



# CORONERS INQUESTS

*Potterne*



## *Inquest of Martha Franklin 1844*

Mr Whitmarsh held an Inquest on Saturday at Potterne, on the body of Martha Franklin, 6 years of age. Ann Burt stated that on the 11th instant, about 2 o'clock in the afternoon as she was in the yard behind her house at Potterne, she heard some children screaming that "Patty was on fire". She immediately went into the cottage of Thomas Franklin, and upon entering she saw the deceased alone enveloped in flames. She rendered assistance to the child, who was enabled to say that whilst burning off a stick to take to school her clothes caught fire. Elizabeth Franklin, the mother, stated on the day in question she went to Devizes, and on her return found that her daughter had been burnt. She dressed the burns with the usual remedies, but after lingering until the 19th the child died. The coroner asked the mother why she had not applied for the parish doctor in such a case?. She replied that her neighbours said that he could not do much good in a burn!. Verdict : *Accidental* the jury expressing their opinion that the mother should have applied for a doctor.

**Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 25 January 1844**