



CORONERS INQUESTS



Inquest on George Udall, of Corsley

Crockerton.

Labourer found drowned.

An inquest was held at the Bath Arms Crockerton, Monday, before Mr F. T. Sylvester, coroner, on the body of George Udall, 61, labourer, Corsley, who had been missed from his home since the 30th ult., and whose body was found on Sunday morning, in the lake at Sheerwater, by the boatman, Charles Percy. It appeared that deceased lost his wife about 12 months ago, and he had since lived alone, a married woman named Hobbs cleaning his house and doing other things for him. A rumour was circulated in Corsley reflecting on his character, and also that of the woman, and on the 27th ult., deceased went and asked his brother why he had done so, and denied the truth of the accusation. High words ensued, and his brother ordered him out the house. This appeared to have preyed on his mind, and on Saturday following, the ult., he was heard to say, in the Cross Keys, Corsley, that he should not live long, as his brother Frederick had upset him. Sunday, he remained in bed all day, and on being asked by a neighbour if anything was the matter with him, he replied, nothing particular. The following day he was missing, and as nothing was seen or heard of him, on Thursday, another brother of deceased, named Andrew Udall, and another man broke into his cottage, but could not find any trace of him. An enquiry was instituted, but nothing was heard of him until Sunday morning, when his body, dressed, minus his hat, was accidentally discovered by the boatman, Charles Percy, at the pond head about 16 feet from the bank. The body was dragged out, but was frightfully decomposed, and hardly recognisable. It was afterwards taken to the Bath Arms, where, being searched by police, the key to his cottage, a pocket handkerchief, a few peas, and an empty purse were found.

Mr F. I. Flower, Surgeon, of Warminster, described the state of the body, and said from what he had heard he was of opinion that deceased's death was due to drowning, the body having been in the water from five to 10 days.

Deceased's brother Frederick, was not present at the enquiry, and the Coroner said he believed he had absented himself in consequence of his quarrel with deceased. He thought his absence was not of much importance, as he could only have spoken to the altercation between him and deceased. There was no evidence to prove that deceased had committed suicide, or that he had come by his death through accidental causes, and advised the jury to return verdict of found Drowned.

The jury eventually returned verdict in accordance with the recommendation from the Coroner, who ordered that the police take proceedings if anything of a suspicious nature in relation to the case came to their knowledge.

Western Gazette 11 September 1885