



Coroner's Inquests *Woodborough*

George Smith – 1840

NATURAL DEATH

Mr. Whitmarsh held an inquest on Friday at Woodborough, on the body of George Smith, eight years of age. The father of the deceased (who is a poor labourer) stated, that his boy was taken ill about five o'clock in the afternoon of the previous Saturday, and continued sick and feverish until the Tuesday morning, when he died; that he thought it was a cold, of which, by applying the usual remedies, he would get better, or he would have sent for a doctor; that having but one child he was not entitled to medical relief, without paying for it, and being very poor, he thought the expense might be saved. It was in consequence of no medical gentleman having been called in, that it was deemed necessary to hold an inquest on the body. The Jury returned a verdict of *Natural Death*; and expressed their regret that the father had not resorted to medical advice.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 11 June 1840

OPC NOTE: George Smith was the son of John and Sarah Smith, baptised at Woodborough on 17th July 1831. George was an only child, with no further children being recorded on the 1841 census.