



Coroner's Inquest Report

Inquest of William Henry Ponting 1933

Sewn in the pocket of the coat of William Henry Ponting (52) of Bremhill, near Calne, when he was found dead in a sheep dip (or tank) at Glebe Farm, Bremhill, where he was employed, was the following unfinished note:

"I, William Ponting of Bremhill, at my death wish to leave all the money I possess....".
In his hand was found a box of matches, and his pipe was floating in the water.

Ponting was born in the village and was formerly coachman to the vicar, The Rev G E Long for many years. Afterwards he was employed for about 17 years by Mr E C Long, a son of the vicar and chairman of the Calne Rural Council, who died in November of last year, and at whose funeral Ponting was one of the bearers.

Ponting was a widower.

When Mr S Pocock recently took the farm. Ponting continued to work there, and on Tuesday morning was at work as usual.

After dinner he was not seen again alive. His body was found in the sheep dip, which is about five feet in length and three feet deep, and was practically full of water.

At the inquest, held by the Wiltshire coroner, Mr A L Forrester yesterday, it was stated that the sheep dip had not been used since last autumn.

A verdict of "Suicide while insane" was returned.

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