

George Norman

Waranga Chronicle

28 August, 1879

A magisterial inquiry was held before Mr J. H. Roberts, J.P., at the Court House, Rushworth, on Friday evening last, for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the death of George Norman, who was found hanging from the ridgepole of Thomas Sweeney's hut, near the Murchison road.

James Marshall deposed that he last saw the deceased alive about 9 a.m. on Friday. He was in bed in the hut, and witness gave him a drink of tea. He was talking incoherently. Deceased was between 50 and 60 years of age. About an hour afterwards witness saw him hanging from the ridgepole by a rope. He was warm, but quite dead. Went for the police. There were no suspicious circumstances that Norman had been unfairly dealt with. A stool, legs upwards, was found close to his feet, as if he had kicked it away after adjusting the rope. The police came and cut him down.

Thomas Draidge stated that the deceased had been ailing for some time, and was unable to work. About 9 o'clock this morning Marshall went to the hut where Norman was, and shortly afterwards returned with the latter's purse, which he said deceased had handed to him to take care of. It contained £11 9s 4d, and was afterwards handed over to the police. About 10 o'clock received information that the deceased had hanged himself. Deceased had told witness that he was born in London in 1623.

Thomas Sweeney deposed that the deceased had been residing in his hut for shelter. He often mentioned that he had a brother and nephew in Melbourne. This morning he told me to dig in a certain place and I should find some money. I did so, and found the money as he stated, and handed it to him. I then went to work. Never saw the deceased alive afterwards.

He had been suffering intense pain since January last.

A verdict was returned that

Rushworth cemetery register includes a "Geo. Norman."