

## Inquest - Lady Grant 1909

### Collision with Cyclist



We regret to announce the death of Lady Grant, of Sedgehill Manor, which took place on Wednesday week, as the result of injuries she received through being knocked down by a cyclist at Semley Hollow on Tuesday. Sir Victor Horsley was called in on Wednesday and at first took a hopeful view but the deceased gradually sank and passed away about 12 o'clock.

Lady Grant was the widow of Sir Charles Grant, KCSI, who was formerly foreign secretary to the Government of India. She was a sister of the fourth Earl of Malmesbury, and had resided at Sedgehill Manor for the last few years and was much esteemed by the residents of the district. An inquest was held on Friday by the County Coroner (Mr R A Wilson) at Sedgehill Manor, Mr W R Shaw-Stewart being chosen foreman of the jury. Captain Robert Grant of the Rifle Brigade stepson of the deceased, identified the body and stated that she was 54 years of age.

Arthur Hale, of Semley, grocer's assistant, said that on Tuesday afternoon, about four o'clock, he was cycling from Bowmarsh Common towards Gillingham, and when riding down Semley Hollow he saw a lady in the middle of the road in front of him. He rang his bell, rather loudly, as the lady did not seem to hear.

When about ten yards from her, she appeared to hear it, and moved to the side of the road where he ought to have passed. Then she went across the road to the other side, just as he got close to her. He put on both his brakes and stopped short, but he knocked against her shoulder and she swerved round and fell backwards. He was free-wheeling at the time and was travelling about six or seven miles an hour.

Hanley Johnson, of Baxley Farm, Cann, Shaftesbury, a farm hand, said that when walking from Semley to Shaftesbury he saw a lady in the road about 50 yards distant. He noticed a cyclist in front of him and heard a bell ring. He saw the lady start to cross the road, but he did not notice anything until he heard a crash and saw the lady lying on the ground.

William Farris, engineer, of Shaftesbury, said he saw the lady who had met with an accident. She had regained consciousness, but she did not say anything about the accident; she only said that she felt ill.

Mr W J Harris, medical practitioner, said that on Tuesday afternoon he was summoned by the witness Hale, who was much agitated, and asked him to go at once to Semley Hollow to see Lady Grant, whom he had knocked over with his cycle. He went to Sedgehill Manor and found her sitting in a chair. She was collapsed and dazed. There were no external marks and he concluded that it was a case of simple concussion. He saw her again at eight o'clock and at ten o'clock.

On the latter occasion he found that a small quantity of blood had come down from her left ear, on which she had been lying, and he noticed some blood on the right side of the back of her head. He diagnosed fracture of the skull, and did what was necessary. He stayed with her on Tuesday night, and she slept well with morphia. On Wednesday he telegraphed to her relatives for a specialist and Sir Victor Horsley came down to see her.

A verdict of accidental death was returned.

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