

1916.  
13<sup>th</sup> January 1913<sup>19</sup>

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST  
held upon the body of

Wm Leslie Hollies

at

Leicester

Received at the Crown Law Offices,  
14 : 1 : 1913.  
19

PM

A. S. Barker J.P.  
Coroner

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

VICTORIA,  
TO WIT.

INQUISITION  
(WITHOUT A JURY.)

[56A.]  
RECEIVED  
14 JAN. 1913  
C. L. O.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lord King Edward, taken at *Cressy*  
.....in  
Victoria, the *Thirteenth* day of *January*  
A.D. 19*13*, in the *1913* year of the Reign  
of our said Lord the King, before me *Alfred Sadler*  
.....Gentleman, a Coroner of our Lord the King  
for Victoria, upon the view of the body of *William Leslie*  
*Hellier*.....then and there lying dead.

Having duly inquired upon the part of our Lord the King when, where, how,  
and by what means the said *William Leslie*  
*Hellier*.....came by his death, I say that the said  
*William Leslie* *Hellier*  
died at *Cressy*.....on the *Twelfth*  
day of *January* 19*13*, from *Asphyxia*  
*as the result of drowning.*

In witness whereof I the aforesaid *Deputy* Coroner have to this Inquisition put my  
hand and seal on the day and year and at the place above mentioned.

*Alfred Sadler*  
CORONER *J. S.*

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

*Thomas Heller*

on his oath saith, I am a

*Labourer*

residing at

*Cressy*\*Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

*I have seen the body of William Leslie Heller now lying dead at my residence at Cressy and I recognise it as the body of my son. I last saw my son alive at about eleven O'clock a.m. on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 1913. He appeared to be in the best of health when left home to go to the Woody Yallock Creek where he stated he was going fishing. My son told me he could swim but I was not aware of it from my own knowledge.*

Taken and sworn before me the *13<sup>th</sup>* dayof *January* 1913 at *Cressy**Alfred Sadler*

Coroner.

*Thomas Heller*

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

John Henry Clemons Hicks

on his oath saith, I am a

Medical Practitioner

residing at

Beccac

\*Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

I have this day at the direction of Mr Alfred Sadler J.P. of Cressy  
made a post mortem Examination of the body of <sup>William</sup> Leslie Kelly  
of Cressy. at Cressy.

I find on external Examination no marks of violence beyond a few  
scratches on the face.

There is a peculiar condition of parts of the skin called goose skin  
which is commonly seen in those drowned.

There is blood stained froth coming from the mouth & nostrils  
There is lividity of face & shoulders, & hyperstasie staining of  
the body.

On Examining the lungs. I found them distended & ecchymosed  
on the surface - the left one overlapping the heart.

When cut blood stained froth exuded from the <sup>cut</sup> surface.

There was blood stained froth in the bronchi & trachea

The inner membrane of the trachea was very congested.

The Heart contained dark fluid blood in the right side, the left  
side was empty.

The Stomach was practically empty a few particles of food still  
remained.

From the above conditions & indications I am of opinion that deceased  
died from asphyxia as the result of drowning.

Taken and sworn before me the

13<sup>th</sup>

day

of

January

1913

at

Cressy

Africa Suter  
Coroner.

John H. B. Hicks

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

Joseph Leslie Parker

on his oath saith, I am a

Onion grower

residing at

Weering.

\*Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

I have seen the body of William Leslie Hellier. I last saw <sup>alive</sup> deceased at the swimming hole in the Woody Valley Creek at Cressy at about 2<sup>30</sup> p.m. <sup>on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January 1913</sup> he was then standing on the bank of the river naked, I was swimming in the water hole and cannot remember seeing deceased in the water. I saw four wires stretched across the creek and they were fixed to posts on both sides of the river, the wires were about one to two feet from the water.

After swimming for some time I heard a boy named Cecil Thornton ask where Les, meaning Leslie Hellier, all present called out his name and I thought he had probably gone up the river fishing as he had a fishing rod and line when I first saw him. I then walked up the river to see if I could find him. Not having seen him I returned and ~~did~~ went into the river and swam across to the other side. I then went to the Police Station and reported the matter to Const. Taylor after which I returned and subsequently saw the deceased recovered from the river. I should think deceased was in the river about forty five minutes from the time he was missed to the time the body was recovered.

Taken and sworn before me the

13<sup>th</sup>

day

of

January

1913

at

Cressy

Alfred Suster

J. P. Deputy Coroner.

Joseph Leslie Parker.

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

Arthur New

on his oath saith, I am a Horse trainer

residing at

Weering

\*Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

I have seen the body of William Leslie Hellier. I last saw deceased alive at about 2<sup>30</sup> p.m. on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1913 he was then standing on the bank of the Woody Yallock Creek at Cressy at a place they call the swimming hole. he was then undressed. I did not see deceased in the water, I was in the water swimming. I did not hear any sound of anyone crying out for assistance. I heard young Thornton say he missed Leslie Hellier, we all had a look around but could not see him but saw his clothes on the river bank. I dived into the river but could not see any sign of deceased. I then came out and got dressed and accompanied Joseph Parker to the Police Station where we reported the matter to Const Taylor who returned to the river with us. I saw deceased body recovered from the river by Const Taylor and several young men unknown to me.

In my opinion deceased was about forty five minutes in the water before it was recovered.

Taken and sworn before me the

13<sup>th</sup>

day

of

January

1913

at

Cressy

Alfred Sadler  
Deputy Coroner.

Arthur New.

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

*Douglas Thornton*

on his oath saith, I am a

*school boy*

residing at

*Cressy with my parents,*\*Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

*I know deceased Leslie Heller whose dead body I have seen. I last saw deceased alive at the swimming hole in the Waddy Yallock Cressy at about 2<sup>30</sup> pm on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1913. Afterwards saw him in the water he was holding onto the wires that are stretched across the river. He was then about four feet from the bank. The water would be about one and a half feet deep at that distance. I subsequently saw him on the opposite bank of the river, deceased could not swim, he pulled himself from bank to bank by holding onto the wires.*

*I did not hear anyone crying out for assistance. I did not see deceased alive after I saw him on the opposite bank. When I missed deceased I swam across the river and looked about the reeds that are growing in the river but could not see anything of deceased. I then returned and got dressed and someone asked me to go and tell Constable Taylor that deceased was missing. I subsequently saw the body of deceased recovered from the river.*

*I think the river is about 10 feet deep at the spot where we swim and where deceased was drowned.*

Taken and sworn before me the

*13<sup>th</sup>*

day

of

*January*

1913

at

*Cressy**Alfred Sadler**J. O. Deputy Coroner.**Douglas Thornton.*

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

*Richard Josiah Middleton,*  
 on his oath saith, I am a *Carpenter temporarily*  
 residing at *Cressey.*

\*Christian and  
 Surname in  
 full.

I have seen the dead body of William Leslie Heller. I last saw deceased alive at about 11<sup>30</sup> a.m. on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> inst January 1913. I did not see deceased again until I recovered him from the river at about 3<sup>30</sup> p.m. the same day. I dived into the river and found deceased lying on the bottom of the river in a part that would be about 9 or 10 feet deep. with assistance I brought the body to the bank. In my opinion deceased was then quite dead. I saw Const Taylor trying to restore respiration. I then saw Const Taylor place the body in a gig and drive away. It was a very hot day and there was no shelter from the sun at that part of the river.

By *W. Sadler,* I had been diving into the river to try and recover the body prior to the arrival of Const Taylor. It was after about the third dive that I was successful in recovering the body, i.e. that is after the arrival of Const Taylor.

Taken and sworn before me the

13<sup>th</sup>

day

of

January

1913 at

Cressey

R. J. Middleton

*Agnes Sadler*  
*J. P. Deputy Coroner.*

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

VICTORIA, TO WIT.

This Deponent\*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

Edgar Percy Taylor  
Mounted Constable of Police  
Cressy.

\*Christian and  
Surname in  
full.

I have seen the body of William Leslie Hellier. I was informed by Joseph Parker at 3<sup>15</sup> p.m. on Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> January 1913, that a boy named Leslie Hellier was missing from the water hole where he with several others were swimming in the Woody Galloway Creek. I immediately proceeded to the spot and divested myself of clothing and dived into the river to try and recover the body. After being in the water about 5 or 10 minutes I heard the witness, <sup>middle aged</sup> call out "I have got him." I with others then went to his assistance and helped to bring the body to the bank.

I was informed by some of the previous witnesses that about 45 minutes had elapsed from the time deceased was missed to the time deceased body was recovered from the river. I tried to restore respiration for about 10 minutes but as the sun was so hot and there being no shelter in the vicinity I did not think it advisable to persevere with the method considering the time deceased had been in the water. I then dressed myself and placed the body in a gig and drove up to the township where I met Mr. Knight Head Teacher of the School who advised continuing first aid methods until the arrival of Dr. Dick's from Beecan, which was done. The Dr. pronounced life extinct after trying the battery and giving an injection. I then had deceased removed to his parents home

Taken and sworn before me the

13<sup>th</sup>

day

of January 1913 at

Cressy

Alfred Sadler  
Deputy Coroner.

E. P. Taylor  
M4656