

# *Tales of Olde Fransham - Murder Most Foul*

## *Part 3*

Last month this story told of the discovery of the body of Rosaline Fox - late of Great Fransham. The story continues....

On the following day an inquest took place and a verdict of Accidental Death was brought in by the coroner's jury.

The authorities were apparently content as to the circumstances of Rosaline's passing but an insurance company representative who travelled to Margate after the inquest was less than satisfied.

It became apparent that two days after arriving at the hotel Sidney had travelled to Ramsgate where he insured his mother with the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Ltd, on a five day policy, in the sum of £1000 in the event of her death from external, accidental means. The premium was only two shillings but even this must have put a strain on Sidney's finances. On the Sunday, five days into their stay, Sidney spoke to the manager in regard to Rosaline's ill health (real or imagined) and they were moved to rooms with a connecting door between them.

Using a few pounds obtained from stolen cheques Sidney travelled to London on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October where he paid for an extension to a £2000 policy with the Cornhill Insurance Company so that it would become payable to him if his mother died of an accident before midnight on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. He also obtained an extension of their £1000 policy to cover the same date. He then returned to the Metropole. Rosaline's death was discovered just twenty minutes before two policies on her life were due to expire - it is hardly surprising that the insurance companies concerned had their suspicions. It was their suspicions that led to the police investigation and the subsequent exhumation of Rosaline's body from Great Fransham churchyard.

Sidney was arrested, originally on charges of fraud, but the accusation against him was subsequently changed to that of murder. On 9<sup>th</sup> January 1930 he was brought before the Magistrates and the clerk read aloud the formal accusation of murder. He pleaded not guilty and was committed for trial at Lewes Assizes - the trial opening on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

.....to be continued!

Bob Jenkins