

Proceedings of Inquest

[No. 60. Stereo. CORONER'S INQUEST. Smythesdale District Colony of Victoria, |

This Deponent* **James Smith** on his oath saith, I am a **Farmer** TO WIT | residing at Livingston I have known the deceased **Samuel Gardner** for about ten years, he had a small farm adjoining mine, he used to work in the bush occasionally, splitting - It is quite an out of the way place where he lived, he was 46 years of age a native of Oxfordshire England, was married and had eight children. Yesterday morning a daughter of the deceased - (about 10 or 12 years of age) came to my house about four o'clock in the morning she asked me to come to her Father, she thought he was dead, I got up and went with her to her house - I got a light, I thought he was dead but was not certain, his wife was at Charlton six miles off, I went there, saw her, she went home and I went to Beaufort and reported to the Police. Livingston is about five miles from here quite in the bush, I brought the body of deceased here to day at the request of the Constable, the daughter that came to me yesterday is not well enough to come here to day. I have heard that deceased was unwell a little during the winter, but never heard that he was seriously ill - he was a sober man and industrious. Taken and Sworn before me, the thirtieth day | of September , 18 75, at Waterloo > James Smith Thos Hopper | Coroner.

[No. 60. Stereo. CORONER'S INQUEST. Smythesdale District Colony of Victoria, | This Deponent* **Henry Dillon Croker**> on his oath saith, I am a legally qualified **Medical Practitioner** TO WIT | residing at Beaufort I have this day made a Post Mortem examination of the Body of the deceased **Samuel Gardner**, there are no external marks of violence, the Body is dropsical all over, the stomach is healthy no food in it, the other organs of the abdomen, are healthy, the lungs are healthy, examining the heart I found the pericardium enormously distended on cutting it open I found it filled with blood serum and a large quantity of clotted blood, examining the heart I found a rupture of the right auricle, the heart itself was diseased the ----- all altered from fatty degeneration, this disease of the heart that caused dropsy, and the rupture I have described was the immediate cause of death H. D. Croker Taken and Sworn before me, the thirtieth day | of September , 18 75, at Waterloo > Thos Hopper | Coroner.

[No. 60. Stereo. CORONER'S INQUEST. Smythesdale District Colony of Victoria, | This Deponent* **Thomas Meagher**> on his oath saith, I am a **Constable of Police** TO WIT | residing at Beaufort I went to Livingston yesterday in consequence of a report of a Suppoena sudden death - reported by **James Smith**, I went to the house of the deceased **Samuel Gardner**, I saw he was dead, the wife of deceased told me she was not at home at the time of his death only one daughter a girl of 11 years of age who is too unwell to come here to-day, Mrs Gardner could not give any evidence as her husband was dead when she arrived at home. Deceased was 43 year of age, he had been married nineteen years - eight children - married in Ballarat The house was in a filthy state, one of the daughter's has had an illegitimate child and is pregnant again - altogether they seemed to have been living in a sad state, deceased was working on Saturday last, he had been ailing a bit in the winter. By the Jury The daughter who is too ill to come here told me she had been bathing her father with hot cloths during the night as he complained of being very cold and

painful. Taken and Sworn before me, the thirtieth day | of September , 18 75, at
Waterloo > Thomas Meagher, P Const. Thos Hopper | Coroner.

[No. 64. PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS. INQUISITION.

Smythesdale District Colony of Victoria |> to Wit | AN Inquisition for our Sovereign
Lady Queen Victoria, taken at the Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo in the Colony of Victoria
aforesaid, the thirtieth day of September A. D. 187 5 in the thirty ninth year of the
Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me Thomas Hopper Gentleman, a *
District Coroner of our Lady the Queen for the said Colony, upon the view of the
body of Samuel Gardner then and there lying dead, upon the oaths of † James
Gibbs, Foreman Daniel Smith William Hinchliff George Simons John Jones James
Frusher Joseph Frusher Joseph Frusher Junr Robert Graham William Watt William
Heath Edward Smith good and lawful men of Waterloo in the said Colony, who being
duly sworn and charged to inquire, upon the part of our Lady the Queen, when,
where, howm and by what means the said Samuel Gardner came by ‡ his death, do
say upon their oath that § we find that the deceased Samuel Gardner died at
Livingston on the twenty ninth day of September 1875 from rupture of the right
Auricle. In witness whereof as well the aforesaid Coroner as Jurors aforesaid, have
to this Inquisition put their hands and seals, on the day and year at the place above
mentioned. Thomas Hopper ø Coroner Here let each Juror sign his * James Gibbs,
Foreman ø own name, or make his own Daniel Smith ø mark, and affix or
acknowledge William Hinchliffe ø his seal. George Simons ø John Jones ø James
Frusher ø Joseph Frusher ø Joseph Frusher Junior ø Robert Graham ø William Watt
ø William Heath ø his Edward X Smith ø mark Witness for E. Smiths mark James
Gillies