

## Inquest - Charles Davis 1874

Redbridge, August 15



An inquest was held at the Anchor Inn, on Tuesday, by Mr R Harfield, County Coroner, on the body of Charles Davis, aged 23 years, son of Charles Davis, a labourer, of Winterbourne Earls, near Salisbury.

The deceased was in the employ of the London and South Western Railway Company, and that morning was engaged with other men in loading ballast near Redbridge, in the parish of Nursling.

Some gravel had been picked out before they arrived there, and the face of that which was left was about ten feet high, while they had undermined it up to about six or seven feet quite a yard in, and everything seemed safe then. They had nearly enough in the wagon when the gravel came suddenly down, striking the deceased in the chest, and knocking him backwards under the buffers of the wagon.

The shovel was knocked out of the hand of George Player, who was close by deceased, and he tried to lift him up and called for assistance.

George Bucknell, who was in charge of the farm, and the driver of the engine, came up. Player spoke to the deceased, who did not answer. There was earth on the lower part of his body, and he did not live more than two or three minutes.

Bucknell did not consider the work dangerous, and from the way in which the deceased was lying under the wagon, he thought he must have struck his head against the buffers. The gravel sometimes slipped down, and he believed the rain of the previous night must have loosened it. They were compelled to undermine the gravel in order to get it down.

Player also told the jury that they did not consider there was the least danger and they adopted the usual plan of getting the gravel down.

After a careful summing up by the Coroner, the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

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