



CORONERS INQUESTS



Inquest Report on Sidney Robert Street

Lockjaw Following a Gunshot Wound

The Salisbury Coroner (Mr. T. Buchanan Smith) held an inquest on Tuesday evening on the body of Sidney Robert Street, aged 26, gardener's labourer of Landford, who died in Salisbury Infirmary on the previous day from lockjaw.

Frances Street, the widow, stated that the deceased was in the employ of Mrs. Wigram, of Northlands, Landford. On Saturday, July 20th, her husband was left alone in their cottage, as witness had left on the previous Tuesday to spend a few days with her mother, at Charlton All Saints.

Her husband rode his bicycle over to Charlton on the afternoon of the 20th and when he dismounted she noticed that he was stiff walking. He told her that he had taken out his gun into the garden, but the trigger would not work. He placed the gun against his leg to tighten the trigger, and the weapon went off, and caused a wound in his thigh. He said he had seen Dr. Hopkins of Whiteparish, who had dressed the wound. Continuing Mrs. Street said her husband stayed at Charlton until Monday morning, when her brother drove him over to Whiteparish to see the doctor. He was told to rest his leg as much as possible. Dr. Hopkins called on Wednesday, and then said there was nothing to be concerned about and he made another examination of the wound on Thursday. About nine o'clock that evening her husband said his jaw was getting stiff, and on Saturday evening he could only open his mouth wide enough to hold his pipe. She sent for Dr. Hopkins who ordered her husband's removal to Salisbury Infirmary.

Mr. de Vos, house surgeon at the Infirmary, said the patient was suffering from tetanus when admitted. Everything was done that could be done for him, but he gradually got worse and died on Monday morning.

Replying to the Coroner the House Surgeon said he considered there would have been no chance of saving the man's life if he had been brought in the Infirmary earlier. He had been properly attended to. It was impossible to say, until the germ took effect, whether a patient had tetanus or not. Sometimes it took three weeks to develop.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from lockjaw following the accident."

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