

TPF 1870 – 24

Paper 1870 – 24021

Nº 1
Precognition of Witnesses
--- touching death
of
Sarah M^cDonald

1870

Tobermory Argyll

Paper 1870 – 24001

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Moss Tyree 26 March 1870

Donald M^cMillan, Cottar, Moss
Says

57 years My house is about 150 yards from that in which Sarah M^cDonald lived. – I was in the habit of going daily to see her. – She was my sister in law. – I think she was considerably above 70 years of age. She was not very strong but till about a fortnight before her death she was able to go about among the neighbouring farmers & do some light work. She got her food from the people for whom she worked and it was in this way chiefly that she lived. - She had only 1/6 a month from the Parochial Board. –

For about 10 or 14 days before her ~

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Donald M^cMillan

her death she was confined to the house and in fact was but rarely out of bed. She complained of headache and general weakness. - I at first did not think her illness serious and I neither informed the Inspector of Poor nor sent for the D^r. - My wife went several times a day to see her and make her food, and the other neighbours often called to see her. - A day or two before her death I saw that her illness was more serious than I at first thought. - I did not even then send for the D^r. as I had heard that Alex^r Carmichael, a neighbour, had told the Inspector of Poor of her illness & I thought that ~~

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Donald M^cMillan

that the Inspector would inform the D^r. - The D^r however did not come. - On Friday 25th February 1870 deceased was very ill and I told her my wife would stay with her and attend to her. - She replied that it was not necessary and that she would rather that no person should stay in her house. – I did not insist but I, my wife and the neighbours called oftener than usual that night. - I left her house about 7 o'clock that evening. – Next morning

Saturday 26th February 1870

about 9 o'clock I called to know how she was. - When I opened the door I asked if she was better but I got no answer. - I then went in~

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Donald M^cMillan

in & going up to her bedside again asked if she was better. I still got no answer. - I took hold of her hand and feeling it very cold it struck me she was dead. - I satisfied myself of this & then went home & told my wife. - She returned with me and several other women came in shortly after. - I left them to dress the body. - The remains were interred in the churchyard of Soroba in the parish of Tyree on Monday 28th February 1870. –

Her death I believe resulted from natural causes. – I was at the funeral. –

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Catherine M^cDonald or M^cMillan

Moss Tyree 26 March 1870

M^{rs} Catherine M^cDonald or M^cMillan wife of Donald M^cMillan cottar

56 years

Moss Tyree

says

The deceased Sarah M^cDonald was my sister. - She was about 77 years of age. - She was a pauper and lived in a house alone. - Her house is about 150 yards from ours. – I corroborate & concur with the evidence of my husband as to the general health of deceased and also as to her last illness. - During her illness I called at least three times a day, and prepared her food which consisted only of a cup of tea & some bread & butter. - I did so on Friday 25th February 1870 as usual. The last food I gave her was some ~

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Catherine M^cDonald or M^cMillan

some tea & bread & butter about 3 P.M. on Friday. – She was then very ill & I offered to remain in the house with her that night but she would not allow me. - I however stayed till about 8 P.M. I left her alone. - About 10 A.M. next morning

Saturday 26th Feby 1870

my husband came in to the house & told me my sister was dead. - I went to her house & dressed the corpse with the assistance of several women who came in after me. –

From her age & the state of her health for some weeks before her death I believe she died from natural causes. There was plenty of food in ~

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Catherine M^cDonald or M^cMillan

the house when she died and her last allowance from the Parochial Board was untouched.

The deceased was well attended during her illness and did not want for anything in the shape of food. –

Truth.

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Archibald Carmichael

Moss Tyree 26 March 1870

Archibald Carmichael labourer

Says

I knew the deceased Sarah M^cDonald well.- She lived about 100 yards from my house. – She was a pauper. –

I heard she was unwell for about 10 days before her death. - On Thursday 24 Feby 1870 I had occasion to call upon the Inspector of Poor and I told him of deceaseds illness. - He merely

said he could not help it. - So far as I am aware he did not go to see her after this nor do I think he was in the neighbourhood till after she was buried. - I was not at the funeral. –

Truth

I had other business with ~

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the Inspector & mentioned to him that I had heard that the deceased was unwell. No one told me to do so and I did not ask him to visit her.

Truth.

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Sarah Carmichael

Moss Tyree 26 Feby 1870

Sarah Carmichael daughter of & residing with Archibald Carmichael labourer

Says

I knew Sarah M^cDonald well. I was in the habit of calling daily at her house when she was at home. - She was confined to the house for 8 or 10 days before her death. - I called as usual to see her. - I called last about 7 P.M. on the day of her death. - There was no one with her when I went in. She was in bed. I lighted a candle and remained with her for some time. – When I left I placed the lighted candle near her so that she might put it out ~~

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Sarah Carmichael

out when she chose. - I did not offer to remain with her all night as I knew he had a dislike to any one remaining overnight with her in the house. –

Truth

Paper 1870 – 24014

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Flora M^cDonald

Moss Tyree 26 Feby Mar 1870

Flora McDonald

Says

The deceased lived about 50 yards from my house. - I knew her well. - She was complaining for some days before her death. I did not go to see her. - On Saturday morning

about a month ago

I was told she was dead. I went to her house. - Her sister was there before me. - The body was in the bed. We (her sister and I) dressed it. The funeral took place on the following Monday . –

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Balnoe Tyree 26 March 1870

Archibald Campbell

Says

I am Inspector of Poor for the Parish of Tyree. - The deceased Sarah M^cDonald was a pauper. - She was 73 years of age and in ordinary good health. - Her allowance from the Parochial Board was 1/6 per month, but she was able otherwise to earn a good deal more than this. - She had a house at Moss, from the Board, in which she lived alone. - Her sister lives about 150 yards from her & there are several other families in the immediate neighbourhood. - Deceased was often from home. I saw her last on 24th January 1870. She was then in her usual health. – I heard of her ~

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Archibald Campbell

often from that time up till her death, and on every occasion except the last she was said to be in good health.

On Thursday 24th February last a neighbour of hers, named Carmichael, had occasion to come to my house. - In the course of conversation he mentioned to me that Sarah M^cDonald was unwell. - He did not seem to think her illness was serious. - I expected however to be in her neighbourhood next day and intended to see her but the weather became so boisterous that I was prevented. - Early on Saturday morning

26th February 1870

I heard she was dead, - & I immediately made arrangements for ~

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Archibald Campbell

for her burial. - I am not aware that any medical man saw the deceased during her illness. - If I had known sooner of her illness I certainly would have asked D^r. Buchanan to visit her. -

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Alexander Buchanan

Baugh Tyree 26 March 1870

Alexander Buchanan, Surgeon

Says

I am Parochial Medical Officer for Tyree - I knew the deceased Sarah M^cDonald. - She was a pauper. - She was not a robust woman but she enjoyed average health for a person of her age (73). -

I was in Moss of Tuesday 22 Feby 1870. - I called at deceased house but (~~could~~) did not get admittance. I (~~knocked~~) thought she was from home.

I did not hear of deceaseds death for about a week after. - I did not see the body. - I did not hear she was ill and no one asked me to visit her. -