



CORONERS INQUESTS



Joseph Wedge

An inquest was held before John Alexander, esq., coroner, at the New Inn, Benham, on view of the body of Joseph Wedge, nearly 60 years of age, a waggoner, in the employ of Messrs. Hillier and May, carriers, Marlborough, who was killed during the preceding night. The deceased was found dead lying in the middle of the road between Gravel-hill and the New Inn, by the driver of the Age coach, a little before eleven o'clock, the wheel of the wagon having passed over his head, which was literally crushed to atoms. From the evidence adduced, it appeared the poor man was on his road home to Marlborough, and on passing through Speenhamland called at the Kennet-house on business, and the landlord stated that he was perfectly sober, and he had never known him otherwise.

Mr Snook, the landlord of the New Inn, stated, that he was called out of bed the night before by a coachman, who informed him of the accident; that he got assistance and brought the body to his house. Snook further stated, that he had, with others, examined the track in the snow of the wheels of the wagon the deceased was driving, and felt satisfied that the wagon was on the proper side of the road; that he had known Wedge many years, who was a steady sober man. The jury, after some discussion on the impropriety of a night wagon being attended by one man only, particularly during the present dangerous state of the roads, returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

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