



# CORONERS INQUESTS



## Henry Vincent Keen 1909

### Sad Fatality in a Timber Yard

The District Coroner ( Mr. R. A. Wilson) held an inquest at the Court House, Ludgershall, on Monday, respecting the death of Henry Vincent Keen, aged five years, who was crushed to death by the fall of some heavy boards in Messrs. Stidson's timber yard on Sunday morning.

According to the evidence of John Keen, grandfather of the deceased, and Beatrice Keen, a twelve year old girl, it appeared that the children left home at ten o'clock on Sunday morning with the object of picking snowdrops. On their way they passed the timber yard, and the deceased and his younger brother went inside the fence. Despite a warning by Beatrice, who told them to come along, the two little boys clambered on to a pair of boards, part of a portable house, which were lying flat on the ground. There were other boards standing upright against the wall. Beatrice heard a cry from one of her brothers, and on running back found that the upright boards had fallen down on the children. The smaller boy was only caught by the legs, but Henry was right underneath the boards, which weighed about half-a-ton. The girl ran for assistance, and her grandfather and others removed the boards, but Henry was quite dead.

Mr. H. H. Williamson, surgeon, of Ludgershall, said death must have been instantaneous. Blood was issuing from the ears and nostrils, showing that the base of the skull was fractured and the neck was dislocated.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

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