

DEATH IN A FIT.

A magisterial enquiry was held at Darlington Point, on the 25th February, into the death of Robert Ledger, at Warrangesda, on the 3rd inst. The following evidence was taken:

David Francis Cleary deposed: I am a senior-constable of police stationed at Darlington Point; on the 3rd instant I was informed that Robert Ledger had died at Warrangesda station the night previous in a fit; I telegraphed to the District Coroner and got his order for the burial; I went afterwards to Warrangesda Mission station, and examined the dead body of Robert Ledger, the face, neck, and chest were very much swollen and black: there were two bruises over the left eye and one on the nose; they were skin bruises, as if he had knocked himself about while in a fit; I saw no marks of violence; I know the deceased was liable to fits, and I believe that caused his death; he had no property.

George Bellinger deposed: I am overseer at Warrangesda Mission station; on Tuesday morning, 3rd inst. I went to call deceased; I tapped at his window, and not receiving the usual reply I opened his door and saw him with his body leaning over the side of the bed, with his face on the floor, deceased was quite dead; he was undressed, and appeared as if he had been leaning over the bedside when attacked by the fit; he did not appear to have struggled; the bruises referred to by Senior Constable Cleary I think was due to the pressure of the face on the floor while dying; he was buried at the expense of the mission.

John Brown Gribble deposed: I am in charge of the Warrangesda Aboriginal Mission station; the deceased, Robert Ledger, was storekeeper to the mission, and had been there as such for over two years; on the 2nd instant, about noon, deceased fell down in the kitchen in a fit, and with the assistance of a black man I carried him to his room: it was an epileptic fit; I have been told he was subject to these fits since he was twelve years old; deceased was 37 years when he died; about one hour afterwards deceased got up and resumed his work; I told him as he was not well he had better go to his room and lie down, which he did; deceased took tea as usual and then retired for the night; deceased was heard about ten o'clock humming a tune, and that was the last heard of him; deceased had no property but his books and clothing; his services were voluntary, receiving only food and clothing.

The finding was that "the deceased, Robert Ledger, died suddenly on the night of the 2nd instant from the effect of an epileptic fit."