

Please make a copy on this form
444
H



FORM 6. PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF DEATH

1 PLACE OF DEATH—
If in Municipality _____ Registered No. _____
If in City or Town Coalmont Street _____ House No. _____
If in hospital or institution, give name _____

2 NAME OF DECEASED Mathie Mc Bride
Residence Coalmont, B.C.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL INFORMATION					MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH	
3 SEX <u>Female</u>	4 RACIAL ORIGIN <u>White</u>	5 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced <u>Wid</u>			20 Date of death <u>Nov 21 1920</u>	
6 BIRTHPLACE (Province or Country) <u>Not known</u>					21 I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from _____ 19 to _____ 19 that I last saw h. alive on _____ 19 and that death occurred on the date stated above, at _____ m.	
7 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) <u>Not known</u>					The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: <u>Food Poison and burned in building</u>	
8 AGE <u>50 years</u>	Years	Months	Days	If less than one day, hrs. or min.	CONTRIBUTORY (Secondary) (duration) yrs. mos. dys.	
9 LAST OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) <u>House wife</u> (b) _____ (c) From _____ to _____					22 Where was disease contracted if not at place of death? _____	
10 FORMER OCCUPATION OF DECEASED (a) <u>House wife</u> (b) <u>House wife</u> (c) From <u>2 years</u> to <u>Present</u>					Did an operation precede death? <u>no</u> Date of _____	
11 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (In years and months) (a) At place of death <u>10 years</u> (b) In province <u>Not known</u> (c) In Canada (if an immigrant) <u>Not known</u>					Was there an autopsy? <u>no</u>	
12 Name of father <u>Not known</u>					(Signed) <u>D.M. Caffrey M.D.</u>	
13 Birthplace of father _____					Address <u>Princeton</u>	
14 Maiden name of mother <u>Not known</u>					Date <u>Nov 14 1920</u>	
15 Birthplace of mother _____					State the Disease causing Death, or in death from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, (2) whether Accidental, suicidal or Homicidal.	
16 Informant's name <u>I McDonald</u> Address <u>Coalmont B.C.</u>					23 District Registrar's Record Number <u>1.</u>	
17 Relationship to deceased <u>Sister</u>					24 Filed <u>Nov 25th 1920</u> <u>Hugh Hunter</u> District Registrar	
18 Place of burial, cremation or removal <u>Granite Crypt</u> Date of burial <u>Nov-26 1920</u>						
19 Undertaker <u>W. Hayward</u> <u>Princeton B.C.</u>						

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING

N.B.—WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD. Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should STATE CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important. RACIAL ORIGIN will be described by stating to what race or people the deceased person belonged whether English, Irish, Scotch, French, German, etc. The terms "American" or "Canadian" must not be used as they express citizenship but not a Racial origin. See instructions on back of Certificate.

SEC. 46—Vital Statistics Act makes it the duty of the Undertaker or person acting as Undertaker to obtain all the particulars required in the "Certificate of Registration of Death" and to file the same with the District Registrar who shall issue the burial permit. (OVER)

(CORONER)

INQUISITION

An Inquisition indented taken at *Coalmont B.C.*
British Columbia, the 22nd day of *November*, in
the year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord the King, before
me, *Daniel McCaffrey*, gentleman, one of the Coroners for
our Lord the King for the *Province of B.C.* aforesaid, upon the view of the body
of *Hattie McBride*, then and there and within the jurisdiction
of the said Coroner, lying dead upon the oaths of:

T.W. Boyes, Foreman Engineer
J.D. Prendergast, Saw Mill Man
D. McDonald, Engineer
J.W. Wells, Accountant
M.W. McLeod, Transfer Man
A. Reid, Carpenter

Good and lawful men of *Province of B.C.* aforesaid, in the
said *town of Coalmont*, who being now here sworn
and charged to inquire, on the part of our said Lord the King, when, where, how, and after what manner,
the said *Hattie McBride* came to his death, do say upon
their oath that *we are of the opinion accordant*
to evidence that Hattie McBride came
to her death from foul play caused
by some person or persons unknown
and afterwards burnt with the house.

(CORONER)

Information of Witnesses

Canada:
Province of British Columbia.
County of *Yale*
To Wit:

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of *Hattie McBride* at *Coalmont*, in the *Province of B.C.* in the County of *Yale*, on the *21* day of *Nov.*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty* before me, *D. McCaffrey*, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said *Hattie McBride*, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:
John Hewitt
of the *town of Coalmont*, in the said County of *Yale*, being sworn, saith,

My name is John Hewitt. I live at Coalmont, B.C. My occupation is Grading. I was Princeton November 21, 1920 at 1 a.m. I heard about the fire while I was in Princeton. Did you ever hear anything that would lead you to believe that something of this nature would happen? No. Did you ever tell anyone that something of this nature would happen? No. Have you ever told anyone that something might happen? I have said that I wouldn't be surprised to see something happen around town. Tell your reasons. There has been a lot of little things stolen around town and I figured the party who was doing this and getting away with it would do something bigger before they got through. Do you mean any particular person by "party"? No. There may be more than one person. When you said something might happen were you referring to any particular person? No. Did you have definite knowledge that a certain bunch were going to get someone in this town? No.

John Hewitt

(CORONER)

Information of Witnesses

Canada:
Province of British Columbia.
County of *Yale*
To Wit:

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of *Hattie McBride* at *Coalmont*, in the *Province* of *B.C.* in the County of *Yale*, on the *21* day of *Nov.*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty* before me, *D. McCaffrey*, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said *Hattie McBride*, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:
L.N. Marcotte
of the *town* of *Coalmont*, in the said County of *Yale*, being sworn, saith,

My name is L.N. Marcotte. I live in Coalmont, County Yale. My occupation is hotel keeper. I was in Coalmont Nov. 21, 1920. I was in bed at 1 a.m. that morning. I didn't see anything of this fire. Did you tell anyone that something of this nature was going to take place? Yes. Who did you tell? I.M. McTavish and P. Russell. What led you to believe something was going to take place? From pieces of conversation I had heard. Who did you hear say these things? Don't care to answer. The first one who mentioned it to me was Jack Hewitt. I knew before this that something was going on. Do you know anything definite? No. Have you been down to Hattie's? Yes. I used to go down and borrow a few hundred. She always let me in. I owe her money now. Did you ever hear of any people going down and not get in? This last bunch the only one I ever heard of.

L.N. Marcotte

(CORONER)

Information of Witnesses

Canada:
Province of British Columbia.
County of *Yale*
To Wit:

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of *Hattie McBride* at *Coalmont*, in the *Province of British Columbia* in the County of *Yale*, on the *21* day of *November*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty* before me, *Daniel McCaffrey*, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said *Hattie McBride*, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:
Norman McDonald
of the *town of Coalmont*, in the said County of *Yale*, being sworn, saith,

My name is Norman McDonald. I reside in Coalmont, County of Yale. The last I saw Hattie was at 5:30 or so at her house. She said that she didn't have enough coal to last to Sunday night and was in bed. She was sober when I saw her. There was about half cord of wood in front of house. There was a small fire in the stove then. About 15 minutes to One a.m. I heard someone yell fire. I was at the barbershop at the time. I went to the barbershop about 7:30 p.m. Four of us ran down to her house and tried to get in but could not. Fire was coming out through the front window and wood in front of the house was burning. At this time we could see no fire at the back. Whenever a window was tried no one could get in. The house began to fall and tumble in about 25 min. after we got there. We stayed around for while and then went over town. We found no trace of Hattie McBride before we went over town. I came back just before daylight. I could see what was left of the bones by a flashlight and two pitchers. One pitcher in which she usually kept bills or paper money was empty not even dust in it. The other had some silver. I do not know how much, in it. I put the silver away so it would be safe. I went over town to barbershop. I went to Brennon whom I thought was a constable. I then notified constable and coroner. The bones were about 6' away from where she used to sleep. The bones were close to the frame of a trunk which was in a room where she kept bedding. There was a partition between her bedroom and this room. She told me one day that she had a fellow's watch in her trunk. Don't think she had any money in trunk. There wouldn't be over \$300 in house at the time. Have known Hattie about ten years. Never knew her to drink or use dope. The pitchers were at the end of the frame of trunk when found. Had there been anything in the one that had the paper money which was on its side I do not know whether all the ashes would have come out or not. The floor would have been a drop of about 5 feet. I think the partition between the bedroom and where the trunk was was double. Partition all burned before it fell. Is it possible for her to roll from the position where bed fell to where the body was found? No. Did she ever make any complaints about being afraid of anyone burning her out or hurting her? Yes. She was living alone. Did you have any reason to believe anyone would get her? No. Do you think the

heat of the fire was sufficient to burn her as she is? Not from the looks of other articles. It was a frame building boarded inside and out – a very light house. There was quite a bit of bedding. Blankets, quilts, etc. The room was about 8' x 10' x 9' bedding was on shelf. Couldn't say how many blankets does not think there were over one doz. blankets. One single mattress. Does not know how many quilts or sheets. What light does she use to go to bed? Leaves coal oil lamp in sitting room off her room. Never knew her to use lamp when going to bed. She had on a bathrobe when I saw her last. She said she was going back to bed. I think she was over 50 years old. I saw remains of trunk – did not examine it carefully. I couldn't say whether trunk had been interfered with or not. It was usually locked with a Yale lock. Ex. No. 1 not like the lock usually on trunk. Ex. No. 2 the watch I saw there was about the size of Ex. No. 2. Was Hamilton movement. Did she ever have a gun? No. I had L. Marcotte's gun in my pocket in the house. I didn't know where gun went. Ex. No. 3 looks like the one I had. That's the only gun I know of that was in the house. I picked up the remains put them in a box and put box in my shack. The remains that the jury viewed are the same as those I picked up. We parted good friends when I left her. No flames coming through roof. Fire was coming from the rooms where the trunk was. Not her bedroom. Was there any dust around jug when I picked it up? Ashes all around it. Did she have any valuable papers in trunk? No. Do you know of any person borrowing or loaning her money? Yes – there was a \$1,000 mortgage. Who took of her money? I banked her money in Canadian Bank of Commerce Princeton. I do not know whether she had a will or not. Was she ever married? Don't know. Is it common news that you looked after her interests? I didn't tell everyone. The banker in Princeton knew. The front door had a night latch on and was locked.

N. McDonald

As near as I can remember I banked some money ie. The last I banked about 2 months ago. On November 23 I found the last two exhibits. The part of the trunk was close to the body. I think that the second exhibit No. 6 contains her money. Exhibit 6 was found about 15 feet from the body in a different part of the house. The stove was in front room or sitting room. That is the only stove that had a fire in.

N. McDonald

(CORONER)

Information of Witnesses

Canada:
Province of British Columbia.
County of *Yale*
To Wit:

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of *Hattie McBride* at *Coalmont*, in the *Province of B.C.* in the County of *Yale*, on the *21* day of *Nov.*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty* before me, *D. McCaffrey*, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said *Hattie McBride*, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:
David Lee Smith
of the *town of Princeton*, in the said County of *Yale*, being sworn, saith,

My name is David Lee Smith, Princeton, B.C. My occupation is Physician and Surgeon. I view some remains at Coalmont, B.C. Nov. 20. The remains were that of a human being greatly charred practically. All that was left was a small part of trunk and few pieces of bone from legs, arms and pelvis. Impossible to tell the sex. I was at the place where the fire occurred. There were two pitchers badly scorched but not melted. Hair pins just scorched. A tree which I think would be near front door with a few limbs scorched on it. There were some melted pieces of glass on a base of piano stool being about half melted off. Ex. No. 4 those spoons have been partly melted. I would not consider that the heat which burned these four exhibits was sufficient to burn the body as it is unless it lasted a considerable time. I would not consider body could be burned as it is in 25 min. I would not think that a shell building as described by previous witness could burn the body as it is. I would not consider blankets would do it. Wool is not very flammable. Will burn with draft. I felt mattress would not be very inflammable. If excelsior it would. If fire was not hot enough to melt articles on exhibit why did it burn the body as it did? Can't answer. Would body being in corner of building get as much heat as if in centre of building? Don't think so.

Lee Smith Doctor

(CORONER)

Information of Witnesses

Canada:
Province of British Columbia.
County of *Yale*
To Wit:

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of *Hattie McBride* at *Coalmont*, in the *Prov. of British Columbia* in the County of *Yale*, on the *21* day of *Nov.*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty* before me, *Charles Carlson*, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said *Hattie McBride*, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:
Charles Carlson
of the *22* of *November*, in the said County of *Yale*, being sworn, saith,

My name is C. Carlson. I was in Coalmont Nov. 20, 1920. I called at Hattie McBride's house at about 11 p.m. I rapped at the door. I rapped easily first, then harder. We made quite a bit of noise at her door. We got no answer. We went back to the Hotel again. I used to go down there once in awhile. We were good friends. It was not because we were not friendly that she would not let us in. I could not see any lights in the house then. Don't know whether there was fire in the stove or not. Have been down there before and couldn't get in? Yes – but she would always answer the door. Do you know of anyone else going down there and she wouldn't speak to them? No. Were you drunk or sober? Not perfectly sober. I remember making a noise. How were the other men? As far as I know there were three of us. Was she afraid of you and afraid to open the door? No don't think so. Would she know your voice if heard you? Yes. I said Hattie open the door. I rapped again and said Hattie it's Charlie. She didn't open the door and I went away to barbershop. Were you down that day before this time? No. I was there two weeks ago. Do not know whether she was sick, hurt or not? No. I was not down there after 11 o'clock.

C. Carlson

(CORONER)

Information of Witnesses

Canada:
Province of British Columbia.
County of *Yale*
To Wit:

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of *Hattie McBride* at *Coalmont*, in the *Province of B.C.* in the County of *Yale*, on the *21* day of *Nov.*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty* before me, *D. McCaffrey*, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said *Hattie McBride*, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:
Andrew Muir
of the *town of Coalmont*, in the said County of *Yale*, being sworn, saith,

My name is Andrew Muir. I was Coalmont on November 21. I saw fire at Hattie McBride's at about 1 a.m. I was on the Hotel steps. I went over to the barbershop and turned in the alarm. Four of us went down there. The fire was burning in the far corner of the building ie. facing towards Granite Creek. We knocked open the front door. Couldn't do anything. We went to the back knocked a door in there and couldn't do anything - on account of smoke - no flames in the back. Smoke smelled like burning feathers. Have any experience fighting fire? No. How long had the fire been burning? Don't know. It burned about half hour after we got there. Have you any idea whether the heat of the fire would burn the body that way or not? Don't know. Was front door locked? Yes. According to lock on door when we drove it open it was a Yale night lock. Was back door locked? Barricaded up with boards - ie. nailed across it. Did you break front door open? Yes. It opened into a room ie. big room. We could not get inside. McDonald tried to and got his face burned. Were you ever down there having a good time? No. Do you know her habits? No.

Andrew Muir

(CORONER)

Information of Witnesses

Canada:
Province of British Columbia.
County of *Yale*
To Wit:

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of *Hattie McBride* at *Coalmont*, in the *Province of B.C.* in the County of *Yale*, on the *21* day of *Nov.*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty* before me, *D. McCaffrey*, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said *Hattie McBride*, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:
Vincent D'Wight Hulbert
of the *town of Coalmont*, in the said County of *Yale*, being sworn, saith,

My full name is Vincent D'Wight Hulbert. I was in barbershop, Coalmont, B.C. on Nov. 21, 1920. About 1 a.m. Andy Muir gave the alarm of fire. I went down to the fire. Fire was burning in Granite Creek corner of building when I got there. I went around to the back of the house – took the boards off door facing Granite Creek. Pried door in. Were unable to go any further on account of the smoke. Came out and tried to go in window where she was supposed to be sleeping. Couldn't do anything there on account of the smoke. We stood back and watched it burn. I stayed there from 1 hr. to 1 ½ hrs. The building was practically burned up except the corner next to Granite Creek where wood had been piled there was a little of that still burning. Wood about 18" or 2' long. There would be about one rick of the wood. The smoke appeared to have a queer odour but couldn't say what it was. Might have been caused from different things. Never got quite this same odour and any other fire. Have been at a few fires – never worked on any fire brigade. Did not try to get any water on building – were trying to get into building – building past any help from a bucket brigade. Did you ever fight fire at any time where you knew coal oil was burned? No. Can you give any idea what caused this odour? Can't say. Were you acquainted with the house? Just knew the sitting room. Were you acquainted with her? No – only at house once – have seen her several times. Do you know where remains were found? I saw them that morning. When wood fell in could it fall where remains were? Would fall that way – but do not know whether it would reach to where remains were or not. What kind of fire as regards heat do you think it was? An average fire. Was there much stuff piled in the corner where remains were found at time of fire? Not that I noticed. Do you think that fire – without unusual circumstances would burn body as this one was? Can't say. Where did she keep her coal oil? Don't know. Did you ever see her carrying a lamp from room to room? Don't remember was only in sitting room.

Vincent Hulbert

(CORONER)

Information of Witnesses

Canada:
Province of British Columbia.
County of *Yale*
To Wit:

INFORMATIONS of witnesses severally taken and acknowledged on behalf of our Sovereign Lord the King, touching the death of *Hattie McBride* at *Coalmont*, in the *Province of B.C.* in the County of *Yale*, on the *21* day of *November.*, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and *twenty* before me, *D. McCaffrey*, one of His Majesty's Coroners for the said County, on an inquisition then and there taken on view of the body of the said *Hattie McBride*, then and there lying dead, as follows, to wit:
John Rutherford
of the *town of Coalmont*, in the said County of *Yale*, being sworn, saith,

My name is John Alexander Lake Rutherford. I live at Merritt, B.C. I was at Coalmont, B.C. on Nov. 21, 1920. I was in the barbershop at 1 a.m. I first saw the fire a few minutes after 1 a.m. Andy Muir called my attention to it. When I saw the fire I ran down there. The fire was burning in front part of building the far corner ie. towards Granite Creek was burning first. I tried the front door and found it locked and kicked it in. When door swung open room a solid mass of flames – walls, ceiling and floor all burning. I found I couldn't get in there. I closed door and went around to the back on Granite Creek side of building. There is another door – pulled slats off but smoke was so dense that I couldn't get in room. I then tried to get into a window that led into a bedroom. Same thing there. Smoke was pouring out of the window. About one breath of it was all a man could stand. We kept trying to get in there until the flames began to shoot out. We found we couldn't get in the building anyplace. I stood around and watched it burn. We stayed about an hour. I went to hotel and went to bed. We tried for about 15 min. to get in the house. I do not think fire travelled unusually fast. There was practically no wind at all. I do not think there was any wind. Foggy night and everything was still. The odour of the smoke appeared to me to be strong. I think that the volume of smoke was greater than I would expect from this building. I was not acquainted with the house. I never saw Hattie but once. The fire was very hot – could not get within 50' of building without getting burned. Did you see the remains of what is supposed to be Hattie McBride? Yes. Do you think that fire would burn the body as these remains are? No. I would have thought there would have been more of it left by a fire of that size and the time it was in there. Did you ever smell an odour of smoke like that before? No I think not. Was building pretty well burned when you left? Yes practically level with the ground. Did you notice any smouldering bunch in the corner towards Granite Creek? No. Did you see any remains before you left? No. Did you look for any? Yes – looked around bed and springs but could not see her. Was there much burning in this particular corner? Yes. The pile of wood appeared to have fallen in there and it was still burning when I left. Did you hear any remarks that something was going to happen? No.

J.A. Rutherford

IN WITNESS whereof, as well the aforesaid Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition put their seals, on the day and year and at the place first above mentioned:

T.W. Boyes
M.W. MacLeod
Daniel McDonald
Jas. W. Wells
Alexander Reid
J. Prendergast

D. McCaffrey
Coroner