



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



Sutton Mandeville

Newspaper Reports

Sarah Ellis March 1849

Found Dead

An inquiry was gone into on Thursday, at Ebbesbourne Wake, before R. M. Wilson, esq., coroner, touching the death of Sarah Ellis, the wife of a blacksmith at Alvediston.

Deceased was found at North Down, in the parish of Ebbesbourne Wake, quite dead.

On the previous Monday she had left home to go to Sutton Mandeville to fetch some cabbage plants, leaving word with her husband that she should return at about three o'clock.

She did not do so, but the next morning her husband was told that her body had been found. Her shawl, umbrella, basket and bundle were found dropped in the road at intervals, and the conclusion was that she had been in liquor; but the evidence of a person living at Sutton Mandeville, at whose house she was last seen, goes to show that she was perfectly sober when she left.

There were no marks of violence on her person, but some scratches on her knees, which might have been received in her fall. Under these circumstances the jury returned a verdict of "Found Dead"; and the Coroner took occasion to comment in rather severe terms on the want of feeling in the husband in not taking steps to discover her when he found she did not return on Monday at the time she named.

(Hampshire Advertiser - Saturday 3 March 1849)

An inquest was held by Mr Wilson, on Thursday last, at Ebbesborne Wake, on the body of Sarah Ellis, the wife of a blacksmith, at Alvediston, who was found dead on North Down, in the first- named parish, on the preceding morning. It appeared, that the deceased had left home on the Monday, about nine o'clock, with the intention of going to Sutton Mandeville, a distance of 3 ½ miles, to get some cabbage plants, and had told her husband that she should be back by three o'clock. She did not, however, return at all; but at eleven o'clock next morning the husband received information of her dead body having been found. In his examination before the coroner, he admitted that he had not taken any steps to find her on the day before, and his unfeeling conduct was strongly reprobated at the inquest. From the evidence of the person at Sutton, where she was last known to have been, it did not appear that she was in liquor when she left his house; but her shawl, basket, umbrella and a bundle were found dropped on the road at intervals on the track she had come, which led strongly to the conclusion that she had been drinking. There were no marks of violence whatever on her body; but her knees were a little bruised where she appeared to have fallen down. The jury returned a verdict of "Found Dead".

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal – Saturday 24 February, 1849)