

William James Woodford

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS

22 July 1916

SUDDEN DEATH AT GUNVILLE

The Acting Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.), held an inquest yesterday (Friday) morning, at the United Methodist Schoolroom, Gunville, on the body of William James Woodford, market gardener, in his 54th year, who died suddenly on Wednesday. The police officers present were Insp. Sibbick and P.C. Bungey. Mr. W. Pritchett was foreman of the jury.

Arthur James Woodford, the deceased's son, with whom he resided, said he last saw his father alive on the previous Wednesday, at 7 a.m.; he then seemed all right. His father had sometimes complained of a bad head, but had had no medical attention for eight or nine years. On witness's return home at 1.10 pm the same day his sister went to call their father to dinner, but receiving no reply they thought he had gone somewhere. At about 1.30 Mr. Charles West went to the garden and found the deceased lying down. Witness went with Mr. West and saw his father lying on his face and arm. He had been doing ordinary work in the garden. By a juror (Mr. J.W. Marshall): Deceased had complained of the heat in previous years, but had not done so this year. Witness was informed by his mother that deceased called out about 12.30 to know whether it was dinner time. That, he thought, was the last that was heard of him. Charles West, Gunville, gave corroborative evidence.

Dr. C. J. Thompson stated that when he saw the deceased about 2.10 on Wednesday, he found him quite dead. A post-mortem examination which witness made on the evening of the same day showed that deceased had valvular disease of the heart. He believed he was stooping down to pick up some onions and that he fell down with an attack of syncope due to this disease. Replying to the Foreman, the Doctor said if a man had a dilated heart such as the deceased's he might go on gently for years, but the heat and working in the garden brought about the crisis. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the doctor's evidence, and expressed deep sympathy with the widow and family.

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