



CORONERS INQUESTS



John Davies, Age 50 - 12th December 1874

City Coroner: Dr. Young

Place of Inquest: General Infirmary, Salisbury.

John Davies was coachman to Mr. Ferryman of Redlynch.

Witness, Miriam Bold wife of William Bold who resided at Harnham Bridge. She said that about noon on the 1st August she heard a crashing sound on the bridge. She went outside to see what the cause was. She saw John Davies crouched under the window of a house on the opposite side of the road. He had just crawled away from the dog cart and the horse which was now standing quietly in the road. He was apparently suffering great pain and had evidently been severely kicked by the horse because the splashboard on the cart was broken to atoms.

Mr. Ferryman was sitting with the reins in his hands and had been driving the horse. Mrs Bold took the deceased some water and asked him if he thought his leg was broken, he moaned and said "No it is my knee, he has kicked me before." She put her hand on his knee and fancied that she felt the bones beneath her touch as though they were much smashed. There was blood on him about the injured place. He was conveyed to the infirmary but did not complain about anyone's carelessness causing the accident.

John Gray Snook, a grocer at Harnham Bridge, said he was in his shop when Mr. Ferryman came driving past in his dog-cart. When the vehicle had gone a few yards past the shop, the witness heard a noise as of the horse kicking and smashing something. He looked immediately and saw the animal kick violently twice. The first time it smashed the splashboard of the trap and the second time it struck the leg of John Davies as he was sitting in the cart, on the near side of the seat. He fell to the ground and witness ran across to help him. He crawled over to the wall nearest him and said his knee hurt. He was evidently much injured and there was blood on his clothing.

Mr. Moses Biggs, the house surgeon of the Infirmary, said the deceased was brought in on the 1st August suffering from compound fracture of the right knee cap. There was a good deal of swelling and the injured man was in a state of prostration. He rallied shortly afterwards and appeared to go on well under his treatment until the 29th September when he began to get worse, there being much suppuration. It was found necessary to amputate the limb above the knee. The operation performed, he went on tolerably well until 8th November when erysipelas (acute infection) set in, and he gradually got worse until he died of exhaustion on the morning of 5th December.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was the result of injuries accidentally sustained.

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