

# *Coroner's Inquest Report*



## *Inquest of William Watts - 1870*

SUPPOSED SUICIDE OF A POLICEMAN – On Saturday, the dead body of a policeman named William Watts, aged 30, who had a wife and three children, was found about six miles from Trowbridge, in the parish of Westbury, in a lonely spot, in only nine inches of water, lying on his face, the body being clearly perceptible from the embankment of the railway. The deceased was in Trowbridge on Friday morning, and left the police-station partly dressed in his uniform, but with a light coat on. He took a second-class ticket to Westbury by the 12 a.m. train, and walked from the Westbury station down the line towards Dilton's Marsh, and was last seen alive by some packers on the line, to whom he spoke cheerfully, and appeared in his usual health and spirits. At five the same afternoon Richard Sainsbury, of Rudge, discovered the body in the position described.

Verdict – “Found drowned”.

**Western Gazette and Flying Post, Friday November 11, 1870**