



Coroner's Inquest Report

Inquest Report on Sylvia Macey

Tisbury Mother's Suicide

Suffered from Melancholia

Mr. Harold Dale, the Salisbury City Coroner, held an inquest on Saturday at Tisbury Police Station on Sylvia Macey, aged 35, wife of William Macey, of Maypole Cottage, Tuckingmill, Tisbury, who died in Salisbury Infirmary early on Thursday from throat wounds.

The husband, William Herbert Macey, a viewer of ammunition at the R.A.F. Depot, Chilmark, gave evidence of identification, and said his wife became run down, and on Wednesday week she saw the doctor. She did her housework as usual and looked after the four children, and was taking medicine prescribed by the doctor. She seemed brighter and when he left home on Wednesday morning she appeared to be normal and prepared the breakfast.

He left home about 7.15 a.m. and at 8.5 had a 'phone message asking him to return to his home urgently. When he went into the house he saw his wife standing in front of the fire with a throat wound. Dr. Du Pre arrived shortly after, dressed the wound, and ordered her removal to Salisbury Infirmary. She said, "Oh Dad, what have I done?" She had never called witness "Dad" during the whole of their 14 years' married life, and he thought her mind had completely gone. There were no domestic troubles and they were very happy.

Mrs. Edith Ellen Hibberd, of 68 Hutch Cottage, Tuckingmill, said she had known the deceased for a number of years and was her next door neighbour. On Wednesday morning she heard Mrs. Macey's children shouting to her to come quickly. Witness and Mrs. Jack went into the house and found Mrs. Macey on the stairs suffering from a throat wound. Witness went for the police and doctor whilst Mrs. Jack took charge of the children.

Dr. William Henry Du Pre stated that deceased first came to see him on Wednesday week and he thought she was developing acute melancholia and said she thought she would be alright if she could have a good sleep. There were no suicidal tendencies. When he was called on Wednesday morning he sent her to hospital, where an operation was performed. She came through that all right and early on Thursday morning she died from asphyxia and shock.

The Coroner found that deceased committed suicide whilst suffering from melancholia.

The principal mourners were:- Mr. W. Macey (husband), Mrs. A. Hyde and Mrs. T. McCann (sisters), Mr. A. Burt (brother); Mr. H. Macey, Mrs. F. Cooke, Mrs. W. J. Macey (father in law and sisters in law); Mr. A. Hyde, Mr. W. J. Macey, Mr. F. Cooke (brothers in law); Mr. and Mrs. W. Burt, Mr. B. Bye (uncles and aunt), Mrs. D. Pitman (cousin). A large number of friends also attended.

Mr. W. Macey and family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many beautiful wreaths and flowers, also for the help and assistance shown in their great loss.

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