

MURDER OF LUNATIC AT HEREFORDSHIRE MADHOUSE

A Wye Valley asylum inmate was brutally murdered on Thursday in the oddest circumstances. The dead man, Alexander Roby, had a release hearing scheduled at Hereford Magistrates Court that very afternoon. He was not to be present at this hearing. The magistrate there entertained argument from the asylum superintendent and ordered that Roby be detained indefinitely for his own protection. But when the superintendent returned to his place of work it was to find Roby slain.

Roby was an inmate at St. Agnes' Asylum for the Deranged in Weobley, Herefordshire, under the care of Dr. Charles Highsmith. He was admitted in October of 1926 shortly after the murder of his father, Herbert, and sister, Georgina, a crime still unsolved. His brother is the banker Mr. Grahame Roby of Coutts and Co.

Police say the murder was excessively violent and was perpetrated with a knife that was recovered on the scene in the possession of a second inmate. This man is the prime suspect for the killing but police are also anxious to contact two nurses at the institution who are missing. The men are Thomas Clarke, of Leominster, thirty-four years old, who is described as of medium height and thin build, clean shaven, with blue eyes and blonde hair, and Michael Evans, also of Leominster, forty-one years old, of medium height and build, clean shaven with dark eyes and brown hair. One or both of these men may be wounded.

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