

## [ INQUEST ]

(*Cambridge Chronicle & University Journal*, 6 May 1871, p.4 )

*Suicide on Midsummer Common.* — On Tuesday last, H. Gotobed, Esq., borough coroner, held an inquest at Addenbrooke's Hospital, touching the death of Anderson Marsh, aged 50, who committed suicide on the previous evening by cutting his throat with a razor. From the evidence of Thomas Marsh, plumber, King-street, a brother of the deceased, it appeared that deceased served in India for ten years in the 15<sup>th</sup> Hussars, and whilst there had two sun-strokes, and was quite out of his mind. He was discharged from the service as unfit, and came home. For some time he had appeared very strange, and like a lost man; was very irritable, and could never bear to be spoken to, but was not given to drink. For the last two or three years he had been in the Workhouse, occasionally coming out to see his father, who, however, died about eight weeks since. — Harriet Hazell, a sister of the deceased, said her brother seemed very low spirited on Monday; and on that and two preceding days said they were building a place in the Union to smother him—he had heard them whispering to one another about it, but he did not say who. By witness's advice he went to the Rev. E. T. Leek, and afterwards said he would go back to the Workhouse, although he had a dread of it. On Monday he could not drink his tea, and said he would go for a long walk. He went out, and never returned. —

The Rev. E. T. Leek, vicar of Christ Church, said deceased came to him about what he fancied they were going to do for him at the Workhouse. Witness endeavoured to disabuse his mind of the delusion, but deceased, who seemed troubled and dazed, went away in the same hopeless state that he came in. — P.c. Chidderton gave some formal evidence as to removing the deceased to the Hospital, and what was found on deceased. — The inquest was then adjourned for a day, to produce evidence as to whether deceased inflicted the wound or not.— On Tuesday evening, the inquiry was resumed, when Wm Edwards, gardener of Chesterton, attended. He said that on Monday evening, about 6.15, whilst crossing Midsummer Common, he saw deceased – who was lying near Jesus-grove corner – deliberately cut his throat twice with a razor, causing frightful wounds. Witness ran up, and after some trouble, took away the razor (produced); and sent a passer-by for medical aid. Within ten minutes Dr. Ransom arrived, and was shortly after joined by Mr. Roper. These gentlemen dressed the wounds, and deceased (who never spoke) was removed to the Hospital, where he died the same evening. — The Jury returned a verdict of temporary insanity.