

SUDDEN DEATH AND INQUEST

On Monday morning a thatcher named John SALTER, of Homeward Cottage, Haylands, complained to feeling unwell to a fellow labourer named WARNE, whilst on his way to work at Duxmore Farm. Mrs Elizabeth MILES, of that address, heard a fall, and going outside found SALTER apparently dead on the ground. Dr. PRIDMORE was summoned and found life extinct. He had not been medically examined and the Coroner decided to hold an inquest, which took place on Thursday afternoon in the "Lake Huron" Hotel, Haylands, before Mr F. JOYCE (Deputy-Coroner). Mr BONNET was chosen foreman, and the evidence was as follows:

Frank WARNE, of Oak Cottage, Binstead, said he knew the deceased, who lived at Homeward Cottage, Haylands. Deceased was a thatcher, aged 66. Witness saw the deceased on the morning of Monday, the 29th ult., at about twenty minutes to nine, when witness overtook him about a mile from Duxmore Farm, in North Arreton, where they were both employed on one of the cottages. Deceased had been up there two or three weeks. They walked to the farm together and he seemed in his usual state of health, but complained of feeling unwell in the mornings and that he had sweat that morning. Witness left deceased in the rickyard just before nine, and five minutes afterwards Mrs MILES called out that SALTER had fallen down. Witness proceeded to the deceased, who was at the back of the houses at which he was about to work. He had only about time to hang up his coat and was just about to start work. Deceased never moved when found, and apparently, he died at once. The deceased had not fallen from the roof. Witness loosened his collar and took him to one of the empty cottages, afterwards sending for a doctor.

Mrs Elizabeth MILES, wife of Charles MILES, of Great Duxmore Farm, said that deceased arrived at the house at about nine o'clock on Monday morning. He had been thatching the three cottages and had been there for three weeks. Witness did not see him but heard a fall near the back door of her house. She found Mr SALTER on his side, and spoke to him. He made no answer and she called WARNE. Deceased appeared to be in good health, and she had never heard him complain during the time he was there. P.C. WALTER took charge of the body.

Dr. John Walter PRIDMORE said he was sent for to see the deceased, and arrived there about two o'clock, when he examined the body. Deceased had been dead for some hours. Witness held a post mortem examination on Tuesday, and found deceased had a dilated heart and chronic kidney disease. The walk to Duxmore might probably have helped to dilate the heart, but the affection was dependent on the state of the kidneys. There was no mark of a fall and no other disease was apparent. The brain was quite healthy. He had no doubt that death resulted from failure of the heart's action.

The Coroner having summed up

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.
