

TPF / 1859 / 5

DSC04367

Precognition of Witnesses
Henry Nisbet P.F.
as to Sudden Death
of

Helen Paterson or MacQuarrie

Torreston 2 June 1859

a Widow and residing at Arynagour in the Island of Coll in the united parish of Tyree & Coll in the County of Argyll who says I am 27 years of age - I happened to be from home on

Sunday three weeks past last Sunday (8th May 1859)

but returned the following Monday morning - My mother Helen Paterson or MacQuarrie a Widow ~~

DSC04368

2

Margaret MacQuarrie or MacFadyen

Widow (who was a very healthy woman) told me she had taken ill on her way home from a prayer meeting, which was held in a house about 100 yards distant, on the previous Sabbath Evening, - that her head became very painful and giddy accompanied with cold shiverings, and after she went home that she bathed her feet in warm water and went to bed - That she was very unwell during the first part of the night but that she felt quite well that morning

Monday 9th May 1859 -

My mother was delving some ground for planting potatoes, and at intervals carrying sea ware to the ground along with Widow Catherine MacKinnon or Macphail ~~

DSC04369

3

Margaret MacQuarrie or MacFadyen

Macphail - After she came home in the Evening and between 8 & 10 o'clock I prepared a supper of Tea, Oak cake, and Eggs of which she and I partook - She was then in good spirits and good health - After supper we went to bed - About midnight my mother wakened me and asked me to rise and give her a drink - She complained of severe pain in the head and of cold shiverings as on the previous night & felt inclined to vomit - I prepared some oatmeal gruel with a little treacle and gave her a drink of it - After she had taken the gruel she vomited it, and the pains continued to get worse - I gave her a drink of the gruel four times which she vomited - About 4 A.M. she began to complain ~~

DSC04370

4

Margaret MacQuarrie or MacFadyen

complain of pains in the small of her back and in her feet - She was in great agony of pain - I went for Widow Catherine MacKinnon or Macphail who came along with Christina MacKinnon or MacQuarrie - Mrs MacPhail went for and brought a Glass of Spirits, which was given to my mother and which she drank - This had the effect of giving her some relief for a short time - Between 5 and 6 A.M. of Tuesday following she became speechless and insensible - Malcolm Macdonald the Merchant and several other of the neighbours came in, and saw the state she was in - She grew gradually weaker and died between 8 and 9 A.M. on ~~

DSC04371

5

Margaret MacQuarrie or MacFadyen

On Tuesday three weeks past last Tuesday (10th May 1859)

No Medical man saw the deceased. The body was interred in Killunaig burying ground on

Thursday three weeks past today – (12 May 1859)

She was about 50 years of age. Duncan MacColl Surgeon was sent for but did not arrive till after she was dead - Her illness lasted only for nine hours - All which is truth - I cant write –

DSC04372

6

Page left blank

DSC04373

7

Catherine McKinnon or MacPhail

Coll 1 June 1859

Compeared Catherine MacKinnon or MacPhail a Widow and residing at Arynagour in the Island of Coll aforesaid - who says I am between 58 and 59 years of age -

The deceased Widow Helen Paterson or Macquarie lived about 30 yards from me - On Monday last 3 weeks past

The deceased and I were delving ground for planting potatoes - we carried seaware for the purpose a distance of about 100 yards - We wrought very constant the whole. day (The day was very hot) - The deceased exerted herself fully more than I did at the work - She perspired very much - We wrought together till the Evening - After coming home she suggested that we should delve a small piece ~~

DSC04374

8

Catherine McKinnon or MacPhail

piece of ground near our houses, that evening, but I declined and she did not insist - I was in her own house for a short time and left about 9 P.M. - She was then in good spirits and appeared to be in good health - The following Tuesday about 4 A.M. Margaret Macquarie or MacFadyen daughter of the deceased came for me and said that her mother was nearly dead and suffering great pain - I rose dressed immediately and went to the deceaseds house and found her lying in bed apparently in great distress - I at once concluded that she was in a dying state from her painful agonies. She complained of pains in her head and ~~

DSC04375

9

Catherine McKinnon or MacPhail

and whole person - She was growing weaker and vomited some drinks which were given her - She lived for about 4 or 5 hours after I went in - I think it would be about 9 o'clock A.M. of a Tuesday 3 weeks past last Tuesday when she died –

Doctor MacColl Salen Mull, who was then in another party of Coll, was sent for, - but she was dead before he arrived - Her daughter was kind and attentive to her, - and she was a person much respected in the village - Truth - I cannot write -

DSC04376

10

page left blank

DSC04377

11

Christina MacKinnon or Macquarie

I June 1859

Compeared Christina MacKinnon or Macquarie wife of and residing with Hector Macquarie a seaman and residing at Arynagour. who says I am about 30 years of age –

I concur with the preceding witness Widow Catherine MacKinnon or MacPhail (who lives but-an-ben with me,) with the following additions and exceptions –

The deceased was my mother in law - I heard Margaret Macquarie or MacFadyen the deceaseds daughter asking Mrs MacPhail to go with her and telling her how ill her mother was - I rose immediately and accompanied Mrs McPhail to the deceaseds house –

The deceased became speechless and insensible between 6 & 7 A.M. of Tuesday.
Three~~

DSC04378

12

Christina MacKinnon or Macquarie

Three weeks past last Tuesday

and grew weaker up till about 9 o'clock A.M. when she died -

I assisted to lay the body out - I accompanied the funeral party to the place of interment - The body was interred in Killunaig burying ground on the Thursday following - Truth I cant write

DSC04379

13

Malcolm Macdonald

Arynagour 1 June 1859

Compeared Malcolm Macdonald Merchant and residing at Arynagour on the Island of Coll in the United parish of Tyree and Coll - who says I am about 50 years of age - I knew the deceased Widow Helen Paterson or Macquarie. - She lived a short distance from my house I saw and spoke to her repeatedly on Monday 9th May 1859. She appeared to be in her usual state of health -

About 6 o'clock A.M. of Tuesday 10 May 1859

I was asked to go and see the deceased. I went to her house and found her in bed and suffering in great agony, which I think was caused by pressure in the chest and towards ~~

DSC04380

14

Malcolm Macdonald

towards the Throat - She was speechless and I think insensible - I thought from her painful state of distress that she would not live many minutes - After praying in the house I returned home ; and in about 10 minutes I went to see the deceased again - She was then a little relieved of the pain - I returned home again and about 12 o'clock I heard that she was dead - She was interred on

Thursday 12 May 1859

in Killunaig burying ground –

All which is truth –

Malcolm Macdonald.

DSC04381

15

Duncan MacColl

Compeared Duncan McColl Surgeon and residing at Salen in the united parish of Pennygown & Torosay Island of Mull and County of Argyll who says I was on the Island of Coll on

Tuesday 10th May 1859

I was sent for early that morning to see Widow Helen Paterson or Macquarie at Arynagour - I went thither to see her but before I reached she was dead - I learnt that on the previous day she had been working very busy planting potatoes, exposed to the heat of the sun, that during night she was seized with violent pain in the head, that she soon became delirious and insensible to all surrounding~~~

DSC04382

16

Duncan MacColl

ing objects and died in about 8 or 9 hours after being first attacked - From the history of the case I have no doubt the cause of death was apoplexy arising from natural causes. Truth
Duncan MacColl Surgeon

DSC04383

| | | Index | |
|------|---------------------------------|-------|--------|
| No 1 | Margaret Macquarie or Macfadyen | | Page 1 |
| 2 | Catherine McKinnon or Macphail | | 7 |
| 3 | Christina McKinnon or Macquarie | | 11 |
| 4 | Malcolm Macdonald | | 13 |
| 5 | Duncan MacColl | | 15 |

DSC04384

No 1
Precognition of Witnesses
Henry Nisbet P.F.
as to Sudden Death of
Helen Paterson or MacQuarie
1859
Tobermory