

Inquest - Mr Thomas Selfe 1879

Fatal Accident to Farmer



On Saturday an inquest was held at Netton before Mr R A Wilson, deputy coroner, on the body of Mr Thomas Selfe, farmer, who met with his death on the previous Thursday night, under the circumstances detailed in the evidence.

Mr Reuben Smith, of Winterbourne Dauntsey, said he knew the deceased, who came to his house about five o'clock on Thursday evening, to see about a deal for some pigs. He had tea, and remained until 9 o'clock on.

He had three glasses of whiskey and water, and seemed in his usual health, and in very good spirits. On his leaving, witness lighted him over the water. He was driving a four-wheel and pony.

About 8 o'clock on Friday he was called to see the deceased, who was lying in a lane on his face, quite dead, between 300 and 400 yards from witness's house. The lane was very dark, as the hedges hung over on each side. The side boards of the four-wheel were broken, and the pony had been taken away. He believed the deceased was about 40 years of age.

Stephen Saunders, a labourer, of Winterbourne Dauntsey, said he came upon the dead body of the deceased as he was on his way home to breakfast on Friday morning. The body was quite cold. The four-wheel was lying on its side, and the pony, in the harness, was standing by its side. The wheels appeared to have gone on the bank about a couple of yards from the spot, on the side of the road coming from Winterbourne.

Dr F W Coates, of Salisbury, said he knew the deceased, but had not attended him professionally. He had examined the body and found several large and severe contusions on the left side of the forehead and face. The bones of the nose were smashed. The injuries on the face were quite sufficient to cause concussion of the brain, and probably instantaneous death - at all events complete insensibility. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

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