

Case Notes: Manuscript and Partial Transcript

N.B. Please read the Full Report before you read these Case Notes.

Begbie's Case Notes were written during the trial of the accused for the murder of Morris Price. He wrote them 'in the moment' so he was writing quickly. For this reason, we find longhand interspersed with shorthand and many of the notes in longhand are in abbreviated sentences.

Please note that the Case Notes include graphic details about the murder of Morris Price. This historic source also refers to the Indigenous men arrested for Price's murder as 'Indians'.

The manuscript document

- Read the document below carefully. The longhand and shorthand manuscript is on the right and our matching transcript of the longhand is on the left.
- The lines of shorthand have been numbered 1-21 and left blank. These lines concern the oral testimony of Henry Featherstone, the surgeon who examined Morris Price's corpse, and John Robert Flynn, the constable who investigated the crime in the days after the murder.

Tips for transcribing the shorthand

- Go back to the Full Report and look at the sections concerning Featherstone's and Flynn's evidence (highlighted in yellow). It is very likely that some of the contents of these sections have been transcribed from the shorthand. This may help you with your transcription of the shorthand.
- You may find it useful to copy and paste these sections of the Full Report for future reference.
- Remember that these are Begbie's notes of evidence given by witnesses so the shorthand is likely to produce *abbreviated longhand words and sentences*.
- Use our 'Beginners Guide to Gurney's *Brachygraphy*' and other materials in our Resources section to get started (see <https://dickenscode.org/resources/>). Remember that Begbie's shorthand uses the same system as Dickens's shorthand, but it is not identical.

Download the Entry Form and write your transcription under the lines of shorthand on the form.

Longhand transcription of Begbie's Case Notes

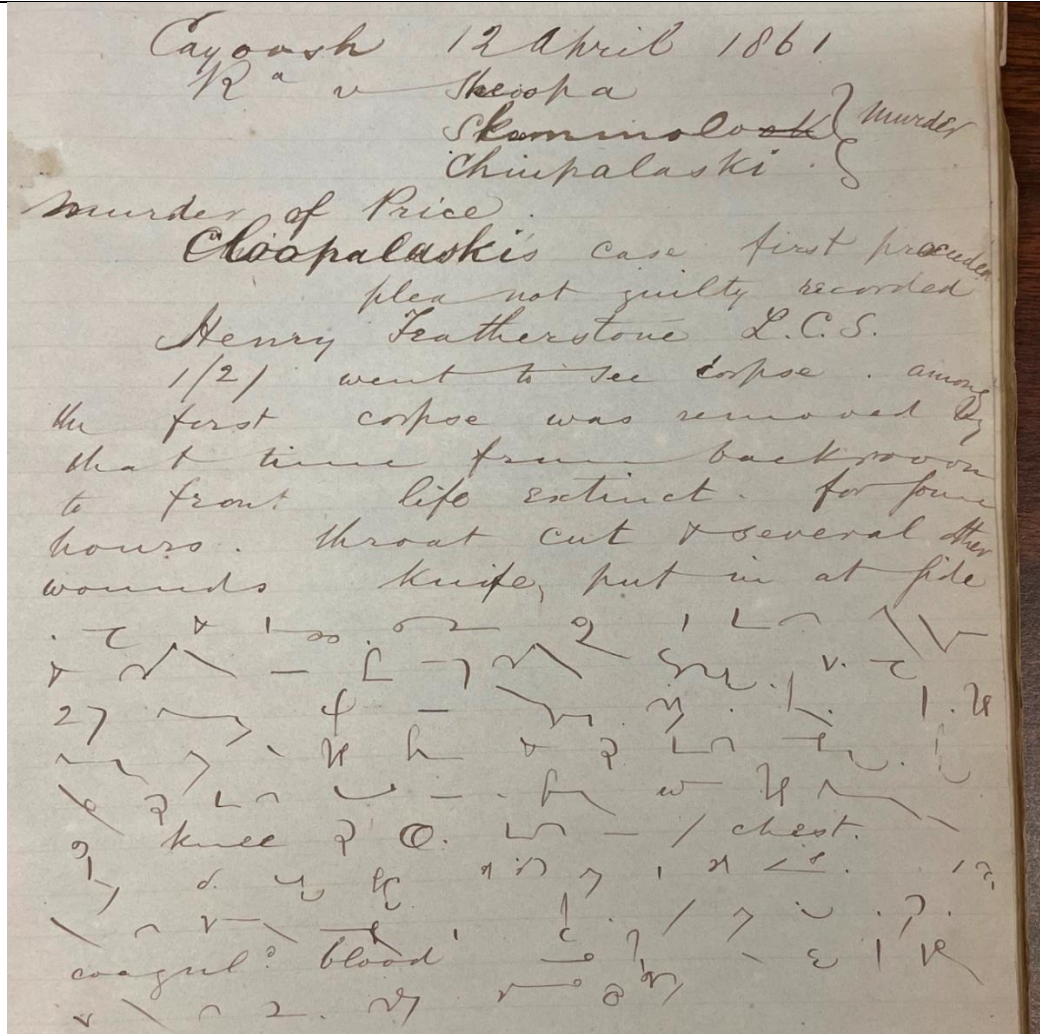
The Evidence of Henry Featherstone, the surgeon who examined Price's body

Cayoosh 12 April 1861
 R^a v Sheoopa
 Skoominolo Murder
 Chiupalaski

Murder of Price
 Chiupalaski case first
 plea not guilty recorded

Henry Featherstone L.C.S.
 1/2/ went to see corpse. among
 the first corpse was removed by
 that time from backroom
 to front life extinct for four
 hours. throat cut + several other
 wounds knife put in at side

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

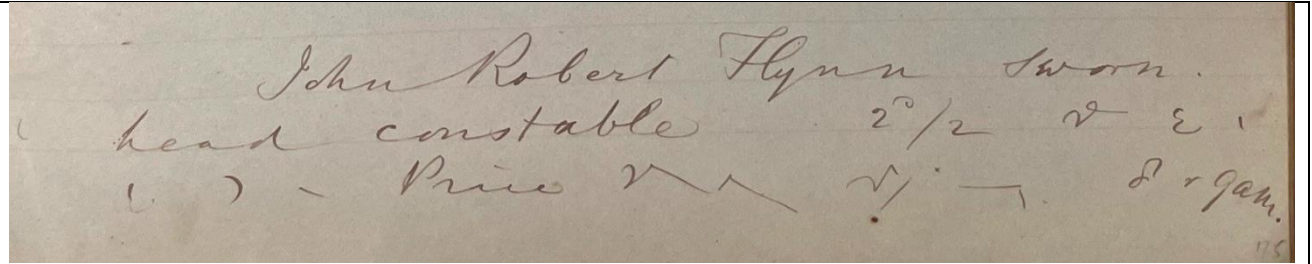


First page from Begbie's bench book [ref: GR-2025]. Courtesy of British Columbia Archives.

John Robert Flynn sworn.

11. _____

12. _____



John Robert Flynn sworn.
head constable 2 1/2 v e
Price v 1/2 s + gam.

First page from Begbie's bench book (continued) [ref: GR-2025]. Courtesy of British Columbia Archives.

13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____
21. _____

porte monnaie gold dust - cloth
 addr? to Reinhart both in trunk
 under window of front door
 opened when i got there no indicn
 of violence I took poss of it + handed
 it over to the magistrate 6 or 7 days
 in c. of in[?] wch I reced he denied
 it he laughed + said Indn who
 told me had lied I took him at
 back Ritchie's store he afterwards made
 a statement to Ether

2. n - y . v . i) i u , e) , i
 - o , - m e l 7 - 1 - m)
 9 v \ e ? m i r 2 . m y - l .
 v i o y n i r ? v > | m i :
 - ashes - . n) Elmater m i (w -
 v m) 2 1/2 v - e } - ashes
 1 - left foot , judged - i 7 . Indian
 } 1 / 4 or 5 Inds & v i , ~ 2 \$ 20
 v . clue . \$ 218 - 14.7 \$ 36 - gold coin
 porte monnaie gold dust - cloth
 addr? to Reinhart both in trunk
 under window of front door
 opened when I got there no indicn
 of violence I took poss: of it & handed
 it over to the magistrate 6 or 7 days
 in c. of mfy wch I reced he denied
 it he laughed & said Indn. who
 told me had lied I took him at
 back Ritchie's store he afterwards made
 a statement to Ether

Second page from Begbie's bench book [ref: GR-2025]. Courtesy of British Columbia Archives.