

Perth

5 February 1832

Sir,

I beg to transmit the subjoined particulars of a very recent outrage committed by the natives of which I have this day received intelligence, in order that the case may be laid before His Excellency the Governor.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant

W. H. Mackie JP

Chipper of Perth Labourer States:-

“ On Friday last, about noon, I was driving Mr. Leroux's cart from Guildford to York, in company with a boy named Reuben Beacham about fourteen years old – We had just passed Greenmount and were going up a hill on the other side, when we saw two natives squatting behind some grass trees, close to the tail of the cart, but five yards off. When they found that I had seen them, they threw down their spears and wanted to make friends, and as I understood them wanted to exchange a spear for some bread or biscuit – When they offered me the spear I put out my hand to shake hands with them, when one of them instantly stabbed or thrust his spear at me – I held up my right arm to ward it off, when it passed through my arm into my side – All this passed within two minutes.

I can swear that I never gave any provocation to either of them, nor the boy Beacham, who was then sitting in the cart.

We have not a single gun with us – In the part of the road when this happened, the bush was very thickly grown with grass trees- When I was stabbed in the arm, I turned round and immediately the other of the two natives put his spear into his throwing stick and sent it into my back making a deep wound. I then began to run as hard as possible down a steep hill from the cart, and the boy jumped out off the cart, and followed. The moment I began to run, the two natives shouted and were answered by a number of other natives close to the road. The boy was overtaken about ten yards from the cart. I heard him scream out, and I looked back, but did notice him; but perceiving a number of the natives gaining ground upon me, I turned short round the shoulder of the same hill, and ran off at my utmost speed. All this time they were throwing their spears at me. I ran for about four miles, and

when I stopped I heard the natives in the bush close round me, shouting as if they had lost their breath by hard running. I then set off again and made the Governors house.

I suppose that I ran, in the whole, seven miles. I think I have before seen at Mr. Henty's farm one of the two natives who first attacked us. About twenty minutes before the attack, I thought I saw a native skulking in the bush about a quarter of a mile before the cart. I have this morning received a bundle which I had with me in the cart, in the state in which it was found by the party who discovered Beachams body; out of this bundle has been taken a blanket, a Fustian Jacket, a Scotch Cap and a large pocket knife and some tea and sugar in a bag.

Thomas Porley of Perth, Labourer States:-

Yesterday afternoon/ Saturday the 4th February/ I proceeded with Beacham, the father of the deceased, Inkpen and several others from Guildford to search for the body of Reuben Beacham – About seven miles from Guildford, on the road to York we came to the place where Chipper had been attacked on Friday last – Our party then spread out, on each side of the road, and we found the body of Beacham about forty yards from the road. It had twelve spear wounds in it, and a piece of a spear was sticking in the back of the shoulder bone – There was a large cut on the back of the head, as if made by a throwing stick. – Near the same place we found a piece of salt pork, and part of the head of a cask. – The body was not stripped of any part of its clothing, but the boy's hat was missing. We did not see any of the natives. – We buried the body at a spot about two miles from the place where it was found.

State Record Office

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