

Newspaper report on the Inquest into the suicide of Mary Hannah DAWSON, mother of Charlie DAWSON

Huddersfield Examiner, 13 September 1917

ALMONDBURY WOMAN'S SAD SUICIDE
NERVOUS DEBILITY AND WAR WORRIES

At the Almondbury Liberal Club this afternoon the circumstances of the death of Mary Hannah DAWSON (60), wife of George DAWSON, weaver, of 67 Northgate, Almondbury, were investigated by Mr E.W. NORRIS (deputy coroner) and a jury.

The husband, who gave evidence of identification, said his wife had suffered from nervous debility for years. He had two sons in the army, one of whom came home ill about six weeks ago and the other left home after his leave about the same time. He did not know whether the son at home was suffering from shell shock. The intimation they received was that he was seriously wounded, but they could only see the marks where he had been hit. He was not right. His wife had worried about that. She had said many a time she wished she were dead, but he never thought there was any danger of her doing away with herself. On Tuesday morning, when he left home just before 7 o'clock to go to work, she seemed better than she had done for many a day. She and his son were in bed.

reduction in the price of flour. This reduction being equal to 1d. per lb. on bread, we recommend every baker to reduce his bread prices by 1d. per lb. pending definite arrangements, and also to have continually on sale household bread at 2 1/2d. per lb.

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Mary Elizabeth Beaumont, of 71, Northgate, Almondbury, said the last witness's son fetched her at 8.30. She went at once, and found Mrs. Dawson dead. She was in a kneeling position with a rope round her neck, which was attached to the knob of the bedstead. Witness thought that while standing she had fastened the rope to the knob, which was not quite her own height, and had then dropped to her knees. Witness noticed that on the previous day Mrs. Dawson seemed restless. She had been very depressed by her illness, and because she could not "do" for her son had told witness she wished she could go somewhere and lay in a quiet place and die. About a week previous to this occurrence Mrs. Dawson was out all night, and told witness she had gone for a walk, and had gone further than her strength would allow, and thought she would like a rest. If she had sat on the causeway somebody would have seen her, so she went into a plantation, put her head against a tree, and fell asleep, and the first car in the morning wakened her.

Wilmot Hopkins deposed to cutting down the body shortly after 8.30. The toes were touching the floor and the knees were bent.

A verdict was returned to the effect that deceased, "not being of sound mind, hanged herself."

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