

Death of Mrs. Wm. Sermon.

THE INQUEST.

An enquiry into the death of Mrs. William Sermon, at Horse Hill, was conducted at the Court House on Monday, by Mr. S. Solomon, J.P., and a jury of three. The jury consisted of Messrs. J. O'Hara (foreman), T. A. Harrison and J. Rodgers.

William Sermon, senr., gave evidence that deceased was his wife. Her mind had been affected for many years. At times she had a tendency to wander, and consequently had always been carefully watched. He missed her from the house on the 24th July at about mid-day. He saw her about 15 chains away going towards the residence of her son Michael, which was about a quarter of a mile distant.

Witness followed quickly and called, but deceased continued on. Witness went on to Michael's house, but deceased was not there. Michael and some of the men went in search at once. He did not see his wife again until the body was taken out of the dam. There were marks on the side of the dam, as though someone had slipped down the bank.

Dr. Dunlop said he had known Mrs. Sermon whose mind was affected. She was subject to acute attacks, and had a tendency to wander away, which she had done on previous occasions. He had often attended her professionally.

William Hobbs, farm laborer, in the employ of Sermon Bros., who was one of the search party, gave evidence as to finding the body of deceased floating in the dam, which was about 6 feet deep. It was then about 2 o'clock. There were marks as if someone had stumbled or slipped down the bank.

The acting coroner reviewed the evidence, and said there appeared to be no doubt that deceased came by her death accidentally, in consequence of her wandering through her mind being deranged. The evidence showed that the greatest vigilance had always been exercised to prevent her wandering.

The jury returned a verdict that the deceased Mary Sermon, came by her death by drowning, through accidentally falling into a dam at Horse Hill, Grass Valley, on the 24th inst.