

August 23rd 1876
August 22nd 1876

PROCEEDINGS of INQUEST
held upon the body of

Grace Henderson

at the Crown Hotel Marguerite St

Handwritten signature

Received at the Crown Law Offices,
August 25th 1876

Handwritten signature
96-8-76

Handwritten signature



Coroner.

City
and
District of Sandhurst

County
of
Sandhurst

Colony of Victoria,
to wit.

[No. 64.]

PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.
INQUISITION.

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at *the Crown Hotel, Hargreave Street, City of Sandhurst* in the Colony of Victoria aforesaid, the *twenty second* day of *August* A.D. 187*6* in the *thirty fourth* year of the Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me *Jamus Decker*

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

Sound Gentleman, a* Coroner of our Lady the Queen for the said Colony, upon the view of the body of

Grace Henderson ~~"aged 41 years"~~ then and there lying dead, upon the oaths of *the following jurors*

† Jurors' Christian and Surnames in full.

- John Reed - foreman -*
- Nat Stoman*
- Alexander Dails*
- Richard Osborne*
- John Paul Carlson*
- John Rees*
- Henry Wood*
- Robert Whiteside*
- George Reddell*
- Henry Elson*
- Joseph Dingle*
- Isaac Harris*

good and lawful men of *the City and District of Sandhurst* - 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

‡ His or her.

Grace Henderson - came by ‡ *her* death, do say upon their oath

§ 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.

that *§ the deceased Grace Henderson met her death by large quantity of the essential oil of bitter almond administered by herself about 4³⁰ o'clock P.M. at her residence in the instant, in Hargreave St, Sandhurst - The jury from the evidence not being able to decide upon the state of her mind at the time -*

[Large decorative flourish]

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.

James D. Sound

Coroner.

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

Roman

John Paul Carolin

John Paul, Freeman

Myer Scales

Richard O'Brien

John Higgins

John Hees

Henry Wood

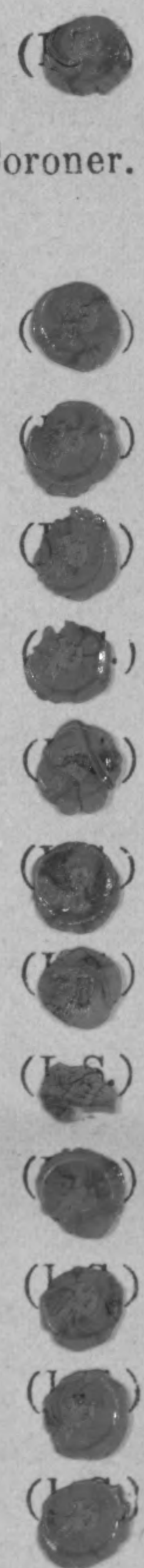
Robert Whiteside

George Hildsall

Henry Ellison

Joseph Dingle

James Harris



CORONER'S INQUEST.

SANDHURST,
COUNTY OF BENDIGO,
COLONY OF VICTORIA,
TO WIT.

THE Examination of Oliver Duffold, Surgeon &c
residing in the City of Sandhurst, County of Bendigo, in the said
Colony of Victoria, taken on oath this 22nd day of August A.D. 1876
at The Crown Hotel, Flargreaves Street in the City of Sandhurst
before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said Colony, at Sandhurst

The Deponent Oliver Duffold

on his oath saith as follows: - Yesterday afternoon about a quarter to 5 o'clock

Gill, I was called to attend this deceased Grace Henderson at her residence where her body now lies. On getting ~~to~~ upstairs bed room, I found her dressed in her ordinary clothes, and lying on a bed where I was told by Mr Henderson she had been moved to, from the adjoining room. On the floor of that room, near a sofa, I found this newspaper with some freshly vomited matter on it, smelling strongly of the essential oil of bitter almonds, deceased was in the act of death, but insensible and pulseless. - The face was florid, but natural looking, the lids were half closed, the pupils dilated and fixed, I dashed cold water over her face and chest, and commenced movements for artificial respiration, whilst waiting for my stomach pump, &c. - I then injected ammonia, about a drachm of the strong solution, into one of the veins of the right arm - finding no improvement I washed out the stomach, what came from it was a yellow saucer fluid, smelling strongly of the oil of bitter almonds. She was then quite dead. - Then I questioned the husband Alexander Henderson, he said that he believed deceased had taken some of the flavoring out of this bottle of Bitter oil of Almonds which he held in his hand, it is a common salad oil bottle, measuring ounces, in it there are 14 drops of that oil, &c. in the bottle, Mr Henderson said that he thought about a table spoon full had been taken from it since he last saw the bottle, and that he had given deceased some carbonate of soda in water before I came. - I have since made a post mortem examination of deceased's body - on which there are no marks of wilful violence, and is that of a well nourished woman of 40 years, it was pale, the features were placid, the inside of the lips were crimson stained, and the tongue red. I presume from the effects of bitter almond oil. - In the brain I found the brain congested, and the ventricles distended with serum, the substance of the brain was healthy - In the chest I found both lungs deeply congested, but otherwise healthy - The heart contained a little fluid blood on the right side, the left side of the heart was empty and contracted. The substance of the heart was fairly healthy. - The abdomen, the

TAKEN and sworn before me the

day of

A.D. 187

(Continued on page 3)

J. D. D. Coroner.

Stomach

Colony
of
Victoria

To wit.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

[No. 60.]

DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

THE Deponent Oliver Gensfeld, furthermore
on his oath, saith as follows:— The stomach contained about half a
pint of dark green grumous fluid, also smelling of the same
oil. The stomach was deeply congested, and its substance
thinned from previous disease, and the poison. The upper
coils of the small intestines were also congested. The
liver was of a yellow color, hard, and gristly on section,
and drawn together or puckered in many places. The pancreas
was red instead of being white. The kidneys were deeply
congested and the spleen larger than natural. The cause
of death was assthetic, or shock, from absorption of the
bitter oil of almonds containing prussic acid, which the
decedent had taken. — Decedent must have taken fully a
table spoon full — or 240 minims — 17 drops has been
known to cause death in half an hour. This oil is
stated to contain four times as much pure prussic
acid as the preparation ordinarily used in medicine —
to the foreman — Mr. Henderson took me to a store in an adjoining
room, where he said he kept this bottle of oil of bitter almonds,
and showed me the place where he kept with other things
used in his business — From the state of decedent's liver
I am of opinion she must have largely indulged in
spirits and other stimulants for some time

Oliver Gensfeld

Taken and sworn before me the 22nd
day of August — A.D. 1876,
at the Crown Hotel, in the City
of Sandhurst in Hargreaves St.

J. D. Gound Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

*Christian and Surname in full.

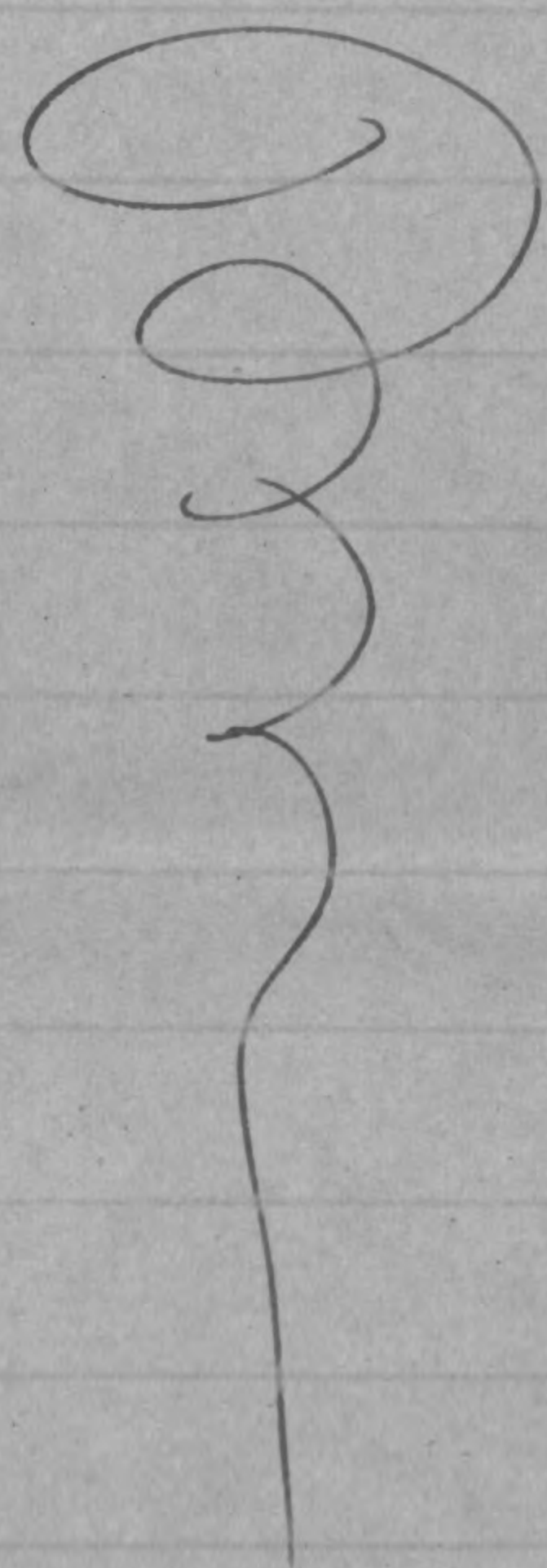
This Deponent* Robert Newbold, this 22nd of August 1876

on his oath saith, I am a Cab Proprietor residing at Hargreave St. City of Sandhurst

I have known the deceased Grace Henderson for some four years, since she and her husband came to live next door to me in this Hargreave St. Sandhurst -
- Some 4 or 5 weeks ago as I was passing her door she was standing there, she seemed the worse for liquor and I said, what's the matter M^{rs} Henderson?
She asked me if I saw M^r Henderson? I said no, she said he is next door, and that she wished me to get him, I said I have not time, I am going to the 11¹⁵ P.M. train, it was then about half past 10 or a quarter to 11 O'Clock - She then said, I will do away with myself, I replied, don't be so foolish, and I went into my place to get my home and Cab -
- I have often been deputed since but had no conversation with her - during those times I did not observe anything wrong with her mind -

to the coroner -

R. Newbold



Taken and Sworn before me, the 22nd day of August 12, 1876, at The Crown Hotel Hargreave Street, Sandhurst }
J. D. Gaudin Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

* Christian and Surname in full.

This Deponent* James Anderson, this 22nd of August 1876 on his oath saith, I am a Cook at Alexander Hendersons Restaurant residing at that place for over two years in this City of Sandhurst

about, or a little after 4 o'clock P.M. yesterday, whilst I was in the Store room, where Alexander Henderson kept this bottle of oil of bitter Almonds with other things for his Confectionary, the deceased M^{rs} Grace Henderson came in and asked me for the Almonds. I said there was no almonds here, it is down below, she said yes there is some in the Corner there, I went there and took up this bottle of oil of bitter almonds, and took the cork out and smelling it I said, yes this is almonds, and she took it, and tasted it, and drawing her breath she said, how it burns, taste it, I said no, she then gave me the bottle back dropping the cork which we could not find - she stood for a quarter of an hour there conversing with me, and then we came out and locked the door, she said she was going down below - I took the Keys and hung them up below where they were usually kept. - In some 5 or 30 minutes I heard deceased call one of the girls, Anne Loulaco up, who came ^{to me} and asked for those Keys - I told her where they were, and saw her take them, that was the last I heard of it. - next thing about 4³⁰ P.M. Alexander Henderson went up stairs, and immediately he called one Mary a girl there and sent out the girl right off for the doctor. Then I heard M^{rs} Henderson was dead, and had poisoned herself - I never saw her under the influence of drink, but occasionally I saw, or noticed she had taken some drink - I never saw M^{rs} Henderson quarrel whilst I have been there 2 years - I never had barely tasted the oil in my presence in the

Taken and Sworn before me, the 22nd day of August 1876, at the Crown Hotel in Hargreave St. City of Sandhurst
J. J. D. [Signature] Coroner.

Store room, where every one of the place had access to - From her manner I had not the slightest idea she would commit suicide - I heard she attempted to do so on last Christmas night by throwing herself into the creek.
James Anderson

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

TO WIT.

*Christian and Surname in full.

This Deponent* *Anna Lovelace*, this *22nd* of *August* 1876 -

on her oath saith, I am a *waitress* at *Alexander Hendersons Restaurant* residing at *that place* for *4 months*, in this *City of Sandhurst*

About 4 o'clock *Edith* yesterday, the deceased *M^{rs} Grace Henderson* called me to bring her the *Keys* of the *store room* - *took* them out of the *Kitchen*, and *took* them up to *M^{rs} Henderson* and gave the *Keys* to her as she stood at the *store room door*. She did not *take* them from me, and I hung them on the *nob* of the *door lock*, on leaving her I looked back twice and saw her still standing there and without touching the *Keys* - I did not see her enter the *store* - that was the last time I saw her alive, in about half an hour I heard of her death - I saw nothing strange in her manner - she spoke as she always did, I never heard her threaten to make away with herself - She and her husband always lived happily together from what I saw of them, and I know of no domestic or other troubles to cause her to take poison - She used to take a little *stimulants*, but not yesterday, and on last Friday she took a little drink with a *M^{rs} Williams* in the *ladies room*. All the hands there can go to that *store room* when the wish for things required -

to the foreman and Jury -

Anna Lovelace

Taken and Sworn before me, the *22nd* day of *August* A.D., 1876, at *The Crown Hotel* in *Highgate Street* *City of Sandhurst*
J. G. Gaud Coroner.

CORONER'S INQUEST.

COLONY OF VICTORIA,
TO WIT.

*Christian and Surname in full.

This Deponent* Alexander Henderson, this 22nd of August 1876
on his oath saith, I am a Confectioner and Restaurant Keeper
residing at Hargreaves St. City of Sandhurst

The deceased and I were married in London 22 years ago when she was 19 years old. She had no children. She had always been healthy. - Yesterday after she had left the Shop with the intention of going out, and in about half an hour I went up stairs and saw her lying on our parlor floor near the sofa, of which I do not think she had fallen, she breathed heavily and was insensible, seeing her stomach had been sick I called one of our girls, Mary M. Mahon, and asked her if she had brought up or given her mistress any drink. She stated she brought nothing to my wife. I then tasted what I saw on a news paper, and finding it was Ratapia or essence of oil of bitter almonds, I sent for a doctor, and lifted her into our adjoining bed room, where this jury have seen her dead. - Dr. Penfold arrived in 6 or 8 minutes and attended to her, without any success in restoring her. - I looked for this bottle of bitter oil of almonds, and found it in the store room next to our bed room, and upon the edge of the shelf without its cork, and away from where it usually stood, and then I missed nearly half an inch, or a table spoon full, out of the bottle it contains pure oil of bitter almonds from which I had made some Ratapia some 12 months ago, this bottle never had been used by any one, I last saw it 6 months ago, and I do not know how my wife knew of it, it had no label on it, - I believe my wife took the table spoon full of this oil in the store room, and left the bottle quite away from its usual place on the edge of the shelf, and then went to her parlor - Deceased had been in low spirits for some time, and at times desponding, we did not sell drink, but there ^{are} 2 or 3 women who used to bring her drink

Taken and Sworn before me, the

of _____, 18____, at _____

(Continued on page 8)

A. D. D. Coroner.

and even last Saturday I said to one of the girls I would have to send her mistress deceased to the gaol or Deed Asylum - I don't think she had domestic troubles to

Colony
of
Victoria

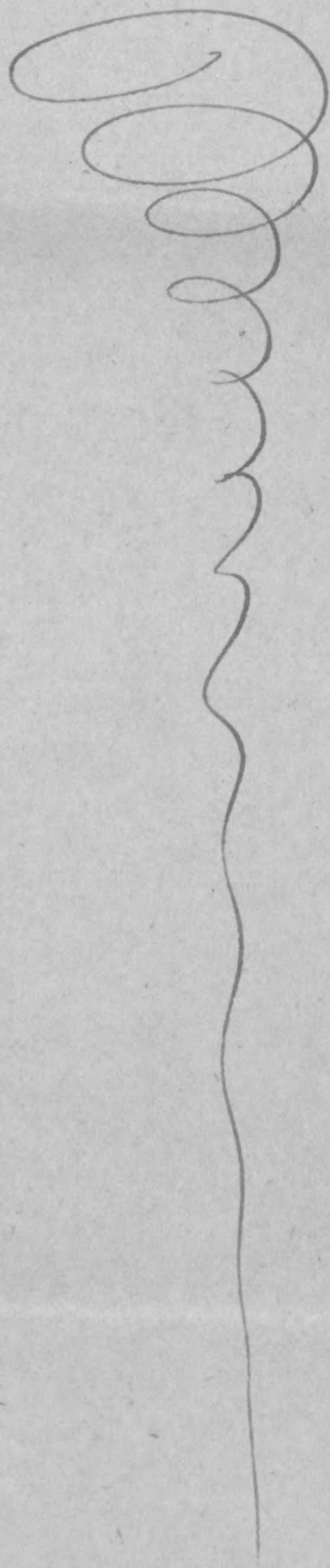
CORONER'S INQUEST.

DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

To wit.

THE Deponent *Alexander Henderson* furthermore
on his oath, saith as follows:—to cause her to destroy herself. I
attribute her doing this act to Stimulants alone—
—It is a falsehood to state that my wife had thrown
herself into the creek on East Christmas eve, or at any
time— Until the last few weeks I did not know my
wife had taken so much Stimulants— she may have
been taking drink along time without my knowledge
I never till lately observed that she drank

A. Henderson



Taken and sworn before me *the 22nd*
day of *August* A.D. 18*76*,
at *the Crown Hotel, Argreave St*
City of Sandhurst
H. J. Gauds Coroner.

Sandhurst District
Sandhurst Station
22nd August 1876

Constable Bradley 1509 reports for
the information of the Coroner
that the woman named in
the margin wife of Alexander
Henderson Confectioner residing in
Grace Henderson in Hargreave Street Sandhurst
died suddenly at her residence
about 4.30 P.M. on the 21st Instant
and it is supposed that she
had taken poison which caused
her death. The body is now
lying at her residence awaiting
an inquest

James Bradley
Const. 1509

S. B. Pounds Esq.
District Coroner

