[1456] [11 March 1846]

Van Diemen's Land

(to wit.)

**An Inquisition** indented taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen at the House of *Henry Reading* known by the sign of the *Edinburgh Castle* at *Launceston* in the County of *Cornwall* within the Island of Van Diemen's Land this *Eleventh* day of *March* in the *Ninth* year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lady Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen Defender of the Faith before me *Arthur Gardiner* Esquire, one of the Coroners of our said Lady the Queen for the said Island and its Dependencies on view of the Body of *Samuel Stanford* then and there lying dead upon the Oaths of

*James Courtney, Corbet Leigh, James Gould, George Alexander,*

*Thomas Gould, Adam Yates, and William Megson*

good and lawful men of the said Island and duly chosen and who being then and there duly sworn and charged to enquire for our said Lady the Queen when where how and after what manner the said *Samuel Stanford* came to *his* death do upon their Oath say THAT *the said Samuel Stanford on the Ninth day of March in the year aforesaid at Launceston in the County aforesaid died from natural causes and not otherwise.*

And so the Jurors aforesaid upon their Oath aforesaid do say that the said *Samuel Stanford* came to *his* Death in the manner and by the means aforesaid and not otherwise IN WITNESS whereof as well the said Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid have to this Inquisition set their Hands and Seals the day and year and place above mentioned.

*A Gardiner* Coroner.

 *James Courtney* Foreman *Thomas Gould*

 *Corbet Leigh Adam Yates*

 *James Gould William Megson*

 *George Alexander*

The information on Oath of Hannah Beck who saith:

I reside in Wellington Street Launceston. I knew the deceased for several years about the town. He has been residing in a cottage next door to me for several weeks. He has complained for the last week of being very unwell and unable to prepare any food for himself and has had occasional(?) \_\_(?) from gruel and broth and warm water. I have seen the neighbour take him also necessaries of various kinds.

On the 9th instant I missed him from his residence. I know nothing further of him.

The body I have this [day] …

**---oo0oo---**

… day is the same.

The deceased told me that he [was] placed by Doctor Browne in the cottage to take care of it. Doctor Browne owns the cottage. During the deceased residence in the cottage I never was inside. He never complained to me of want but that received supplies weekly from the Benevolent Society. He never complained of want of bed or bedding.

I never saw Doctor Browne call at the cottage during the deceased residence there. He might have called but I never saw him.

*[vertical text] Deceased has said to me that he had no fire nor wood to make any.*

**---oo0oo---**

[any] I never saw the deceased visited by any medical men but he has told upon several occasions that he was going(?) for medicine but when he did not say.

Hannah Beck

*Taken and sworn before me the 11th March 1846.*

*A Gardiner*

*Coroner*

*[ Rev William Henry BROWNE, LLD – Chaplain of St John's, Launceston 1828-1868 ]*

The information on Oath of “Samuel Hopkins” who saith:

I have charge of St John’s Hospital at Launceston. On Monday last the Reverend Doctor Browne called on me at the Hospital. He directed me to go to Wellington Street to one of his houses and to get an old man that was lying there and bring him into hospital. I got a cart and on my arrival at the house I found the deceased lying in the yard just outside the back door. There was a \_\_(?) shirt(?) under his head. There was no [one] …

**---oo0oo---**

… one with him.

He endeavoured to speak to me but could not. He has never spoken since. He died at three o’clock yesterday morning. He had been about 15 hours in hospital. I gave him by Doctor Pugh’s orders a little neat brandy and water nothing more & gave him a warm bath.

When I arrived at the House I went into it. There are three rooms in it but there was neither bed or bedding in either. There was a few old pieces of blue sheet [or shirt?].

When I was putting [deceased] …

**---oo0oo---**

… deceased into the bath I noticed that his private parts were much diseased indeed I did not keep him long in the bath on that account. I was fearful he might die in it.

S Hopkins

*Taken and sworn before me 11th March 1846*

*A Gardiner*

*Coroner*

*[ Dr William Russ PUGH – Medical practitioner, Launceston 1836-1851 ]*

The information on Oath of William Russ Pugh Esq who saith:

I am a Doctor of Medicine and reside in Launceston. On Monday the 9th instant Doctor Browne called upon me at St John’s Hospital and requested me to receive a person who was lying very ill in a house of his in Wellington Street and begged that I would send as soon as possible for him. I instructed Mr Hopkins the last witness to procure a cart and proceed to the place pointed out by Doctor Browne.

The deceased was brought into the hospital and according to directions that I had given was placed in a warm bath and [put] …

**---oo0oo---**

… put to bed. Mr Hopkins informed me that the deceased was in a dying state and that his penis was perfectly black and he thought mortified. Upon examining Stanford, I found, as represented by Mr Hopkins that he was in a dying state and that no remedium [*sic*] measures could prove of any avail.

I directed Mr Hopkins to administer a little neat brandy and water which the deceased could scarcely swallow. He had endured for a considerable period suffering from the disease in his [privates] …

**---oo0oo---**

… privates.

I have examined the body this day - there are no instances of violence thereon and the age of deceased warrant me in stating that he died from natural causes.

I have been told he was between 80 and 90 years old.

W.R. Pugh M.D.