



# SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



## Codford

### Newspaper Reports

**Susanna James 20<sup>th</sup> October, 1871**

#### **FRIGHTFUL SUICIDE. –**

Yesterday the cook in the service of Mr Christopher Ingram, committed suicide, in the absence of the members of the family. She was engaged in picking some poultry for dinner, and, all at once, she put the bird down, took up a table knife, went out into the harness-room, and cut her throat from ear to ear, severing the windpipe. The other servant, on missing her companion went into the harness-room, and found her weltering in her blood. The girl was frightened almost into a swoon at the terrible sight, and her screams soon brought the gardener to the spot. He too, was so horrified that he fled from the place, ran into the village, and raised an alarm. Several persons then proceeded to the house of Mr Ingram, and in the harness-room they found the deceased, not quite dead, with the weapon in her hand. They took it from her, and in answer to enquiries she beckoned with her fingers that she had done the deed herself. The deceased had been in her situation a month on trial, and not suiting was to leave this week. An inquest will be held.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1871 & Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1871)*

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#### *Inquest taken before Mr Coroner Sylvester. -*

At Codford St. Peter, on Susanna James, aged 23 years. Hannah White, servant, of Codford St. Peter, said – I was fellow servant with the deceased, who came a month since as cook to Mrs Ingram, but as she did not suit, she had notice to leave. She was engaged to a place at Heytesbury, of which she was disappointed. Yesterday morning (Friday) she also received a note by post from a young man who had been paying his addresses to her for two years, intimating to her a dissolution of the engagement, after which she appeared much depressed in her mind, and shed tears. At twelve o'clock the same morning I was called into the harness room by Arthur Hill, the gardener, where I saw her lying on the floor with a wound in the throat, and by her side a razor. She died in twenty minutes.

Isaac Flower, surgeon, of Codford St. Peter, said – I found her dead with an incised wound in the front of the throat, which had divided the artery which bled profusely. I am of opinion death was caused by haemorrhage, and that she was unconscious at the time of committing the fatal act.

Verdict: Suicide, while under temporary derangement.

*(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 26<sup>th</sup> October, 1871)*