

198

14th 820th Mel 1891

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

Catherine Smith

at

Hospital

at Melbourne

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

23 FEB 91

188

.....

CH. H. O.

Handwritten signature

Wounds (as evidence)
54

J. L. Bandler

Coroner.

Collingwood Station. Melbourne Police District.
Feb 13th 1891.

REPORT of Const Vickers 4174.
relative to A sudden death of a woman,
named Charlotte Smith.

No 2 Division

I have to report that about 11³⁰ PM
the 12th I was informed by a man named
Edward Williams residing at 57 Islington
St. that a woman was lying dead on the
footpath opposite Doctor Singleton's Home in
Islington St. I at once went to the spot
and found a woman who appeared to
be about 40 years of age. I had her conveyed
to the Melbourne Hospital and she was
examined by Doctor Craig who pronounced
life extinct. The body now lies at the
Melbourne Hospital awaiting an inquest.
I might state that I saw deceased sitting
on a door step at the corner of Peppert
St. and Victoria Parade about 2 hours
previous to finding her dead and then
apparently in good health. The deceased
was identified by Mary Foxton Matron
of Doctor Singleton's Home. The deceased
was an inmate of the Home during
Christmas week but have not been seen
there since.

To the Officer
in Charge
No 2 Division

G Vickers
Const 4174

Forwarded for the information of the
Dist- Coroner. —
C. Candler. Esq^r

L. Devine
Ord- 1437. 13.2.91

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,)

TO WIT. }

This Deponent *

on his oath saith, I am a Mary Loxton
the wife of John Loxton
 residing at The Night Shelter for Women, Collingwood

* Christian and
 Surname in
 full.

I saw the deceased Catherine Smith on the night of Thursday the 72nd inst in Islington Street, opposite the Night Shelter, at 11.45. She was on the pavement and the Police were with her. A constable came to the Shelter and called me to see her. When I saw her I recognised her as Catherine Smith, a widow, aged about 54 or 55, in bad circumstances. She was in the Shelter last December but she left on the 16th of December and did not return. I did not see her from that time until the night of the 72nd inst. She was dead when the Police came to me. They told me so and asked me to go to see if I recognised her.

Mary Loxton

Taken and Sworn before me, the 14th day
 of February 1891 at Collingwood
C. Cantley
 Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA, }

This Deponent *

TO WIT.

on his oath saith, I am a

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

residing at

Walter Joseph Craig

a duly qualified medical practitioner

Melbourne Hospital

(C.C.-1)

Catherine

The deceased ~~Charlotte~~ Smith was brought to the Hospital early on the morning of 13th inst. On examination I found that she was dead. The body was well nourished. There were some sores on her left leg & buttock probably syphilitic. Blood was oozing from her vagina and had soaked the clothes to a considerable extent.

The Brain was watery & wasted, the substance pasty. Larynx & Trachea normal. There were signs of old pleurisy on both sides. Lungs flabby, otherwise normal. Liver large, friable, fatty & pale. Heart fairly normal, the ^{Right side was empty.} Kidneys showed signs of old Bright's disease, and were pale & bloodless.

Spleen paler than usual.

Stomach & intestines normal.

On the Right side of the vulva there was a lacerated wound. The vagina was full of fluid blood. There was also blood about the thighs.

Uterus normal.

The cause of death was hemorrhage from the wound in the vagina, accelerated by the weak condition of her other organs. There was nothing to show how the wound was caused.

W. Craig

Taken and Sworn before me the

14th

day

of

February

1891

at

Mingwood

C. Cantley

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,)

TO WIT.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a Carriage Painter

residing at

Millerswood* Christian and
Surname in
full.

I did not know deceased Catherine Smith. I saw a woman on the night of the 12th instant sitting against my fence in Brighton Street, on the foot path. She was directing a woman how to get in the Home where I first heard her. I do not think she was sober. She did not seem to be anything to matter with her. The woman who then deceased spoke over to the Home and had some words with the mistress. The deceased woman laid on her side and commenced crying. She then straightened herself up and I went inside to be her. There was no disturbance or shrieking after that.

Edward Jones

Taken and Sworn before me, the 20th day
of February 1891 at Melbourne
C. G. Austin
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA,)

TO WIT.

This Deponent *

on his oath saith, I am a Sarah M Jarvis
residing at Millers Cross Sailor

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

The deceased Catherine Smith
was my mother. She was 54 years old & widow
and lived with me. On the 12th inst she left me
at 4.50. I go to Millers Cross. She was intemperate
occasionally. She was in good health. She was to
have come back in about a week. Deceased had
a week bag as she carried a stick - an umbrella
handle. She was helpless when she had been drinking.
She had 14/6 in silver as half a sovereign in a snuffbox.
addressed to Mr. Mops.

Sarah M Jarvis

Taken and Sworn before me, the 10th day
of February 1891 at Millers Cross
C. Canby
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,)

TO WIT.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent *

Elizabeth Morrison
on her oath saith, I am a the wife of Sydney George Morrison
residing at Shingleton Street, Camberwell

I did not know deceased. On the night of the 12th instant I passed the place where I subsequently found her about 9.30. On my return abt 5 minutes to eleven I saw her lying on the footpath near Mr. Jones's fence. I shook her as from she was cold in the face as I believed dead. I went for a constable and not finding one I had to leave, but I informed some other people. There was a stick lying by her side. I saw some blood about the pavement.

Elizabeth Morrison
J

Taken and Sworn before me, the 20th day
of February 18 at Malborough
Canterbury
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

This Deponent *

on h^{is} oath saith, I am a

residing at

George Vickers
Constable Station

Collingwood

* Christian and Surname in full.

On the night of the 72nd inst about 9.20. I saw the deceased Catherine Smith sitting in a doorway in Victoria Parade Collingwood. I asked her what she was doing. She said she was getting home. She did not appear to be drunk. She had a stick with her. She started to get up as I left her. She seemed to be lame. About 11.30 that evening it was reported that a woman had been found in Myington Street. I went and saw it was the same woman. She sticks was lying alongside her. I saw a little blood on the pavement. I removed her to the Hospital. I searched her pockets and found 1/9 and a seal of C.M.W. Her clothing was all in order. There was nothing to indicate violence.

George Vickers
Constable 1744

Taken and Sworn before me, the 28th day
of February 1891 at Collingwood
C. Canfield
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

This Deponent *

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

John Gleeson

His clothes and hat

Station at Milwood

* Christian and Surname in full.

I saw deceased on the night of the 22nd instant in Brighton Street. I smelt alcohol on her. There was a clot of congealed blood about three feet from the deceased on the curb stone and the path was wet with water which appeared to have come from deceased. I saw the umbrella handle protruding from the deceased. Next day Mr. Jones pointed out the spot where he saw a woman sitting. It was where deceased's body was found. I have been unable to find the woman found who was the woman directed to the Home that night by the deceased. I took charge of the umbrella handle. There has been no noise or disturbance in the neighbourhood that night, so far as I could discover. There were no signs of any struggle whatever. I am satisfied there has been no criminal injury.

J. Gleeson
Cont. 3409

Taken and Sworn before me, the 20th day
of February 1891 at Melbourne
C. Canty
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA, }

TO WIT. }

This Deponent *

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

Walter Joseph Craig
legally qualified surgeon
The Melbourne Hospital

I have heard the evidence
 given. It would have been quite sufficient for the
 wound in the vagina to have been caused by the
 frame of the umbrella being produced. If she had
 been getting up or attempting to get up she might have
 fallen on the end of the stick and it might have slipped
 into the vagina and have torn the vagina. The wound was
 lacerated - not incised. Deceased might have lived
 half an hour after the wound was caused. It was
 not necessarily fatal. It would not have caused
 death in a healthy person. There was nothing to
 show that any attempt at rape had been made.

W. J. Craig

Taken and Sworn before me, the 20th day
 of February 1891 at Melbourne
C. Canby
 Coroner.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

INQUISITION.

Colony of Victoria, }
to wit.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at
The Melbourne Hospital, Melbourne in
the Colony of Victoria aforesaid, the *fourteenth and twentieth* days
of *February* A.D. 188*7* in the *fifty third* year of
the Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me *Samuel*

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

Curtis Canby

Gentleman, a*

Coroner

of our Lady the Queen for the said Colony, upon the view of the body of

(C.C.) Catherine Charlotte Smith

then

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

John Leverette
William Symonds
Fredrick Tilt
John O'Donnell
James Brooks
William Knapp

good and lawful men of

Melbourne

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

Charlotte

‡ His or her.

Catherine Smith

came by ‡ her death, do say upon their oath

§ 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.

on the 12th of February 1891, at
Chingwood, she was found dead - having
died from a wound in the vagina
but there is no evidence to show how
it was caused

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.

C. Cusby

(L.S.)

Coroner

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

J. G. Greville

(L.S.)

W. Symons

(L.S.)

J. R. Gill

(L.S.)

John A. Drennell

(L.S.)

Jas Brooks

(L.S.)

W. Knapp

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)

(L.S.)