

[L. & M.]
[1,000-15-6-98.]

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS.

G.O., No. 1332 P.

DATED 13 10: 98

✓

[Despatch Abstract.]

Plague in the Krishna-giri Taluk

Recording letter from the Plague Commission
Submitting with remarks the report of the J. G.
of Salem regarding the suspicious deaths from

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Local & Munl. (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 21498

From The Plague Commissioner

Order 1332 P.M. 4/13.10.98

Recorded

(242). H. J.

12.10.98

No. 132

Dated 10-10-1898

Received 12.10-1898

Registered 12-10-1898

Enclosures

Spare copies.

SUBJECT.

Subj with remarks letter from the collector of Salem and nothing with remarks the report of the Sub Collector Salem regarding the suspicious deaths in the Krishnagiri Taluk.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1244 P. 1001 P.			

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Board of Revenue.

(1898) Department.

General Register No.

From

The Asst. Collector
of Salem.

No. 300

P.C.

Resolution.

No. 132.
Sept. 10/10/98
Submitted to Government - The
Com. of N. Andhra altho has
been specially drawn to the
attention of the Government
Kuppan and he will refer
what he has done in the matter.

Dated 6 October '98.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

SUBJECT.

Submitting with remarks
the report of the Sub-
Collector, Salem, regarding
the suspicious deaths
in the Krishnagiri Taluk.

M. M. M. M.
P. Comm.
8/10/98

for period of
has. 7 + 8
1332 P.C.
Recorded
12.10.98

13/10/98

Camp

REGISTER No. A.

Salema Sub COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
Camp Krishnagiri
2 October 1898.

FROM

C. Spencer Esq.,

agst COLLECTOR OF Salema -

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE
COMMISSIONER OF

The Collector of
Salema -

SIR,

I have the honor to report on three sus-
-picious deaths of persons arriving from
Bangalore that occurred in Krishnagiri Taluk
in the villages of Madanakuppam, Desupalli
and Varatanahalli, all these villages being within
a circle of one mile radius. The last case,
that at Varatanahalli, has been pro-
-nounced by the Civil Krishnagiri Civil
Apothecary to be plague and there can be
little doubt as to the correctness of his
diagnosis the symptoms being decidedly
marked.

2. I received a telegram at 7.30 p.m.
on Sunday Evening the 2nd October

about the Varanahalli Case which ended
fatally on the 1st and being there about to
return to Hosur from Salem, I altered my
plans and took the night mail to Tirupattur
which I reached at 1 A.M. and starting again
in the morning of the 3rd arrived at Varana-
hally about 2.30 p.m. after a journey of
25 miles by road. I visited the spots
where the three deceased men had lived
and died at Varanahalli, Jesupalli,
and Madanakuppam and satisfied
myself that everything was done that
could be done towards disinfection of infected
places, segregation of those who had been in
actual contact, and observation of other
members of the families not actually known
to have been near the deceased but with whom
they might have associated. That done
I proceeded to Krishnagiri for the night.
Lieut. Col. Rogers Harrison arrived this
morning October 4th and Dr. Thomas and
Captain French in the course of the day.
3. The names of the three deceased men

(all three being of Salija caste) are as
follows: (1) Jurravan of Madanakuppam
30 or 35 years of age who came with his
brother by train to Kuppam and thence by
footpath to Madanakuppam Krishnagiri Taluk.
He had high fever on his arrival and he is
said to have left Kuppam contrary to the orders
of the passport issuing officer and police there,
his brother however denies that they were
forbidden to proceed on their journey. In
Bangalore they had been living in
Jurravappa's godowns in Tarunpeta,
their living house being in Akkipet. The
deceased's wife had returned to Madanakuppam
about a month previously. On arrival at
the village on Sunday 25 September his
father-in-law, the village munsiff, would
not admit the deceased and his brother into
the village, so they took up their quarters
in a field - but about a furlong from the
village in the midst of cultivated fields.
Food was taken there by his relations
and left for him to take. The brother
attended on him and medicine was

administered by a hakim. The Civil
apothecary Krishnaji attended him on the
28th September at the Tahsildar's request.
He then found him to be febrile, temperature
100°, pulse weak 60 p.m. Condition Comatose
with stertorous breathing, Eyes Closed.
The tongue was Examined with difficulty
and found to be Coated white. His face
and the color of the body were natural, he
had no dazed appearance nor was there
any Epistaxis or melaena. A careful
Examination was made for glandular
enlargements but none detected. The
hakim and the man's friends declared
that he suffered from fever and Congestion
of the brain about 2 months ago while
he was in the village and that he was
Cured of the Complaint. At 3 a.m. on the
28th he died. The Apothecary Examined
the body again after death, and finding
no glandular swellings pronounced
the Cause of death in his opinion to be
venereal fever with Congestion of the brain.

The body was buried under the Apothecary's
supervision in a pit 6 ft. deep as ^{the} relations
objected to cremation. The deceased's
brother has been segregated and made
to live by day in his field where his meals
are brought by his mother to him and
placed on the ground at little distance
off and by night he sleeps in a
detached mantapam close to the village
under the guard of a taluk peon.
As yet he has developed no symptoms
of sickness. The straw on which the
deceased lay in his field but has been
burnt by the Apothecary. I have ordered
the thatched roof to be removed so that
the interior may be exposed to the rays
of the sun. I have ordered the three men
who assisted in the burial and the
hakim who administered medicine
to be placed under observation.

(2) The second case is that of Chinappa
of Jevupalli, an old man of 60 years,

Man's brother
Subsequently died
dy

Who arrived alone from Bangalore
without a passport, On the 28th September
at Texupalli. After his arrival he
suffered from fever which came on
preceded by rigors. The fever subsided
on the next day (30th) when he complained
of Cough and fiddiness, and suddenly
Expired after dawn. He was old and
debilitated. The apothecary examined
the body after death and being unable
to detect any glandular swellings
formed an opinion that death was
due to Exhaustion resulting from
malarial fever. Deceased has a sister
who brought him food to the field-hut
where he stayed on Thursday and
Friday after his arrival at Texupalli.
Questioned by me she was unable
to say what her brother was doing in
Bangalore or in what locality he
was living, but as he came by foot-
-path from Kuppam, it is presumed

2.
that he took the train from Bangalore
to Kuppam in North Arcot district
and walked thence. On deceased's
arrival in the village his sister, who
had previously been on bad terms with
him, did not allow him to enter her
house, as the people of the village would
not allow any Bangalore people to come
into the village. On his death he was
buried under the Apothecary's Super-
-vision in the open field a few yards
from his field-hut which is about
300 yards distant from the village.
The hut is opened in all 4 sides and
exposed to the Sun, so that even if the
real cause of death was plague, all
germs must have been destroyed by
this time. Deceased's Sister Venkata-
-ammal and one Narayanniah Naick
who assisted to bury the corpse have
been given passports and placed
under observation. Venkatammal

Who arrived alone from Bangalore without a passport, On the 28th September at Tenupalli. After his arrival he suffered from fever which came on preceded by rigors. The fever subsided on the next day, (30th) when he complained of Cough and fiddiness, and suddenly expired after dawn. He was old and debilitated. The apothecary examined the body after death and being unable to detect any glandular swellings formed an opinion that death was due to Exhaustion resulting from malarial fever. Deceased has a sister who brought him food to the field-hut where he stayed on Thursday and Friday after his arrival at Tenupalli. Questioned by me she was unable to say what her brother was doing in Bangalore or in what locality he was living, but as he came by foot-path from Kuppam, it is presumed

2.
that he took the train from Bangalore to Kuppam in North Arcot district and walked thence. On deceased's arrival in the village his sister, who had previously been on bad terms with him, did not allow him to enter her house, as the people of the village would not allow any Bangalore people to come into the village. On his death he was buried under the Apothecary's supervision in the open field a few yards from his field-hut which is about 300 yards distant from the village. The hut is opened in all 4 sides and exposed to the Sun, so that even if the real cause of death was plague, all germs must have been destroyed by this time. Deceased's Sister Venkatarammal and one Narayammah Naick who assisted to bury the corpse have been given passports and placed under observation. Venkatarammal

Who arrived alone from Bangalore
without a passport, On the 28th September
at Jessupalli. After his arrival he
suffered from fever which came on
preceded by rigors. The fever subsided
on the next day, (30th) when he complained
of Cough and fiddiness, and suddenly
Expired after dawn. He was old and
debilitated. The Apothecary Examined
the body after death and being unable
to detect any glandular swellings
formed an opinion that death was
due to Exhaustion resulting from
malarial fever. Deceased has a sister
who brought him food to the field-hut
where he stayed on Thursday and
Friday after his arrival at Jessupalli.
Questioned by me she was unable
to say what her brother was doing in
Bangalore or in what locality he
was living, but as he came by foot-
-path from Kuppam, it is presumed

2.
that he took the train from Bangalore
to Kuppam in North Arcot District
and walked thence. On deceased's
arrival in the village his sister, who
had previously been on bad terms with
him, did not allow him to enter her
house, as the people of the village would
not allow any Bangalore people to come
into the village. On his death he was
buried under the Apothecary's Super-
-visor in the open field a few yards
from his field-hut which is about
300 yards distant from the village.
The hut is opened in all 4 sides and
exposed to the Sun, so that even if the
real cause of death was plague, all
germs must have been destroyed by
this time. Deceased's Sister Venkata-
-ammal and one Narayanniah Naick
who assisted to bury the corpse have
been given passports and placed
under observation. Venkatammal

is living in the same house, with her son and daughter-in-law. They have no children.

5. (3) The 3^d Case is that of Venkata-raman of Varatanahalli who came with a passport no 2 from Bangalore via Kuppam with his brother. They left Bangalore on Tuesday morning arrived at Kuppam at 10 A.M. and started at once for Varatanahalli which they reached on Wednesday the 28th. On arrival they stopped an hour or so at the threshold of their relations' house and without entering the interior went away to their field-hut about 200 yards distant from the village. The relations state that deceased was quite well while in the village. On the 29th he suffered from high fever attended with frontal headache, the fever continued till the 1st October

When he vomited and purged 4 times after which he died. The apothecary examined the body after death and by careful search found ^{an} enlargement of the Cervical glands on both sides and the right inguinal regions. The stools were of black colour almost like tar and the vomit consisted of partially digested rice mixed with mucus. The Apothecary's opinion is that the cause of death was plague. After much persuasions the Tahsildar induced his relations to consent to the body being cremated which was done at a little distance from the field-hut. The hut or machan on which deceased lay was burnt with the body as also the blanket, and cloth which he was wearing.

The brother who accompanied him from Bangalore Muniyappa and his mother Venkatammal who gave him

food and the two other relations
Vekkatappan and Muneagan who
attended on him and assisted at his
cremation have been disinfected
by a bath of Carbolic lotion one in
hundred and then allowed to wash
in Common water; their clothes have
been soaked in mercury lotion one
in 1000 for 30 minutes and exposed to
the Sun. These 4 persons have been
segregated in a vacant mantapam
outside the village and a guard of two
peons set to watch them and prevent
their returning to the village until their
ten days of observations are over. I
found some straw on which the deceased
is said to have lain and this has been
burnt. The Excreta and vomited
matter were scraped up, sprinkled
with disinfectant, and buried under
the Apothecary's orders in a pit 3 ft deep

3.
There are two sheds adjoining the Machan
on which deceased lay. Though deceased
is said not to have entered these sheds
and he has no necessity to do so, I have
ordered ~~the~~ thatched roofs to be removed
and the interior exposed to the sun and
air. The house outside which the deceased
stopped while in the village has been
locked up and the key is with the village
munsiff; in case the district medical
officer may consider it advisable to have
the floor excavated and the earth burnt.
Although the deceased is said not to have
entered this house, the Apothecary to be
on the safe side sprinkled perchloride
of mercury on the floor as well as on the
threshold and entrance where the deceased
stood on his arrival and the Pandit has
been ordered by me to be removed so as
to expose the door way to the full glare
of the sun. In the same courtyard

there are 2 other houses inhabited by relations of the deceased's family. They contain 2 women and 2 girls of six or 7 years of age and 3 children of tender years. These persons will be kept under observation of the Circle Inspector who has been told to visit the village daily. They are not known to have been in contact with deceased after his return. The deceased while in Bangalore was living in Jamnupet opposite to Maryamma's Chattram and engaged in grain trade. His brother could not be induced to disclose the name of the owner of the house.

6. The District Medical Officer since his arrival has ordered arrangements to be made for the 4 segregated persons at Varatanahalli and the one man at Madanakuppam de for carrying into Chattras containing disinfecting

fluids until their observation period is over. He has also ordered the Civil apothecary to have the Earth at the door-way and the interior of the house excavated and burnt in a kiln made of bricks.

7. These 3 Cases above reported point a moral. All these men came from Bangalore and all found their way to the same locality through Kuppam Railway Station. 2 had passports and the 3rd had none that held by the man who died of pronounced plague was in manuscript form and numbered 2 dated the 27th and signed Rungga. S. M. (presumably the station master of Kuppam Railway Station) This seems to show that the North Arcot authorities have provided for no medical examination at Kuppam in spite of the importance of the place as a junction of the several

lines of communication. The fact that one man (Jesupalli case) was allowed to come from Bangalore without a passport though he seems to have told the munsiff that he was examined medically and told to go on; that another man (Madanakuppam case) was allowed to proceed to his destination though he arrived from Bangalore in a state of high fever and was not detained for observation at Kuppam; that the 3rd man (Varatanahalli case) who admittedly came from the most infected locality of Bangalore and subsequently died of Mague possessed a passport in which the place whence coming was entered as Bangalore Cantonment are 3 fair examples of the negligence of the North Arcot officials.

8. The Tahsildar informs me that since the Exodus from Bangalore commenced some 80 individuals have arrived at Varatanahalli and its neighbourhood from Bangalore. This points to the obvious need of the North Arcot authorities establishing a proper inspection station under a medical officer at Kuppam, or if they fail to do so of our establishing a station to protect ourselves at Juvavinayanapalli or some other suitable spot on the pathway leading over the Ghaut from Kuppam into Krishnagiri. It is fortunate that the people of this neighbourhood appreciate the advantages of segregating their sick and carry it out of their own accord.

9. As I am writing, a case of high

fever is reported in a village $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles South of Karatanahalli. The Apothecary has been sent to examine the patient but further details are not yet to hand.

I have to
(Signed) C. G. Spencer
As Sub Collector

End certificate

Submitted to the Plague Commissioner, Madras (in continuation of report No 300 dated 4 Instant).

2. The Collector of North Arcot has been addressed regarding the necessity of medical examination and closer supervision at Kuppam. The man referred to in the last para of the Sub-Collector's letter has since died. Doctor Thomas has examined the body but does not consider it to be from plague.

Nevertheless necessary disinfection and segregation of contacts have been carried out.

As Collector

When given for copying
When copied
When examined
When signed

189

READ AGAIN G.O. No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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