

Thomas Raven

Waranga Chronicle

9 May, 1884

MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.

An inquiry was held at Rushworth on Tuesday, to ascertain the cause of the death of Thomas Raven, fruiterer, who was found dead in his house, High Street, the same morning.

James Taylor deposed that he was a blacksmith, residing at Rushworth. He had made an arrangement to call on Raven this morning to get some plants. About 9 a.m. went to his place, and found it locked. Called out, but could not get any answer. Mr Smith then came up. They pushed open the back door, and went in. The bedroom door was shut. Mr Smith opened it, and they found deceased lying half-way under the table, quite dead.

Raven, who had been ailing for a long time, complained of being worse on the previous evening. He seemed to have died while trying to get out of bed.

T. L. Smith deposed that he was a chemist, residing at Rushworth. He corroborated the evidence given by the previous witness. The deceased, he understood, had been under Dr. Heily's care. Advised deceased to go to the Moorroopna Hospital, and he was to have started that morning. Deceased was a fruiterer, and was in Rushworth 24 years ago to his knowledge.

Constable Williams deposed that Mr Smith reported Raven's death. He went to the house, and found him lying as described. There were effects of various kinds in the shop and 20s in money; he also had a horse and cart. The police had taken possession of the property.

Constable Greenaway deposed that he had seen the deceased alive yesterday evening. He told witness that he was going to the hospital, and he asked witness to take charge of his place during his absence, and he had promised to do so. The deceased was an old man, over 60, he should say.

A verdict of death from natural causes was returned.

Mr James Taylor, a blacksmith in the employ of Messrs Coy and Anderson, of Rushworth, has, during the last few days had some mournful experiences. On Tuesday, the 6th inst, he was the first to discover the dead body of Thomas Raven, and immediately after his evidence was tendered at the Magisterial Inquiry held, he received a telegram informing him of his daughter's decease. The *Argus* of the 7th inst. contains the following account of the same:—"Fatal boiler explosion at Ballarat.—On looking over the fence a Mrs Janet Allen was observed lying in a pool of blood. An examination showed that she was quite dead, and had evidently been killed by a brick carried from one street to the other by the explosion. Her skull was completely smashed, and death must have been instantaneous. The unfortunate woman was only 24 years of age, and had only just recovered from her confinement. Her infant was lying near her, moaning and crying."

We sympathise with Mr Taylor in his bereavement.