



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



Codford

Newspaper Reports

Unknown Man 1st August, 1832

On the 1st inst., Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest, at Codford St. Mary, on the body of a man unknown. It appeared that the deceased had described himself as a sailor in his Majesty's service, who had been on board a seventy-four, the captain of which was named either Gardener or Baker – that he had been invalided, and sent to Hazlar Hospital, which place he had left about 20 days previously, cured. Whilst begging in the village, he asked a person if he saw yonder clouds – saying that his lady was in them. "Don't you see how she laughs at you?" said the poor fellow. "I shall soon be there." He was afterwards seen running backwards and forwards in the parish, lifting up his hands, looking at the clouds, and saying,

"I did not think you was so lofty, dear Mary. Come down, and I will catch you." The third day following this strange conduct, deceased was found at the bottom of Fonthill stream, quite dead.-

Verdict "Temporary derangement." His linen was marked with the initials "W.H."

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 13th August, 1832)