

15 YRS

GEORGE

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

A magisterial inquiry was held by Dr Heily on Tuesday last to ascertain the cause of the death of James George Lawrie, of Moora, who was killed by a gunshot wound on the previous day.

Dr Christie deposed that he made a post-mortem examination on the body of J. G. Lawrie. He found a wound four inches long in the right groin. The internal organs in that part of the body were pierced with shot. The abdominal cavity contained a large quantity of blood. All the other portions of the body were healthy. Death was caused by hemorrhage and shock brought about by a gunshot wound.

Agnes Jane Lawrie deposed that deceased was her brother. On the day previous he went away alone to the channel for a load of water. She did not see him come back for his gun. She was at dinner when he returned the next time. She heard the report of a gun and ran out immediately after her mother and saw her brother sitting in the dray. He had a rein in each hand. He told them he was shot. He said that the dray had run back against a stick and the starting of the horse again had sent the gun off. She helped her mother to remove him from the dray.

William Robert Lawrie deposed that he saw his brother return for the gun. The gun produced was the one he took. He saw him returning with the water. He was alone.

Mrs Lawrie deposed that the deceased was her son and was not yet 16 years of age. About 11.30 a.m. he went to the channel for a load of water. He returned home and got the gun to shoot some ducks he saw in the channel. He returned with the water about twenty minutes to one o'clock. He was sitting on a milk can in the dray. She heard a report of a gun and then deceased called out to her. She ran out. He was still sitting on the can. He had hold of the reins in either hand. The gun was stuck outwards in the front of the dray as though it would fall to the ground. The deceased told her that he was backing the horse to put the dray against a stick when the animal went forward and the jerk sent the gun off. She helped to assist him to the ground and afterwards on to a bed and sent for medical assistance. The cause of death was purely accidental. Only one barrel of the gun went off. The other had been fired at the ducks. The deceased was used to carrying firearms.

The verdict returned was that death resulted from the effects of a gunshot wound accidentally caused.

James George LAURIE