



# *Coroner's Inquest Report Oaksey*

## **Eleanor Leah Weeks**

On Monday afternoon Mr Coroner Ball held an inquiry at the Police-station, Cirencester, into the death of Eleanor Leah Weeks, of Maisey Hampton, aged 15, a domestic servant in the employ of Mr Albert Kent, landlord of the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Oaksey, who met with her death under painful circumstances.

From the evidence of the landlord of the Wheat Sheaf Inn, Miss Burford (matron of Cirencester Cottage Hospital), and deceased's grandfather, John Ireland, with whom deceased lived, it appeared that early on the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> ult deceased was in the act of carrying a piece of lighted paper from one room to another to light a fire, when her apron ignited, and the landlord (in whose employ she had been only two days) found her shrieking in the yard wrapped in flames. The flames were stayed, but not before serious injuries had been inflicted.

Dr Skinner, of Malmesbury, was fetched, and he attended her till Wednesday, the 4<sup>th</sup> inst, when she was removed to Cirencester Cottage Hospital under the care of Mr O H Fowler, but in spite of all that medical skill and nursing could do, the poor girl gradually sank, and died on the morning of Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally burned", and gave their fees to deceased's grandfather.

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