



CORONERS INQUESTS



Seend

1850

Taken before George Sylvester, Esq, at Seend, in the parish of Melksham, on George Earl, aged 30 years. The deceased was found in the cow lease at Pile Farm, in an insensible state; he was conveyed into the house, and died shortly after. Verdict – Died from Natural Causes. **Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 7 November 1850**

1851

Taken before George Sylvester, Esq, at Rowde Hill, in the chapelry of Seend, on Emma Phillis, aged 4 years. The mother of the deceased had gone to Seend, and placed her under the care of an elder brother, who missed her for a short time, and on searching, observed her floating in a pond at the bottom of the garden. He procured a prong and pulled her out, but life was extinct. Verdict – Accidentally Drowned. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 14 August 1851**

1852

Accidental Death --- Seend – On Wednesday, a labouring man was struck dead by a coup de soleil, while working in a hayfield. A like occurrence happened the same day to a labourer similarly occupied at Newton, near Bath; but in the latter instance although the case is a hopeless one, the man was not killed. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 17 July 1852** (OPC Note – coup de soleil = heat or sunstroke)

1853

Inquest --- At Semington on James Harris, aged 56 years. The deceased lived at Seend, and had proceeded with a load of timber from Steeple Ashton to Mr Theobald's wharf at Semington. On unloading it, one stick of timber, on being pulled off, caused a second to fall, and the deceased, in attempting to get out of its way, fell on his face; the timber came down on the back of his head, smashing the skull and scattering his brains around the spot, causing death instantaneously. - Verdict accordingly. **Wells Journal Saturday 27 August 1853**

1854

Accidental Death --- Another labourer was killed on the railway works, near the New Inn, at Seend, on Wednesday afternoon. The “tip” wagon knocked him down and crushed him so dreadfully that he died very shortly afterwards. **Wells Journal Saturday 14 October 1854**

Inquest --- At the New Inn, at Seend, in the parish of Melksham, on John Hatter, aged 26 years. The deceased was employed on the Branch Railway construction from Devizes to Staverton, and had the care of a tram waggon laden

with earth; proceeding towards the "Tip", he fell under the waggon, and one of the axletrees laid hold of his feet, and gave him a complete "Somerset", from which the spine and spinal marrow were injured, producing paralysis of all parts of the body below the injury, and death in two days. Verdict – Accidental Death. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 14 September 1854**

Inquest --- At Melksham Union Workhouse, in the parish of Steeple Ashton, on Job Rawlings, aged 71 years. The deceased resided at Seend, and went down stairs early on Saturday morning; on re-ascending the stairs he fell down from near the top, he was found lying with his head downwards, and doubled on the neck, by which a vertebrae of the neck was fractured with a laceration of the spinal marrow, producing paralysis of the body, and which destroyed life in two days. Verdict - Accidental Death. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 14 September 1854**

1855

Inquest --- Taken before George Sylvester, esq at Seend, in the parish of Melksham, on John Shell. Aged 48 years. The deceased had been depressed in spirits in consequence of shortness of work, having a large family to support. An aberration of mind was produced, inducing him to commit suicide by hanging in a skilling in the neighbourhood. Verdict – Suicide from temporary derangement. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 12 April 1855**

Accidental Death --- On Sunday morning last, a lad named John Wells, aged 16 years, living at Seend, went in company with two other lads to bathe in the Kennet and Avon Canal. None of them could swim, and Wells, in rashly attempting to cross the canal, got out of his depth and was drowned before assistance arrived. **Wells Journal Saturday 21 July 1855**

1857

Accidental Death --- Mr W Redman, a respectable inhabitant of Seend was "found drowned" in the Kennet and Avon Canal a few days ago. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 19 November 1857**

1861

Inquest --- At Tattle Down Farm, Seend, parish of Melksham, on George Gum. Aged 70 years. Deceased was employed loading beans when he fell to the ground, became insensible, and was conveyed home in a dying state from apoplexy. Verdict: Visitation of God. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 12 September 1861**

Inquest --- At Seend, Melksham, on Mary Ann Beaminster, aged 50. The deceased had complained of pain at the chest, and of a difficulty in breathing occasionally, arising from an affection of the heart. She retired to rest as well as she had been for some time past on Tuesday evening, and was found dead on the following morning. Verdict: - Visitation of God. **Sherborne Mercury Tuesday 25 August 1863**

1863

Inquest --- Before Mr Sylvester at Seend, in the parish of Melksham on Henry James Fear, aged 5 years. George Harmond of Godalming deposed:- I was employed driving a laden timber carriage with four horses from Poulshot to Melksham station. In passing Seend, I saw the deceased, H J Fear, coming from under the carriage between the fore and hind near wheels. The drag-chain struck him on the head, and he fell under the hind wheel, which passed over him. He was carried to his home. This occurred on Saturday Sept 19th at 4 o'clock pm, and he died at 8 o'clock the following morning. Verdict – Accidental Death. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 24 September 1863**

Inquest --- At Radstock, on Thomas Brown aged 30. The deceased was employed by Mr Newman, and while proceeding from Seend with a waggon load of drain tiles, he was standing on the timber of the waggon, lost his balance, fell to the ground near the fore wheel, which grazed his side and fractured some of his ribs, the ends of which penetrated his lungs, causing emphysema, and death in 5 hours. Verdict – Accidental Death. **Sherborne Mercury Tuesday 27 October 1863**

1869

Inquest --- Before Mr Coroner Sylvester at Seend, parish of Melksham on Hannah Giddings aged 75 years. The deceased on Sunday evening was walking to chapel when she was seen by some boys to fall down, and immediate assistance was given, but she had ceased to breathe. Death arose from the rupture of a vessel of the heart. Verdict: Visitation of God. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 23 December 1869**

1870

Inquest --- On Saturday an inquest was held at the New Inn, Seend, Wilts, before the coroner Mr George Sylvester, and a respectable jury, of whom Mr Whatley was foreman, on the body of Mr Robert Pritchard aged 23 only son of Mr George Pritchard, farmer, of Semington Road, near Melksham, who was thrown from his horse and killed on the spot on Thursday evening. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally Killed". **Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser Wednesday 23 February 1870**

1871

Inquest --- Taken before Mr Coroner Sylvester at Seend, on Noah Rawlings aged 10 years. The deceased accompanied by a younger brother went to bathe in the canal, and not being able to swim and getting out of his depth, his brother, who was with him held a stick to him but he could not retain his hold on it and he sank. His brother dressed himself and carried the clothes of the deceased home to his mother and told her that his brother was drowned. William Davis of Seend obtained some grapnel irons, but it was half an hour before the body was recovered. Verdict – Accidentally drowned in the Kennet and Avon Canal. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 8 June 1871**

1872

Inquest --- An inquest was held at the New Inn, Seend, on the 12th inst by Mr G Sylvester, coroner, on the body of Mary Jane Rawlings, three months old, the illegitimate child of Elizabeth Rawlings. It appeared that the mother of the child had gone to service, and had left the infant in the care of its grandmother. Upon her returning to Seend on the 10th inst, she found the child ill, and it died on the 11th inst. Verdict – Death from natural causes. **Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 17 February 1872**

Inquest --- Taken before Mr Coroner Sylvester. At Seend in the parish of Melksham, on Henry Sims, aged six years. The deceased was pretending to fish and fell into the canal. When recovered every means was used to resuscitate him, but without effect. Verdict – Accidentally drowned in the Kennet and Avon Canal. **Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 15 August 1872**

1879

Inquest --- An inquest has been held at Faringdon concerning the death of Mrs Barne, 83 years old, wife of the Rev H Barne, vicar of Faringdon and for many years vicar of Seend, Wilts. The deceased lady, who was an invalid, by some means set fire to her bed, she managed to ring her bell violently, but when assistance arrived was found dead in the room. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally Burnt". **Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette Thursday 12 June 1879**

1894

Inquest --- Yesterday at Seend Cleve, Wilts an inquest was held on the body of John Rawlings 59, a Crimean veteran, and since attendant at the Australian Bank. He had invested all his savings in the Australian Banks, and their failure preyed on his mind. A call of £300 having been made on Saturday, he wrote to his wife that he would be found in the canal, and drowned himself. A verdict of "Suicide during temporary insanity" was returned. **Exeter and Plymouth Gazette Tuesday 23 January 1894**

Inquest --- Seend. On Wednesday an inquest was held at the Barge Inn, before Mr F Sylvester and a jury, relative to the death of Edward James Stow, 24 years of age, whose body was found in the canal on the previous morning. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind." **Bristol Mercury Friday 25 May 1894**