



Coroners Inquest Reports

Hankerton

Elizabeth Woodward

An inquest was held at Hankerton, near Malmesbury, on the body of Elizabeth Woodward, aged 42, a married woman, who died suddenly on Saturday evening. The deceased was in her usual state of health during the day until about seven o'clock in the evening, when she fell down and instantly expired.

The jury returned a verdict of "Died from the visitation of God."

The deceased leaves a family of six children to mourn their loss.

Western Daily Press Friday 11 September 1868

An inquest was held on Tuesday last, at Hankerton, on the body of Elizabeth Woodward, 41 years of age. Deceased had gone to a farmhouse for butter, and as her husband worked there, they left to go home. As they were approaching their cottage, the cry of a child was heard, and deceased thinking it was one of her little ones who might have fallen into a pit of water, she asked her husband to run and see what was the matter, stating that she couldn't. The husband went and found all right, whilst deceased sat down saying, "I shall die." She then became insensible, and died in a few minutes afterwards.

From the medical evidence, it appeared that the cause of death was from syncope, brought on from fright, and a jury returned a verdict accordingly.

The anxious mother was in her usual health at the time of her remarkable death, and has left seven children.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 10 September 1868