



# SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



## Dinton

### Newspaper Reports

**William Mark Hamilton & George Lodge  
1856**

**8<sup>th</sup> September,**

#### DINTON

An inquest was held by R.M. Wilson, Esq., Coroner, on Monday last, on the bodies of two boys, named William Mark Hamilton and George Lodge, pupils of Mr Henry Douty, who were unhappily drowned on Saturday, whilst bathing at this place. It appeared from the evidence adduced at the inquest, that Mr Douty has been in the habit of taking his pupils to bathe in the river occasionally, and had done so in the present instance. Whilst he was engaged in assisting one of the younger boys to undress, Hamilton, who had some little knowledge of swimming, sprang into deep water out of depth. Lodge, who was in the water, advanced towards his companion, and held out his hand, which the other seized, and drew Lodge after him into the deep water. Mr Douty on seeing their danger, plunged in, and the boys fastening on him dragged him under water with them. The other pupils, by their presence of mind and exertions, succeeded in rescuing Mr Douty, but Hamilton and Lodge were both drowned. This melancholy occurrence was the result of inattention on the part of Hamilton to Mr Douty's express orders. He was a boy of a remarkably fearless disposition. Much sympathy is felt in the neighbourhood for the parents of the deceased boys, and for Mr Douty. Verdicts of "Accidental death" were recorded.

*(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1856)*