

1790

31st December 1890

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST

held upon the body of

William Carson

at

Widana

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

9th January 1891

3

H. Williams

J. S.

Coroner.

Niduna

31. 12. 90

Report & Deposition

Re Inquest

Inquiry on the body of
W^m Clarson who committed
Suicide on the 30. 12. 90 by
shooting himself in the region of
the heart with a gun

Inquiry was held
by H Williams Esq JP on
the 31. 12. 90 "Verdict
that"; W^m Clarson died from
a gun shot which was self
inflicted on the 30. 12. 90

The Secretary
Green & Co
Dept
Mellum

See Deposition

Master Court 2836

Findings of the Court of Inquiries
held on the body of William
Blarson at Milwaukee on the
31st day of December 1890

I find that the death
of the said William Blarson was
caused by a gun shot wound
inflicted by himself while in a
state of extreme mental depression.

Henry William J. P.

Fugedura

Station. North Western Police District.

30th December 1890.

REPORT of Const Carter 3836

relative to a Case of Suicide at
the Office of the Fugedura Cultivator
Newspaper at about 4 am on
the 30th inst

I have to report
that at 4³⁰ am this day J. Isherwood
reported the Suicide of William Clarkson
at the above named place, I at
once went and found Clarkson
lying on the office floor with
a gun shot wound in the left
side below the heart through which
the bowels were protruding Clarkson
was then alive and conscious upon
seeing me he said "Carter don't make
any mistake it's my fault nobody is
to blame", he was in great pain
& complained of having a pain some days
previously in his head, Dr. Hill was
in attendance but could do nothing
owing to the desperate state of the wound
Dressed & lingered till about 3³⁰ pm
today and then died

A. Carter Const 3836

Will attend at 10 am

H. Williams J. P.

I am added for the information of
H. Williams Esq J. P.Carter
Const 3836

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

* Christian and Surname in full.

This Deponent *

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

Robert Isherwood
labourer
4111th Street Mildura

on the 30th inst at 4¹⁵ am
I was on the F. S. pearl
near the Cultivator Office
I heard a report of a gun
I was then called by Mr
George C. Haffey who said
me into the Cultivator Office
Clarson has shot himself while
I get assistance, I went into the office & saw
Clarson sitting in a chair
he asked me for a drink of
water which I gave him
he then lifted the skirt of
his coat & showed me
a wound on his left
side he then said lay me
down quick I helped
him from the chair to
the floor and made him
comfortable soon afterwards
he said "its all my own
fault" and something like
see that no one gets
blamed I remained with him
till the Doctor Hill arrived which
was about (4) Seven minutes

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

Continued

(2)

I then called on Mr. Hart's attention and left the office for my work.

I saw Mr. Geo. Chaffey walking along the river bank at the time I heard the report of the gun he was about (30) thirty yards from the Cultivator Office at that time.

When I entered the office I saw a double barrel break down of me standing at Carlson's left hand and the room was full of the smell of gun powder smoke. I did not examine the gun.

R. Johnson

Taken & Sworn before me
this 31st December 1890
at this place

Henry Williams J.P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent *

Charles Herbert Stillon his oath saith, I am a legally qualified medical practitioner
residing at Mildura

Was summoned on the 30th of December at 4.45
a.m. to attend the deceased William Claron.

Found him lying on the floor of the "Mildura
Cultivator" office: ~~with~~ He was pale but fully
conscious and he stated that he had shot himself.

On examination I found a wound penetrating
the abdomen near the pit of the stomach & somewhat
to the left of the midline. The opening passed towards
the left and terminated in a ragged opening
about the level of the 8th rib and from this opening
a large mass of bruised omentum protruded together
with a coil of intestine. The charge besides opening
into the abdominal cavity had passed through
the cartilage of the ribs as I found some fragments
of cartilage at the point of exit, also some chips of the
bone of the rib. The wound was of so severe a
nature and the consequent shock so great that merely
palliative measures were taken; and he succumbed
at about 2.20 p.m. of the same day.

The deceased directed my attention to the fact
that the gun standing by was the one he had used
against himself and that there was still a loaded
cartridge in the gun. This cartridge I removed, as
well as the empty case of the one recently fired.
The cause of death was shock consequent upon the
gunshot wound. ~~Deceased~~ The clothes of deceased
were much burnt from the proximity of the discharge.

Taken and Sworn before me, the 31st day

of

December

1890 at

MilduraHenry Williams

Coroner.

Charles Herbert Still

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

* Christian and
surname in
full.

This Deponent*

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

Jathaniel Peckley H.C. Hay

Journalist

My address Avenue Lodge

I know the deceased William Clarkson. He was in my employ as sub-editor of the Cultivator. At about eight o'clock on the morning of the 30th Decr. Constable Carter sent a messenger to me to request me to come to the printing office. As Mr. Clarkson had shot himself I at once went down. The deceased was lying on the office floor, bleeding from a large wound in the stomach. I asked if it had been caused by an accident. Clarkson at once spoke, saying "No I did it intentionally. I tried to make friends and I found myself without any after long years of toil and trouble." I remained with him during ^{most of} the forenoon and he conversed at intervals with me. He asked me to inform the Rev. Mr. Stoney on his arrival at Muldura that the proposal contained in his letter had deceased's full concurrence. I several times heard him refer to the fact that he had destroyed himself. He said that on the previous day (Monday) he had suffered from excruciating pains in the head, which almost drove him mad. On the morning of the 30th he felt the pains returning and rather than undergo them again he immediately shot himself. I am aware that for several months previous to his decease he had been distracted by private troubles. He owed several persons small sums of money, and he had expected to have paid them out of the proceeds of a lawsuit he recently brought against a local settler. The failure of this suit seemed to completely break him down, and he had latterly fallen into ~~fits~~ habits of gloomy abstraction. I also

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

See over

2/
Know that he was worried by other family
troubles and it is my belief that the strain
of these together with his financial difficulties
unhinged his mind, and led him to com-
mit the deed which resulted in his death.

A. B. McKay

Taken & sworn before
me this 31st December 1890
at Medina

Henry Williams J. P.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,)



TO WIT.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent *

on his oath saith, I am a

residing at

John Thomas

Clergman

Melburn

I was the Deceased, from
1.30 pm 30th inst till the
time of his death about (30)
twenty minutes past (2) two
pm. He was conscious
until shortly before his death
he made no reference ^{to his condition} other than
he had troubles before him
which he saw no way
of meeting

John Thomas

Taken and Sworn before me, the 31st day
of Dec 1890 at Melburn

Henry Williams
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 53.]

Widdura
COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

* Christian and
Surname in
full.

This Deponent *

Ambrose Carter
on his oath saith, I am a *Police Constable*
residing at *Pine Avenue Widdura*

at 4³⁰ am on *Black 30th December 1890*
Robert Isherwood reported the case
~~suicide~~ now under inquiry I at
once went to Office of the *Widdura*
Cultivator Newspaper and there found
the Deceased *William Clarkson* lying
on the floor of the Office. He *Clarkson*
said "Carter don't make any mistake
it's my fault nobody is to blame" he
was then very weak and said he was in
great pain. *Dr. Hill* was present in attendance,
in the corner of the Office was this gun
produced it appeared to have been recently
discharged in the flight barrel, on the Office
table I found this empty Cartridge. Also the
full one upon making an examination of
the Deceased I found that he was wounded
in the stomach below the heart and on the
left side the *Bowells* were protruding
these ~~shots~~ ^{wounds} ~~were~~ ^{appeared} to have been self inflicted and
the muzzle of the Gun must have been very
close to the deceased's stomach the clothing
worn was burnt and the Shot or some of it
lodged in one of the walls near the ceiling
at 10 am we removed Deceased to a more comfortable
place. he lived till about 2³⁰ pm and then died

Taken and Sworn before me, the *31st* day
of *December* 1890 at *Widdura*
Henry Williams J.P.
Coroner.

A. Carter
Constable 3836