



# CORONERS INQUESTS



*Seend*

## *Inquest of James Harris 1866*

On Monday last, a man named James Harris hung himself in a tree at Seend. An inquest was held on his body the following day, before Mr Coroner Sylvester, when the widow of the unfortunate man deposed that she had been married to him nearly eleven years. He was a farm labourer and was generally intemperate. Some potatoes which had been stolen had been found in his house by the policeman on Saturday last, and on the following day the policeman came again and asked for Harris. He was not at home, but came home about three o'clock and drank a pint of water. About six o'clock his wife was in the garden when he called her and asked for his jacket. She gave it to him through the hedge, and at 9 o'clock she saw him again outside the garden. She then gave him a pint of beer, which he drank, and told her he would come home in the morning and put on his clean clothes. He said he should sleep under the hedge. He then said "good night", She did not see him afterwards. - Eliza Oram, laundress stated that she lived near the deceased, and that she saw him alive on Friday the 8th inst. She was in her mother's garden on the following Monday, about two o'clock, when on looking round she saw him hanging in a tree. She told some haymakers in the opposite field, and Harris was immediately cut down, quite dead. - The jury found that the deceased had committed suicide by hanging himself in a tree, but as to the state of his mind there was not sufficient evidence to show.

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