



CORONERS INQUESTS



John Roger West

Fatal Driving Accident

Death of Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart's Forester

On Monday afternoon the County Coroner, Mr. R. A. Wilson, held an inquest at Fonthill Gifford, concerning the death of John Roger West, of that parish, forester to Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart, who died on Sunday morning from the effects of a trap accident at East Knoyle on the previous evening.

John Snook deposed that he was groom to the deceased, who was forty-four years of age, and lived at Fonthill Gifford. On Saturday last he drove with deceased to Warminster. They left there on their return home at between 5.30 and six. Deceased was driving very quietly, as it was a dark night. When they got to Periwinkle Farm, East Knoyle, there was a bend in the road they were not quite certain about. Deceased drove along a track leading to a field. The trap got on the bank and was overturned, both of them being thrown out. Witness got up as soon as he could and went to deceased, whom he found lying on his face unconscious. He turned him over, and then ran for help to Knoyle Down Farm. Deceased was taken home in his trap, arriving at about nine o'clock. Witness himself was bruised and much shaken by his fall.

William Warren, of Knoyle Down Farm, gave corroborative evidence.

Mr. C. A. Ensor, surgeon, of Tisbury, said he saw deceased at his house on Saturday night at about a quarter to ten. He was insensible; there was a wound on the left side of the face, but no other external injuries. Deceased was evidently suffering from injury to the brain. He never recovered consciousness, and died at about ten o'clock on Sunday morning.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Deceased was well known in Warminster, and was one time, we understand, employed as a forester by the Marquis of Bath.

Warminster Journal, Saturday, 7 December 1901