

Accidental Death at Worton

A fatal accident occurred on Monday evening 20th October at Marsh Farm, Worton.

Edith Webb, a servant to Frederick Flooks was accidentally shot when the twelve year old Richard, son of Frederick, was carrying a military type gun that had been converted into a shot gun from an outbuilding into the farmhouse. He had been asked to carry the gun by his older brother.

On the way back to the house the young Richard passed through a narrow gateway very near to where Edith was carrying out her duties preparing wood for the fire for the following day. As he was passing through the gate the gun knocked against the gatepost and discharged.

Hearing the shot the elder brother ran to the spot to find nineteen year old Edith on her knees with blood pouring from a wound to the head. Edith took a few breaths and then slumped over having died.

A Doctor Waylen was sent for and he found that the cartridge had passed behind the left ear exiting at the temple. The reason why the gun had been left loaded was that the gun had a malfunction in that once loaded the cartridge could not then be removed without firing the gun. Normally it was quite difficult to fire the gun since the trigger was hard to pull however the sudden jolt against the post had released the hammer.

Sympathy was expressed at the inquest to both Edith's family who lived at Market Lavington and to Mr. Flooks. A Coroner's Inquest was held on 25th October 1890.

According to the 1891 census Richard is living with an aunt at Cannimore Farm, Warminster possibly this was for the boy to recover from the shock of what he had done.