



SOUTH WILTSHIRE
CORONER'S INQUESTS



Sutton Mandeville

Job DORRINTON 28th August, 1914

Gored by a Bull

A sad story of how a bull gored a man so seriously that he died a day or two later was told the City Coroner (Mr S. Buchanan Smith) and a jury at an inquest held on Monday evening at Salisbury Infirmary.

The unfortunate incident occurred the previous Thursday at Mr D. Combe's farm at Sutton Mandeville, where the cowman, Job Dorrington, was about to tie up a bull in its shed when the animal attacked him, knocking him down and wounding him so badly that he had to be removed to the Infirmary. An operation was performed, but the patient died on Sunday.

Mr A. H. Jay was Foreman of the jury, and Dorrington's employer (Mr D. Combes, jnr) attended, and was also professionally represented by Mr F. H. Trethowan.

Reginald Job Dorrington, a police constable in the Wilts Constabulary, stationed at Devizes, said that his father, Job Dorrington, was a cowman in the employ of Mr Combes, of Dinton. He lived at Sutton Mandeville and was 60 years of age on June 15th. Witness saw him on the Sunday prior to the accident and he was then in good health.

Frank Hallett, a lad, who said he was a milker in Mr Combe's employ, stated that on Thursday, August 20th, he was in the bull shed with the cowman at about 9.15am. The cowman took the bull out of the shed and across the yard to water. Then he brought it back and tried to tie it up again. Witness put his hand on the animal's neck to help Dorrington, when the bull turned round on him. "I jumped out of the way," proceeded Hallett, "and the bull then went for the deceased. I took a prong and kept the bull off for a second or two, then he made another attack on the cowman and pinned him against the wall. The staff with which he had been leading the bull broke, and the bull knocked him down on the ground, gored him several times, and hooked him out of the shed. I got him into the barn and informed Mrs Dorrington, who bathed his head while I went for the doctor."

Mr J. S. Du Toit, house surgeon at Salisbury Infirmary, said that Dorrington was admitted on Thursday at 4.15pm. He was suffering from a large wound on the right side of the abdomen, some internal injuries, two fractured ribs, and shock. He was operated on, and appeared to be going on satisfactorily till Sunday, when he became worse and died as a result of his injuries.

The Foreman asked whether the bull was of a savage nature.

Mr Combes said he would like to express his deep sorrow at the occurrence. Dorrington was the most upright man it had been his pleasure to deal with in this world, and for that reason, and out of sympathy for his widow and son he deeply regretted his death. The bull was one which Dorrington had reared from a calf and it was now 2½ years old. A few months ago, at the end of the season, he (Mr Combes) discussed with him as to whether he should get rid of it and put in a younger one, according to his practise. But this was a favourite animal of Dorrington's and he said he should like to use it another season. Two or three days before the accident the bull was a little wild one morning with another man, but that had come to his knowledge since. Had he known it before, he should have kept the bull tied up till he disposed of it. His practise was to get rid of a bull as soon as there was any suspicion of roughness about it. He used several on different farms and that was his invariable practise.

Mr Trethowan asked if the other man whom the bull attacked was hurt.

Mr Combes replied that though he had seen that man since he had not mentioned the matter. He was not hurt and was able to go on with his work. If Dorrington had suspected that there would be any trouble it was quite unnecessary for him to untie the bull, because he could have carried a pail of water into the shed.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

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