



# SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



## Durrington

**Frederick McCULLOCH**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October, 1902**

### **Lad Killed**

A painful sensation was caused in Durrington on Friday morning when it became known that a lad named Frederick McCulloch, one of Mr Harry Powneys apprentices, had been killed. At the Plough Inn, Durrington, a cart belonging to the Royal Engineers was stopped outside, when the horse became restive and bolted. In the Netheravon road it dashed into a string of Mr Powneys horses who were returning from their morning gallop on the downs. All got out of the way except McCulloch who was run over by the cart and died from the injuries he received. The deceased was a native of Liverpool.

The inquest was held on Saturday afternoon at Durrington House, Mr W. J. Trethowan was present on behalf of deceased's relatives, while Capt. Grant, 58th Co., R E, represented the military authorities. Mr J. Sandell was chosen foreman of the jury.

Mr Harry Powney stated that he was told by one of the other apprentices that McCulloch had been knocked down and driven over, whereupon he sent for a doctor. Deceased was a good boy and a good rider.

Albert Edwards said that on Friday he was out exercising the horses. There were ten of them in all, and they were riding in single file, the horses two lengths apart. The front lad shouted "Look out," and he then saw a horse, attached to a cart, tearing down upon them. The riders broke out of their line and got safely away with the exception of deceased, whose escape was cut off by a high bank and hedge on both sides of the road.

Thomas Carter, of Durrington, gave evidence as to the horse running away, and added that when riding down the hill it ran into a farmers cart.

Lance Corporal Dunk, 58th Co. RE said he went in a forage cart from Netheravon to Bulford to draw rations. On the way they stopped at the Plough Inn to have a drink. Witness stood at the horses head while his companion went to fetch the drinks. Suddenly the horse shied at something. He tried his hardest to hold the horse back but was obliged to let go.

Driver C. Mitchell, 58th Co RE, corroborated Corporal Dunk's evidence and added that the horse had bolted once before at Grateley Station, but he not known of its bolting in the neighbourhood in which the accident happened before.

Corporal Dunk recalled, said he thought the horse was caused to shy by a fly settling on it.

Dr Brown stated that he was called in to see the lad who had been put in a cart. He was dead but the body was still warm. Blood was flowing freely from his nose and mouth. There were a number of marks on the left side of the chest indications of lung rupture. At the base of the skull there was a fracture.

The Coroner in summing up said that the jury had heard all the evidence and there seemed to be no doubt that the lad was killed by accident. He then explained that if a horse had been left unattended and ran away and killed somebody there would be a case of negligence, and the relatives of the person injured might claim damages. If a horse ran away when there was a man with it and killed somebody it would not be criminal negligence. In this case Lance Corporal Dunk was standing at the horse's head. There was no difficulty in returning a verdict of accidental death. Of course, if the jury decided to add a rider in the interests of the inhabitants of Durrington they might do so.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, and added a rider expressing the hope that the War Office would issue instructions that every precaution should be taken in driving carts through villages and in stopping at public houses.

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