



# *Inquest of William Stoneham*

## *Hullavington*

The Bath Herald reports an inquest recently held at Hullavington, by Mr W R Whitmarsh, on the body of Mr. William Stoneham, a farmer, 55 years of age. Ambrose Greenman, a private in the 62nd Foot, now staying on sick leave at Hullavington, deposed that on the previous Saturday evening, at about 7 o'clock, as he and Thomas Shearwood a labourer, of Hullavington, were standing outside the village, on the high road leading from Malmesbury to Hullavington, he saw the deceased walking by the side of his horse and cart.

He was alone, coming towards home, and leading his horse (a colt about two years old) when a bicycle came along in the opposite direction, and as it passed the deceased his horse shied and bolted. The deceased was knocked down by the bait, the wheel passed over his body, and he died almost immediately.

The rider of the bicycle went to Malmesbury and brought back Mr. Pitt, surgeon, who examined the body. The bicycle passed the cart on the proper side of the road. Charles W Pitt, surgeon, practicing at Malmesbury, said that on Saturday evening, the 8th inst., Mr. Lancelot William Andrews, of Somerford Magna, came to his surgery and fetched him to the house of Stoneham, who was found dead. He examined the body, and found that his trousers were torn on the right leg, and underneath the trousers there was a wound leading down to the bone.

He had made a post mortem examination of the body, and found that the cause of death was owing to the rupture of the bowels and hemorrhage into the cavity of the abdomen. Lancelot William Andrews said he lived at Somerford Magna. On Saturday evening, May 8th, a little after 6 o'clock he was riding his bicycle through Hullavington, and met a horse and cart. A man was leading the horse. Directly witness passed the animal he became restive and ran away. He ran back and saw deceased lying on a heap of stones. Just at this time two men came up, and witness immediately went to Malmesbury and fetched Mr. Pitt.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally killed by falling under the wheel of his cart, which passed over his body".

**Bath Herald, 19th May 1880**