



SOUTH WILTSHIRE
CORONER'S INQUESTS
(Dinton extracts)



Walter SCAMMELL 26th October, 1906

Young Man's Sad Death

Mr R. A. Wilson (County Coroner) held an inquiry on Monday, into the death of Walter Edwin Scammell, a 25 year old farm labourer.

Emily Scammell, wife of the deceased, said that her husband Walter had left home on Sunday morning at about 7.45am saying he was going to pick some chestnuts.

William Trent, a dairyman, from Compton Chamberlayne said that on the previous morning he had been in Mr Langdon's meadow when he saw the deceased walking in the direction of the footbridge, leading from Dinton meadows to Compton Chamberlayne, about 5 yards from the bridge. He thought no more of the matter until about half an hour afterwards when he came to the bridge – which was made of planed out fir with a handrail - & saw that the rail was broken & pieces were floating in the water. There was also a cap amongst the debris. He procured a grappling iron but with nothing else to assist him, he went for the waterman, William Moody. The two men searched but it was nearly two hours before they found the body of the deceased. The bridge, although used by anyone, was erected for the convenience of fishermen and had been in existence for about four years. Mr Moody stated that he had repaired the rails since they were first put up.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.

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