

This is transcript from the local paper concerning the death of the then Rector of Remenham, Charles Mills Skottowe, on 16 May 1878.

**REMENHAM
INQUEST**

On Tuesday last, an inquest was held at the Rectory, Remenham, by W. Weedon, Esq., Coroner, to enquire into the circumstances, under which the Rev. Charles Mills Skottowe, the Rector of Remenham, came by his death.

The Coroner, on opening the court, said, the sad event about which they met to make an enquiry, was doubly distressing, from the position the deceased had occupied, he would not detain them by any remark, but would ask them to view the body as it was now lying in the bedroom. From the position in which the deceased was found, it would appear that the fatal act was done while standing before the looking glass panel of a wardrobe. The revolver had been fired into the mouth and the bullet had passed through the head into the ceiling of the bedroom.

AMY HENRIETTA EVANS, stated, that the deceased was a widower, and she was his sister-in-law. Witness had lived at the rectory for the last six years. The deceased had been very depressed lately, and entirely without any apparent cause this depression increased, and he complained of not getting any sleep, very trifling matters worried him, such as school inspection, or any parish affairs. The last time witness saw him alive, was on Sunday night, when he retired to rest. He attended church in the morning but did not take any part in the service, he intended to preach in the morning but was quite unable to do so. Soon after seven o'clock on Monday morning, witness heard a loud crash in his bedroom, witness entered the room and found him lying on the floor in a pool of blood, witness spoke to him but he made no answer, and she then sent for Mr. Brooks, the medical attendant of the deceased.

JAMES HENRY BROOKE, Surgeon, Henley, said he had known the deceased for many years, he consulted witness in April last, and complained of feeling weak and exhausted. The symptoms denoted an inactive liver, and witness prescribed for him under that impression. The deceased went away from Remenham, for a change but returned very soon, much exhausted, taciturn and so unlike himself, that witness enquired whether there was any hereditary insanity in the family. Witness stated then, that he should not be surprised if the deceased should become deranged. As witness thought he wanted a change of scene and occupation, he recommended a visit to Winchester, with which they were both acquainted. The deceased arranged to go on Monday last, and witness was to visit him there. On Monday he received a message to go over to Remenham at once, and witness went as soon as could get ready, and upon arriving at the Rectory he found the deceased lying on the floor of his bedroom quite dead. A revolver was on the right side of his body, and it appeared to witness that the deceased fired the revolver into his mouth, while standing before the wardrobe.

In reply to the Coroner, the witness said that he had no doubt whatever, but that the deceased shot himself while suffering under a temporary aberration of intellect.

Mr. W. Vidler, foreman of the jury and Churchwarden of Remenham, said he had been associated with the deceased in parish work for many years. The deceased had changed very much from his usual kindness of manner. He was very well acquainted with the affairs of the deceased and was certain that no difficulty whatever existed to cause him any anxiety. The deceased had built a cottage lately for his gardener, and had made an application to the Lord of the Manor to exchange a small piece of land for it, this was agreed to, exactly as he wished, yet he was continually haunted by a fear, lest he should be prevented from carrying out his portion of the agreement. The invariable kindness of the deceased had endeared him to the whole of his parishioners. With the view of giving him a change of scene he took the deceased to the residence of his daughter at Compton, intending to stay with him there, After he had been there a day he got up early in the morning and said he could not sleep, and must return, and he failed to induce him to remain, and they returned together to Remenham.

The REV. CHARLES J. WYNNE, of Wimbledon, stated, that he had intimately known the deceased for upwards of 20 years and was well acquainted with all his affairs. He had spent two days with the deceased a fortnight ago. There was nothing whatever to induce him to take his own life, and he must have been driven to it by some pressure upon the brain.

The Coroner requested any of the jury-men to put any questions they wished to any of the witnesses.

The jury returned a unanimous verdict of "Temporary Insanity".