

Inquest - Wyndham Green 1936



Given but a few days to live by his doctor, Wyndham Green, aged 84, a retired farmer of Chicksgrove Tisbury, on Monday, secured a table knife to cut a belt which he wanted to mend, and a few minutes later he was found by his son bleeding from a wound in the throat. He was removed to Salisbury General Infirmary where he died the next day.

The inquest was held at the Infirmary on Wednesday by the City Coroner, Mr A M Wilson.

Walter Morley Green, small-holder, of Chicksgrove Tisbury, son of the deceased, gave evidence of identification.

He stated that on Monday at about 2pm his sister, Norah Ann Green, who lived with his father, came to the yard where he was at work and asked him to look for their father as he had been absent from the house longer than usual.

Witness went to an outbuilding and found his father lying on the ground about two yards outside the door. There was blood on the ground and on picking his father up, he saw a small cut on the throat. Witness bandaged the wound with his pocket handkerchief and his sister ran for help, getting an employee from the yard. They were about to carry his father indoors when he said, "No, I can walk in myself" and got up and walked into the house.

Dr Clay was summoned and ordered his removal to the Infirmary. He had been under the care of the doctor for three or four years and just recently, the doctor gave him four days to live. He said he wished the doctor had seen him and let him go on.

After his father had been got indoors, witness said he went back to the outbuilding and found a large table knife, about a foot and a half from where deceased's head was resting. The knife was covered with blood.

The Coroner: What actually was the doctor attending him for?

Witness: Several things, heart, lungs &c., and last Wednesday the doctor told us, not for him to hear, that he was afraid he would not live many more days.

Do you think your father had any idea of this?

I cannot say what his thoughts were, but he had suffered a great deal during the past few months.

Had he ever threatened to take his life?

Oh, no, but some little time ago he took the gun to go into the orchard to shoot a rat. We always kept an eye on him because when his heart gave out, he would fall down and accidents do happen. So my sister took the gun from him and I have kept it ever since.

Do you think he knew that he only had a few days to live?

I cannot say, he was terribly hard of hearing.

Witness added that his father had no financial troubles and lived happily with his wife, who was 83 years of age. He had been at Chicksgrove over 60 years and was milking cows when he was 76 years of age.

Dr John Howard Coulson, house surgeon at the Infirmary, said the cause of death was heart failure due to shock following the incidents of the previous day. It was not possible to administer an anaesthetic owing to the condition of deceased's heart and chest.

The Coroner returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence and said he was of the opinion that when deceased inflicted the wound in his throat, he was of unsound mind.

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