



CORONERS INQUESTS



Bishopstone, near Swindon

Inquest

Mr. Coroner Baker held an inquest at the True Heart Inn, on Thursday afternoon, the 18th, on the body of **Sarah Stafford**, aged 32 years, a single woman, of this parish, who died rather suddenly at 4 a.m. On the previous Tuesday. A respectable jury was summoned by P.C. F. Read, of whom Mr. John Povey was chosen foreman. The jury was sworn at the True Heart Inn, and then proceeded to view the body.

The first witness called was Elizabeth Arrowsmith, who said she was the wife of Thomas Arrowsmith, haulier and lived only a short distance from the deceased's residence, being the nearest neighbour. About 12 o'clock on Monday, the 13th, deceased's mother called witness in to the deceased at her cottage, when she found her in the bedroom, apparently attempting to dress herself, when she fell on the floor, and directly afterwards appeared unconscious. Finding she did not appear to get any better, a doctor was sent for; this was about 4 o'clock p.m. Deceased was a very stout person and had some difficulty in getting about at times, but she had not heard of her suffering from any illness previous to this attack. She remained in about the same condition, gradually sinking, until her death, which took place about 4 a.m. On Tuesday morning.

Robert Richens said he went to Dr. Fernie's house, at Stratton, but found that the doctor was not at home; he left no message that the case was urgent, but left a note.

Dr. Fernie, M.R.C.S., stated that he returned home about 11 p.m. On Monday night, and received the note, and enquired from the servant if the messenger had left any special request. Finding that he had not, he did not think that the case was an urgent one, or else, he could have come up that night. On the following morning he went to Bishopstone, and examined the body of deceased, and found death had taken place some few hours. From what deceased's mother told him, and the appearance of the body, he had no doubt but what deceased died whilst in a fit of apoplexy.

The coroner summed up the case to the jury, and they at once returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle, 27 March 1882