



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



Durrington

William FALKNER **12th May, 1905**

Found Drowned

An inquiry was made by the Coroner (Mr R. A. Wilson) on Thursday, at the home of Herbert Corp, into the circumstances attending the death of William Falkner, whose body was found in the river Avon under circumstances reported in last weeks Times.

Robert Axford of Amesbury, manager of the New Inn posting yard, said deceased had worked for him for two years until the end of January, as a coachman. He was about 51 years of age, and had served his time in the army. He had been away from Amesbury but came back last week, and told witness he had only done two days work since he left him. Witness gave him lodging and food. On Monday Falkner said he was going to look for work. Witness told him that if he could not find employment he was to come back and stay with him again.

Arthur Keel, of Milston, said on Tuesday afternoon about three o'clock he was working at Foot Cottage, when Mrs Pinckney told him there was a man in the river, which is about 20 yards wide and 18 inches deep. With the aid of two soldiers and a civilian he got the body out and found that life was extinct.

Mary Axford, wife of the first witness, said deceased stopped at her house for two nights. He had a cup of tea about 8.30 on Monday morning but did not eat anything. She offered him sixpence but he refused it, and when she asked him where he was going he said she would hear later. She had never heard him threaten to take his life.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased was found in the river Avon but there was no evidence to prove how he got there.

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