

No 82.



8

2

25x10

32x10

(11)
Statements taken before the undersigned
justices of the Peace of persons having
any knowledge of facts in connection
with the supposed death by drowning
of one Henry Martin late of Bowley

James Healey being called states - I
am a labourer residing in Bowley
On Tuesday last the 5th instant, in
company of Henry Martin and Daniel
Henderson we left Bowley for the
wreck of the "Delair" at Plover
Reef in Whit Sunday Passage in
Mr Donald Millers boat called the
"Hunchman" - we were all stopped
by Mr Miller to look after the wreck
Henry Martin being in charge of the
boat and party - besides the boat
we had a small flat bottomed
boat put with us - we arrived
in sight of wreck on Thursday morning
we went on board the wreck
that day and stopped about
two hours and then made for
the shore in the "Hunchman" and
anchored her about one hundred
yards from the shore and we
went on shore and then returned
to the boat where we slept.
The "Delair" was distant from there
we anchored the "Hunchman" about
a mile to seaward - On Friday
morning Henry Martin said "Who
I am & of & is
J. H. & P. & C.

(2)

is going to the wreck." I said "I
wish so if you like." Sam Henderson
said he wanted to go - a true Sam
got into the Boat I jumped ashore
and said "you two had better
go" - we were ashore at this time
and Martin & Henderson were in
the boat - they both started in
the Boat and went along side
the wreck and went on board
they returned to the shore some about
twelve o'clock ^{or half past} I think I had better
~~not have done so~~ About two o'clock
Martin said "I think then if we
can go" meaning home of Henderson
and I could go safely - then
we got into the Boat and went
on to the wreck - the tide was run-
ning to the northward very rapidly
the water was smooth
and the weather calm - we stopped
on the wreck about two hours and
the three of us left in the Boat
for the Frenchman the tide was
then running in very strong, we
had a pair of oars, our longer
than another Martin and I were
pulling Martin was pulling the
bow oar and I the aft
we pulled straight for the French-
man for about ten minutes, then
the tide caught us and left washing
us to the Southward and away
from our goal - we got into
the ~~Boat~~ ^{Boat} ~~at~~ ^{at} 2 P.M. the

(3)

The tide rip, and the water commenced coming into the Stern. Martin then said "put her bows on to it" we pulled round and "put her bows to it" and as we did so she shipped a pretty heavy sea, and began to fill. I said "look out" when she filled and turned bottom up - the three of us were thrown out on to the water. I went down just under water and when I came up I saw Sam & the deck hand going down. I made a dive for him and caught him under the arm and lifted him on to the bottom of the Boat - he did not catch hold perfectly at that time. I lifted him further on the Boat and said "stick to him" he did so - during this time Martin was heading on to the Boat - I stripped off all my clothes we were drifting away all the time I kept speaking to him. I had a hold of the Boat with one hand and trying to steer the Boat to land with the other - Martin had not stripped at this time. I said to him "you had better take your clothes off" - after a little while he took them off and
J. M. G. 8/24 he
J. M. G. - J. P.

(4)

he said "I wish we had not
lost the oars and rowlocks.
I think we could have man-
aged if we had the oars".
I looked round and saw
an oar on the waves. I
swam for it and brought
it to the punt. we tried to
paddle with that oar but
it forced her deeper in the water
and we left off. Martin then
started to swim. I said "you
are very foolish not to stick
to the Punt" so he came back
to the Punt. I said "I'll try
and get the boat" with that
he closed off from the punt
swimming towards the shore.
I stuck to the Punt until Henderson
got a better hold upon it and
then struck after Martin taking
the oar with me. I overtook
him and I said to him "you
are swimming too fast
swim ^{low} steady stroke".
We both swam abreast a
good while. I saw that his eyes
had a frightened look in them.
I addressed him then and
said "you had better take
this it will help to keep
you afloat" he took it
from me and put the blade
across his throat and
said "I'll stay the
Punt".

(5)

The other end between his legs.
he then changed it to under
his arms across his chest
he then swam up to me and
caught me by my right leg at
the calf I swam out of
his way a little bit - and
he swam up again and
made an attempt to catch
hold of me again but did
not succeed - from that
time he seemed to leave me
and to drift with the current
he seemed frightened he said
'Come down' I swung out to
him 'don't give in old boy
come along' he then said 'I'm
boiled' he was further away
then - we were both in the
current at this time - I kept
speaking to him to encourage
him and then I heard three
over the land just pretty
loud the last very loud
I then looked ^{in his direction} ~~at him~~
and I could not see him
from the time he last said
'I'm cooked' till I lost sight
of him would be about
fifteen minutes - he was
then about 150 yards away
from me - the nearest point of
land at was distant then about
a mile, I was making for the
Point of the point
at 2 P.

(6)

point - when Martin dropped
I was in a current which was
running south - I got pretty near
to the point and the current
set me off from it. I then
saw for a beach which I
reached and got ashore - I
ran along the beach to the
"Frenchman" a black boy (who
we took from this place out
with me to the Frenchman we
got up sail and anchor and
went in search of Henderson
whom I found close to the
rocky point and set on
the point - he must have drifted
a considerable distance the
tide had then changed and
was setting to the northward
I picked Henderson up with the
"Frenchman" - this was about
four hours after being upset
I let the point go - I sailed about
in search of Martin - I did
not find his oar - we searched
about until midnight at there
came back and anchored at
the same place - next morning
the black boy and I searched
along the beach for Martin's body
but you see could not
find it - we came back to
the Frenchman and got him
under ~~the~~ to look for the
body
W. J. P.

(7)

body, we beat to the Southern
and in the direction he disappeared
then ran into a big bay and
looked all round the Bay
this was on Saturday - then
beat out of the Bay to
Doubt (one Island), and
at coming on to blow, was
returned to Rowan
The black boy I have mentioned
accompanied us from Rowan he
was on the Reindeer at the time
the occurrence I have mentioned
took place -

James Heeray
Taken before
us at Rowan
this 14th March 1881
Patrick MacCarthy
Wandooke D.O.

(8)

Samuel Henderson called states
I am a Abolitionist and reside
in Rowen Lane the person
referred to by James Healey
in the statement before made
today touching the supposed
chaining of Henry Martin -
I have the means to test
of Healey's statement and so
far as I know it is perfectly correct
I saw Henry and Martin
both absent swimming for the
land for about one hundred
yards after having ^{in the past} and
that was the last I saw of
either of them until picked
up by Healey. I then found
Henry in the canal for Martin
but we never saw anything
more of him - I have nothing
to add to Healey's statement -
I feel indebted to James Healey
for the manly way in which
he rescued me and in doing so
to save Martin -

S. Henderson

Taken before us
at Rowen Lane
14th March 1881

Patrick McCartan
J. P.