

An Inquisition held at Frankfort within the County  
of Waldo the twenty second day of June in the year 1861  
before Washington Carlton one of the Coroners of said County  
upon view of the body of Richard Smith <sup>a freeman</sup> or Dick Smith  
there lying dead by the Oaths of Elisha Chick, Ezra Munter  
James B Chick of S Thompson John Stokell, Oliver Crowell and  
Seth W Merrill good and lawful men who being charged  
and sworn to inquire for the state when how and by what  
means the said Richard Smith or Dick Smith  
came to his death upon their Oaths say; that the dead body  
now before us is supposed to be that of Richard Smith or  
Dick Smith who was knocked overboard from Barque  
John Avils by the Sparker boom on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May  
1861 while said Barque was passing up the river off  
Frankfort, and that the blow from the Sparker boom was  
the cause of his death or so injuring him that he imme-  
diately sunk in the water beyond the reach of assistance

In testimony whereof the said Coroner and the  
jurors of the inquest have hereunto set their hands and  
seals the day and year above said

Washington Carlton

Elisha Chick Foreman  
Seth W Merrill  
James B. Chick  
Ezra Munter  
John Stokell  
Jas S Thompson  
Oliver Crowell



Coroner

Jurors of  
the Inquest

James E. Mason sworn, on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May, 1861  
I was standing on a shop on the wharf in Frankfurt  
there was a Barque passing up the river before the wind  
blowing fresh, her spanker boom jibed and struck a man  
knocking him overboard, the Barque rounded to & sent her  
boat & other boats went from the shore, but the man  
sunk immediately & was not recovered, I was informed his  
name is Dick Smitts a stranger & foreigner, the dead man  
now lying here I believe to be the same man

J. E. Mason

Abijah Gipson sworn I stood in sight of a Barque sailing  
up the river off Frankfurt on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 1861  
just at that time the spanker boom jibed & struck  
a man in the head knocking him overboard, I learned  
afterward the man's name was Dick Smitts a foreigner  
I have reason to believe the dead man now  
lying here is the same man knocked overboard  
from said Barque

Abijah Gipson

~~Abijah Gipson~~

All the above named witnesses signed and  
made oath to their testimony before me  
this 22<sup>d</sup> day of June 1861

Elisha Chick freeman of the }  
jury of Inquest.

J. S. Hotchkiss

Washington Carlton Corvoren

Dr To John Stokell

1861 June 22 To Coffin & Digging Groves for }  
burying Dick Smith } \$4.50

Witnesses before the coroners jury on the body of Richard Smith

June 22 1861

Patrick Fahy sworn, says he saw the body of said Smith  
and assisted in hauling it into the shore Patrick Fahy

Thomas Coim sworn says he assisted Mr Fahy & others  
in taking the body of the said Smith out of the river

witness }  
E. Chick }

Thomas <sup>his</sup> Coim  
mark

Colman Carr <sup>sworn</sup> saw the body of said Smith in the  
river & helped to take him out of the river

witness }  
E. Chick }

Colman <sup>his</sup> Carr  
mark

Michael Cuddy <sup>sworn</sup> was with Colman Carr & assisted  
to take said Richard Smith's Corpse out of the river

witness }  
E. Chick }

Michael <sup>his</sup> Cuddy  
mark

Seth W Merrill <sup>sworn</sup> says I saw the Sparker boom  
jibe & strike a person and knock him overboard from  
a Barque while passing up the river abreast of Frankfurt  
on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1861 and afterwards was informed  
the Barque was the John Avils & that the name  
of the person knocked overboard was said to be  
Richard or Dick Smith a foreigner

Seth W Merrill

James J Wetmore sworn I was standing in the  
street at Frankfurt on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 1861 and  
saw the Barque John Avils passing up river with  
fresh breeze the Sparker boom jibed over & hit a  
man & knocked him overboard, the man proved to be  
a foreigner called Dick Smith a Dutchman

James J. Wetmore

D M Belcher Sworn I was standing in the street  
in Frankfurt on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 1861 there was a Barque  
passing up the river before the wind blowing fresh, the  
Spanker boom jibed and hit a man knocking him  
overboard, he was sought for by three boats but was  
not recovered, the Barque was the John Aviles from  
New York bound to Bangor, the man was said to be  
Dick Smith a Native of Holland, I should judge the  
dead man now lying here is the same person

D M Belcher.

Jesse Cole Sworn I was standing in sight of a Barque  
while passing up the river off Frankfurt, she was before  
the wind & a fresh breeze, the Spanker boom jibed over  
and knocked a man overboard, the Barque rounded to &  
sent her boat after the man & there were other boats  
also went after the man, but none of them were able  
to find him, the man was said to be a foreigner  
a Dutchman by the name of Dick Smith, this  
happened on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 1861, from the appearance  
of the person now laying dead before us I think it is  
the same man that was knocked overboard from said  
Barque

Jesse Cole

Charles C Atwood Sworn I was standing on a pile of  
lumber on the wharf the 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 1861  
and saw a man knocked overboard by the Spanker  
boom from a Barque sailing up river before the wind  
with fresh breeze, the man was not recovered  
though he was looked for by three boats & crews  
who went to his rescue, the said Barque was the  
John Aviles from New York bound to Bangor, and  
man was called Dick Smith a Dutchman  
from Holland, being Charles C Atwood

Walden County  
To either of the Constables in the town of Frankfort  
in the County of Walden

Greeting).

In the name of the State of Maine you are hereby  
required immediately to summon six good & lawful  
men of said town of Frankfort, to appear before me, one of  
the coroners of the County of Walden at the Steam Mill  
Wharf in said Frankfort at the hour of eight o'clock in  
the forenoon then and there to inquire upon and view  
the body of \_\_\_\_\_ there lying dead, how and in what  
manner he came to his death

Fail not herein at your peril

Given under my hand and seal at Frankfort the  
twenty second day of June in the year eighteen  
hundred and sixty one

Washington Carlton } Coroner

Waldo SS June 22 1861

I have summoned the jury of inquest as herein directed  
namely Elisha Chick Settle & Merrill James B Chick Ezra Manton  
John Stokell James S Thompson & Oliver Crowell to attend  
at Steam Mill Wharf in Frankfort at eight o'clock in the  
forenoon this day; have also summoned Eleven  
Witnesses to attend at same time & place

My fees for same <sup>cts</sup> 4.00

James Maxwell

} Constable  
• of  
} Frankfort

Waldo ss June 22 1861

I hereby Certify that Richard Smith or Dick Smith, the dead person now lying before me on whose dead body an inquest has now been held, is a stranger not belonging to this state, according to my best knowledge and belief

Washington Carter }  
Coroner for the }  
County of Waldo }

Waldo ss Signed and Sworn to this 22<sup>d</sup> day of June 1861  
before me

Elisha Chick Justice of the Peace



State of Maine Dr To Washington Carlton Coroner for  
 1861 Waldo County

June 22	To issuing warrant for inquest on the dead body of Richard Smith or Dick Smith a stranger & foreigner picked up in Penobscot river in Frankfort the night of June 21 1861	1.00 ✓
"	Attending the inquest & swearing the jury & witnesses	3.00 ✓
"	going after help, attending funeral paying Bills & Making report	5.00 ✓
"	Paid Patrick Gahy, & Thomas Coir for watching the body & keeping it from the time it was brought to shore to the time of inquest	46.00
"	Paid Colman Carr & Michael Giddy for picking up the dead body of said Smith in Penobscot river & towing it to shore & securing it 3¢ each	6.00
"	Paid the jury of inquest on the body of said Dick Smith travel & attendance	11.34
"	Paid eleven witnesses travel & attendance before the inquest	17.82
"	Paid James Ward well fees summoning jurors & witnesses & travel to place of inquest	4.50
"	Paid John Stokell for coffin & digging grave for burying said Dick Smith	4.50
		<u>59.03</u>

Received pay for the above  
 bill of Nathaniel Dane State Treasurer

Washington Carlton } Coroner for  
 Waldo County

Waldo ss June 22 1861

I hereby certify that Richard Smith or Dick Smith, the dead person now lying before me on whose dead body an inquest has now been held, is a stranger not belonging to this state, according to my best knowledge and belief

Washington Carlton } Coroner for the  
 County of Waldo

Waldo ss Signed and sworn to this 22<sup>d</sup> day of June 1861  
 before me

Elisha Chick Justice of the Peace

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"	Paid Patrick Gahy, & Thomas Coir for watching the body & keeping it from the time it was brought to shore to the time of inquest	46.00
"	Paid Colman Carr & Michael Guddy for picking up the dead body of said Smith in Penobscot River & towing it to shore & securing it 2¢ each	6.00
"	Paid the jury of inquest on the body of said Dick Smith travel & attendance	11.34
"	Paid eleven witnesses travel & attendance before the inquest	17.82
"	Paid James Ward well fees summoning jurors & witnesses & travel to place of inquest	4.00
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Washington Carlton } Coroner for  
 Waldo County

Left three dollars