



CORONERS INQUESTS



Job Gale

An inquest was held by Mr. Wilson, on Tuesday last, at the Council-chamber, in this city, on the body of Job Gale, who died at the Infirmary that morning, under the following circumstances:-

The deceased and a bricklayer, named Frederic Sawkins, were at work together at East Harnham, on the 3rd of June. Some altercation took place between them, and Sawkins, upon a repetition of something that displeased him from Gale, jumped off the scaffolding, where he was working, ran after Gale (who was walking off with a bucket in his right hand), and jumping upon him threw him down, and severely wounded his right thumb, probably crushing it against the bucket, though the exact mode in which it was done did not clearly appear. Gale at once went to the Infirmary, where he was advised what treatment to adopt, and went there daily to have it looked after, until the Saturday following, when, as it did not get better, he was admitted as an in-patient.

In a few days he exhibited symptoms of trismus or lock-jaw, which was succeeded by tetanus. From the testimony of the house-surgeon it appeared that his death was attributable to the injuries he had received, and a verdict of "manslaughter" was recorded against Sawkins, who was committed to take his trial at the Assizes.

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 20 June 1846

OPC Note:-

Frederick Sawkins was found guilty of feloniously killing and slaying Job Gale at the Wilts Summer Assizes held at Devizes on 21st June 1846. He was sentenced to one week imprisonment.