



CORONERS INQUEST

Martha Ann Eyres



Distressing Death through Drink: A respectable woman, the retired widow of an excise officer of Scotland, has died from injuries received whilst in a state of intoxication. The deceased whose name was Martha Ann Eyres, and who was 38 years of age lived with her mother at Dilton Marsh. Unfortunately she had, since her husband's death, contracted the habit of getting intoxicated to drown her grief. On Friday morning, whilst getting out of bed, she fell down flat on her face on the hearth-stone, and so injured herself as to cause her death. On Monday an inquest was held at the Weaver's Arms before Mr. George Sylvester, coroner.

A little girl called Martha Ann Eyres said that the deceased told her that on Friday morning early, she got out of bed and fell heavily on the hearth-stone of the grate, on her face, which was bruised so much as to make it very blue. Witness got her some brandy and water which she partook.

Ann Eyres said she was the mother of the deceased. On Saturday morning last, at 11 o'clock on going into her daughter's bedroom, she found her dead, lying on her side. A year since she lost her husband who was an excise officer in Scotland. She became very low-spirited in consequence, and unfortunately had frequently been in an intoxicated state. Medical evidence had been given and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 2 July 1870)

Note added by the transcriber – the mother's name in this report should be Ann Hale as the deceased was Martha Ann Hale prior to her marriage to Henry Eyres in 1860.