



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



Sutton Mandeville

James YEATES 22nd October, 1909

Mr R. A. Wilson (Coroner for South Wilts) held an inquest on Thursday of last week at Sutton Mandeville, on the body of James Yeates, a general dealer, 64 years of age, of Sutton Mandeville, whose death occurred under remarkable circumstances.

Henry Yeates, farmer, of Sutton Mandeville, brother of the deceased, having given evidence of identification, Tom Fletcher, of Teffont Evias, in the employ of Mr James, farmer, of that place, stated that on Wednesday morning he, in company with Archibald James, was steering Mr James' engine. When they were going down Sutton Hill they met the deceased with a pony and cart. Yeates was in the cart when witness first saw him, but about 10 or 15 yards from the engine he got out and led the pony, which was very restless and was jumping about. They slackened up and went to the side of the road. Deceased told them to go on, and when he drew level with the engine repeated the request, adding that he would not hurt. They went on and witness did not see any more until the horse galloped back past the engine. He ran the engine into the bank, stopped it, and went back along the road for about ten yards, when he saw the deceased lying on his face on the left of the road. He turned him over and noticed that he breathed for a minute. He then went for assistance.

Archibald James, of Teffont Evias, who was driving the engine, to which a threshing machine and an elevator were attached, said the *steerer* was on his left. He saw the deceased get out of the cart about 15 yards from the engine. They slowed up, and the last witness advised the deceased to turn back, as the pony seemed very restless. Deceased replied that there was plenty of room to pass. At that part the road was 15ft 2in wide. As the deceased passed the hind wheel of the engine witness heard him say, "Go on." They then pulled out into the road, and had only proceeded a few yards when the pony went past at a gallop. He stopped the engine and went back to the deceased. There was a third man behind.

Harry Hardimann, 11 years of age, of Sutton Row, stated that he was on the hill near the spot where the accident occurred. He did not see the accident, but saw the deceased lying on the road, the engine on the bank, and the horse galloping down the road.

Dr O. Clay, of Fovant, stated that he was called to the deceased about mid-day on Wednesday. The head was smashed and there was profuse haemorrhage. He must have been killed instantly. The injuries had the appearance of the deceased having been knocked against the elevator by the restless pony.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

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