



# CORONERS INQUESTS



## WOOTTON RIVERS

### Suicide In Wootton Rivers

An inquest was held on Thursday last at Wootton Rivers, before Mr. Coroner Sylvester, touching the death of John Lee, a shepherd, aged 65 years, who was found hanging by the neck to an apple tree in the garden at the back of his cottage, early the previous morning, by his wife, who had missed him from his bed and was going to check the closet in search of him.

She immediately untied the rope and called assistance. The body was warm, but life was extinct. Deceased must have made his preparations quietly, as neither his wife nor son, who slept in the same room, heard him go downstairs. He had suffered from cataracts in both eyes for some time, and could only see a very little in one eye, which prevented him following his employment for the last four months. For this complaint, he purposed going to London to undergo an operation which for some reason had been postponed. This appears to have rendered him anxious and depressed, and, in the opinion of the jury, an irresponsible agent.

An examination of the body by a surgeon discovered no marks of violence except a discoloration and indentation round the neck, the cause of death being asphyxia.

Verdict: Suicide by hanging, when of unsound mind.

**Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, Thursday, 4 October 1888**