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Submission FOB242

Roger Karge

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FedRedistribution - TAS](#)
Subject: Objection to the name Tongerlongeter for the reconfigured electorate of Franklin in Tasmania
Date: Tuesday, 21 July 2026 11:58:09 AM
Attachments: [REDACTED]

Please find attached my submission consisting of:

1. My submission File #1 (containing some url links)
2. My submission File #1B (without url links if they are not acceptable)
3. Two attachments 4-1 and 4-2 referred to within my submission Files #2 & #3

Thanks

Roger Karge
Melbourne

Submission to the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC)

Re: Objection to the proposed use of the name *Tongerlongeter* for the reconfigured electorate of *Franklin* in Tasmania

21 July 2026

Submission by: Mr Roger Karge
Melbourne

I thank the AEC for the opportunity to make this public submission. I am a Melbourne-based scientist, businessman and frequent commentator in the media on the topics of free-speech, Aboriginal and colonial history and their modern-day societal impacts (Note 1).

Background

The AEC advises that its electorate naming policy contains these aims:

1. Every effort should be made to retain the names of original federation electorates;
2. Names of electorates should not be changed or transferred to new areas without very strong reasons, and
3. Usually, electorates should be named after deceased Australians who have rendered outstanding service to their country. - [AEC Electoral Division Naming Guidelines](#)

It is my contention that replacing the electorate name of *Franklin* with *Tongerlongeter* fails to meet these three policy guidelines.

Additionally, as a fourth point, Australia is the [tenth-oldest](#) democratic nation in the world, and we are all rightly proud of the AEC's long tradition as a non-partisan, professional and trusted institution that has managed to deliver the franchise successfully in Australia for decades.

I believe that replacing the electorate name of *Franklin* with *Tongerlongeter* may threaten the perception of the integrity and impartiality of the AEC. Not only must the AEC always be politically impartial, it must also *be seen* to be politically impartial.

My Reasoning

In addressing these four points I note that:

1. The Federal division of Franklin was one of the five established when the former Division of Tasmania was redistributed on [2 October 1903](#). Thus, the division name of *Franklin* has a long pedigree, back to close to Federation.
2. There is no valid, pressing reason to change the electorate's name to *Tongerlongeter* beyond the political desire [by advocates](#) to elevate his name to the status of "war hero". On a per capita basis, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are already represented in electoral names at a rate that is about double that of the general population of Australia (see below).
3. Advocates of *Tongerlongeter* refer to him as a "First Nations leader and Tasmanian War Hero." (Note 2) I will provide evidence here that demonstrates that he could just as validly be described as a "war criminal."

4. I fear the AEC will jeopardise its well-earned respect for institutional impartiality if it agrees to honour Aboriginal warrior and leader, *Tongerlongeter* [c.1790-1837], with an electorate name.

In these polarising times, this choice will be seen by many Australians as politically influenced and will leave the AEC open to controversy. I am certain that it will be viewed as a biased political gesture that will inflame, once again, the history and culture wars so prevalent in Australia over the past twenty-five years.

Speaking to this latter point, the proposed name change by the AEC, has already been described as a “change-by-stealth” by former Australian prime minister, the Hon Tony Abbott, who published an [opinion piece](#) recently in a leading, national newspaper voicing his concerns. (Note 3)

This publicity should be of major concern to the AEC. When a former prime minister raises these criticisms, the alarm bells should be sounding within the AEC if the organisation wants to retain the public’s faith in its integrity, incorruptibility and impartiality. The AEC must be seen to be sticking to its legislated mandate and avoiding controversial cultural and political decisions wherever possible.

Abbott acknowledges, as I do, the “carefully researched account” of *Tongerlongeter* recounted in the [seminal work](#) on his life by historians Henry Reynolds and Nicholas Clements (Note 2). In his article, Abbott cites Reynolds’ reckoning that,

Tongerlongeter’s bands killed some 180 settlers and seriously wounded as many again. (Note 3)

I now provide further evidence that strongly supports the claim that *Tongerlongeter* could validly be accused of perpetrating war crimes during his life and, as such, he fails to meet the AEC requirement for being a “deceased Australian who has rendered outstanding service to their country.”

The Evidence

The so-called “resistance” by *Tongerlongeter* and his band against the British settlement largely consisted of acts of violence against civilians and non-combatants. These acts of violence were classed as illegal at the time. If they were committed today they would be classed as war crimes.

According to the [Australian Federal Police website](#) :

War crimes are breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions and of Protocol 1 (1977 amendment protocol) and serious violations of the laws and customs of war committed in an international or non-international armed conflict. Offences include:

- **murder**
- **mutilation**
- **cruel treatment and torture**
- **attacks against civilian populations or non-combatants**
- sexual or gender-based violence
- deliberate population displacement
- hostage-taking
- **pillaging.**

I contend that each of the war crimes in bold, above, were committed and/or encouraged by *Tongerlongeter* himself during his life of “resistance” against the British settlement.

Targetting of Non-Combatants

Reynolds & Clements in their book, *Tongerlongeter*, freely admit that he and his warriors 'were wary of the men in red' - the British soldiers - due to their 'training and discipline'. The soldiers were avoided as much as possible by *Tongerlongeter*. Reynolds & Clements even cited an observer at the time recording that the Aborigines have 'a rooted antipathy to the military' and 'an unconquerable aversion to soldiers' (Note 2, p105-6).

The evidence suggests that *Tongerlongeter* was more of a 'bandit', preying on lone shepherds, undefended huts, women and children, rather than a 'military combatant' who sought out engagements with his official enemy, the red-coated British soldiers.

Indeed, Clements has published his research database online which shows that he could locate only six incidents of violence or "resistance" by the Aborigines directly against soldiers. These led to the death of only one soldier and the wounding by spearing of four others. (Table 1)

Table 1 - Attacks by Aborigines Specifically on Soldiers in South East Tasmania. <i>From a table of "Violent acts against colonists in Oyster Bay & Big River territories, 1823-1831"</i> * This was Tongerlongeter's region of Tasmania				
No	Date	Location in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)	Victims	Type of Casualty
1	8 Sept 1829	Sandspit	1 x soldier 2 x soldiers	wounded by spear harassed
2	14 Apr 1833	Green Valley	1 x soldier	wounded by spear
3	8 Sept 1830	Boomer Ck, Oyster Bay	1 x soldier	killed
4	mid-1831	Surry Hills	1 x soldier	plunder
5	17 Mar 1831	Norfolk Plains	2 x soldiers	2 x wounded

* **Source:** Nicholas Clements, attacks by Aborigines – ["Clements Compendium: PDF database of attacks on and by Aborigines in southeast Tasmania"](#)

This low encounter rate with so-called "enemy soldiers" compares to some 180 civilian deaths by the Aborigines - settlers, including women and children - that *Tongerlongeter* and his bands were said to have been responsible for. (Note 3) This concentration on targeting and killing civilians rather than soldiers clearly implicates *Tongerlongeter's* military style as coming within the definition of war criminality.

Mutilation, Cruel Treatment & Torture

Reynolds & Clements have published considerable detail on the clearly war criminal behaviour of *Tongerlongeter*, for which they found considerable evidence in the archives. I have included here an extract of their book to illustrate his war criminality:

Tongerlongeter and his warriors often humiliated and tortured their victims. This may have been intended to terrorise the invaders into leaving, but it could just as easily have been the product of intense hatred. Either way, the records of coroners' reports read like the scripts of horror films. An Aboriginal woman from Bruny Island described to Robinson 'the manner of torture they adopted towards their fated victims, via breaking their arms or legs or cutting their heads, and when they did not kill they disabled or maimed'.³⁷ Attacks of this nature were commonplace. While there are far too many to enumerate here, it will suffice to illuminate two attacks that were most likely led by Tongerlongeter. The first occurred in September 1828. The *Tasmanian* reported:

On Saturday last, [James Stanton,] an assigned servant of Lieut. Hawkins at Little Swan Port, while out in quest of his Master's bullocks, was waylaid by a party of the Black Natives ... and murdered in the most barbarous manner, his brains being literally dashed out ... They then surrounded Lieut. Hawkins' house made

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Resistance: 1828–30

fires around it, using threatening language, and counterfeiting the man's voice whom they had just killed, in hopes of enticing the Lieut. from his house.

This was, according to the *Tasmanian*, a crime of passion. 'These savages, in tolerable broken English used many opprobrious names towards the white men, and evinced a spirit of determined hostility'.³⁸ The coroner's report left no doubt:

the body of James Stanton was discovered with the head beaten in with waddies: the nails of the fingers were separated from the quicks apparently with a knife, the fleshy part of the outside of the hands was cut off, the eyebrows were cut off and the bones of the eyebrows beaten down to the eyes. The whole of the teeth were beaten out of the head and the body otherwise much mangled. During the time they beset Lieut. Hawkins' house they continued calling upon the dead man by name and laughing about it.³⁹

Source: Extracts from Tongerlongeter – First Nations Leader & Tasmanian War hero by Henry Reynolds & Nicholas Clements, Newsouth, 2021, p108–9

Murder of Women and Children

One of the most horrific war crimes perpetrated in Tasmania was that of the massacre of the women and children of the Gough, and another neighbouring, family near Oatlands on 9 Oct 1828. Reynolds & Clements call this attack 'particularly harrowing' and, even though they could not locate direct evidence that *Tongerlongeter* led the attack in person, they believe that circumstantial evidence implicates his involvement. (Note 2, p106-8)

The incident is infamous in historical circles for firstly, the quality of the evidence from the records of the inquest (see Note 4 Attachments) and the testimony of one of the victims, Mrs Gough, who was able to relate all the details before succumbing 'to her wounds three weeks after the attack', and secondly for the war-criminal-like inspired hatred expressed by one of Aboriginal attackers:

As Mrs Gough lay dying, she told her husband, 'that she fell on her knees to the natives and said, "Spare the lives of my piccaninnies" and that one of the assailants replied in good English: 'No you white bitch we'll kill you all.' (Quoted by Reynolds & Clements, Note 2, p 108)

For the avoidance of doubt I have included as attachments copies of the original handwritten inquest notes into the Gough killings plus a type-written transcript. (Note 4)

Past AEC Naming Decisions

In 2016 the AEC called for submissions after,

being asked to rename the Victorian federal seat of McMillan to remove links to the murder of Aboriginal people in Gippsland. Liberal MP Russell Broadbent has written to the commission asking for the electorate to be called the seat of Monash. Sir John Monash developed the use of brown coal in the Latrobe Valley as head of the state electricity commission. The seat is currently named after explorer Angus McMillan, who opened up much of Gippsland. "Angus McMillan has a history that is well-documented about his murderous ways in regard to our Indigenous people and it's time to recognise that," he said. - [ABC NEWS 31 Mar 2016](#)

The AEC agreed to retire the name "McMillan" due to Angus McMillan's possible involvement in Aboriginal frontier violence.

I contend, by the same reasoning with regard to *Tongelonegeter's* involvement in killings, massacres and war-criminal-like conduct on the colonial frontier, his name **should not** be applied to the reconfigured *Franklin* electorate.

There are currently 151 electoral divisions with 116 (77%) of them are named after people. Of these 116 divisions, 8 (7%) are named after an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. This represents about double the number, on a per capita basis, of names being assigned to Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, given that they represent some [3.8%](#) of Australia's total population. ([See AEC video for statistics](#))

There is currently no lack of recognition of Indigenous Australians in electoral naming and thus no immediate need to prioritise the addition of *Tongerlongeter's* name to replace that of *Franklin*.

Summary

For all the above reasons, *Tongerlongeter* is far too controversial an historical figure to be considered for an electorate name.

This submission therefore objects to his name being assigned to the reconfigured Franklin electorate.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Karge

Melbourne

[REDACTED]

Notes

Note 1 – Mr Roger Karge is

1. A co-author of the history book [Truth-telling at Risdon Cove](#)
2. Author of the book, [Witness for the Prosecution](#) on the *Eatock v Bolt* 2011 court case
3. Editor of the [Dark Emu Exposed](#) website
4. Regular contributor in the media on free-speech issues, Aboriginal and colonial history, genealogy and their modern-day societal impacts (see *SkyNews Bolt Report* appearances [here](#) and [here](#), the newspapers, [The Australian](#) & [The Australian](#), [Australian Financial Review](#) and [The HeraldSun](#)).

Note 2 - Henry Reynolds & Nicholas Clements, *Tongerlongeter – First Nations Leader & Tasmanian War Hero*, Newsouth, 2021. (see also: Clements, N., *Friday essay: Tongerlongeter — the Tasmanian resistance fighter we should remember as a war hero*, *The Conversation* online, 6 Aug, 2021)

Note 3 - Abbott, T., *Officialdom's latest change-by stealth: renaming seat of Franklin*, *The Australian*, 17 Jul 2026

Note 4 – Attachment 4-1, *Inquest of Gough killings*, *Tasmanian Archives*, CSO1-1-316-7578 pages 166-172.pdf; Attachment 4-2, *Type-written transcript of Inquest of Gough killings*. First cited by Windschuttle, K., *The Fabrication of Aboriginal History, Vol 1, Van Diemen's Land 1803-1847*, Macleay Press, 2002, p86, fn5

John Portman
Dean Wells & Co.
London awarded by the
Nation

He has called —
25th Sept. 28.

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At Gough's Hut, Big Lagoon
Callands
11th October 1822

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Proceedings of an Inquest held on view of
the Bodies of Anne Geary and Alicia Gough.

Juron

Peter Harrison.
Harvey Vachell.
James Mackersy
Charles Mills Cogle
George Lindley
John Watts
Grove Sampson
Frederick Thomas Bradley
John Page
Joseph Pendle.
Richard Walton
James Pitt-Rivers.

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1

Patrick Gough - Suorn - Saith

I know the deceased females. - Anne Geary was my near neighbour and Alicia Gough is my daughter. - About noon or a little after on Thursday last the 9th instant my Wife said she heard the cries of a Woman. I looked out at the door and saw the deceased Anne Geary running towards my hut. I ran out to meet her accompanied by my Wife and my Servant man Edward Butts, and Jerry, Mr Stockell's Stock keeper. - When we got to her she appeared nearly exhausted and was in a great fright. She told me that she had seen the natives coming towards Mortimer's Hut, and she begged me and the other two men to go to Mortimer's Hut to prevent the natives from getting Mortimer's Gun and the ammunition. - I and the two men went to Mortimer's Hut with great speed. - That Hut is about a mile and a half

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from my Hut. - Bates carried a Gun, and Jerry and my
self carried each a Black Stick only. - When we got to
Shortimer's Hut the door was open and many things
were thrown about on the floor and outside the
door. - I looked for the Gun with the ammunition
but could not find it. - The Blankets too were
gone. - We then returned towards my Hut. - On
the way I thought I heard a shriek. - I hastened
towards home as fast as I could. - About a mile
from my Hut I met my eldest Girl Mary, covered
with blood. She said to me "Father, my Mother and
my Sister are killed by the Blacks - make haste -
make haste". I and the two men then ran as fast
as we could. - About half a mile from my Hut
I saw my Wife sitting on the Ground leaning with
her back against a fence with my child Esther in
her lap. - My Wife said "Gough, my dear, I am
gone, the Blacks have killed me". She appeared
to me to be covered with wounds. - I tore off
part of my Shirt to tie round her head. - My
Wife then fainted. I then ran to my Hut to look
for my other child Alicia. I found her lying on
the ground in front of the door with her arms
extended. - I thought she was dead. - I car-
ried her into the Hut. - I found then that she
had a little life in her. On entering my Hut
I saw the Deceased Anne Geary lying on the floor
of the Hut, with some gashes on her Head. - I
lifted Anne Geary from the Ground and put her
on a Sofa, and then she vomited much blood. -
About two hours afterwards Anne Geary died. -
My daughter Alicia died about midnight of the
same day. - The deceased Alicia Gough was near-
ly four years old. - Anne Geary had cohabited
many years with Noah Shortimer. - I did not see
any Black natives. - I picked up ~~two~~ two
Spears and a Waddy such as are commonly used
by the Black natives. My Axe lay at the door, and

had marks of blood on it. - My little girl Mary told
me that the natives hit Anne Geary with the Axe at
the door, and that they had beaten her (Mary) and
her deceased Sister Alicia with their Waddies. -
When I left my Hut to go to Shortimer's as I have stat-
ed, there were in the Hut six Blankets, two Shirts,
three or four knives, a Basin containing some Eggs
and twenty Dollars, all of which were taken away in
my absence. - My daughter Mary is seven years
old. - Anne Geary told me when she came with
an alarm about the Natives on Thursday that she
had locked the door of Shortimer's hut and left
a Dog there. The Dog was gone when I reached the
Hut - the door was open, and it had evidently been
affected by force as the bolt was bent.

My Wife told me on Thursday that she fell
on her knees to the natives and said "Spare the
lives of my Picaninies" - And that one of the
Black natives replied in good English "No you
white Bitch will kill you all"; and then repeat-
ed their blows on her: I never asked my Wife if
she saw Anne Geary killed. My Wife is prevented
by the Doctor from speaking on account of the
Fever occasioned by her Wounds. - The first
person who came to my Hut after the murder,
was Mr (Signed) Pat^r Gough.

Sworn before me
the 11th October 1823
(Signed) Th^s Anstey Coroner.

Edward Bates - Free by servitude
- Sworn - Faith.

I am servant to Pat^r Gough - On Thursday
last just after I had been called to dinner
I saw Anne Geary running towards Gough's Hut

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Apparently much alarmed. At her request Gough,
I, and Mr Stokell's man Jerry went to Mortimer's
Hut distant about a mile and a half to protect it
from the natives, a body of whom she said was
approaching it. - When we reached it we found the
door burst open and the bedding and other things
thrown about. We then hastened home, and saw
Gough's eldest daughter Mary coming to meet us
screaming and she said her mother was dead.
We then hastened towards the house, and saw
Mrs Gough sitting by the fence apparently dying.
I then approached the Hut and saw the deceased
child Alicia lying before the door and I thought
she was dead. I was so shocked that I did not
go inside the Hut. I went to Mr Cogle's to give
an alarm and procure assistance. I returned
a little before dark. - When I arrived at the
Hut I saw Anne Geary lying dead, and the
child Alicia died about eleven the same
night. I saw no natives. Mrs Gough and the
little girl, Mary Gough, told me soon after,
the same evening, that shortly after my
Master, I, and Jerry went to Mortimer's
Hut about Twenty of the Black Natives
came, and killed Anne Geary, and nearly
killed them. his x mark.
(Signed) Edward Bates

Sworn before me }
the 11th October 1823 }

(Signed) Thomas Anstey Crooner.

John Maule Hudspeth. Sworn
Faith - I am a Surgeon at Sericho. -
On Thursday last the 9th instant I heard
that the natives had committed one of their

usual outrages at the Hut of Gough near the ¹⁷⁰
Lagoon. I rode there immediately to see if my pro-
fessional services were necessary. I reached Gough's
Hut which is about four or five miles from my house
about six o'clock in the evening. The deceased
Anne Geary was then lying dead in the Hut. -
Mrs Gough had received two spear wounds in the
thorax, and some in other parts of the body, and
her head was lacerated all over with wounds
inflicted by some blunt instrument. I think
she has twelve or thirteen such wounds on the
head. Her eldest daughter Mary had also received
several contused wounds on the head. The
second daughter Alicia I found labouring un-
der symptoms of compression of the Brain ap-
parently occasioned by a contusion on the back
of the head. The youngest child, an infant
of thirteen months old had received several
contusions of a much lighter character. I
dressed the wounds of Mrs Gough and her
eldest daughter, and I bled Alicia and left them
about ten o'clock that night. - I return-
ed again to Gough's Hut the next morning
when I found the child Alicia dead, and the
Mrs Gough in a very perilous state. In that
state she still continues. I consider that it
will be highly dangerous to the woman if
she should be called upon to answer questions.
- I examined Anne Geary's wounds of the
head and breast. - On the left side of
her head she had received a deep gash into
the Brain, apparently inflicted with an axe,

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besides another fracture of the skull occasioned apparently by a blunt instrument, and several spear wounds on the breast, any of which wounds were, in my opinion, mortal. - I did not encourage Mrs Gough to speak. I was obliged to check her when she showed a disposition to do so. - She said she felt she was dying, and she stated that Anne Geary and herself and the children had received their wounds from a Horde of Black Natives. - The death of the child Alicia Gough was, as I have every reason to think, occasioned by the contusion on the head. (Signed) J^r M. Hudoneth

Sworn before me
the 11th October 1828

(Signed) Thos. Anstey Coroner.

Mary Gough being questioned by the Coroner and jury as to her notions of the moral obligation of an oath she said she knew she should go to a bad place if she told a lie, and she refused to be sworn. Her head appeared to be nearly covered with wounds, and bruises which she said had been inflicted on her by the Black Natives on Thursday, who she said had attacked her and her mother and Mr Geary and her little sister Alicia. She said that

She was attempting to carry her sister Alicia away from them when the Natives struck them both with Waddies. This little girl said she could not read, but she showed considerable intelligence in her answers to the questions put to her. She said that when the Natives struck her she felt down "as dead as a Gum Stick" with her little sister under her, and that when she came to herself the Natives were gone.

Verdict. - Wilful Murder against certain persons unknown belonging to the Aboriginal Tribes of the Island. -

TRANSCRIPT of GOUGH Killing Inquest

Source: Tasmanian archives, CSO1-1-316-7578, p166-172

At Gough's Hut, Big Lagoon

Oatlands

11th October 1828

Proceedings of an Inquest held on view of the Bodies of Anne Geary and Alicia Gough.

Jurors

Peter Harrison

Harvey Vachell

James Mackersy

Charles Mills Cogle

George Lindley

John Watts

Grove Sampson

Frederick Thomas Bradley

John Page

Joseph Pendle

Richard Walters

James Pittfield

Patrick Gough — Sworn — Saith

I know the deceased females. Anne Geary was my near neighbour and Alicia Gough is my daughter. About noon or a little after on Thursday last the 9th instant my Wife said she heard the cries of a Woman. I looked out at the door and saw the deceased Anne Geary running towards my hut. I ran out to meet her accompanied by my Wife and my Servant man Edward Bates, and Jerry, Mr Stokell's Stock keeper. When we got to her she appeared nearly exhausted and was in a great fright. She told me that she had seen the natives coming towards Mortimer's Hut, and she begged me and the other two men to go to Mortimer's Hut to prevent the natives from getting Mortimer's Gun and the ammunition. I and the two men went to Mortimer's Hut with great speed. That Hut is about a mile and a half

Pages 167–168 (Image 4)

[Page 167]

from my Hut. Bates carried a Gun, and Jerry and myself carried each a Black Stick only. When we got to Mortimer's Hut the door was open and many things were thrown about on the floor and outside the door. I looked for the Gun with the ammunition but could not find it. The Blankets too were gone. We then returned towards my Hut. On the way I thought I

heard a shriek. I hastened towards home as fast as I could. About a mile from my Hut I met my eldest Girl Mary, covered with blood. She said to me "Father, my Mother and my Sister are killed by the Blacks make haste make haste". I and the two men then ran as fast as we could. About half a mile from my Hut I saw my Wife sitting on the Ground leaning with her back against a fence with my child Esther in her lap. My Wife said "Gough, my dear, I am gone, the Blacks have killed me". She appeared to me to be covered with Wounds. I tore off part of my Shirt to tie round her head. My Wife then fainted. I then ran to my Hut to look for my other Child Alicia. I found her lying on the ground in front of the door with her arms extended. I thought she was dead. I carried her into the Hut. I found then that she had a little life in her. On entering my Hut I saw the Deceased Anne Geary lying on the floor of the Hut, with some gashes on her Head. I lifted Anne Geary from the Ground and put her on a Sofa, and then she vomited much blood. About two hours afterwards Anne Geary died. My daughter Alicia died about midnight of the same day. The deceased Alicia Gough was nearly four years old. Anne Geary had cohabited many years with Noah Mortimer. I did not see any Black Natives. I picked up a [?] two Spears and a Waddy such as are commonly used by the Black natives. My Axe lay at the door, and

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had marks of blood on it. My little girl Mary told me that the Natives hit Anne Geary with the axe at the door, and that they had beaten her (Mary) and her deceased Sister Alicia with their Waddies. When I left my Hut to go to Mortimer's as I have stated, there were in the Hut six Blankets, two Sheets, three or four knives, a Basin containing some Eggs and twenty Dollars, all of which were taken away in my absence. My daughter Mary is seven years old. Anne Geary told me when she came with an alarm about the Natives on Thursday that she had locked the door of Mortimer's hut and left a Dog there. The Dog was gone when I reached the Hut the door was open, and it had evidently been effected by force as the bolt was bent.

My Wife told me on Thursday that she fell on her knees to the natives and said "Spare the lives of my Picaninies" and that One of the Black natives replied in good English "No you white Bitch we'll kill you all": and then repeated their blows on her: I never asked my Wife if she saw Anne Geary killed. My Wife is prevented by the Doctor from speaking on account of the Fever occasioned by her Wounds. The first person who came to my Hut after the murder was Mr Cogle. (Signed) Patk Gough.

Sworn before me }
the 11th October 1828 }
(Signed) Thomas Anstey Coroner.

Edward Bates — Free by servitude — Sworn — Saith.

I am servant to Patk Gough On Thursday last just after I had been called to dinner I saw Anne Geary running towards Gough's Hut

Pages 169–170 (Image 1)

[Page 169]

apparently much alarmed. At her request Gough, I, and Mr Stokell's man Jerry went to Mortimer's Hut distant about a mile and a half to protect it from the Natives, a body of whom she said was approaching it. When we reached it we found the door burst open and the bedding and other things thrown about. We then hastened home and saw Gough's eldest daughter Mary coming to meet us screaming and she said her mother was dead. We then hastened towards the House and saw Mrs Gough sitting by the fence apparently dying. I then approached the Hut and saw the deceased Child Alicia lying before the door and I thought she was dead. I was so shocked that I did not go inside the Hut. I went to Mr Cogle's to give an alarm and procure assistance. I returned a little before dark. When I arrived at the Hut I saw Anne Geary lying dead, and the Child Alicia died about eleven the same night. I saw no natives. Mrs Gough and the little girl, Mary Gough, told me soon after, the same evening, that shortly after my master, I, and Jerry went to Mortimer's Hut about Twenty of the Black Natives came, and killed Anne Geary, and nearly killed them.

(Signed) his + Mark. Edward Bates

Sworn before me }

the 11th October 1828 }

(Signed) Thomas Anstey Coroner.

John Maule Hudspeth. Sworn. Saith — I am a Surgeon at Jericho. — On Thursday last the 9th instant I heard that the natives had committed one of their

[Page 170]

usual outrages at the Hut of Gough near the Big Lagoon. I rode there immediately to see if my professional services were necessary. I reached Gough's Hut which is about four or five miles from my house about six o'clock in the Evening. The deceased Anne Geary was then lying dead in the Hut. — Mrs Gough had received two Spear wounds in the thorax, and some in other parts of the body, and her head was lacerated all over with wounds inflicted by some blunt instrument. I think she has twelve or thirteen such wounds on the head. Her eldest daughter Mary had also received several contused wounds on the head. The second daughter Alicia I found labouring under symptoms of compression of the Brain apparently occasioned by a contusion on the back of the head. The youngest child, an infant of thirteen months old had received several contusions of a much slighter character. I dressed the wounds of Mrs Gough and her eldest daughter, and I bled Alicia and left them about ten o'clock that night. — I returned again to Gough's Hut the next Morning when I found the child Alicia dead, and Mrs Gough in a very perilous state. In that state she still continues. I consider that it will be highly dangerous to the woman if she should be called upon to

answer questions. — I examined Anne Geary's wounds of the head and breast. — On the left side of her head she had received a deep gash into the Brain, apparently inflicted with an Axe,

Pages 171–172 (Image 2)

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besides another fracture of the skull occasioned apparently by a blunt instrument, and several spear wounds on the breast, any of which wounds were, in my opinion, mortal. — I did not encourage Mrs Gough to speak. I was obliged to check her when she shewed a disposition to do so. — She said she felt she was dying, and she stated that Anne Geary and herself and the children had received their wounds from a Horde of Black Natives. — The death of the Child Alicia Gough was, as I have every reason to think, occasioned by the Contusion on the head. (Signed) Jno M. Hudspeth

Sworn before me
the 11th October 1828
(Signed) Thos. Anstey Coroner.

Mary Gough being questioned by the Coroner and Jury as to her notions of the moral obligation of an oath she said she knew she should go to a bad place if she told a lie, and she refused to be sworn. Her head appeared to be nearly covered with wounds, and bruises which she said had been inflicted on her by the Black Natives on Thursday, who she said had attacked her and her mother and Mrs Geary and her little Sister Alicia. She said that

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she was attempting to carry her sister Alicia away from them when the natives struck them both with Waddies. This little girl said she could not read, but she shewed considerable intelligence in her answers to the questions put to her. She said that when the natives struck her she fell down "as dead as a Gum stick" with her little Sister under her, and that when she came to herself the natives were gone.

Verdict. — Wilful Murder against certain persons unknown belonging to the Aboriginal Tribes of the Island. —

Page 759 (Image 5)

[Left leaf, page 758 — cover note]

Oatlands
2nd Dec: 1830

Sir

In obedience to the Government Order No: 12 bearing date the 9th October 1830 I have the honor to send you, in 28 pages, a return of the outrages committed [by] the Aborigines [within] the District [of] Oatlands from the commencement [?] [...]

[Right leaf, page 759]

Nominal List of Inquisitions held by Mr. Anstey on the bodies of twenty two persons
Murdered by the Aborigines from the 8th November 1826 to the 31st December 1830.

1826

November 8th — James Scott, at the Hermitage, River Shannon —

1827

June 26th — John Flood, at the Arthur Mill, Blackman's River

October 24th — William Bennett, Currijong Bottom, Maxwell parish, Oatlands —

1828

March 8th — William Walker, Norwood, Clyde

September 6th — Samuel Clarke, Bothwell.

October 11th — Alicia Gough, York parish, Oatlands

" " — Anne Geary, York parish, Oatlands

" 24th — John Langford, Huntingdon parish, Oatlands

" 31st — Esther Gough, York Parish, Oatlands

December 4th — Adam Wood, MacGilli Marsh, Blue Hills, Oatlands