



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



CODFORD

Henry Manning 4th February, 1888

Drowned Codford Man

Mr Sylvester, Coroner, held an inquest on Saturday at Crockerton on the body of Henry Manning, a wool sorter, from Codford. The deceased's body had been found in Sheerwater the previous Thursday.

The jury returned a verdict of "Found Drowned".

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Newspaper Extract:

Crockerton. Found drowned in Sheerwater Lake. Mr F. T. Sylvester held an inquest at the Bath Arms, Crockerton, on Saturday, on the body of Henry Manning, who had been found drowned in Sheerwater lake the previous Thursday afternoon.

The evidence showed that the body was discovered at about half past three in the afternoon in question, by a labourer named James Trollope, being standing about four feet from the bank. The body was pulled out of the water by means of drags by Charles Jones, boat-house keeper, and was conveyed to the Bath Arms, Crockerton. P.C. Thompson, stationed at Crockerton, said he searched the body at the Bath Arms and found in the pockets of deceased, a knife, a pipe, tobacco pouch, two handkerchiefs, in coppers, and two keys.

Sarah Gray, of Codford, identified the body as that of Henry Manning, who had lived with her for some time at Codford. Deceased was a wool-sorter, and had worked for Mr. Dear, of Codford. She believed deceased came from Dorset, where he had a wife and four children. He was not a sober man, but drank a good deal. On Sunday, the 11th of December, having partaken a good dinner, deceased left the house, saying that he was going for a walk, but did not return. Witness had not heard from deceased's wife since he had left her house.

Mr Bothwell, surgeon, of Horningsham, said he had examined the body, and gave it as his opinion that drowning was the cause of death.

The jury returned an open verdict of Found Drowned.

(Western Gazette - 3 February 1888)