

## Inquest - Ernest Silas Brain 1941



The south west area of Wiltshire learnt with deep regret on Tuesday of the death of Mr Ernest Silas Brain, aged 57, of Horwood Farm, Ansty, which occurred in the Salisbury Infirmary following an accident in the harvest field on his farm the previous evening.

Mr Brain had lived in Ansty all his life, his father having come to the parish nearly 60 years ago, and had been engaged in farming there the whole period. Mr Brain had taken a full share in parochial life and he personally erected the last maypole used in the May-day celebration assembly at Ansty, this being in 1937.

His activities were not confined to the parish, but covered a far wider field. He represented the parish of Ansty on the Mere and Tisbury Rural District Council and was Chairman of the Rating Committee of that Council. He was a member of the Warminster Area War Agricultural Committee and the official calf grader in Salisbury Market.

The Inquest was opened at Salisbury Infirmary by the City Coroner, Mr A M Wilson, on Tuesday morning. Stewart Edward Brain, of South Farm, Ansty, a son, told the Coroner that at 6.30pm on Monday, one of his father's employees came to him and said there had been an accident in the cornfield and his father was injured. Witness went to the cornfield and found that his father had been injured but that no-one appeared to have seen the accident. It would appear however that the horse ran away and the waggon went over his father. He communicated with Dr Du Pre, Tisbury, and his father was later removed to Salisbury Infirmary.

Dr H S Taylor Young, Hon Surgeon at the Infirmary, said deceased was quite conscious when admitted and told him that the horse got out of control and the waggon, weighing about a ton, went over him. Mr Brain's condition improved, but about midnight an emergency operation was carried out. Deceased was suffering from severe internal injuries and died whilst under the anaesthetic. The cause of death was rupture of the liver. The inquest was adjourned until yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.

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At the adjourned inquest at Salisbury on Thursday on Ernest Silas Brain, aged 57, of Horwood Farm, Ansty, whose death following injuries in the harvest field at his farm on the previous Monday was reported in our last issue, the Salisbury City Coroner, Mr A M Wilson, returned a verdict of Death by misadventure

Henry Walter Gouge, a timber feller, of New Barn Lodge, Ansty, said he was helping Mr Brain with the harvest. He was on a waggon loading and Mr Brain was leading the horse. Suddenly the horse moved forward, throwing witness over on the load. When he stood up again he saw Mr Brain on the ground behind the waggon.

George Bath, of Ansty Combe, farm labourer, employed by Mr Brain, stated he was pitching up sheaves to Gouge. Mr Brain was leading the horse. The horse was apparently frightened by the rattle of sheaves on the waggon and bolted. Mr Brain tried to stop the horse, but fell. Both front and rear wheels of the waggon went over him. Witness said he picked up Mr Brain who said "I'm done for".

At Mere and Tisbury Rural Council on Thursday, the Chairman Mr S C Hannam, said Mr Brain had been a member of the Council for 18 years and chairman of the Rating Committee for four years. He had served the Council well and was a valued member.

The funeral took place at Gillingham on Friday. Mrs Brain and daughters wish to thank all friends for their kind sympathy and floral tributes sent in their sudden and sad bereavement.

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