

Inquest - Thomas Hendy 1838



Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest on Monday last, at Redhouse Farm, in Chute Forest, on the body of a lad named Thomas Hendy, who was accidentally killed by the contents of a gun.

It appeared, from the evidence of Wm Wise, a ploughboy, 16 years of age, that whilst he was in a hay loft at Redhouse Farm, he heard the report of a gun, and immediately afterwards Frederick Barnett (who was below in the stable with the deceased) cried out "Oh dear! I have shot Hendy!"

On witness coming into the stable, he saw deceased lying dead on some straw, with a knife by his side, as if it had just fallen from his hand. The contents of the gun had entered his left eye.

Barnett told witness that he and deceased had been playing together; that deceased had a knife in his hand, and said "I suppose if thee hadst the gun in thy hand, and I had the knife, I should not be afeard to face thee" and Barnett then said "What good will thee be on, if I was to come this", that Barnett then held up the gun, when it accidentally went off.

Previous to witness going into the hay loft, he was in the stable about 10 minutes with Barnett and deceased, during which time they were very friendly; he has also known them for some years and is not aware that they ever had an angry word with each other.

Frederick Barnett, a ploughboy, 14 years of age, said - Immediately after Wise went into the hay loft, I and deceased were joking together; and deceased, putting a knife which he held in his hand towards me, said "How well I could stab thee!"

I did not know that the gun was cocked, nor that I had put my finger upon the trigger; but the gun immediately went off. There was a small charge of shot in it; and the contents going into the head of the deceased, he died in an instant. I then went and called for assistance.

Verdict: Accidental - Dedodand 1s

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