

19

6.

D. Berriman

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 **18th**
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 ⁽¹⁾ ~~his~~ death, I say that

on the **7th** day of **October** 19 **28**

(2) Here state cause of death, if known; if unknown, doubtful, or no evidence, state the fact accordingly.

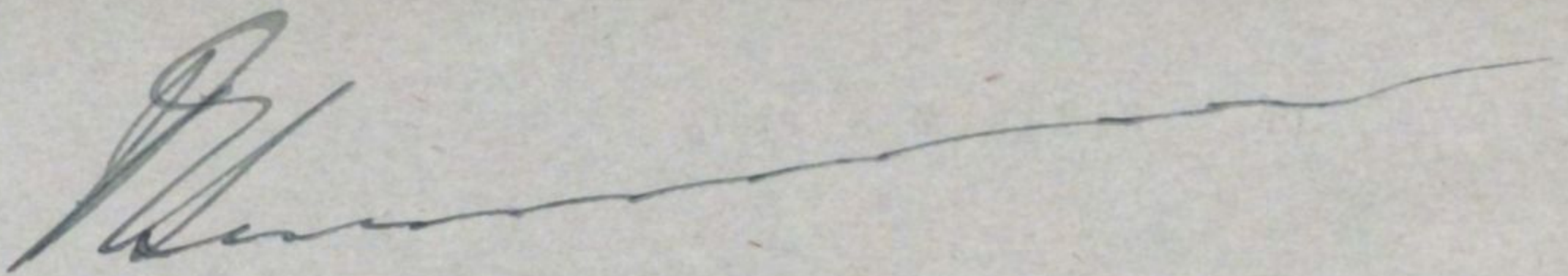
at ⁽²⁾ **12 Toward Street, Murrumbeena** the said William Murphy died

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

A long, flowing handwritten signature in dark ink, starting with a large, stylized initial and extending across the page.

Coroner.

Victoria Police.---47

Murrumbeena

Station

South Eastern

Police District

8 th 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.

I have to report that about 6.30

p.m. on the 7 th 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. yeaserday she heqrd 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.

Inquest
JH

Coroner.

8.10.28.

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. C. La Rue

Sear Const 5140.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent*

ALEXANDER BALCOMBE MURPHY

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-etified 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 18th day
of October 1928 at Melbourne

CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* *William Edward Guller*

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

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

*Christian and Surname in full.

residing at *29 Inverumbena Rd Inverumbena*
at above & p.m.

On Sunday the 4th Oct 1928 I received an urgent call to attend a Mr Murphy at 12 Leonard 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 housekeeper was kneeling at his head crying. On examining the body I found an extensive wound of throat severing every important structure to the laryngeal column. The body was in a pool of blood. The clothes were saturated & there blood on the walls, window, & benches. 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, & was going blind & 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. They heard a scream & 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'S INQUEST.

This Deponent*

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

on his 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 matter to Senior Constable De la Rue & together we inspected the body, with the result I have detailed above.

9 10.28.

W E Sullivan

29 M'Leana RD

M'Leana

Taken and sworn before me the 18th day

of October 1928 at Melbourne

CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent* ALMA VICTORIA GRAFF

on h ~~HER~~ oath 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

18th

day

of

October

1928

at

Melbourne

Alma. Graff.

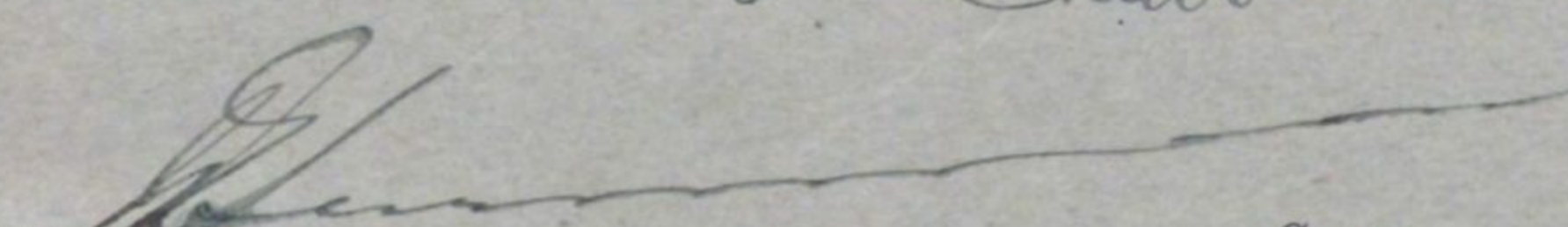
CORONER'S INQUEST.

This Deponent* HERBERT DE LA RUE
VICTORIA, TO WIT.
on h IS oath saith, I am a SENIOR CONSTABLE
residing at MURRUMBIDGENA

*Christian and Surname
in full.

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 ^{with blood}. Deceased's throat was cut. I found nothing suspicious,

H De La Rue

Taken and sworn before me the 18th day
of October 1928 at Melbourne

K.244/3.27-3054.-5M. Coroner.