

# PROCEEDINGS BEFORE CORONERS.

---

## INQUISITION.

---

*Beechworth*

AN Inquisition for our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria, taken at *Beechworth Gaol* in the *District of Beechworth* aforesaid, the 2<sup>d</sup> day of *August* A.D. 1864 in the 27<sup>th</sup> year of the Reign of our said Lady the Queen, before me *E T Barnard* Gentleman, a Coroner of our Lady the Queen for the *District of Beechworth* aforesaid, upon the view of the body of *Elizabeth* then and there lying dead, upon the oaths of

*John Richmond*

*James Warner*

*Charles Falche [Falsk]*

*Thomas Bradstreet*

*Robert Meikle*

*Mark Baldwin*

*Thomas Waugh*

*Algernon Hall*

*John Morton*

*Patrick Martin*

*Charles F Duchatel*

*Charles Flood*

good and lawful men of *Beechworth* in the said *District* 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 *Elizabeth* came by *her* death, do say upon their oath that *the said Elizabeth Murray died on the night of the First day of August 1864 in the Beechworth Gaol from disease of the brain.*

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.

*[Coroner's signature and seal, followed by the 12 jurors' signatures with red wax seal beside each]*

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

### DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

*Beechworth*

THE Examination of *J. B. Castieau & John Colquhoun Dempster* of *Beechworth* taken on oath this 2<sup>d</sup> day of *August* A.D. 1864 at *Beechworth Gaol* before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said *District*.

This Deponent *John Buckley Castieau* on his oath saith as follows:  
*I am Governor of Beechworth Gaol. I produce warrant under which deceased Elizabeth Murray was received into my custody. She was committed as a dangerous on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1864. She has been bedridden almost all the time she has been in Gaol. A warrant was obtained for her removal to Melbourne Lunatic Asylum some fortnight since, but she was not removed in consequence of Medical Officer of the Gaol refusing to certify that she was able to bear the journey. She has been under that Officer's (Dr Dempster's) care since her admission. All his instructions have carefully been attended to. She has grown daily weaker since her admission. Last evening at 8pm Dr Dempster was sent for to see her. He came and prescribed, & the prescriptions were attended to, but she died at ten minutes to ten yesterday last night. She has never been left alone since her admission.*

*J B Castieau*

TAKEN and sworn before me the 2<sup>d</sup>  
day of *August* A.D. 1864  
at *Beechworth Gaol*

*E T Barnard*  
Coroner.

## CORONER'S INQUEST.

### DEPOSITION OF WITNESS.

*Beechworth*

THE Examination of *J. B. Castieau & John C. Dempster* of *Beechworth* taken on oath this 2<sup>d</sup> day of *August* A.D. 1864 at *Beechworth Gaol* before the undersigned, a Coroner in the said *District*.

This Deponent *John Colquhoun Dempster* on his oath saith as follows:  
*I am a legally qualified medical practitioner and surgeon of the Gaol at Beechworth. Deceased (Elizabeth Murray) has been under my care since admission suffering from chronic disease of the brain attended with partial paralysis, blindness and deafness, she was able to take food freely until last evening when she was unable to swallow and rapidly sank. She had also old standing disease of the bones of the face causing offensive discharge. I have this day made a post mortem examination of deceased. There was extensive congestion of the brain and its membranes, a large amount of subarachnoid and ventricular effusion, at the posterior part of the left hemisphere there was a thickening of the dura mater which formed the wall of a sac containing same the size of an egg of diseased tissue. This was the cause of death. I have attended since her admission & she has been most carefully attended to. All my instructions regarding her have been carried out by the officers of the Gaol. She has never since her admission been in a state to stand a journey to Melbourne.*

*John C. Dempster M.D.*

TAKEN and sworn before me the 2<sup>d</sup>  
day of *August* A.D. 1864  
at *Beechworth Gaol*

*E T Barnard*  
Coroner.