

C.S.

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|--------------------------|
| LEGAL. MISCELLANEOUS. |
| No. <i>458/29</i> |

1929.

Registrar General.

SUBJECT.

1929

13th September.

Previous Paper.

MR. DONALD McDONALD of DARWIN E. F.
Enquiry held by Mr. T.G. Slaughter J.P.
into circumstances attending the death of-

MINUTES.

157.

Minute from Registrar General of 12th September.

4 P. Submitted. Particulars will be published in the Penguin

*S.S. 13
 A.P.S.
 14.11.29*

Registrar-General.

Papers returned.

*C.D.F.
 J.P.
 17/9/29.*

Hon. Col. Sec.

*Death registered under No. 21/29.
 in branch Hallett*

*Registrar
 20.9.29.*

Subsequent Paper.

letter to Mr. J. G. Slaughter J.P.
of 20. 9. 29.

10

mett
20. 9. 29.

Hon. Sol. Sec.

Under the provisions of Section
9 of Ordinance 6 of 1898, Dr E.A.
Wilson is entitled to a fee of
£1. May this be paid, please.
Dr Wilson has applied for the fee.

M. Orange Harkett
Registrar
20. 9. 29.

Registrar.

Payment is in accordance with
the provisions of the law.

SPS
CPS
21. IX. 29

Hon. Sol. Sec.

Thank you.

M. Orange Harkett
23. 9. 29.

P.A.
23/9/29

MINUTE PAPER.

Departmental Number.

From...Registrar General.....

Date...12th Sepbr 1929.....

To...Honble Col.Secretary.....

Mr. DONALD McDONALD of DARWIN E.F.

Enquiry held by Mr.T.G.Slaughter J.P.into circumstances attending the death of -

Reference Numbers.

....

Letter from Mr.T.G.Slaughter H.P.dated 4th Sepbr 1929, forwarding report.

Hon.Col.Sec,

Submitted for information. Will you kindly return me the papers hereafter in order that the necessary entries may be made in the records of this office.

M. Craigie Hawker

Registrar General.

12.9.29

14m C.S

Thank you.

*16/29
9*

AM

The Falkland Islands Company, Limited.

(INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER 1851.)

REGISTERED 1902.

AGENT FOR LLOYDS.

AGENTS FOR
THE PACIFIC STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

TELEGRAMS "FLEETWING PORTSTANLEY" VIA RADIO.

Stanley Darwin

Sept 4th 1929

The Hon M.C. Craigie-Halkett Esq
Stanley

Sir

On Thursday the 22nd of August 1929 I was advised by W^m Campbell, the Overseer of Walker Creek Section, that a shepherd of the name of Donald M^cDonald had been found dead in the camp.

In accordance with your instructions I proceeded to Walker Creek the following day & held an inquiry.

I enclose herewith the statements made by H. Cartmell who last saw M^cDonald alive, and also statements made by W^m Campbell, John Jaffray & Roy Morrison who made up the search party that found the body.

I enclose also Dr Wilson's Report which shows that the cause of death was undoubtedly Cold & exposure.

I remain

Yours faithfully

The Staughton. J.P.

(4)

Inquest Proceedings on D. McDonald.

Henry George Bartmell, states that
D. McDonald arrived at Island Creek House
at 4.30 p.m. of Saturday 17th August 1929. He appeared to
be in good health both whilst at the house & on his
departure, spent the night at the house, left for
Arrow Harbour at 9.30 on Sunday 18th. He bore
no signs of any injury whatsoever.

Witness: W. Thompson

H. G. Bartmell

John Sumner Jaffray states that:-

He was instructed by the overseer
of the W. C. section to go out and look for
McDonald, and left ^{Miles Creek} the following morning Thursday
22nd August 1929, together with W. Campbell & J. Cantler,
R. Morrison ^{for}. About ~~four~~ ^{two} hours after leaving his
house he saw McDonald's house & shortly afterwards
found the body on the beach at Miles Creek. The
body was lying face down & ^{he} appeared to have fallen
there whilst walking along. The body was in such
a position that the incoming tide would have reached
it. He (Jaffray) then signalled the other searchers
and later assisted in removing the body on board
the cutter which had been sent for that purpose.
He noticed that there was a bruise above the left eye
and signs of bleeding at the nose on the corpse, and
also slight traces of blood on the ~~surrounding~~ ^{rocks} rock under
his nose.

Witness: W. Thompson

John Jaffray

William Campbell states that:

He was spending ^{the night of} Wednesday 21st at Miles Creek and at 9.20 was advised by R. Morrison that McDonald had been away from his house at Arrow Harbour since Saturday. He decided to form a search party the following morning to look for the missing man, accordingly left on Thursday morning at about 8am with three other men. About one hour after setting out he was informed that the horse had been found and about three hours later heard Jeffrey shout and going down to the beach, saw the body. The body was lying face down on the rock as though he had fallen forward exhausted. He observed a bruise over the left eye & also signs of a bleeding at the nose. He returned to Walker Creek and telephoned Mr. Slaughter at Darwin informing him of the finding of the body. He then despatched the cutter to bring the remains to the settlement.

Witness J. Thompson.

Wm Campbell

Roderick Morrison states that:

He was passing through Arrow Harbour & learnt that McDonald was not there & later found that he was not at Walker Creek House ~~the~~ where he might probably have stopped. He was then told by H. Bartnell that McDonald had left Island Creek on Sunday. He then ^{by telephone} thought something must have happened and advised ^{by telephone} the overseer, who was spending the night at Miles Creek, ^{by telephone} and received instructions to assist in a search the following morning, and was present when the body was found.

Witness J. Thompson

Rory Morrison 2

(2)

REPORT OF INQUEST PROCEEDINGS ON THE DEATH OF

DONALD McDONALD.

HELD IN THE WALKER CREEK COOKHOUSE ON AUGUST 23rd, 1929

-----oOo-----

Henry, George Cartmell stated that,

Donald McDonald arrived at Island Creek House at 4.30 p.m on Saturday 17th ^{u.} August, 1929, and spent the night there. McDonald left for Arrow Harbour at 9.30 a.m on Sunday 18th, and appeared to be in good health, both whilst at the house and on his departure. McDonald bore no signs of any injury whatsoever.

Witness: H.Thompson.

Signed. H.G.Cartmell

John, Summers Jaffray stated that,

He was instructed by the Overseer of the Walker Creek Section to go out and look for McDonald, and accordingly, left Miles Creek the following morning, Thursday 22nd August, 1929, together with W.Campbell, J.Cantlie and R.Morrison Jnr. About one hour after leaving the house, he saw McDonald's horse and shortly afterwards found the body lying on the beach at Myles Creek. The body was lying face down and he appeared to have fallen there whilst walking along the beach. The body was in such a position that the incoming tide would have reached it. He, Jaffray, signalled the other searchers and later assisted in removing the body on board the cutter which had been sent there for that purpose. He noticed, when the body was lifted, that there was a bruise above the left eye and signs of bleeding at the nose, also slight traces of blood on the rock immediately beneath the nose.

Witness: H.Thompson.

Signed: John Jaffray.

William Campbell deposed that,

He was spending the night of Wednesday, 21st August, at Miles Creek and at 9.20 p.m. was advised by R.Morrison that McDonald had been away from his house at Arrow Harbour since the previous Saturday. He decided to form a search party the following morning to look for the missing man and accordingly left at about 8.0 a.m on Thursday morning together with three other men. About one hour after setting out

he was informed that the horse had been found and about three hours later, heard Jaffray shout, and going down to the beach, saw the body. It was lying face down on the rock as though he had fallen forward, exhausted. He observed a bruise over the left eye and also signs of bleeding at the nose. He, Campbell, returned to Walker Creek and telephoned Mr. Slaughter at Darwin, informing him of the finding of the body. He then despatched the cutter to bring the remains into the settlement.

Witness: H. Thompson.

Signed: Wm Campbell.

Roderick Morrison (2) stated that,

He was passing through Arrow Harbour and learned that McDonald was not there and later ascertained that he was not at Walker Creek House where he might probably have stopped. He, Morrison, was then told by H. Cartmell that McDonald had left Island Creek on Sunday. He then thought something must have happened to the man and advised, by telephone, ^{the Overseer} who was spending the night at Miles Creek. He received instructions to assist in the search party the following morning and was present when the body was found.

Witness: H. Thompson.

Signed: Rory Morrison. (2)

J. Slaughter

Coroner.

5

REPORT OF DOCTOR'S EXAMINATION OF THE BODY OF

DONALD McDONALD,

-----oOo-----

I, Edward A. Wilson, the undersigned medical practitioner at Darwin, was informed on 22nd August, 1929, by Mr Slaughter, acting coroner at Darwin, that the body of Donald McDonald had been found dead, and was instructed by him, Mr Slaughter, to proceed to Walker Creek and there to examine the body and ^{to} give evidence as to the probable cause of death.

The body was fully clothed and lying at full length with the arms flexed and half raised on a level with the head, the head being turned slightly towards the left side. In the middle of the ^e left eyebrow was a vertical cut, $\frac{3}{4}$ " long and $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep with a slight amount of dried blood around the edges. The hair of the eyebrow was not cut. The cheeks, chin and forehead were of a bright redish colour, and from both nostrils was a semi-dried blood discharge. The hands were half open and on the back of the right hand was a small irregular, shallow cut, $\frac{1}{4}$ " long and a similar one on the back of the right middle finger.

On further examination, the clothes were felt to be damp and very stiff, with a few small pieces of seaweed among them. The hair of the head was dry and also the hat. The eyes were closed and eyeballs presented an appearance of opacity. The mouth was tightly closed, the lips flattened and livid, and the tongue firmly pressed against the teeth. The limbs were rigid and the joints gave a faint suggestion of cracking on forcible bending, but this was not altogether definite. On removal of the clothes, the skin was mostly pale in colour, with patches of what was probably post-mortem lividity; and there ~~was~~ a slight surface abrasion, roughly oval in outline and two inches by one inch in area, on the middle of the right shin bone. There were no other signs of injury. The body on the whole was that of a well developed man of about sixty years of age.

The deceased had never been under my attention professionally but I was informed by his relatives, a week prior to this examination, that he had recently had a ^{sudden} fainting attack, but recovered with apparently no ill-effects.

From the observations detailed above, it is my opinion that the deceased's death was due to cold and exposure following an attack of syncope.

Edward A. Wilson M.B.C.H.B.
Medical Officer, Darwin.

Registrar General's Office,
Stanley, 20th September 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 4th inst., transmitting proceedings of an Inquest held by you into the circumstances attending the death of the late Mr. Donald McDonald who was found dead in your District on the 22nd August last.

2. I am to thank you for the action taken by you in this matter.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

M.H.

Registrar General

T.G.SLAUGHTER, ESQ J.P.

DARWIN E.F.