

BDA Source Description Pages

<https://www.bda-online.org.au>**Coroners Inquests Index (NSW + some QLD & VIC) 1834-1859**

A coroner was a local official charged with investigating suspicious, accidental or sudden deaths and reporting on the cause of death, aided by a jury. Some findings led to murder charges. In more remote country districts local magistrates acted as coroners without the aid of a jury. Coroners and magistrates were assisted by police and bodies were often stored in the cool cellars of public houses. Causes of death could range from snakebite, shark attack, drowning, alcohol consumption (intemperance), lightning strike, fire, drowning, frontier violence (victims from Aboriginal and settler communities), suicide, childbirth and many other causes including a range of medical conditions to unknown causes characterised as 'Visitation of God'. Locations are generally within the borders of modern New South Wales but in earlier years include Moreton Bay and Melbourne.

This dataset contains records of 12,012 inquests and a total of 18,897 entries when additional persons mentioned are cross referenced. The registers list name of deceased, district of inquiry, date and place of death, verdict and name of coroner. Original and editorial comments have been included.

Original held by New South Wales State Archives, Registers of Coroners' inquests and Magisterial inquiries 34-1942, ref: NRS 343, 4/6611.1-6620. Digitized online by Ancestry.com.au as 'New South Wales, Australia, Registers of Coroners' Inquests, 1821-1937'. The registers for 1834-1859 used for this dataset are at the following locations:

1834-1836: 4/6611.1

May 1838-Nov 1844: 4/6611.2

Jan 1845-Nov 1852: 4/6612

Nov 1852-Apr 1859: 4/6613

Data entry by BDA volunteer John Ross for years 1834-1859.

For earlier inquests see this BDA dataset

[Coroners Inquests Index \(NSW & VDL\) 1796-1824.](#)

Information Page written by Michael Flynn 2021.

For of all Court records included in the BDA see:

www.bda-online.org.au/sources/court-records

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