

Colony of NEW ZEALAND to wit:

INFORMATIONS of WITNESSES severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, touching the death of HUGH SINCLAIR

at the dwelling-house of Agnes Sinclair Wainui-o-mata, in the Province of Wellington in the Colony above-mentioned, on Monday the thirteenth day of November One thousand eight hundred and seventy-one before J G Fred Wilford one of the Coroners for the said Colony, on a Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of HUGH SINCLAIR then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:-

THOMAS WILLIAM DOWNES being sworn, saith that at a quarter to seven on Friday evening I accompanied deceased across the Hutt river in the punt, he stopped five minutes at Whitewoods' Hotel, where he purchased a bottle of brandy, which he strapped round his waist; I walked with him some distance down the Waiwetu road, talking about some business; deceased was in his usual health, he had had a drop or two but was quite able to ride, and talked quite rationally on business matters; he had half a glass of brandy at Whitewoods', he had been to town and was then returning, he did not remain in the Hutt more than about a quarter of an hour, he did not call at Valentines. It was then fine weather; about half an hour after it began to rain and blow from the south-east. When Mr Sinclair left me I considered him quite capable of taking care of himself.

(Signed) THOS W DOWNES

HUSTON CAMPBELL being sworn saith that on Friday night November 10th between eight and nine O'clock, I was on the Wainui road, on the Wainui side of the hill, when I saw deceased coming -(?); he was on horseback, he asked me to have a glass of brandy, he had an unopened bottle with him. I went into my house which is on the roadside taking the bottle with me and helped myself to a glass, when I came back I asked him if he was not going to have a drop, he bid me bring him a cup, which I did, I poured some out into the cup, part of which he drank and part he threw in the road. He then began to talk business referring to roadmaking, timber etc. He talked quite sensibly. He talked for about ten or fifteen minutes, he then got me to get a bit o flax to tie the bottle in his pocket which I did; he then went off home at a trot. As far as drink was concerned I considered him well able to take care of himself. The place where I left him was about a mile from where he was found. It was then raining Deceased made no complaint of any kind. Deceased was not sober nor yet was he Drunk.

(Signed) HUSTON CAMPBELL

WILLIAM WAKEHAM being sworn saith that on Saturday November 11th I was going along the road near the black bridge in the Wainui when I noticed a horse with saddle and bridle on, on the road, on coming up I noticed deceased lying on his right side about two yards from the road with his feet towards the road; deceased's hat was on the road about half a dozen yards from where he lay. There was no sand upon his clothes or face; the roads were very dirty. His pocket handkerchief was between him and his hat; I immediately went to inform McIlvrade and others of the occurrence. The bridle rein was trailing in the road.

(Signed) WILLIAM WAKEHAM

JOHN McILVRIDE being sworn saith that on Saturday morning Nov 11th between nine & ten O'clock I was called by last witness who informed me that he had found deceased lying dead near the black river bridge. I went to the spot. I found deceased lying on his right side, right arm under his head, left arm across his

stomach; deceased lay about ten feet from the road, his hat was on the ground in front of him and his pocket handkerchief behind him. I saw no mark of a fall upon him, nor did I notice any sand upon his face hands or any part of his clothes, his clothes were thoroughly soaked with the rain. I acquainted his friends and then returned and found others with deceased. From the attitude of the body I should suppose that deceased layd(sic) himself down voluntarily not that he had been thrown there.
(Signed) JOHN McILVRIDE

HENRY FREDERICK NORRIS being sworn saith that I am a legally qualified Medical Practitioner. I have made a post mortem examination of body of deceased. On removing the skull-cap I found the dura mater(?) and sic mater(?) natural, the crackwoid(?) membrane together with the whole of the brain more especially the base in a state of congestion. Considerable lesions -(?) the right ventricle, Heart healthy, lungs healthy though the right one congested, abdominal viscera healthy, stomach empty, the lining membrane quite healthy. I attribute the death of deceased to congestion of the brain carrirs (?) --(?) and consequent concussion.
Such an attack would probably be sudden. The first effect would be giddiness which would speedily result in insensibility with certain amount of congestion.
(Signed) HARRY F MORRIS

Colony of New Zealand to Wit:- An Inquisition indented, taken for our Sovereign Lady, the Queen, at the house of Agnes Sinclair at Wainui-o-mata in the said Colony, on the thirteenth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, before J G FRED WILFORD one of the Coroners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen for the said Colony, on view of the body of HUGH SINCLAIR then and there lying dead, upon the oath of

ROBERT DICK, Foreman
WILLIAM PROUSE, ROBERT WHILEY, JAMES SYMONS, CHARLES COLLIS Jnr,
JOHN WILLIAMS, NICKOLAS THOMSEN, GEORGE COLLIS,
S JOHN HILL, JOHN WAKEHAM, DAVID DICK Sen and THOMAS GRAY good and lawful men of the neighbourhood, duly chosen, and who being there and then duly sworn and charged to inquire for our Lady the Queen, when, how, and by what means the said HUGH SINCLAIR came to his death, do, upon their oaths say that -
Deceased HUGH SINCLAIR died on the night between Friday evening November 10th and Saturday morning November 11th 1871 on the Wainui-o-mata road near what is known as the black bridge and that the cause of his death was congestion of the brain.

In Witness whereof, as well the said Coroner as the said Jurors aforesaid have hereunto set and subscribed their hands and seals the day and year first above written.
(Signed)

J G F WILFORD Coroner	ROBERT DICK Foreman
WILLIAM PROUSE	GEORGE COLLIS
ROBERT WHILEY	S JOHN HILL
JAMES SYMONS	JOHN WAKEHAM
CHARLES COLLIS Jun	DAVID DICK Sen (His Mark)
JOHN WILLIAMS	THOS GRAY (His Mark)
NICKOLAS THOMSON	

This is the paper writing marked "A" referred to in the annexed affidavit of Hugh Sinclair sworn before me this fifteenth day of November 1871)
Charles N Gard(ner?)
A solicitor of the Supreme Court of New Zealand

THIS IS THE LAST Will and Testament of me HUGH SINCLAIR of the Wainuiomata District in the Province of Wellington Farmer I GIVE to my dear wife AGNES ALL the furniture linen china and other household goods in and about the house in which I may be residing at the time of my death and a sum of (L50) Fifty pounds for her immediate requirements I GIVE and bequeath to my dear Wife an annuity of Fifty pounds (L50) during her life to be charged upon and issuing out of my three sections of land numbers two twenty six and thirty four in the Wainuiomata District aforesaid to be paid to her half yearly the first payment to be made Six calendar months after my death AND I empower her to -? on the said land sections and premises if the annuity shall be in arrears for twenty one days and to enter thereupon and take the rents issues and profits thereof if the said annuity or any part of it shall be in arrears for thirty days and subject to such annuity I GIVE to JAMES WALLACE and JOHN WOOD hereinafter mentioned and their heirs ALL THOSE my said three sections in the Wainuiomata District Numbers Two and twenty six and thirty four with the houses and buildings thereon for Five hundred years to commence from the day of my death for the purposes hereinafter named and subject to and charged with the said annuity to my said Wife And also charged with a sum of Four hundred pounds payable to James Wallace of the City of Wellington Grocer and John Wood of the Wainuiomata District aforesaid farmer in manner hereinafter mentioned AND ALSO subject as to two acres part of section number two to the occupation thereof by my sister Isabella Sinclair during her life I GIVE and DEVISE the same three sections to my son JOHN SINCLAIR and his heirs. I GIVE and DEVISE to my son DUNCAN SINCLAIR and his heirs

ALL THOSE my Four sections in the Wainuiomata District Numbers Thirty five Thirty Six Thirty seven and thirty eight I GIVE and DEVISE to my sister Isabella Sinclair the piece of land containing two acres part of Section Number Two in the Wainuiomata District situate between the Bank where the house she is now occupying stands and the river together with the said house during her life I confirm to all my children the gifts of all the cattle I have heretofore given to them and their increase I GIVE to my son John Sinclair All other my cattle and live stock and Agricultural implements I GIVE and BEQUEATH to the said James Wallace and John Wood the sum of Four hundred pounds to be paid to them by my son John Sinclair by four yearly instalments of One hundred pounds each the first payment to be made on the day of the month on which I shall die in the year following my death and the others on the same day in the three following years respectively UPON TRUST as to one half thereof for my daughter Agnes and the other half thereof for my daughter Elizabeth to be paid to them when they shall respectively attain the age of twenty one years or marry which shall first happen AND I direct my trustees and other my trustees for the time being of such sum to invest the same in them (my trustees) names on mortgage on real security or in securities of the General Government of New Zealand and alter and vary such securities for others of a like nature where they my trustees may deem it advisable so to do and pay the interest dividends and annual proceeds thereof until the principal shall become payable towards the maintenance and education of my said daughters respectively PROVIDED HOWEVER that if at my death they or either of them shall be married or of the age aforesaid then the said Sums shall be paid to them or such of them as shall be entitled to receive the same when and as the same sums shall from time to time be payable by my said son John AND I declare that in case either of my said daughters shall die under the age of twenty one years unmarried then the whole of the said sum and the interest

dividends and annual proceeds thereof shall go to the survivor of them and be paid at the same time as her original share AND I hereby declare that if my said son John shall make default in payment of any instalment or part thereof the same or such part thereof as shall not be paid shall bear interest after the rate of Eight pounds per centumm per annum until paid but this proviso for payment of Interest is not to be deemed to prejudice the right of my trustees to demand and request the amount and as soon after the same shall be payable as they may think fit And all the residue of my estate and effects real and personal I give devise and bequeath unto my children equally as tennants in Common AND I hereby declare that the said term of Five hundred years on my said three sections numbers two twenty six and thirty four in the Wainuiomata District is Granted to my said trustees UPON TRUST by selling or mortgaging the same to raise the said sum of Four hundred pounds payable to them by my said son John Sinclair in case my said son John shall make default in payment thereof or of any part thereof for six calendar months after the same or any part thereof shall be payable under the trusts or directions aforesaid and in any mortgage thereof a power of sale may be inserted PROVIDED ALWAYS that upon payment by my said son John Sinclair of the said sum of Four hundred pounds at the times and in manner hereinbefore directed the said term of Five hundred years shall cease. AND I appoint the said James Wallace and John Wood my Executors (And give to them a Sum of Twenty Pounds each for the Trouble they will have in the execution of this my Will) and I hereby authorize them to pay all debts claimed from me or my estate on such evidence as they or either of them may deem sufficient and to compromise and compound any claim to be made by them or either of them on behalf of my estate and submit any doubts (?) or difference affecting the same or any part of my estate to arbitration and abide the result and hereby revoking all other wills I declare this to be my only last will and Testament IN WITNESS

whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name this Eighth day of February
One thousand eight hundred and sixty four.

SIGNED by the said Hugh Sinclair The Testator as and for his last Will
and Testament in the presence of us being present at the same time who
at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have
hereunto subscribed our names as Witnesses. And we devise to each of my
executors having been duly inserted between the Twenty seventh and
Twenty eighth lines of the Second Page

(Signed) HUGH SINCLAIR

F A BAKER

Art Clerk Wellington NZ

Fras: J Farey

Clerk Wellington

Colony of NEW ZEALAND to wit:

INFORMATIONS of WITNESSES severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, touching the death of JOHN HUGH SINCLAIR

at the dwelling-house of JOHN SINCLAIR WAINUI-o-MATA in the Provincial District of Wellington in the Colony above-mentioned, on THURSDAY the twentieth day of OCTOBER One thousand eight hundred and eighty-one before JOHN G F WILFORD one of the Coroners for the said Colony, on a Inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of

JOHN HUGH SINCLAIR

then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:-

GEORGINA BUCK being sworn, saith that I was in the service of Mrs Sinclair the mother of deceased on Saturday Oct. 15th as nurse; deceased was in my care just before dinner; about ten minutes before dinner I heard Emily Stephenson tell Mrs Sinclair that the child had been eating matches; Mrs Sinclair gave the child some sugar and warm milk to make it sick it did not vomit whilst I was in the house. I left the house about one O'clock; the child was in my charge for an hour or two previous to this we were in the bed-room, the child was playing about and I did not see it get a match, it must have got them in the bedroom as they were found some time afterwards with the heads eaten off, a box was usually kept on the dressing table, I knew nothing of the matches till the other girl mentioned it; the matches were found on the other side of the room and behind where I was standing packing my things. The child could get the matchbox from the dressing-table. No alarm was expressed by anybody at the time, we did not know how many the child had eaten, it ran about for some time after eating them.

(Signed) GEORGINA BUCK

EMILY STEPHENSON being sworn Saith that I remember Saturday Oct. 15th; I was employed on that morning scrubbing and cleaning I had nothing to do with deceased: just before dinner I smelt a strong smell of matches about the child, I told Mrs Sinclair he had been eating matches, she did not seem at all alarmed but she gave him something to make him sick, it was ten minutes to twelve when she gave it him but he was not sick till tea time five-o'clock; after dinner on going into the bedroom upstairs I found a lot of matches, about a handful all with their heads eaten off on the bedroom floor. I brought them down and showed them to Mrs Sinclair, the child was then at the shearing shed with his father, at tea time he began to vomit and I noticed a number of match heads amongst the liquid he threw up, I should think there were more than a dozen thrown up; deceased continued vomiting all Saturday evening and frequently up to the time of his death. He did not seem very bad on Sunday but was worse on Monday when he began to be stupid and heavy; - Mr Sinclair went out to get some medicine from the doctor on Monday afternoon which was given to the child; the child seemed better on Tuesday but Mr Sinclair sent a message out to the doctor that he would like him to see him; the doctor came in to see him early on Wednesday morning, he was very much worse and died about ten O'clock.

(Signed) EMILY STEVENSON

JOHN SINCLAIR being Sworn Saith that I am father of deceased, on Saturday Oct. 15th on coming home to tea between four and five I found his mother nursing the child before the fire, the child was vomiting, they said the child had been eating matches, I did not see any matches vomited, nor did I take much notice at the time; deceased continued vomiting all the evening till about twelve O'clock it then slept till the morning; on Sunday it was better; On Monday Mrs Sinclair brought him to me at the shearing shed about ten O'Clock in the morning saying

he was worse, I said I will go out to the doctor at dinner time which I did; I got some medicine for the child. I did not think it serious enough to ask the doctor to come out, I explained all the symptoms and brought out the medicine, with the understanding if the child was no better I was to send word next day, this I did with Mr Oakes the contractor. I asked him to go as far as the doctors and ask him to come in to see the child as it was no better, the doctor arrived early the following morning, the child was very much worse and died at a quarter to ten O'clock next morning. I have always been particular about matches in my home and I cannot tell how the child got hold of these. I did not see the matches with the heads off and so had no idea how many the child had eaten. I never apprehended danger till the morning he died.

(Signed) JOHN SINCLAIR

Colony of NEW ZEALAND to wit:-

The above-named Depositions of GEORGINA BUCK EMILY STEPHENSON and JOHN SINCLAIR written on five pages of paper, numbered consecutively from one to five and by me affixed together were taken and sworn before me, at Wainui-o-mata in the said Colony, on the twentieth day of October 1881.

(Signed) J G F WILFORD (Coroner)

An inquisition indented, taken for our Sovereign Lady the Queen, at the house of JOHN SINCLAIR WAINUI-O-MATA in the said Colony, on the twentieth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, before John G F Wilford one of the Coroners of our Sovereign Lady the Queen of the said Colony, on view of the body of JOHN HUGH SINCLAIR, then and there lying dead, upon the oath of ROBERT DICK, Foreman, JOHN DICK, CHARLES KEYS, JOHN McILVRIDE, JOHN McINTOSH, CHARLES HENRY DRYDEN, JOHN WRIGHT, ARTHUR WILLIAM DRYDEN, CHARLES LOVETT, EDWARD O AMDORE, JAMES LITTLE and PETER HANSEN good and lawful men of the neighbourhood, duly chosen, and who being there and then duly sworn and charged to inquire for our Lady the Queen when, how, and by what means the said JOHN HUGH SINCLAIR came to his death, do upon their oaths say - That JOHN HUGH SINCLAIR WAS ACCIDENTALLY POISONED BY EATING LUCIFER MATCHES ON OCTOBER 15TH 1881 AND THEREBY MET HIS DEATH AT THE HOUSE OF HIS FATHR JOHN SINCLAIR, WAINUI-O-MATA AND THAT NO BLAME IS DUE TO ANYBODY CONCERNED.

In Witness whereof, as well the said Coroner as the said Jurors aforesaid have hereunto set and subscribed their hands and seals the day and year first above written:

(Signed)

J G F WILFORD Coroner

ROBERT DICK Foreman	A W DRYDEN
JOHN DICK	CHARLES LOVETT
C KEYS	EDWARD O AMDORE
J McILVRIDE	JAMES LITTLE
JOHN McINTOSH	PETER HANSEN (His Mark)
C H DRYDEN	
JOHN WRIGHT Witnesses	J MacKAY and JOHN SINCLAIR