

Bendigo Cemetery



Earthen grave location for Elvisus EGELLS

It is in section B1, and the interment number is 4747

The date of death was 14/07/1873, aged 40, and date of burial was 15/07/1873

Image:

EGGLES_B1_058_4747.JPG



Only Elvisus EGELLS is buried in this grave #4747 Sect B1 as per cemetery records.

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Elvisus EGELLS

Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Mon 14 Jul 1873 Page 2

CASE OF SUICIDE AT SPRING GULLY.

On Saturday afternoon much excitement was created at Spring Gully, near the reservoir, when it became known that the body of a man, supposed to have committed suicide, had been found in the locality.

At about 3 o'clock, Mrs Lowden, landlady of the Retreat Inn, was walking in the bush at the rear of the hotel, and on passing a secluded part of the ranges she was startled at seeing a dead body suspended to a tree. She immediately hurried home and gave information, and a messenger was sent to Sandhurst for the police.

In less than an hour Constable Dunlop, of the Quarry Hill police station, arrived at Spring Gully, and, proceeding to the spot pointed out by Mrs Lowden, he found the body as already described. It was hanging by a plain scarf, which had evidently been worn by the man whose life it had been the means of taking.

The tree was but a slender sapling, and it was bending downward with the mortal load, the branch to which it hung being strained so much that the legs of the corpse almost touched the ground. There were boot marks on a lower branch, and it was plain that the man must have stood upon this whilst fastening the scarf to the branch above, and that when fixed he launched himself away.

Upon cutting it down, and making a search, Dunlop found £16 in notes, and 1s 3d in silver in the clothes of the deceased; on measurement the body was found to be 5 feet 7½ inches in height, and it was that of a man about 35 years of age, of dark complexion, having grey whiskers and slightly bald headed.

He wore a black tweed coat, with pockets in the side and breasts, a soft billycock hat, very much worn; with a piece of black ribbon under the rim; a white shift and new white flannel, which had never been washed, dark spotted tweed trousers, matching the elastic boots; and on the whole the external appearance was like that of a respectable man, and the hands there soft and delicate, leading to the assumption that he had not done manual labor for a considerable time at least.

The body, which was beginning to emit an offensive smell, had, according to Dunlop's estimate, been hanging in that position for fully two days.

Inquires were made during the whole of the afternoon and yesterday but no person was able to identify the deceased, nor is his name yet known. It was thought by several persons who examined the body that it was that of a well known mining man of this town, who was last heard of in Melbourne on Saturday morning. We have since obtained reliable intelligence that the gentleman in question was in Melbourne in good health last evening.

An inquest is to be held today at the Retreat Inn, and perhaps the mystery will be cleared up.

It is a singular thing that at about the same time last week, a melancholy suicide was committed in the same part of the district. This adds another to the long list of shocking and tragic occurrences that have taken place in Sandhurst within the last few weeks.

EGELLS body moved for better identification.

Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Tue 15 Jul 1873 Page 2

THE MAN FOUND HANGED IDENTIFIED.

The body of the man who was found hanged on a sapling at the back of the Retreat Inn was yesterday removed from the Retreat Inn to Crawford's Bath Hotel, Sandhurst. This step was deemed advisable by the Coroner, in order that the body might be identified, as few people troubled themselves to go out so far as the Retreat Inn for that purpose.

The judiciousness of the step was soon seen, for the body, which was brought to the hotel at 2 o'clock, was identified two hours afterwards by Mr Kirchner, of the Gymnasium, and by several others.

Mr Kirchner recognised him as a man named Egells, an engineer by trade, 40 years of age, and a native of Berlin, Prussia, who had been in the colonies for the last 16 years. He was last at work at the pyrites works, Jackass Flat, and for three weeks previous to Tuesday last he had been staying at Brocklebank's Hotel, High Street, and at Nissen's.

While there he was very quiet and reserved. On Tuesday he left that place, and had not been seen by anyone belonging to it until he was found dead. It is supposed that he went out to Mr Heine's on the Sheepwash in search of work, and when returning committed the sad act which terminated his life. At all events, the place where he was found hanged is just off the road between Heine's and the Retreat Inn.

An inquest will be held on the body today at 12 o'clock.

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The Inquiry

Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Wed 16 Jul 1873 Page 2

SUICIDE BY HANGING

The inquiry into the cause of the death of Elvisus Egells, 48 years of age, was held yesterday at the Bath Hotel, by the district coroner.

Dr J Boyd deposed that he had made an examination of the body, and found it that of a well fed and healthy looking man; the brain was sound and healthy, with no congestion or any fluid in the ventricles; no abscess or inflammation of the membranes of the brain. The internal organs of the body were all healthy.

The cause of death was hanging, and he found no evidence of disease to point to derangement of deceased's mind.

Thomason Snowden, a farmer's wife, deposed that on Saturday about three o'clock, while gathering firewood with her niece, at the foot of One Tree Hill, they saw deceased hanging from a sapling, and they gave information to the police. The feet

were both on the ground, and deceased could easily have saved himself had he desired to do so.

Adolph Rosenow, manager of the Sandhurst and Eaglehawk Pyrites Works, Jackass Flat, deposed that on 8th July, 1873, he employed deceased as engineer at the works. He was sober and attentive to his duties.

On the 30th March he left, by witness's advice to go to Melbourne for change of air, and to get medical advice, on account of pains in his head, from which he had been suffering. He did not go to Melbourne, but to the Berlin Rush.

When he returned witness did not know; but he saw him in Sandhurst last Tuesday, when he passed without speaking, holding his head down. For some time he had seemed down-hearted, and absent in mind. Deceased said his family were very well off at Berlin. Deceased did not drink, and was very saving.

Witness did not know of any reason why he should commit suicide. Deceased could read German, French, and English newspapers. He had a discharge from one ear.

John Nissen, Hotelkeeper, High Street, deposed that he had known deceased for eight years. Four weeks ago he came to his hotel as a boarder, and remained until last Monday week or Tuesday morning. During his stay he was quiet and melancholy, and would sit by himself for hours not speaking to anyone. He was very steady, and would only have a glass of beer at dinner.

In the evenings he would sit in the dark and say nothing. Once he said to witness's sister, that he never felt well, and was tired of his existence. Believed deceased had had a love disappointment in Sandhurst.

Fred Ludwich, engineer, deposed that deceased came from Berlin in 1857 to Australia. His uncle in Berlin was an engineer, and employed 1,000 men. Deceased never stated the reason why he left Berlin, but he was sorry he left home. Lately he was in very low spirits. Witness never knew of madness in deceased's family.

Ernest H Brusendorff, miner, deposed that he had known deceased since 1861. He was generally quiet, but excitable in argument. He never got drunk, but continually complained of headache. He was disappointed in coming to the colony, and had his friends sent for him, he would have gone home.

At Nissen's he was very reserved and silent towards witness. Two years ago he contemplated marriage, but witness advised him against it, as he could not support a wife.

Often deceased had threatened to blow his brains out. He told witness his mother and father were dead. From deceased's manner of late, witness was not surprised at his committing suicide.

The jury gave a verdict that deceased hanged himself whilst of unsound mind.



Compiled by Pat & Ian Belmont
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