

BUCKLEY John

these biographical notes were curated by John McAlpine,
and they await confirmation/correction, and further detail/expansion from family descendants ...

John BUCKLEY, aged 60, died unexpectedly on 19 July 1867. An inquest followed the following day; he was buried the same day in St Peters Cemetery, Onehunga.

Daily Southern Cross: 22 July 1867

CORONER'S INQUEST AT ONEHUNGA.

A coroner's inquest was held on Saturday afternoon last, before T. M. Philson, Esq. M.D., coroner, at the home of Mr. John Lowbridge, the Hibernian Hotel, Onehunga, on view of the body of **John Buckley**.

The following gentlemen were sworn on the jury:

Messrs. Michael Hartlett (foreman), Thomas Brierley, James Lowbridge, William Roberts, Ephraim Israel, Robert Norman, Henry Driver, Thomas Walker, James Burns, John Francis, John Filmore, Thomas Alridge.

The jury having viewed the body, the following evidence was taken:

Charles Hands, being sworn, deposed; I am a son of Patrick Hands, labourer, and am an apprentice of Mr. McMahan, baker, and live at his home in Onehunga. Yesterday (Friday), about 7 o'clock a.m., I went to the stable to feed one of the horses, and on opening the door I saw deceased lying on the ground on his back, with his head in one stall and his feet in the other. At first, I supposed he was drunk, and called him by name, but received no answer. I then perceived that his hands were clenched and soon found that he was dead. I did not see any wound or injury on his head, nor any appearance of blood. There were four horses in the stable: one of them was fastened in the stall in which the feet of deceased were lying. There was none in that where deceased's head was. There had been a horse in that stall unfastened, but that horse had got at large in the stable. I went and called another boy to come and look at deceased. We both went together to the police-station and gave information of what we had seen to Constable Lloyd. When I first went to the stable both divisions of the door were closed. The upper one was looked, but the lower one was unfastened. Mr. Lloyd came and saw the body, and afterwards had it removed. I last saw deceased alive on Thursday, July 18 instant, in the Hibernian Hotel, at about 4 o'clock p.m. He was in the bar, but I cannot say whether he was sober or not. I don't think deceased received any injury from the horses.

Robert Lloyd, being sworn, deposed: I am a constable in the Auckland armed police, and am stationed at Onehunga. Yesterday, Friday, 19th instant, about a quarter-past 7 o'clock a.m., the last witness came to the police-station and informed me that he had found deceased lying dead in a stable. I went at once and found as had been reported. I recognised deceased as a man whom I had been in the habit of seeing for the last two years. He was a labourer; His age was about 60 years. I had never seen him intoxicated until two evenings previous to his death, when I committed him to the lock-up. I released him on Thursday morning, July 18, about 10 o'clock. He was summoned to appear at the Resident Magistrate's Court on next Wednesday. There was no sign of illness about him when I last saw him. When I saw the body lying in the stable it was quite warm, but there was no pulse at the heart, or sign of respiration. I could not perceive any wounds or bruises. There was no blood about the body of deceased, or about the stalls where he lay. The face was livid. I immediately sent for Dr. Nicholson, who came in about twenty minutes, and pronounced life to be extinct. Deceased had a few pence in his pocket. I could not find any grog about him. The head lay in a position somewhat higher than the feet.

John Robinson Nicholson, being sworn, deposed: I am a Doctor of Medicine of the University of Edinburgh, and a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. I practise in Onehunga. Yesterday morning (Friday) I was called to visit deceased, when I found him lying on his back in a stable off Queen Street, apparently dead. The exposed parts of the body were cold, but those that were covered retained some amount of heat. The right leg was bent on the trunk, and the left in a less degree. I opened the clothes but could not find any marks of external injury. There was no odour of alcohol or any other poison about the mouth of deceased. The features were slightly swollen, and the countenance was livid. There was no pulse at the heart, nor any respiration in the lungs. I judged life to be extinct and thought it unnecessary to use any means. I had known deceased previously and was of opinion that he laboured under disease of the brain, probably softening. I had

also, on two occasions, warned him against drinking, foreseeing a probable fatal result in such a case. I last saw him alive on Thursday, July 18th instant, about ten o'clock a.m. He was sober then but had a difficulty in speaking. I believe that the cause of death was disease of the brain, aggravated by excessive drinking.

Henry Rutter, sworn, deposed: I am a waiter, employed by Mr. Lowbridge, landlord of the Hibernian Hotel, in Onehunga. I knew deceased slightly and saw him in the bar of the hotel about 6 o'clock pm on Thursday, July 20th instant. He was evidently suffering from the effects of drink. He had nothing in our place. He remained until nearly 10 o'clock a.m., when he left the house and walked down the street.

This was the whole of the evidence heard; and the jury recorded the following verdict:

"Found dead in a stable in Onehunga on July 19th instant,
and without marks of violence on his body;
but how or by what means he came to his death
no evidence thereof doth appear to the jurors."