

John Tredinnick

Rushworth Chronicle

7 November, 1890

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

A magisterial inquiry was held on Sunday afternoon last by Wolton Wigg Esq. J.P., at Bailieston, on the body of John Tredinnick which had been found in a waterhole in Sandy Creek, containing about three and a half feet of water. Deceased had been engaged with his brother Thomas sleeper-cutting for some time past, and was by profession a mining surveyor, and had held good situations in several parts of the colony in different capacities.

Though deceased had been low-spirited lately, there was nothing in the evidence to show that self-destruction had been accomplished, neither were there any marks of violence on the body to cause suspicion of foul play. Several witnesses were examined, in connection therewith, their testimonies being as follow:

Thomas Tredinnick, a brother of deceased, who occupied an adjoining tent, deposed to having last seen him alive on the previous Friday night. Deceased seemed to be rather low spirited on account of the Lands Department refusing his application to cut timber without a license. When returning at dinner time on Saturday the brother missed him, and upon searching the adjacent bush, discovered the body floating in a shallow waterhole. He obtained help and removed the body, but life was extinct. He immediately sent word to the police at Rushworth. Deceased was about 56 years of age, of Cornish birth, unmarried, and not possessed of any property.

Benjamin Miller, a sleeper carter residing at Bailieston, saw the deceased between 11 and 12 on Saturday morning, who, in answer to a question re carting of sleepers, replied that he did not intend to cut any more as the price was too low. He had known him for about 12 months, and did not notice anything unusual in his demeanour.

Michael Ludlow deposed to having seen the body, which was partly in the water and partly out, and to having assisted the brother, Thomas, to secure it and take it to the Bailieston Hotel.

Senior-Constable Bennett, of Rushworth, gave evidence that he received information about 8 p.m. on Saturday relative to the finding of the body and carrying it to the Bailieston Hotel, where he saw it on the Sunday morning. He examined the body, but found no marks of violence, nor anything that would give rise to the suspicion of foul play. The only article in the pockets was a small knife.

After summing up the evidence a verdict was returned to the effect that the deceased met his death by drowning, but there was not sufficient knowledge of the affair obtainable to show how he met his death.

The body was then conveyed into Whroo and buried in the Whroo cemetery.