



SOUTH WILTSHIRE
CORONER'S INQUESTS
(Dinton extracts)



Charles MULLINS **5th July, 1912**

Death on Rail Line

Charles Mullins, aged 56 years, an agricultural labourer from Teffont was found dead on the railway line about three-quarters of a mile west of Dinton Station.

Mrs Mullins, the widow, gave evidence of identification. She had seen her husband at breakfast that morning before leaving to go to work in the woods. Her husband had recently complained of internal pains, but had never complained of his head. Mrs Mullins told the inquiry that her husband had never threatened to commit suicide or injure himself in anyway. When her husband felt pain, he used to cross the line and go to Dr Clay's and she supposed that was where he was going when he was knocked down and killed.

Thomas Gillingham, foreman platelayer, employed by L and SWR, of Teffont, said he had been informed at about 10.25 am on Thursday morning, that a man had been killed on the line. He found the body of Mullins cut in two. There was no public crossing at this point, although there was a private crossing 80 yards away. Mullins was trespassing when he went on the line.

Samuel Warren, of Exeter, was the driver of the 6.38 train from Exeter to Salisbury, but saw nothing of Mullins. The spot where the deceased was found was near a corner, which would prevent him from seeing anybody on the line, but a man there could see a train for 400 yards. He felt no jerk, but at Salisbury, on receipt of information, he found blood on the lifeguards of his engine.

Inspector Cheyney (who represented the railway company) said the deceased must have got over a fence to be on the line.

Dr Clay, of Fovant, said he had attended Mullins, but only for minor ailments. He was not the sort of man he would have expected to commit suicide. The deceased was literally cut in two by the train. There was a fracture of the skull and death must have been instantaneous.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and gave their fees to the widow.

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