



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



Durrington

Georgina RAWLINS

14th March, 1913

Missing Woman Found

An inquest was held at Durrington on Monday afternoon on the body of Miss Georgina Rawlins, aged 40, who had been missing from her house since Sunday, February 16th, and whose body was found in the Avon River on Monday morning.

The disappearance of Miss Rawlins gave rise to great anxiety, and, in addition to local search parties, some blood hounds belonging to Mr O. C. Riley, of Cholderton, Master of the Tedworth Hunt, were brought to the scene in the hope that they would provide some clue as to the whereabouts of the missing woman. But the efforts of all searchers were unavailing, and fears were entertained that Miss Rawlins had somehow or other got into the water, and this was, unfortunately, found to be the case. It was stated that she had been depressed through ill health, and that she was not strong minded.

Mr Frank Trethowan, the Acting Coroner, conducted the inquiry, which was held in the cottage of Mrs R. Cooper.

Alfred Rawlins, forage agent, of Durrington, stated that Miss Georgina Rawlins was his sister, and was a spinster. She was forty years old. He last saw her alive on February 13th, and on February 16th he heard from her mother that she was missing. He searched for her but without success, and reported the matter to the police.

Mrs Ellen Rawlins, a widow, stated that on Sunday morning, February 16th, at about seven o'clock, her daughter said she wanted to get up and lie on the sofa downstairs. She told her she could do so, but that she was not to go out till after breakfast, as it was too cold. About twenty minutes later she came downstairs, and found her daughter had gone out, and as she could find no trace of her she sent for her son. Her daughter was not strong minded, and had always been under her care, but she never suspected that she would make any attempt to take her life. She had been under Dr Browne's care also, and he had seen her a few days before she disappeared. There was no idea of her leaving home. She was in the habit of going for walks alone. She had been somewhat depressed by reason of her indifferent health, but she had no other troubles.

Henry Brock, painter, of Durrington, stated that on that (Monday) morning he was on the Durrington side of Milston Mill, and he saw something in the river Avon that looked like a woman. He spoke to Mr Hawkins, who was near, and they went down to the river, and saw that it was the body of Miss Rawlins. He reported the discovery to PC Keeys.

PC Keeys deposed to recovering the body from the river, and to bringing it to Durrington. He added that the river was fenced in all round Durrington.

Dr Browne, of Amesbury, stated that he attended Miss Rawlins from May, 1911, until February 11th last. She had always a nervous and hysterical disposition, but latterly she had become depressed and cried a good deal. She was quite sane, and the last time he saw her she seemed better. She was rather anaemic but otherwise healthy, and she suffered no pain. He had seen the body and there were no marks of violence on it. In his opinion Miss Rawlins died from drowning.

Several members of the jury stated that they had known Miss Rawlins since she was a child, and she was rather weak-minded. They returned a verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity," and gave their fees to the mother.

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