



Coroner's Inquest Report Oaksey

Isaac White

An inquest was taken before Mr Whitmarsh, during the past week, at Somerford Keynes, on the body of Isaac White, 72 years of age.

It appeared in evidence, that deceased lived there, and had gone in the morning to the Wheatsheaf Inn, at Oaksey, two miles distant, and remained until five o'clock in the afternoon, when he left to return home. George Ricketts, labourer, of Oaksey, walked off with deceased, as he had some hedge-cutting within a short distance of Somerford, and he intended to accompany him so far. Both men were a little intoxicated.

Ricketts came back the same evening to the Wheatsheaf, and told the landlord that deceased, on getting over some rails, slipped down a bank into a ditch, that he pulled him out, and then he went on better than before, when he left him. The landlord immediately started off to Somerford Keynes, and finding that deceased had not arrived there, he went to look for him at the spot he was seen last, but he could not discover him. The following day Sergeant Bustard (of Wiltshire constabulary, residing in Kemble) having heard that deceased was missing, he went in search of the deceased, and found him in a ditch by the side of the road leading from Oaksey to Somerford Keynes, about half a mile from the latter place. He was lying on his face in water, which was a foot in depth, and his hat was behind him in the ditch. With assistance the witness took him out, there were no marks of violence either on the clothes or body of the deceased. In one of the pockets there was a purse containing seven shillings and ninepence halfpenny, and a knife.

Verdict---Accidentally drowned.

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