



# CORONERS INQUESTS



## Robert Cummings 1907

### Killed By a Falling Wall

Mr. Spencer Clarke (county coroner) held an inquest at Amport on Friday afternoon, touching the death of Robert Cummings, a bricklayer, of Ludgershall, which occurred under sad circumstances at Fox, Amport, on the previous day. Deceased was in the employ of Messrs. Grace & Sons, builders, of Clatford and Ludgershall, and leaves a widow and five children.

Mr. Russell was chosen foreman of the jury and Mr. F Grace, of Ludgershall, attended the enquiry.

James Cummings, ostler at the Junction Hotel, Andover, said the deceased was his brother, and was 34 years of age. He lived with his wife and family at Bell Street, Ludgershall.

Henry Perkins, a bricklayer, stated that he was working with deceased falling a wall in a house at Fox Farm, Amport, on the estate of the Marquis of Winchester. Witness was working close to the deceased, undermining the wall for the purpose of falling it. They had not undermined more than a brick in when witness found the wall was falling. He shouted to deceased to run, and they both ran together. Witness got through the doorway safely, but deceased was unable to get clear and was buried under the falling wall. Other workmen and witness came to the rescue, and deceased was extricated as quickly as possible. When got out, deceased was alive. Deceased complained of great pain, and requested them to turn him over on his side. That was all deceased said. Dr. Farr was immediately sent for.

By the Coroner: Would it not have been the right way to fall the wall from the top instead of the bottom?

Witness replied that deceased was the foreman of the job, and it was the usual practice to undermine the wall as they were doing it.

Dr. E. A. Farr stated that death was due to internal hemorrhage. The injuries were consistent with deceased having been buried beneath the falling wall.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased was accidentally killed by a falling wall.

The Foreman said he wished to express the sympathy of the jury with the wife and family at the sad occurrence, and the jury also desired their fees to be given to the widow.

The Coroner said he also had a letter from Messrs. Grace & Sons, the employers of deceased, expressing their deep regret at the sad occurrence and testifying to the excellent character the deceased had.

Mr. W. J. Allison, representing the Marquis of Winchester, added that he had received a telegram from his lordship asking him to convey a message of condolence with the relatives of the deceased.

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