

Inquest - William Webb 1894

Chute Forest



The District Coroner, Mr R Wilson, held an inquest here on Monday on the body of William Webb, a farmer, aged 45 years, who committed suicide by hanging himself either late on Friday night or early on Saturday morning.

George Collins, an innkeeper, of Chute forest, stated that he last saw the deceased alive on Friday night when he (the deceased) was leaving his (witness's) house.

He had been sitting in the house for about two hours and was quite sober when he left, having only taken ginger ale and lemonade. He used to drink a good deal and was at times rather rambling in his speech.

On Saturday morning, about seven o'clock, witness was passing his cottage, in which he resided by himself, being unmarried, when he observed that the key was on the outside of the door. He endeavoured to open the latter, but found that it was bolted, and he then went around to the back and got an entry through the window. He then found the deceased, fully dressed, with the exception of his boots, hanging by his neck from a beam in the kitchen ceiling, quite dead. His toes just touched the floor, and there was a chair near tipped backwards.

The deceased, who had resided in the village for about 14 years, was recently rambling in his talk.

Louisa Soper, wife of George Soper, proved that on Friday the deceased complained to her of his head.

Thomas Edward Webb, a warehouseman, of 31 Bedford Gardens, Kensington, a brother of the deceased, gave evidence as to identity and Mr H H Williamson, surgeon, of Ludgershall, gave medical testimony.

The latter gave it as his opinion that death was due to hanging and the jury returned a verdict that deceased committed suicide whilst of unsound mind.

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