

Dear September 20th 1838. N.W. 1838. N.W. 1838

Dear Father I have sent you these few lines
to you papers they will find you in good health
as I love us all at this fine bliss y^o for it
and your brothers and sisters send their love to
and Mary is again to stay another year but
she is again mums maid in stead of Cook
and Melba have got awery
Mary Crosby Mary Ann E. D.

I Steal not this Book for fear
of shame for here doth stand the owners
name Mary Crosby is my name
and end ~~England~~
And England is my station Buttery is
Dwelling place and Christ

Mary Crosby's handwriting.

in Wilford Hollow, in Melton, on 18th May, and was witnessed by three men. Their account didn't explain how a wagon wheel passed over him, but accidental death was the verdict.

Joseph and Hannah Till were the shopkeepers when Elizabeth Barham met her death, but it was the son of a later shopkeeper who died in an accident in 1884. Albert Wesley Hazlewood was a dealer who lodged at the Oyster. The innkeeper, Samuel Meadows, said that the deceased brought a gun, a single barrel muzzleloader, into the inn the previous Friday night. It was put in a small room and kept there. It was not loaded.

Another dealer, his friend James Collins who lived at High House, told the story. Albert came out of the back

gate of the inn and asked James for a lift in his cart. As he climbed in there was an explosion and Albert was mortally injured in his left side. His last words were, 'Oh Jim, I am dead, there is a gun in my pocket'. James declared he had never seen him with a gun before.

Two farmers killed themselves at either end of the 19th century, one in Chillesford and the other in Wantisden. Francis Wace hanged himself in the neat house at his farm. Evidence of his state of mind was given by the minister of the parish church who said he had been subject to depression due to the 'badness of prices' and parish matters that were a 'great bother' to him. This was a time of agricultural depression, which began in the middle of the 1870s.

