



Inquest of Ann Morris

Hilperton Marsh

Distressing Suicide - On Monday morning the inhabitants of this little village were startled to hear that Ann Morris, aged 52, the caretaker of St. Mary's Church, had committed suicide. Frederick Davis, her son, was the last to see her alive at 6.30am, and when he returned to breakfast he found her suspended by the neck from the balustrade. On assistance being obtained she was cut down, but was quite dead. The inquest was held at the Prince of Wales Inn, before the coroner, Mr F. T. Sylvester, Mr. J. Candy was chosen foreman of the jury. - Fredk. Morris said he lived at home and found deceased as detailed above. He at once called for his father, who was working in the back garden, and he called for assistance. His mother had complained to him about pains in her head from neuralgia, but had never threatened to do anything; she appeared quite cheerful when he left home. She had a brother who many years ago had been confined in the asylum, but who was alright now. - James Morris, the husband, said he saw deceased at half-past six, and then went to his garden. When he went to work she seemed more cheerful than usual and shouted to her son to have his tea. They had lived happily together for 28 years, and he had no reason for supposing she would do such an act. - Mr. K. Sylvester said he was called, but deceased was quite dead, and he was of opinion that death was from strangulation, and that attacks of neuralgia, with predisposition, were sufficient to account for a disposition to commit such an act. - Alfred Prince gave evidence as to being called. He said he cut her down, when there was no life, but the body was warm. - James Sartain said he saw deceased at church the day previous, when she complained to him several times of severe pains in her head. - P.C. D. Pinnell said he saw the body about nine o'clock. He searched it and the house, but could find nothing suspicious, - The Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict 2 death was caused by strangulation while temporarily insane,"

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(Source Details)