



SOUTH WILTSHIRE  
CORONER'S INQUESTS  
(Dinton extracts)



**Sidney MITCHELL**      **22<sup>nd</sup> January, 1915**

***Knocked Down by a Car & Killed***

Sidney William Henry Mitchell aged 2 years & eleven months was the son of Henry George Mitchell, labourer, of Ivy Cottage, Dinton was knocked down by a motor car and killed. The father had been away at work when the incident happened but had last seen his son alive & well at 5.45 am that morning.

Martha Stokes, of East End, Dinton, wife of Albert Sidney Stokes, a labourer had witnessed the incident. At about 12.45pm she had been standing at her gate, which was opposite the *East End* Inn. She heard the sound of a car & looked towards the road where she saw the child moved from the right side of the road to the left. She said he appeared frightened & stepped just in front of the car.

Another witness – Arthur Cyril Sims, a 9 year old, was staying with his grandfather who was a postman. He was near the *East End* Inn when he saw the little boy playing in the gutter on the right side of the road leading to Salisbury. A little girl came out of a gate on the other side of the road & he ran to meet her, and a car ran over him.

George Parr, of Salisbury, was being driven by his chauffeur through Dinton towards Salisbury. A short distance before the *East End* Inn he noticed a small child in a crouching position playing with something. The boy had his back to the car & suddenly jumped up and crossed the road. The chauffeur jammed on his brakes instantly but the car was then only about five yards from the boy.

Frank Barrett, the chauffeur, had been in My Parr's employ for three years & had driven this particular car for five months. The car & brakes were in good order. My Barrett corroborated all that Mr Parr had stated in regard to the accident. He stated that the wheels were actually locked at the time of impact & he had no time to swerve to avoid the child.

Dr Challoner Clay of Fovant had been called at 1.15 pm & had arrived at 1.30. He had examined the body & in his opinion death was due to shock resulting from the blow.

The jury exonerated the driver from all blame & returned a verdict of "Accidental Death".

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