

Dr J. G. F. Wilford, Coroner, Hutt
Archives NZ Reference BDM 1/5 1876/641
Inwards correspondence of the Registrar General

Hutt 25 September 1876

Sir, On the second day of September I was called upon to hold an inquest on the body of a man named Carl Knitter who had been accidentally killed on the Horokiwi Road; I held the inquest at a home about ten miles from my house; Having been to town to transact some business the day before I held the inquest I was not able to leave again for a time; I had not the least idea of evading or infringing the rule that inquests must be registered within fourteen days but as the end of the fourteen days drew near I found myself less and less able to leave being... busy with my paticuls; the upshot of it was that I did not get to the registration office before today, when I was informed that it was too late; the death could not be registered; now Sir, as I maintain that it was not through carelessness or neglect – but purely on account of the peculiar circumstances of my position, I being the only Medical man in the district and happening just at the time to be unusually busy, I hope that some consideration may be shown; I may say that it takes about four hours by train and three hours by horse to go from my house to Wellington and facts I can truly declare that never during the time prescribed for registration could I possibly spare that time between ten a.m. and four p.m.

Also Archives NZ Reference ACGS 16211 J1/192/ci 1876/2689

Letter to the Justice Department from Coroner, Hutt dated 11 Sep 1876 about the inquest proceedings on Carl Knitter

The death was registered:

Registration Number	Family Name	Given Name(s)	Date of Birth	Age at Death
1876/2661	Knitter	Carl		43Y

Evening Post 03 Oct 1876

A correspondent informs us that the Horokiwi settlers have shown great kindness to the widow of Carl Knitter, the 'Fritz Reuter' immigrant who lost his life through an accident in the Horokiwi bush, a tree falling on and killing him. They not only provided free board and lodging for her and the interpreter who accompanied her to the inquest, but also collected a sum of over £3 for her. On Saturday last, Mr Ralf called at the Immigration Depot with a further sum of £4 which had been subscribed by the Horokiwi settlers. This timely help will prove very serviceable as she is left with three young children, none old enough to be left alone while she goes out to work. This case is certainly one for the charitably disposed to notice.

'Fritz Reuter' passenger list

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~shipstonz/PassLists/fritzreuter1876.html>

It lists:

Carl Rwitter (43yrs), Johanna (36yrs), Bertha (6yrs), Rudolph (5yrs), Carl (2yrs)