



Inquest Report on Samuel Vincent 1900

The District Coroner, Mr. R. A. Wilson, held an inquest at the Fox and Goose Inn, on Saturday, touching the death of Samuel Vincent, aged about 60, a farm labourer, living alone at Coombe Barn, who was found dead that morning.

Nias Holmes, labourer, of Homington, stated that he had known deceased for 16 years. He was a carter in the employ of Mr. Flower, and lived by himself at Coombe Down Barn, in a shepherd's hut. Witness went to see deceased about 9.40 on the previous evening and found him in bed. He had not been working for a fortnight, and on witness asking him how he felt, he replied that he was better. Witness was in the habit of calling on him every morning and lighting his fire and giving him some coffee. He had plenty of food in the house. Witness asked him on Friday evening whether he should light the fire, and deceased replied that he was quite warm enough. About 6.30 that (Saturday) morning, witness went to see him, but could get no answer to his knock. He opened the window of the hut and got the key. On entering he found deceased dead. He was warm and was lying on his left side with his hand upon his chest. Nothing had been disturbed apparently since witness left him on the previous evening.

George Holmes, carter, of Homington, deposed that he went to see deceased with his brother, the last witness, on the previous evening, and they came away together. He had been in the habit of seeing him on most days and had offered him to come to his house where he could be looked after and see the doctor, but he had refused.

Mr. H. L. E. Wilkes, surgeon of Salisbury, said he saw the deceased about 10 days previously at Mrs. Hewitt's house, in Coombe. He then complained of a pain in the back and had an irregular heart. Witness had not seen him alive since. The appearance of the body was quite natural, and he had apparently died in his sleep, probably from failure of the heart's action.

The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

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