

DEATHS and DOCTORS.

Frederick Moses Claxton. 20.418 Schedule B. Deaths in District of Ballarat. Auctioneer.

When and where died :- 13/3/1888. Webster St. City of Ballarat, County Grenville.

Sex and age: - 55years.

Cause of death: - Choleraic Diarrhoea.

Duration of illness: - 10 days.

Medical Attendant by whom certified. Dr Whitcombe. When last seen: - 13/3/1888

Name and Surname of Father :- Johnson Claxton. Rank or profession – Clerk.

Mother:- Ann Claxton. Garney

Buried:- 15/3/1888 at Ballarat. Minister :- William Young.

Born :- Norwich,Norfolk, England. 36 years in Victoria,

Married :- Geelong Aged 22 to Elizabeth Dalton.

Issue :-

COMMENT

The length of the illness according to Dr Whitcombe is at odds with the newspaper report of his death when he was said to have attended to his work on the Saturday morning (*Off colour for a few days*) and died on the Sunday, i.e. a sudden catastrophic illness suggestive of ptomaine poisoning, so much so that in spite of a cable to Melbourne his son was unable to make it back to Ballarat before he died. However, if he had had some symptoms for a few days it is less likely that he picked up the illness at the Archdeacon's. Typhoid would have been recognised as it was common. Other Salmonella infections could be responsible. (*Scrutiny of death certificates to date re. Gardens identities leave some doubt as to the veracity of the details recorded on the death certificates.j.g.3/10*)

DAVID HAM

Shareholder

Born Laucelle, Cornwell. 59 years in Victoria.

Died 3/1/1908 at Lathanstowe, Queenscliff aged 77 years

Cause of Death Acute pneumonia Duration 5 days

Doctor. Dr John Pollock

Father Nathaniel Ham Schoolteacher.

Apparently well man for his age who contracts pneumonia which causes his demise.

JOHN YOUNG McDONALD

Name of Mother and Father – unknown.

Gentleman

Born in Leith, Scotland in 1837, 62 Years in Victoria. Single

Died September 1917 at 6 Eyre St. Ballarat. Aged 80

Buried 10/9/1917

Cause of death Bronchopneumonia,

Asthonia (?)

Duration 2 months

Dr Scott 7/9/1917

After arriving in Australia aged 18 years he apparently worked as a miner for 4 years, (*not long re. silicosis but still possible. However to survive to 80 makes that very unlikely*) He continued his parliamentary duties until January 1917 when his health had declined and after an initial improvement his condition relapsed again forcing him to take to his bed. The Star reports that he died of heart failure which at first sight seems to conflict with his doctor's report of bronchopneumonia and "Asthonia" (which term Jenny and I have been unable to trace, possible misprint for asthenia indicating physical weakness.) However, the explanation could be that a terminal bronchopneumonia occurred as the result of heart failure and general debility.

EDWARD Morey.

- Died 4/10/1907 aged 75 yrs
- Cause of death :- Cerebral Embolism Syncope 1 week
- Last seen 4/10/1907 by Dr Scott.
- 15 Children. Illiterate.

Probably one of the richest of the group, made money in a variety of ways. Imported heavy machinery from Europe.

Interesting that Dr Scott recognised cause of stroke as a clot, not a haemorrhage. He survived what must have been a severe stroke for 7 days, most likely developed a chest infection after being bed ridden, for a week, possibly paralysed, difficulty swallowing etc.

THOMAS ROONEY

Born Den Carvan in Ireland. 36 years in Victoria.

Died 6th May 1914 at the Botanical gardens where he was Curator.

Married for 27 years and 9 children

Aged 59 years at death.

Cause of death Disease of Liver and kidneys

 Dropsy

 Suppression of urine

 Length of last illness not certified

Doctor Dr C Hardy

The cause of death is interesting suggesting multi organ failure. Certainly he had severe Kidney disease causing anuria and uraemia with associated oedema which could be either associated with that or heart failure. In itself that would not necessarily be associated with liver disease but would cause hepatomegaly. Other possibilities include amyloid disease associated with chronic illness(TB) sarcoidosis. Another possibility, not described at the time, is hepato renal syndrome in which renal failure occurs in the presence of liver cirrhosis. The illness can cause rapid death, a matter of few weeks without liver transplant and would explain the multi system complex. It is unfortunate that we so not know the length of time of the final illness.

THOMAS STODDART

Deaths in the District of Ballarat in the State of Victoria. 29.892

When and where dies :- 20/2/1905 at Dana St, City of Ballarat, County of Grenville

Name and rank or profession: - Sharebroker.

Sex and Age: - Male. 76 years.

Cause of Death :- Cancer of Liver.

Duration of illness:- 3 months

Medical Practitioner. :- Dr Morrison.

When last seen: - 20/2/1905

Name of Mother and Father: - Unknown. Burial 21/2/1905 at Ballarat Old Cemetery.

Minister:- Hugh Loughlin.

Born Roxburgshire, Scotland.

Years in Victoria:- 52

Marital State:- Single

COMMENT

A three month history of liver problems suggests the possibility of Cancer, not necessarily of the liver as a primary site but as secondary deposits from elsewhere. From the unsubstantiated remark supposedly made by two ladies passing the statue of "Winter" that he had donated that "he looks like Mr Stoddart himself" suggests that not only was Stoddart an elderly man for those times but also looked unwell. The other possibility was that he had cirrhosis of the liver but we do not have newspaper reports of the nature of his demise (as we have with Thomson and Claxton)

James Russell Thomson. 1886 Deaths in the District of Ballarat No.19552. Gentleman.

Where and where died:- 26 May 1886 at Doveton St, City of Ballarat. County of Grenville.

Sex and Age: - Male. 68 years.

Cause of death: - Cancer of Liver.

Duration of illness: - 3 weeks.

Medical attendant by whom certified: - Dr Whitcombe.

When last seen: - 26/5/1886

Name of Father and mother if known: - Unknown.

Informant: - Noble Wilson, one of his executors. Land Agent, Camp St, Ballarat.

Buried: - 28th May 1886.

Minister: - John Marks

Where Born: - Airdrie, Scotland.

Length of time in Victoria: - 34 Years

Marital status: - Single.

COMMENT

Newspaper reports on the occasion of his death indicate that he had apparently developed a respiratory infection at the coast in February on a voyage from Queenscliffe to Sorrento and had neglected his ailment too long to find relief from medical aid although attended by Drs Whitcombe and Bradford. A three week history of "Cancer of the liver" seems somewhat unlikely. With the background of mining pulmonary problems such as silicosis, tuberculosis and chronic obstructive airways disease could play a part with a terminal pneumonia. It is curious that the published cause differs so remarkably from the death certificate and it implies that a liver problem was involved. All in all it is proposed that he died of a terminal pneumonia with a background of chronic chest disease and cirrhosis of the liver. From a small perusal of the death certificates at the time, the diagnosis of cancer of the liver seems to be more prevalent as a cause of death than one would expect,(? a diagnosis of convenience rather than Cirrhosis.)

GRAVE

Death Certificate samples

1886

M	91	Old Age			
		Diarrhoea	2 weeks	Holthouse	
M	83	Old Age	6 months	Holthouse	
M	28	Cancer of Liver	months	Morrison	
M	68	Cancer of Liver	3 weeks	Whitcombe	(Thomson)
F	47	Chronic Alcoholism			
		Exhaustion		Eastwood.	

1888

M	27	Typhoid Fever	weeks	Bradford	
		Cerebral Effusion	hours		
F	86	Heart Disease	Years	O Farrow (?)	
M	55	Choleraic Diarrhoea	10 Days	Whitcombe	(Claxton)
F	6 months	Marasmus	2 months	Dimock	
F	8	Acute Croup			
		Laryngitis			
		Suffocation	10 days	Eastwood	

1899

F	81	Senile Decay	1 Year	Nellrith (?)	
F	80	Bronchopneumonia			
		Cardiac Failure	Not recorded	Champion	
F	59	Bronchopneumonia			

Morbis Cordis

		Cardiac Failure	Not recorded	Champion.	
M	77	Valvular disease of the heart			
		Bronchopneumonia	Many years	Mitchell	(Longley)
F	41	Heart failure			
		Acute Pleuropneumonia			
		Pericarditis	Not recorded	Gallcowan.	
1905					
M	14	Appendicitis			
		Perianal abcess			
		Cardiac Failure	Not recorded	Longmore	
M	76	Cancer of Liver	3 months	Morrison	(Stoddart)
F	42	Pneumonia			
		Cellulitis of shoulder and Breast			
		Congestion of Brain	7 days	(?)	
M	47	Volvulus of Sigmoid Flexure	Not recorded.	P.M.Champion	
F	68	Syncope during an attack of asthma	Months	Salmon.	
1914					
M	74	Atrophic Myocarditis			
		Heart Failure	Not recorded	Spring	
F	66	General paralysis			
		Asthenia	3 months	Chaplin	
M	84	Senile decay	Died in Benevolent Asylum	McGowan	
M	57	Disease of liver and kidneys			

Dropsy

Suppression of Urine not recorded Hardy Rooney

F 13 Coronal Enquiry "Imanilion" - Verdict of Enquiry. Unnamed - McManus
P.C.Milne present at enquiry. Probably "inanition" -Exhaustion
or starvation

1917

M 80 Bronchopneumonia

Asthenia 2 months Scott McDonald

F 73 Heart failure
Old age Order for burial by the Coroner

M 68 Gastritis
Exhaustion
Mitral Disease
Heart failure Steele

F 45 Exhaustion from Epilepsy. Died in Hospital for the insane. Verdict on Inquest.

F 72 Asthenia
Heart Disease. Died in Hospital for the Insane. Verdict at Inquest.