



CORONERS INQUESTS



Osmond Keevil, 9th December 1904

Fatal Fall from a Train

The County Coroner held an inquiry on Saturday, into the circumstances surrounding the death of 9 year old Osmond Keevil, who fell out of a train whilst travelling on the L & SW Railway between Dinton and Tisbury on Friday.

Mary Elizabeth Keevil, a widow of Midsomer Norton, was the mother of the deceased boy. The two had left Midsomer Norton at 9.29 am on Friday morning and changed into the L & SW R Train at Templecombe in order to travel to Salisbury. They entered a third-class compartment in which there was a lady who left at Tisbury. Both of the windows were open and Mrs. Keevil got up to shut the windows, leaving her son on the seat by the window where they had been sitting. She was in the process of shutting one of the windows when her son said "I have done it mother". She immediately turned and found that the boy was gone and the door was swinging open. The carriage door had patent locks and her son, to her knowledge, had not been playing with them. On her arrival at Dinton station, Mrs. Keevil told the guard what had happened. When the woman passenger had been in the carriage, Osmond had been sitting but when they were alone he had walked about the carriage. Mrs. Keevil told the inquiry that Osmond had sometimes been at the window but she had not been watching him all the time.

Dr. Ensor, of Tisbury, stated that he had been called at about midday on Friday to see the body of the deceased, which was lying in the six foot way on his face. Upon examination, the doctor found a gaping wound, six inches long, running from the top of the scalp backwards and a large fracture of the skull. Blood was flowing from the ears and nose and there were blood marks on the stone close to his head. The fracture of the skull was very extensive but no other bones were broken. From the position of the body it was probable that the boy was facing the door when he fell out.

William Blake Beale, Stationmaster at Dinton, said that when the 10.15 train had arrived at Dinton from Yeovil, Mrs. Keevil had informed him that her son had fallen out of the carriage between Dinton and Tisbury. Mr. Beal had found the boy's body about half a mile from Tisbury Quarry gates. After the doctor had seen the body, they had brought it back to Dinton.

Thomas Henry Coles, guard of the train, stated that all the doors were shut at Templecombe. The doors on the side of the train from which the deceased fell were not opened between Yeovil and Salisbury. The doors of the carriage were in perfect order and the carriage was not an old one.

Sidney Yarlett, carriage examiner, of Salisbury, said he examined the carriage door. It had recently been repaired and the fasteners on both sides were in perfect working order. Nothing except actual force could have caused the door to open during the journey.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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Newspaper Report

Dinton Fatal Accident on the L. & S. W. R. Boy's Terrible Fall from a train at Dinton

A sad occurrence took place on the L. & S. W. R. near Quarry Gates, between Dinton and Tisbury stations, on Friday morning. It appears that Mrs. M. E. Keevil, of Midsomer Norton, was travelling from that place to Salisbury with her son who was eight years of age. They changed into the South-Western train at Templecombe at 10.41 and entered a third class carriage in which was a lady passenger. This lady left the train at Tisbury. Both windows of the carriage were open, and Mrs. Keevil proceeded to shut one, and her little boy was sitting near the other. She was in the act of closing the window when the boy said "I have done it, mother." She immediately looked round and found the boy gone and the door swinging open. At Dinton Station information was given to the guard and the stationmaster took a ballast engine, and about half a mile from Quarry Gates the dead body of the child was found in the six foot way.

At the inquest on Saturday evidence was given that the door was in perfect order. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

Wiltshire Times, Saturday, 10 December 1904