



CORONERS INQUESTS



Inquest Report on Elizabeth Farthing

On Monday, Mr. Wilson coroner held an inquest at Mere on the body of Elizabeth Farthing, a little girl aged four years and daughter of John Farthing. On the previous Wednesday, the mother of the deceased, went out into a field close by her cottage, where she had some clothes hanging out to dry and left the little girl and a younger child playing in the house. During the mother's absence, Mrs. Norris who was in a neighbour's house, heard a child scream violently, and on running out she saw the deceased with her clothes on fire. Mrs. Farthing heard the alarm, and hastened back to her cottage, where she found the child dreadfully burnt, and in answer to her enquiries as to how it occurred, the deceased replied that she was brushing up the house, and that something caught fire behind. Mr. Rumsey, surgeon of Mere, was called in, and found the child severely burnt about the chest and arms, and in a state of collapse. The necessary remedies were applied, but the deceased never recovered from the shock.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally burnt."

Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 14 January 1865