



CORONERS INQUESTS



Seend

Inquest of William Hodges 1857

At Seend Cleeve, in the parish of Melksham, on William Hodges, aged 27 years. The deceased resided at Bradford, and had been employed by Mr Treadwell for three months on the Bathampton branch line of railway; on Saturday evening he was discharged and started on Monday morning, accompanied by Robert Jones, for Seend in quest of work, but failed in obtaining any: in the evening he proceeded to return to Bradford on the towing path of the Kennet and Avon Canal; Jones had preceded him a few minutes, and heard a splash in the water; he immediately returned and observed the cap of the deceased on the surface; he called assistance and the body was extricated after three hours' search, and conveyed to the Barge Inn. The evidence proved the deceased had drank so much during the day as to be incapable of taking care of himself.

Verdict – Accidentally drowned whilst in a state of intoxication.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 26 March 1857