



CORONERS INQUESTS



Inquest Report on Cornelius Loveday

Shocking Death In A Beer Barrel

At Stratton, before W. B. Whitmarsh, Esq. on the body of Cornelius Loveday, aged 36 years. A labourer in the employ of Mr. Richard White, brewer. William Jefferies, of the same place, stated that last Friday the deceased came to work at six o'clock, and a little before seven was seated on the head of an empty beer vat, which, when full, contained sixteen hundred gallons. Deceased went up to remove the sand from the top. Witness took off the trap-door, expecting the deceased would follow him down the ladder to examine the interior of the vat, to see if it was mouldy. Witness had no sooner descended the ladder than he heard a noise as if the deceased had fallen through the trap-door; he returned, and found such was the case. Assistance was obtained, and the deceased was taken out of the vat in about a quarter of an hour after, but quite dead. Verdict - Accidentally suffocated in a beer-vat, from the effects of Carbonic-Acid gas. **Reading Mercury, 6 June 1857**