



SOUTH WILTSHIRE
CORONER'S INQUESTS
(Dinton extracts)



Harry COX 21st June, 1879

Death in the water-closet

An inquest was held at the Infirmary on Monday afternoon by Mr George Smith (city coroner) and a jury on the body of Harry Cox, aged 59, an inpatient of the institution, who had died suddenly the same morning under the circumstances narrated in the subjoined evidence.

John Griffin, one of whose legs had been amputated, stated that he was in the water-closet of the Accident Ward at 6 o'clock that morning when the deceased came and applied for admission. He at once made way for him, and on entering the deceased complained of feeling very faint. Mr Griffin, the witness, alerted the night-nurse – who had not yet withdrawn from duty – of the fact and she offered assistance, but the Mr Cox died in the water-closet before it was of any avail.

Mr James Kelland, house surgeon, said on his arrival to the water-closet he found the man dead. In his opinion death arose from heart disease. Mr Kelland further stated that the deceased was admitted into the Infirmary on Thursday last week, and then stated that he was a labourer in the employ of Mr Wyndham, of Dinton, and had been knocked down by a horse. Witness examined him and found a fracture of the shoulder-blade and several contusions, but the injuries were not sufficient to cause death.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

Extract published with kind permission from [Salisbury Inquests](#)