



SOUTH WILTSHIRE
CORONER'S INQUESTS
(Dinton extracts)



Ann YATES 28th March, 1885

Death of a widow beside the fire

An inquest was held by Mr Deputy-Coroner Wilson at the police station, on Monday afternoon, on the body of Ann Yates, widow of John Yates, labourer, before a respectable jury, of whom the Rev Canon Cholmsley was chosen foreman.

Mr George Lane, tailor, said the deceased – Ann Yates was his aunt, and that he last saw her alive on Saturday morning about three o'clock. She was quite well then and appeared in her usual good health and spirits, and made no complaint to him, but had at previous times complained of a pain in the head.

Lucy Barnes, wife of Thomas Barnes, late gamekeeper, said that the deceased was a near neighbour, and that she saw her on Saturday morning in the garden at about 11.30 a.m. She spoke to her and she seemed in good spirits. Mrs Barnes was called at about 1p.m. by Amos Dyer, who had found the deceased lying down in front of the fire. She appeared to have slipped off the chair and was quite dead. She had been peeling some potatoes for her dinner.

Dr Charles Clay, of Fovant, said that he had never attended the deceased, but was called on Saturday afternoon at about 3.30p.m. He found her dead, and she appeared to have been so for two or three hours. He examined the body; he gave it as his opinion that deceased died from failure of the heart's action.

The jury returned a verdict of "Visitation of God."

Extract published with kind permission from [Salisbury Inquests](#)