

1016

1885

August 22

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of John

Sweetman

at

The Prison

Wellbourn

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

24th August 1885

pm

Recd Mr
25/8/85

W. A. H. H. H.

Coroner.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

INQUISITION.

Colony of Victoria,
to wit.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at *Milbourn*
in
the Colony of Victoria aforesaid, the *Twenty Second* day
of *August* A.D. 1885 in the *Fifty sixth* year of
the Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me *Richard*
Goul Gentleman, a* *City* Coroner
of our Lady the Queen for the said Colony, upon the view of the body of *John*
Sweetman then

* City, Town, County, or Dis-
trict, as the case may be.

† Juror's Christian and sur- and there lying dead, upon the oaths of †
names in full.

William Berry
Thomas Whitaker
Thomas Woodford
Charles E. Bulmer
John Coonan
Richard Haylor
Martin Murdoch
Harry Hayes
William Cooke
George H. Dingle
James Loughlin
Richard I. Caven

good and lawful men of *Milbourn* 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*

‡ 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.

Sweetman came by *his* death, do say upon their oath
in Milbourn in the Twenty first
of August current the deceased
John Sweetman was found
dead: the jury are of opinion
that the cause of death was
Perforation of the Stomach

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.

Rich Gould

(L.S.)

Coroner

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

William Berry

(L.S.)

Thomas Whittaker

(L.S.)

Thomas Woodford

(L.S.)

Charles E. Bulwer

(L.S.)

John Cornan

(L.S.)

Richard Taylor

(L.S.)

Marston Murdoch

(L.S.)

W. Hayes

(L.S.)

William Cook

(L.S.)

J. H. Dingle

(L.S.)

J. Loughlin

(L.S.)

R. J. Lawren

(L.S.)

VICTORIA POLICE.—[47.]

Melbourne Police District.

Little Bourke Street Station.

21st August 1885.

REPORT of Const- Joyce 3534

relative to John Sweatman

I have to report

that at 2:30 pm this day a warder named Joseph Atkinson employed at Our Lodgings Little Bourke St & E in consequence of a Stench entered a room occupied by a man named John Sweatman as a weekly tenant & found him dead covered with the bed-clothes on the Bed, the Body was in a decomposed state, the Superintendent of Our Lodgings reported the matter at this Station at 4 pm. & handed over a small bottle marked Laudanum, Poison, W. H. Lobbin Chemist Moonee Ponds and Newmarket, which he found in a chest of Drawers in the room. I removed the Body to the morgue, deceased was last seen alive at 12 noon on Wednesday 19th inst. by the warder above named there was no external marks of violence on the Body

P. J. Joyce const- 3534

of forwarded to the City
Coroner who will be
kind enough to communicate
with Mr. Const. Storey of
Hawell St. Toronto

A. B. B. B. B.
for the
shop in charge
No. 100 Division

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

Thomas W Alsap
Lacey house manager
Spring St

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

The deceased was a weekly tenant of
the room in our Lacey house
his name was John Swantonian his
age was about fifty years he was married
I know nothing more about him
he was in the habit of drinking to excess
He lived alone - he certainly at very parts
threw up ^{his glass} that the room occupied by
the deceased was locked and that the
servants were unable to clear it I looked
through the window I saw the deceased
lying in bed covered up. It was evident
that he was dead I reported the circumstance
to the Police When the Police came I sent
a man in to the window to unlock
the door The window was not fastened in
the window sill was easily got into

The deceased was found undressed in
bed - and circumscribed with the bed clothes
His great coat was partially over his
head - There were no signs of struggling
or violence in the room the place had
been robbed I found the bottle produced
in the drawers it was unopened it
is labelled Dr. Williams' Pink Pills It was
nearly empty It is unopened -
The deceased had only a few pieces upon him

Taken and Sworn before me, the _____ day
of _____ 18 _____ at _____
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

This Deponent *

on h

oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

He was a travelling Musician
 he came to Town about a fortnight
 since he fixed his tent up under
 next Muller's. He fixed it in the booth
 there was no glass in the window out
 of which the scandalous had been
 drunk the baby was much decomposed

Thomas W. Mayo

Taken and Sworn before me, the 22nd day
 of August 1885 at Melbourne
Mark Paul
 Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,)

TO WIT. }

This Deponent *

on h oath saith, I am a

residing at

Frank Ralph

Canterbury

Spring Street

* Christian and
surname in
full.

I saw the deceased Frederick (but
alive in the morning of the nineteenth
instinct he was in his own room
He was sitting in a window seat in the
bedroom I did not speak to him

I went into his room and made his
bed and cleaned his room I did not
see a bottle of Sarsaparilla in the room
He died the next day I went to his
room in the afternoon of the next day
It was locked on the inside I could
get no answer I stood in the broken
door and looked in I saw him lying in
bed I thought he was asleep his room
door has been locked ever since It
was not an unusual thing for him
to lock himself in his room

Frank Ralph

Taken and Sworn before me, the 22nd day
of August 1875 at Melbourne
Wm. G. Paul
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

* Christian and Surname in full.

This Deponent*

Robert Andrew Stirling

on his oath saith, I am a Surgeon

residing at Melbourne

I have made a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased John Sweetnam which was in a very advanced state of decomposition, the whole body being of a black colour with a peeling cuticle. As far as could be ascertained there were no marks of external violence.

The Brain was in a very advanced stage of putrefaction. There was no fracture of the skull.

Both pleural sacs contained about eight ounces of blood-stained fluid. The Heart was empty - its walls so softened & decomposed that they readily tore. The Lungs showed traces of much congestion. The Stomach was empty: it contained no fluid of any kind - nor was there from the condition of its lining membrane any evidence of poisoning. The Liver was green and softened from decomposition. The Kidneys were the only organs in the body that were not decomposed: they were congested but otherwise healthy. The urinary bladder was empty. The intestines were blown up with the gases of decomposition.

The Cause of death is different to Chlenteritis in the state of the organs from decomposition. I think the death was due to Congestion of the Lungs and Kidneys. It is possible that death was due to the just violence to before Poisoning.

Robert A. Stirling.

Taken and Sworn before me, the 22nd day
of August 1885 at Melbourne
W. H. G. H. G.
Coroner.