

Mr William Allen

Murchison Advertiser

21 November, 1902

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

An inquiry was held before Dr Heily at Wanalta on Tuesday last touching the death of a village settler named William Allen, who was found dead on Monday morning.

Mrs Allen deposed that she was the wife of William Allen. She last saw him alive on Monday morning, at 1 a.m. He was sitting on the doorstep. She did not speak to him, nor did he speak to her. She went into the kitchen for a drink and then went back to bed. She left the door open so that he could go into bed. She next saw deceased at twenty minutes past five a.m. She saw a pool of blood at deceased's feet and she exclaimed, "My God! Dad has cut his throat."

Deceased was lying on his back and his head was resting on the door-step. The knife produced was lying beside him and was covered with blood. She identified the knife as the property of deceased. He had not at any time threatened to do away with himself. Deceased seemed depressed and low-spirited. He never went to bed at all on Sunday night. On the 14th inst. he told her he was in trouble. She said, "Tell me what is the matter and I might be able to help you through."

He replied, "I don't want you to be troubled as well as myself." Deceased was despondent and took no food on Sunday. He did not drink at all. He had no money. He had a dread of being arrested by the police; for what she did not know. He was 51 years of age. He sold his property last week.

Henry Martin deposed that the deceased was his father-in-law. He last saw him alive between eight and nine o'clock p. m. on Sunday. He spoke to deceased several times but he did not answer. He did not see anything particularly wrong with him. He left about nine o'clock to go home. He said good-night to deceased but he did not get a reply. On Monday morning, on being informed that Allen was dead, he went and gave information to the police.

Dr Christie deposed that he had made a post mortem examination on the body of William Allen, at Wanalta. The body was well nourished. There were no external marks of violence except the wound on the neck. This wound was 4 and 1/2 inches long and was caused by a sharp knife. The knife produced would cause such a wound. The arteries and veins were completely severed. Death must have taken place in a very few minutes. Death was due to loss of blood through the wound.

Constable Draper deposed that on receiving information he went out and viewed the body. He was quite satisfied that deceased inflicted the wound with his own hand.

A verdict was returned that William Allen died from a wound self-inflicted, and that he had been moody and melancholy for some days prior to committing the deed.

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28 November,

The remains of the Village settler, William Allen, were interred in the Rushworth cemetery on Tuesday afternoon.

The Rev. J. R. Walker officiated at the grave and Mr Anderson was the undertaker.