

John Woolgar, Beadle of Wimbledon

The Times Issue 03 Mar 1831 Page 6 column D

"CORONER'S INQUEST

Yesterday morning (Wednesday) an inquest was held at the Dog and Fox, Wimbledon, on the body of a man who shot himself on Wimbledon common about 8 o'clock in the morning of the day before.

James Weston, a carter, residing at Wimbledon, in the employ of Mrs. Marryat, deposed, that while driving a cart and two horses to get a load of mould, he found a man lying on his back about the distance of 30 yards from the road. He was the first person who went to him. Perceived a little blood on the right side of his head issuing from a wound. A pistol lay by his side, the one now produced, on which his right hand was lying. He examined the pistol, which appeared to have been recently discharged. He then gave an alarm, when George Starry, and John Woolger, the beadle, came to him. He touched the body, and found it warm. It was alive, but in a dying state. Continued alive about five or six minutes. Did not speak. Was a perfect stranger.

By a Juror - There were no footmarks near the spot to indicate the appearance of struggling with any one. Supposed him to be about 45 years of age. (He wore a buff waistcoat, drab trousers, and had a calico shirt on, marked J. C., No. I. Some silver and a few pence were in his pockets.

Thomas Hughes, assistant to Mr. Sanford, surgeon, deposed that he saw the deceased lying on the common as stated by the former witness. He was then perfectly dead. Examined the head, and found a lacerated wound of the scalp, with a perforation of the skull immediately above the right ear, apparently produced by a pistol-ball. There was no perforation on the other side of the head. Saw the pistol at the same time. It was then in the possession of Woolger, the constable.

There being no further evidence, the Jury then returned the following verdict :--" Found dead, having destroyed himself by firing a pistol-ball into his head at the right ear, but no evidence appears as to who he is, or what induced him to commit the act."