



Coroner's Inquest Report Oaksey

Walter Butcher

An inquest was held on Tuesday by Mr W E Nicolson Browne, County Coroner, on the body of Walter Butcher, aged 13 years, a lad in the employ of Mr Arthur Rich.

The first witness was Thomas Brown, who said he was working with deceased at mangle cart. He had just exchanged an empty cart for a full one from deceased, who got up and sat on the front of the cart, and took the reins. The horse started and ran against the gate post, and overturned the cart. He (witness) was some 50 or 60 yards away, but he heard him call out, "Tom, stop the cart". He turned round and saw the cart upset. George Butcher, deceased's father, was working in the next field and saw the accident. There was nothing to frighten the horse to make him run away that he could see. The horse had run away about two years ago, but was quite steady and quiet. It was usual for the lads to ride on the carts, when they had any distance to go.

Dr Kinneir, of Malmesbury, was called, and said he found the lad dead. There was a fracture of the base of the skull, which was the immediate cause of death.

A verdict of "Accidental death," was returned.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Saturday 27 March 1897