



CORONERS INQUESTS



Seend

Inquest of James Bryant 1861

Accidental Death

Yesterday afternoon, as the passenger train due at Devizes at 4pm was proceeding on its way, when near Seend Station it came in contact with a cart which was crossing the line, and the man, named James Bryant, who was driving it, was killed on the spot. A boy riding in the cart was thrown out by the concussion and fell upon the buffer of the engine, from which perilous position he was caught by William Tilling, the stoker, and placed upon the engine in safety.

It is said the deceased would persist in crossing the line though the train was in sight, and he was advised not to do so. The road crossing the line at this spot is a private right of way leading from an adjoining farm, and therefore the railway company have no servant there to watch it. As far as is at present known no blame can be attached to the driver of the engine for the unfortunate occurrence. Mr Holloway, station master at Devizes, immediately despatched Mr T B Anstie, surgeon, by the goods train, but his services were of no avail. The horse drawing the cart was of course knocked to pieces and was, we believe, the property of the deceased. The passengers in the train were scarcely affected by the concussion.

Western Daily Press Tuesday 18 June 1861

Inquest

An inquest was held yesterday before Mr Coroner Sylvester and a jury, upon the body of James Bryant, aged 75, who was killed upon the railway near Seend station, an account of which appeared in the Western Daily Press of Tuesday.

After hearing the evidence the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally killed, and without any blame being attached to the engine driver". This is the first accident fatal to human life which has happened during the four years the line has been opened.

Western Daily Press Thursday 20 June 1861