

226.

29th March 1865.

PROCEEDINGS of Inquest held

upon the body of

Ann Watson

at

Arreca

Received at the Crown Law Offices,

5th April 1865

W. H. R.

✓

Edward Hordley Coroner.

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

INQUISITION.

District of Avoca in the Colony of Victoria } TO WIT.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at Avoca in the Colony of Victoria the 29 of March A.D. 1865, the day of A.D. 1865, in the year of the Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me Leonard Worsley

• City, Town, County, or District, as the case may be.

Gentleman, a Coroner of our Lady the Queen for the District of Avoca, upon the view of the body of Ann Watson then

† Jurors' Christian and Surname in full.

and there lying dead, upon the oaths of †

- Richard English
Henry Owers
Edward Stowe
John Jennings
James McLean
John Kearney
Alexander Finlay
Ann Watson Brown
Robert Coultts
William Oldham
Frank Meutha

good and lawful men of Avoca 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 Ann Watson came

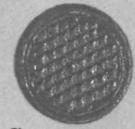
His or her. § Here state cause of death, if known; if unknown, doubtful, or no evidence, state the fact accordingly, using the words of the Verdict of the Jury. It is desirable that the Jury should find expressly, whether there are or are not marks of external violence on the body of deceased.

by † her death, do say upon their oath that § the deceased Ann Watson came by her death by in cautiously taking an over quantity of

Inquisition on the morning of Wednesday
March the 29th 1865 at Avoca
in the County of Victoria

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.

Levin Wastley



Coroner.

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

George Fisher
Henry Jones
Edward Stone
John Jennings
Thomas Brown
James Wilson
John Kearney
Alexander Gordon
Giles Brown
Robert Court
William Aldham
Frankie Smith



CORONER'S INQUEST.

DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

District of Avoca
in that County of Wick
To Wit.

THE Examination of* John Watson

* All names of Witnesses.

of Avoca, taken on oath this 29th
day of March A.D. 1865, at Avoca aforesaid

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said † District of Avoca

The Deponent John Watson

on his oath, saith as follows:—

I am the son of the
deceased Anne Watson. I have
three Brothers living older than myself.
I remember Tuesday the 28th of March 1865
I was at home with my mother at Avoca
about five o'clock yesterday evening -
she was up and going about the house -
I have a Father but he has been away from
home at work for more than two months -
I went to bed about half past eight last evening
and so did brother that is the deceased. We
slept in the same room - I got up the next
morning the Wednesday the 29th just after light -
I saw my mother - she was awake but not up -
As I was getting up I saw my mother take a
glass tumbler in one hand from a shelf within
reach of her hand from the bed and a bottle
in the other hand which she had just procured -
she desired me to get the beer from a cupboard in
the bed room referred to - There was a dark
coloured liquid in the bottle, - I saw her simply all
the said liquid into the glass she held in her hand
as before stated - She then drank all the liquid the
had poured into the glass. I then took the glass
and the bottle from my mother by her direction
and put them on the table in the bed room to be
of a person slept in the bed room but myself

Taken and sworn before me the

day of

A.D. 1865

at

Coroner.

and my brother - My mother then told
me to go for Detsy meaning young Mrs.
Niles - I went - first - to Mrs Harding first -
because she was nearest - and told her
that mother had taken some Laudanum -
I knew it - was Laudanum because my mother
called it - by that name when she told
me to fetch the bottle before referred to -
Mrs Harding told me to go to Mrs Niles -
the younger / I went - & told Mrs Niles my
mother had taken some Laudanum
& she sent me for Dr Morris - I went -
to find him at his house but he
was not - at home - I returned to Mrs
Niles & told her I could not find
Dr Morris - She then sent me for
Dr W. Mahon - I saw him & he came
down to mother's in about an hour
afterwards - When I got home I found
my brother Mrs Farnsworth Mrs
Harding Mrs Williams and Mrs Wolf -
& young Mrs Niles - Mrs Farnsworth
told me mother was dead - About two

weeks before my brother's death old Mrs
Wiles gave me a bottle of some dark liquid
to give to my brother. I was at this time at
^{young} Mrs Wiles house and old Mrs Wiles was
there - This is the bottle of liquid referred to
as having been given to my brother by me at
her direction on the evening in question. The
bottle was produced in the one piece which
has before mentioned liquid was taken
about a fortnight previous to my brother's death
He took about twenty drops of the dark
liquid referred to and twenty drops of
Camphor in pure water. I never saw
my brother take any more of the dark
liquid referred to until the evening mentioned.
My brother was not in the habit of taking
Laudanum as far as I knew at any other
time but the one above mentioned -
My brother was not always when bed -
I think she was last evening when
she went to bed - I went to school
yesterday morning to Mr. Wittich's at
9 o'clock and returned home at five
in the evening - -
By a surgeon - My little brother she is about seven

CORONER'S INQUEST.

DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

District of Waco
in the County of Victoria
To Wit.

* All names of Witnesses.

THE Examination of *Elizabeth Harding*

of *Waco*, taken on oath this *29th*
day of *March* A.D. 1865, at *Waco aforesaid*
before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said *District of Waco*

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

The Deponent *Elizabeth Harding*
on his oath, saith as follows:— I am the wife of

James Harding of Waco Texas -
I knew the deceased John Watson
had known her about three years previous
to her death - I saw her last alive yesterday
the 28th of March about ten o'clock in
the forenoon. She was just come over to my
house. She stopped about ten minutes -
she complained of Dyspepsia - He said she
could go home and take a little Sassafras
and Brandy - I cautioned her against taking
too much - She then left my place - I did not
see her again until this morning. I went to
her house about eight o'clock in consequence
of the first witness John Watson having come to
me on that morning and told me another had
been taking Sassafras - I told him to go and
tell Mrs. Miles the younger her Daughter - He went
and returned about ten minutes afterwards (Mrs. Miles the younger)
will not come. About ten minutes after the witness
John Watson had left me, I together with Mrs.

Taken and sworn before me the
day of _____ A.D. 1865 }
at _____

Coroner. T

Mr. Williams & Mr. Farasworth
went to the deceased's house - In
going in, I saw the deceased in her bed -
she was alone - Mr. Williams smacked
deceased's hand - she made no sign -
she appeared to be just-breathing, and
she expired - We remained in the deceased's
room for half an hour after her death -
we opened the door of deceased's room
which is in the front ~~door~~ and screamed
in the direction of her husband's house which
is about fifty or seventy yards away -
Mr. Luffish came and said he would go for
the police - we remained until the
police arrived and then left - The deceased
had a short struggle before she died - Her
was convulsed and her limbs became
drawn up and apparently rigid and the
died lying on her back with the limbs
as described - Had known deceased for
thirty years previous - I believe she
was in the habit of drinking to excess
at times - Immediately after the deceased
expired we sent the little boy John Wilson

for Mrs Miles the younger, and she came
in about twenty minutes after - Left
the deceased house alone Mr. Williams
and Mrs Farlowth remaining behind
as also Mrs Miles the younger.

Taken and sworn
before me the 29th day
of March A.D. 1865 at
Tooca in the County of
Victoria

Elizabeth

Howard

John W. H. H. H.
Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 66.]

DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

District of Aroona
in the Colony of Victoria
To Wit.

* All names of Witnesses.

THE Examination of* *Ann Miles*

of *Aroona*, taken on oath this *29th*
day of *March* A.D. 1865, at *Aroona aforesaid*

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said † *District of Aroona*
The Deponent *Ann Miles* *Jan a Widow*
on his oath, saith as follows:—

I live in *Aroona* - at present - at *Mr.*
Das Nat's - *Daker* - I knew the deceased
Ann Watson - I saw her about 3 weeks
since - she was then up and well tho'
she complained slightly of *depression*
I asked her had she taken any thing for
it - she said, I have, but did not tell
me what it was but that she was as better -
I asked her how taken - she said *Campor* -
Have you tried *Sassafras* and *Campor* -
she said *No* - I told her I thought *Campor*
and *Sassafras* would be a great relief
to her - she said, I will take it if you will
get a *Shilling's* worth of each, will send
the little boy up for it - in the morning - He
came and I got it - from *Mr. Good* - *Mr.*
Chemist - a *Shilling's* worth of *Campor* and
a *Shilling's* worth of *Sassafras* - *Mr. Potter*
then produced *to the best of my belief* the
Potter in which the *Sassafras* referred to -
I gave the *Potter* of *Sassafras* and the *Campor*

Taken and sworn before me the

day of
at

A.D. 186

Coroner.

As the latter being a bottle similar to
that containing the Laudanum to the
Child Mrs Watson, I saw the deceased
three days after wards, she said she
had not taken any of the Laudanum
& Camphor for fear of over sleeping
herself. I do not know what were Mrs.
Watson's general habits, whether sober
or otherwise - I do not know whether
she was in the habit of taking Laudanum
or whether she took any of the Laudanum
in question. - I have known the
deceased for about five years - She
has a husband surviving her I believe.
I do not know the age of the deceased
It is about a fortnight last - I saw her
I saw the deceased about -

By a Jurymen. Friday previous to my sending
the Camphor and Laudanum referred
to, to the deceased, I saw her and told her
about 20 drops ~~each~~ of each, that is
Camphor and Laudanum would be
a proper quantity to take at one time.

Taken and sworn before me
the 29th day of March A.D.
1865 at noon in the County
Victoria }
Leon Wasley
Esq. J. C. J.

Ern Miles

CORONER'S INQUEST.

DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

District of Avoca
in the Colony of Victoria
To Wit.

THE Examination of* *William Goodshaw*

* All names of Witnesses.

of *Avoca*, taken on oath this *29th*
day of *March* A.D. 1865, at *Avoca aforesaid*

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said † *District of Avoca*
The Deponent *William Goodshaw*
on his oath, saith as follows:— *I am a Chemist*

and Druggist residing at Avoca.
I know Mrs Miles (a former witness in this Inquest
and now in Court) - Remembers her coming into
my Shop about a fortnight since - She applied
for a Shilling's worth of Laudanum and a
Shilling's worth of Camphor - I served her each
quantity named - a Shilling's worth of Laudanum
is half an ounce in quantity - The Bottle was
produced resembles the one in which I
furnished the Laudanum referred to. In my
opinion if twenty Drops of the quantity named
had been poured off, the remainder would
be a sufficient dose to destroy life taken
into the Stomach at one time - I have no doubt
of such an effect unless the person
taking it - had been accustomed to take
doses of Laudanum

Wm Goodshaw

Taken and sworn before me the *29th*
day of *March* A.D. 1865,
at *Avoca in the Colony*
of Victoria

Sam Warley

Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

District of Aroona
in the Colony of Victoria
To WIT.

* All names of Witnesses.

THE Examination of* John W. Mahon

of Aroona, taken on oath this 29th
day of March A.D. 1865, at Aroona aforesaid

† City, Town, District, or County,
as the case may be.

before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said † District of Aroona
The Deponent John W. Mahon
on his oath, saith as follows:—

Dr. Wm. Brown

I am a legally qualified
Medical Practitioner. I was called in
this town ^{Wednesday the 29th March} about ten o'clock to see
the deceased. I arrived about half
an hour afterwards. She was quite
dead. I should say she had been dead
for about two hours previously. She
was getting cold. She might have been
dead only an hour. I have heard the
deceased die in convulsions and that
her limbs were drawn up and rigid.
Such appearances would be produced
sometimes by Laudanum. The
quantity of Laudanum taken by the deceased
was sufficient to produce death.

John W. Mahon
Surgeon

Taken and sworn before me the 29th
day of March A.D. 1865,
at Aroona in the Colony
of Victoria

Geo. Worsley
Coroner.