

### C7/41(3)

Postmortem Report for Henry Flack, murdered 1850

Henry Flack supposed to meet his Death

by being murdered on 28<sup>th</sup>.10<sup>mo</sup> 1850 [underlined as shown]

On 4<sup>th</sup> of 11<sup>mo</sup> (2@dy) went accompanied by young Ellis to Henry Flack's Hut about 6 miles west of [Swan Pt Swanport?] it was raining heavy all the while I was there it had rained on the night of the 2<sup>d</sup> - and also during the night of the 3<sup>d</sup> - In the Hut I saw a Constable & Edward [illegible] Shaw's Shepherd - The Shepherd conducted me to the Waterhole from which the deceased H. Flack used to obtain Water, close to the Water hole was a large tree on which about the height of 5ft was an indentation in the bark as if occasioned by a blow from a stone, a stone of about - 4<sup>lbs</sup> weight lay at the foot of the tree. The outermost layer / coat - of the bark had fallen off & the layer then exposed had a white appearance, which when examined by a glass resembled minute fungi, or sporules commencing to vegetate but no compression of the bark as if from a blow this may have been caused by the moisture which the bark must have absorbed, as to the naked eye it appeared exactly as from a blow.

At the Waterhole on the farther side from the Hut stood two Cans and a short distance from them was a Pannikin At a distance from the Waterhole perhaps about 40 or 50y<sup>ds</sup> and amongst some rough stones lay the Body of H Flack more opposite to the Hut than the Water Hole lay the body of H<sup>y</sup> Flack on his back - with the feet towards the Hut. The Body stretched out the arms by the sides the hands partly clenched the hands & nails blue it was so covered with living maggots thus several pailfulls of Water were required to wash them away before it could be more particularly examined The path were [sic] the body lay was of broken iron stone partly embbded in the ground - ~~many~~ several of these stones were displaced, and had evidently been used to perpetrate the foul deed - Th

The Clothes about the neck & chest were disarranged - & torn. The neckcloth was tied in a sailors knot but ~~had~~ the knot had been drawn to the end forming a large loop which had been pulled over the head backwards, the front of the waistcoat was torn from the back part, the front was unbuttoned, the bosom of the shirt was torn from the body - on the right side of the bosom of the shirt were several small holes as if cut by shot the fabric of the cloth being torn away only on one side the other part still remaining entire and the tissue uninjured there might be a dozen holes spread out the cloth being driven inwards, on the opposite side there were but 2 or 3 shot holes with a large hole as if a number of shot had passed out together. the cloth being on this side driven outwards. The Trousers were buttoned & fitted very tight from the swelling of the Body through decomposition, one brace was loose in front the other fast before & behind. his boots were on his trousers not torn. On cutting open the Trousers no marks of violence were observed, a peculiar oval mark the size of an egg was on the right thigh wh. When cut into exhibited no discoloration or ecchymosis of the [subjacent?] tissue

The Decomposition of the whole Body was extreme he was supposed to have been murdered on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. the day he was last seen at Swansea.

The Head face & neck must have been smashed into a pulp. the frontal & part of the parietal Bones were broken into small fragments, no part of the bones of face or lower jaw were left unbroken the largest piece of the lower jaw did not measure two inches in length its condyles were separated from their articulations & the battering was continued until the occiput was driven into what was

then hard ground more than 2 inches, a portion of the scalp that covered the last detached [sic] piece of frontal bone was jagged & not cut showing that the weapon used was blunt The skull easily separated from the vertebra of the neck. all the Ligaments being decomposed

The sternum of ribs were bare of flesh The Thoracic & Abdominal viscera were so decomposed as not to be distinguished. When the body was brought to Swansea ~~the~~ it was taken to the Sea & washed the maggots which-remain collected washed away but after-very minute examinatio<sup>n</sup> no trace of shot – could-be discovered in any of the bones –

The stones were examined but no trace of Blood could be seen on them except one which had some white fibrous matter on it nor where [sic] any pools of blood discovered this however was owing to two causes

- 1 There were two half grown puppies loose, his sheep Dog being tied up in his hut. & these driven thro' starvatio<sup>n</sup> may have licked up the blood brains & flesh that must have been scattered about.
- 2 The Rain that had fallen previously had washed away all the traces that the dogs might have left
- 3 The Maggots had also assisted

Illegible notes written on reverse of report, possibly unrelated

Transcribed by Teresa Mace 8/1/2020