

31
January 14th 1881

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST
held upon the body of

Johann Andreas
Molboe Böttger

at

Portland

Received at the Crown Law Offices,
January 17th 1881

Received
17th Jan 1881

J. Frost J.P.

At a Magisterial Inquiry
held before me this fourteenth
day of January 1881 at the Court
House Portland on the body of
Johann Andreas Adolph Böttger
Museum of Portland
the annexed evidence of F J Zimmerman
A J Zimmerman, G Lamb, J R Evans
Henry Edmond Brewer and
A C Dempster was taken - after
hearing which I am of the
opinion that the said J A Böttger
deceased committed suicide ^{by jumping}
by jumping down a well while temporarily
insane from the effects of drink -

Wm. M. P.
Clerk

Frank Joseph Tscheslock.
Zimmernheim. Swom oath
I am a clerk residing at
Olney N. H. and
stepson of the deceased J. A.
Bottger. I recollect the 13th inst
I saw my stepfather on that
day. he was drunk in the Club
Hotel. I spoke to him and
told him that he should not be
drinking and that it was a great
shame for him to carry on so.
No high words passed. I
never struck him in my life -
I did not threaten him in any way -
I did not see anyone strike him.
I went home with him about
6 o'clock in the evening - he was
quite drunk. Could not walk straight.
When we got home he wanted
to go to get more drunk but I
refused to let him and took him
on to the back verandah and took
his shoes off. On my telling him
that it was a great shame of him
to drink so he said "Graz my
"dear son I will never drink again".
I went down the garden and
while there shortly after heard
the door of the well open. I looked
round and saw my stepfather
drop down the well. I went to
the well raised the door and
lowered the bucket - but he took

no notice of it. he did not move
while in the water. I got assistance
at once to get him out. When assistance
arrived. Mr Lumb lowered me down
the well I put a rope around
the body and we pulled it up -
I think life was extinct then -
The doctor arrived immediately
after. I was always on good terms
with my stepfather -

To the preceding
Magistrate

About 8 or 10 minutes elapsed
between my father falling down the
well and his being got out -

The well contained 6 ft 6 in
of water and the water was 20 feet
from the surface. The well is
circular and is 5 ft in diameter

The door of the well was closed
when my father went to it -

Taken and sworn
before me at Portland
this 14 day of January
1887

W. H. Himmelman

W. H. Himmelman

August 4th H. J. Zimmerman sworn
Sath.

I am a clerk residing
in Stray St Portland and
stepson of the deceased J. A. Botger
I remember the 12th of August -
I saw my stepfather ^{at} the
Club Hotel on that day - he was
quite drunk - I told him it was
wrong to be drinking - he struck
me over the hat with his walking
stick - I took the stick away
from him and broke it.

I did not threaten my father -

I went home - my father arrived
home between 12 past 5 of the clock
He was still drunk - He came
on the veranda and then went
round to the gate and said he would
go up now - my brother Frank
put him back - I afterwards
saw him go inside to the bedroom
and go to one of the drawers and
come back - I saw him go to the
well he removed the rope and
bucket and caught hold of the
stay of the window with the
right hand and raised the door
of the well with his left - He sat
down and then dropped in - I
had no time to stop him - I
thought he was going there for water
My brother came to the well and
tried to haul him the rope but his

face was under the water - I ran
then for the police and a doctor -

I lived on pretty fair terms with my
stepfather.

About two minutes elapsed
from the time my father left the
house and dropped down the well.

When he dropped I gave the alarm
and sent my brother for help.

Taken and sworn before
me at Portland this
14 day of January 1887

A. Zimmerman

Wm. M. Usher Jr.

George Lamb sworn south
I am a butcher
residing in Olney Street - I
recall being sent for to go to
Mr Böttger's on the evening of the
12th inst - I went over and found
Fritz Zimmerman at the well with
the rope and bucket ^{out} down the
well - I saw the deceased
Böttger in the well - We hauled
up the rope and lowered Fritz
into the well - and pulled Böttger
up. I think he was dead then -
We laid the body on the veranda
until the doctor came - I saw
the deceased sitting on the kerb-stone
with his two sons about ten minutes
before - he appeared to be suffering
from drink - I saw Fritz catch
hold of him and take him inside
to the back of the house - I saw
nothing more until I was sent for -
My residence is about 3 chimneys
from Böttger's - I went ~~immediately~~ as
soon I found out it was a
suicide case - The body was about
five minutes on the veranda before
the doctor arrived - We did not
take any steps to restore life before
the doctor arrived as I made sure
he was dead -

Taken and sworn
before me this 14 day
of January 1887 } George Lamb

Notary Public

John Russell Evans sworn said
I am a Contractor
residing at the Club Hotel Portland
I knew the deceased Botger he
kept a billiard table at the Club
Hotel - I saw him there on the 12th
inst. he was lying asleep in the billiard
room about 4 or 5 o'clock pm.
Augustus Zimmerman came afterwards
~~I saw him~~ about 5 o'clock pm.
The deceased and Augustus Zimmerman
quarrelled - Botger hit the son over
the head with a stick - Botger
had some words with the son - he
alluded to something that happened
some time ago in Portland - Zimmerman
took the stick from the deceased
and threw it out of the door - I
persuaded Botger to go home - Frank
Zimmerman came up shortly after
and asked Botger for the keys of the
Billiard room - he gave them to him -
he then went home. August Zimmerman
said "I will see you when you get
home" to his stepfather - Botger did
not have a drink in the Club Hotel
to my knowledge since the Prohibition
order -

Taken and sworn
before me this 14th day of
January 1887

J. J. Evans

Wm. A. A. Jr.

Henry Edmundo Brewer

Soon after I am a
legally qualified medical
practitioner residing at Portland
Shortly after 6 o'clock pm on
the 12 inst. August Zimmerman
Carmichael asked me to go to his
mother's house as his father had
jumped down the well - I
went at once - I found Bottger's
body lying on the veranda at
the back of the house - he
appeared to be dead - his ears
and lips were blue and on
listening with a stethoscope at
the heart I could hear no
movement whatever - I at once
used the usual modes of resuscitating
drowned people - Some clear
water came out of his mouth
but he never showed the remotest
sign of living - after some
time I gave up the attempt
as useless - I consider that
he being there 20 minutes in the
water before being taken out was
quite enough to kill any person
beyond hope - I did not at the
time see any injury to his head
but this morning I was told when
they were putting him into the coffin
they found a little blood on the
pillow his head was resting on
There was a little patch of blood

about the size of the palm of
my hand on the pillow and
on examining the back of his head
- the lower part - there was I found
a bump with a very small cut
in the head - no swelling around
it - I think it was probably
made by hitting down the well -
It may have skinned him and
prevented him taking hold of the
rope when it was lowered to him -
The well is so narrow and deep that
I think it scarcely possible to go
down without hitting the walls in
some way - I considered the chances
met his death by drowning -
I did not notice any but the
one bump on the body as I did not
strip him -

I considered him dead
at first although I tried the
usual modes of resuscitation - There
was but little heat remaining in the
body when I first saw it -

Taken and sworn before
me at Portland this
14 day of January 1881

B. B. Brewster
Surgeon

W. M. M. S. P.
Ans

Alexander Dempster sworn
Sath.

I am a Sergeant in
Charge of the Police at Portland.
On the evening of the 13th inst about
6 o'clock August Zimmerman
reported to me that his stepfather
had jumped into the well and
drowned himself. I immediately
went to the house and saw Const
Young there with the body. D'Barne
was trying to restore life but failed.
I saw the body stripped and
removed to one of the rooms.
I examined it but saw no
marks of violence on it - where -
The throat was little blue -

Taken and sworn before } A. C. Dempster
on the 14th day of January }
1887

W. M. W. S. P.