

BRAYBROOK HERMIT'S DEATH

OWNED REVOLVER AND 24

On the 16th inst. the body of a man named Daniel Henkel, about 50 years old, was found in a very decomposed condition in a hut in Suffolk-road, Braybrook. At the inquest held on Saturday the evidence showed that Henkel was a single man of eccentric habits, and had lived by himself for years until he was regarded in the neighborhood as a hermit. The body was little more than a skeleton in appearance, and there was no food in the building and only 24d. in cash. Under the pillow on Henkel's bed was found a six-chambered revolver loaded in all chambers, but there was no signs of a struggle, and Henkel appeared to have died peacefully. The medical evidence indicated that deceased had been dead at least a month when found, but a Mrs. Johnston, a neighbor, who had known Henkel for years, stated positively that she saw him alive on January 1st, as she was driving past his cottage. Ultimately the Melbourne coroner recorded that Henkel was found dead in his bed, having died some weeks previously, but there was not sufficient evidence to determine the cause of death. He was, however, of opinion that it was natural and not due to violence.

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