

Coroners Inquest for James Riddle, Wainuiomata, 12 Aug 1862
Archives NZ Reference IA (Colonial Secretary) Series 1 1863/441

Entry from inwards correspondence register

1863/441 May 07 With Inquisition &c – five persons deceased (Coroner, Hutt)

Letter 1863/441 Hutt 7th May 1863 To the Honorable Attorney General
Sir, Herewith I have the honor to transmit particulars of five inquests held by me from 2nd May 1862 to 2nd May 1863. Being the only medical practitioner in the district, and called to cases of sudden death on which Inquests are held, and on which my evidence is required I have not thought it advisable to make any return of fees for medical evidence. I beg to be furnished with parchment forms of Inquests together blank warrants and summonses and I have the honor to remain Your obedient servant, Leonard Boor, Coroner, Hutt.

Information of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on the behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen touching the death of James Riddle, at the School house, Wainuiomata in the district of the Hutt, on the twelfth day of August one thousand eight hundred and sixty two before Leonard George Boor one of the Coroner of the said Colony, on an Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of James Riddle then and there lying dead, as follows to wit:-

Agnes Sinclair, being sworn saith that I am daughter of Hugh Sinclair residing at Wainuiomata. I knew James Riddle. I was out with the cows on the evening of Monday the 11th August and I saw the body of James Riddle about a quarter mile from my fathers house, it was under a tree, the tree across. I thought he was dead. I went back home and to Mr Dick and told them. Robert Dick and others returned with me they moved the tree away. James Riddle left my fathers house in the morning to fall bush. He went alone.

Robert Dick being duly sworn saith: I am a settler in the Valley of Wainuioamta. I knew James Riddle. On the evening of Monday the 11th August between 5 and six o'clock my sister told me that James had been killed. I went with my brother William Dick into the bush and saw the body of James Riddle bent in the kneeling position with a tree across the shoulders he was quite dead but the body was not cold. I cut the tree away from the body and placed on the back. My father, David Dick was with me.

John Sinclair being sworn saith: I am a son of Hugh Sinclair and live in Wainuiomata. Last evening about ten o'clock I saw the body of James Riddle by the edge of the bush. I assisted John Wood, George Wood and my brother Duncan Sinclair to carry the body to the school house. James Riddle was in my father's employ. I last saw him alive on the morning of Monday.