

Tisbury Inquests 1811 - 1947



- 1811 William Gray
An inquest, by Mr Whitmarsh, one of the coroners for this county; at Tisbury, on the body of Wm Gray, who was killed by an ash tree falling on him whilst at work.
Salisbury & Winchester Monday 08 April 1811
- 1820 John Barnes
Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest in the parish of Tisbury on Thursday last, on the body of John Barnes, who was found dead in Wardour Woods, the preceding day, with his throat cut, and a razor lying by his side. It was proved that he had been for some time past disordered in his mind, and that some years ago he was confined in a house established for the reception of the insane. The unfortunate man had seen better days; he however held a comfortable situation as a gardener at Wardour and, when found, he had a 1/. note and several shillings in his pocket. The jury returned a verdict "that the deceased, not being of sound mind, memory, or understanding, but lunatic and distracted, did kill himself".
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 10 July 1820
- Elias Cuff
Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest on Monday last, at Tisbury, on the body of Mr Elias Cuff, who was found drowned in Fonthill pond on the preceding Saturday. The deceased had been at times for some years past, subject to a deranged state of mind, which latterly increased very much and the jury returned a verdict accordingly. Mr Cuff was a man highly respected by all who knew him and he has left a widow and a large circle of relations and friends to lament his loss.
Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette Thursday 28 September 1820
- 1823 Samuel Raymond
An inquest was held by Mr R P Whitmarsh, coroner, at Tisbury, on Thursday the 18th inst. on the body of Samuel Raymond, who was found dead in his cart the preceding evening. He had been driving a cart, drawn by two horses, filled with sand; the cart was found upset against a bridge, one horse was standing, and the other lying on the ground. The deceased was found under the sand. As he had been travelling the whole of the night before, it was supposed that he fell asleep, when the wheels came in contact with the bridge, which caused it to be upset.
Verdict: accidentally killed.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 22 December 1823
- 1824 John Bricker
An inquest was held by Mr Whitmarsh, on Saturday the 21st inst. at Tisbury, on the body of John Bricker. The deceased was found dead in a wood called Cole's Alders, in the same parish. It appeared that he had got up into an ash tree to take off some dead wood, when a branch gave way, and he fell to the ground. His head coming in contact with a stump of a tree, he received a fracture on the back part of his head which occasioned his immediate death. Verdict: accidentally killed.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 01 March 1824
- Unknown Male
Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest at a few days since at Tisbury, on the body of a journeyman shoemaker, who was found in a ditch with his throat cut, and the razor by his side. The deceased had for years past been in a deranged state of mind. Verdict: lunacy.
Salisbury and Winchester Journal 14 June 1824
- Joseph Brown
Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest at Bridzor, Tisbury parish, on Wednesday the 18th instant, on the body of Joseph Brown, a labourer, who on the preceding day was digging sand in a sand-pit; the sand suddenly fell in on the deceased and killed him on the spot. The noise, occasioned by the sand falling, resembled that of thunder, and a man working in a bar a quarter of a mile from the pit heard it, and hastened to the spot. Assistance was immediately had and the poor man was dug out lifeless. Verdict: accidentally killed.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 23 August 1824
- 1825 Ann Moore
An inquest, before R P Whitmarsh Esq on Monday at Tisbury, on the body of Ann Moore who was found dead in her bed: she had been subject to fits, and the Jury returned a verdict that she has died in consequence of a fit.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal July 4 1825

- George Marshall
Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest at Chicks Grove on Wednesday last, upon the body of George Marshall, a lad about 14 years of age, who on the preceding day, whilst driving a wagon drawn by three horses, and loaded with wheat, was by some accident thrown down, when the near wheels of the wagon pressed him so heavily against a bank, as to occasion his immediate death. Verdict: accidentally killed.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal August 15 1825
- 1835 Edward Sanger
Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest on Monday last, at Tucker Mill, in the parish of Tisbury, on the body of Edward Sanger. The mother, on the previous Wednesday, had gone with the deceased, who was nearly three years old, into an adjoining cottage, and whilst she was there he went back, and in a few minutes afterwards was discovered running out into the garden with his clothes on fire. Every assistance was procured, but he died on the following Friday. Verdict: accidental Death
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 30 March 1835
- Mary Ann Blandford
Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest on the 14th, at East Tisbury, on the body of Mary Ann Blandford, a respectable young woman. George Blandford, her brother, deposed that on the previous Saturday morning he saw her a little after six o'clock, when she appeared well and in good spirits and that in less than half an hour afterwards, on his going in doors, he saw his sister on the window seat, quite dead. She appeared to have been working with her needle, and from the position in which she was found her death must have been instantaneous. Verdict: visitation of God
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 21 September 1835
- 1836 Alfred Osborne
On Monday, at Tisbury, on the body of Alfred Osborne, four years of age, who was burnt to death in consequence of his clothes catching fire, during the careless absence of his mother. Verdict: accidental death.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 24 October 1836
- 1839 George Beling
An inquest was taken before Mr Whitmarsh on Thursday last, at Tisbury, on the body of George Beling, 30 years of age. It appeared that deceased had been addicted to drinking, and had, within the last few days, expressed the impious wish, with an oath "that he might die drunk, like Turner", who, a week before, had died at Ansty under similar circumstances. On Tuesday evening last, deceased was drinking in a tap room at Tisbury, when he became so intoxicated that he was placed behind the settle, where shortly after he breathed his last. Verdict: died from the effects of intoxication.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 18 February 1839
- 1840 James Croome
Mr Whitmarsh held an inquest at East Tisbury on the body of James Croome. Deceased left the Compass Inn, in Tisbury, between nine and ten o'clock in the evening, but on his road home, he missed his way and fell into the river and was drowned.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 19 October 1840
- 1842 James Snook
At East Tisbury, by Mr Sylvester, on the 11th inst. on the body of James Snook, aged 14 months, who being placed in a chair opposite the fire (in the absence of its mother for a few minutes), its clothes became ignited, the effects of which caused death the following day. Verdict: accidental death
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Monday 18 April 1842
- 1844 Benjamin Harris
An inquest was held at East Tisbury, on the body of a boy 11 years of age named Benjamin Harris, in the employ of Mr Bracher. He was driving a team attached to a waggon and is supposed to have fallen from stepping into a rut, as one or both wheels had passed over his neck. Verdict: accidentally killed
Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 22 August 1844
- 1846 Charles Bealing
By Mr George Sylvester, at Swainsford Farm, in the parish of Mere, on Chas Bealing aged 14 years. The deceased had the care of a wagon and team laden with slate. He was walking on the off side when Mr Marsh, of Tisbury, was passing on horseback. In the hurry to make way, the deceased slipped down and both wheels passed over his body, injuring the vertebrae and spinal marrow of the back. He expired in a few minutes. Verdict: accidental death
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 03 January 1846
- 1847 Frederick Fray
An inquest was held by Mr Wilson on Saturday last, at Tisbury, on the body of Frederick Fray, a child of 15 months old, who drank boiling water out of a saucer, which had been accidentally left in his way, and died the next morning from the effects thereof. Verdict: accidental death
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 17 April 1847
- 1859 Joseph Burton
An inquest was held by Mr Wilson, at Tisbury, on the 14th instant on the body of Joseph Burton, a small farmer, of East Tisbury, who was found dead in bed on Sunday morning. The evidence was to the effect that deceased was quite well when he went to bed on Saturday evening, but on his son calling him to get up on Sunday morning, he received no answer, he then immediately went up to his father's bedroom and found him dead and expressed his opinion that death was occasioned by the giving way of some large vessel near the heart. Verdict: visitation of God
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 17 December 1859

- 1866 **Baby Targett**
 On Tuesday week an inquest at West Tisbury was held before Mr R M Wilson, borough coroner, on view of the body of an infant not quite two years old, the son of Mr Henry Targett, tailor, of Southampton. On Saturday, it appeared, a pan of boiling water was left on the pantry floor and the child getting into it, was severely scalded, from the effects of which it died on Monday. Verdict: accidentally scalded.
 Western Gazette Friday 16 February 1866
- William Yeates**
 On Friday, the 9th inst., an old man, named William Yeates, living with his son, John Yeates, at East Tisbury, met with an accident which unfortunately proved fatal. The deceased, it appeared, was sitting in a chair by the kitchen fire, and it is supposed that during a fainting fit he fell against the fire place. His daughter in law was away from the kitchen at the time but on her return, after the laps of a few minutes, the old man was lifted up, and every effort was made to restore him but in vain, for he expired shortly afterwards.
- On the inquest it appeared that he had received a wound on the forehead, and one of his legs and hands were much burnt, injuries which the medical man who was subsequently called in, was of opinion had caused death. An inquest was held on view of the body before Mr Wilson, coroner, when the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.
 Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 17 March 1866
- Martha Wyer**
 On Thursday, the 7th inst., an inquest was held before R M Wilson Esq, coroner, and a highly respectable jury, on the body of Martha Wyer, aged 50 years, the wife of George Wyer, a dairy farmer of this parish. It having been reported that Mrs Wyer had received ill-treatment, the coroner ordered a post mortem examination, which was made by Mr Cardell, deputy coroner, and R V Zinzan Esq, surgeon, who found external bruises, but nothing internal to cause death. The jury returned a verdict of "died of diseased heart and lungs".
- Mr Wyer was present during the enquiry and the coroner remarked to him that he did not believe his servant girl, who had given her evidence in a very reluctant manner, had spoken the truth and the whole truth, which she had been sworn to do.
 Western Gazette Friday 15 June 1866
- 1867 **Samuel Furnell**
 An inquest was held by Mr R M Wilson at the Tisbury Union Workhouse on the 7th instant, on the body of Samuel Furnell, aged 55 years, a marine store dealer at Tisbury, who was found drowned in the river Nadder, near Pyt House Park.
- Mr Harding, of Semley, innkeeper, stated that deceased was at his house on Tuesday till three o'clock and he then went away, but returned again about half past four and stayed till after seven, when he left, driving his own horse and cart. The next morning, the horse and cart were found in the water at Bulridge, about a mile from Mr Harding's residence, the horse being dead and, on dragging the water, the body of the deceased was found. He was quite dead and had apparently been in the water several hours. It was a dark and stormy night, and the deceased must have turned off the road thinking he had come to the bridge, when in fact he was a short distance from it, as was evident by the tracks of the wheels. Verdict: accidental death
 Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 09 February 1867
- 1868 **Joseph Lush**
 On Saturday Mr R M Wilson, coroner, held an inquest on the body of Mr Joseph Lush, aged 76 years, a retired farmer, who resided at this place. The deceased, who had on Friday returned by train from Gillingham, was walking towards his home, when he fell by the side of the road, and died before medical assistance could be procured. Mr Ellis, assistant to Mr Green, surgeon of Tisbury, saw him about five minutes afterwards and was of opinion that death resulted from disease of the heard. Verdict accordingly.
 Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 29 August 1868
- 1869 **Ann Best**
 An inquest was held by Mr R M Wilson, coroner, on Friday, on the body of Ann Best, aged 18 years. The deceased was employed on the 23rd ult at Pythouse Farm, untying wheat sheaves to supply a steam thrashing machine. As she was turning round she caught hold of a hurdle, which gave way, and her left foot slipped and was drawn into the machine. Charles Ball, who was feeding the machine, caught hold of her under her arms and prevented her being drawn further in. The strap came off and the machine stopped and she was immediately disengaged from it and taken home.
- Mr J L Green, surgeon, was sent for, who found that she had sustained a compound fracture of the leg of the worst description. Mr Ensor, another surgeon, was also present and it was considered that amputation of the thigh was the only possible chance of saving her life. The operation was performed but the poor girl survived it only about two hours. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.
 Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 01 May 1869
- Jonas Barnes**
 An inquest was held at the Tisbury Union Workhouse before Mr Wilson, coroner, on Saturday last, on the body of Jonas Barnes, an inmate of that institution. It appears that on the previous Thursday, about five o'clock, the deceased, who was in the day room, sat down by the side of some other inmates, and laid his head on the shoulder of William Davis, and immediately died. About two o'clock in the afternoon he had complained of a pain in his head and giddiness and Mr Green, the surgeon, stated that about eighteen months ago deceased had had a serious attack with apoplectic symptoms and he attributed his death to that cause. Verdict accordingly.
 Salisbury and Winchester Journal Saturday 23 October 1869

- 1871 Tom Maidment
An inquest was held by Mr R M Wilson, on Wednesday, touching the death of Tom Maidment, aged 16 years, son of Arthur Maidment of that place. The deceased worked at Linley Mill and on Tuesday morning last, was engaged as usual greasing the wheels, when by some means he became entangled and received such bruises as resulted in his death about 40 minutes afterwards. A verdict of accidental death was returned.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 08 July 1871
- 1872 Charles Cox Hills
An inquest was held here, before Mr R M Wilson, coroner, on Saturday, on the body of Charles Cox Hills, aged 46 years, a labourer employed on Mr Lily's stone quarry.

From the evidence it appeared that deceased was engaged in wheeling a barrow across a plank, when from some unknown cause, a long pole which was attached to a crane in the quarry, fell upon the barrow he was wheeling, which knocked him off the plank and he fell a distance of about three feet. He died in a few minutes. He had sustained a fracture of the skull above the left eye, either from being struck by the pole, or from having fallen on a stone. Verdict: accidental death.
Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 01 June 1872
- 1873 John Viney
An inquest was held on Monday by Mr R A Wilson, deputy coroner, at West Hatch, in this parish, on the body of John Viney, game keeper to Mr Bennett Stanford, who died suddenly on Saturday morning last. It appeared from the evidence the deceased complained of giddiness to his wife while getting up in the morning. He left home a little before six o'clock to attend to his duties, but had not proceeded far when he suddenly fell to the ground and died almost immediately. Mr Ensor, of Tisbury, attributed his death to apoplexy. Verdict accordingly.
Western Gazette Friday 07 March 1873
- 1874 Jane Mixon (*Moxham?*)
An inquest was held on Wednesday before the coroner, Mr Wilson, on the body of a woman named Jane Mixom who met her death from poisoning by drinking carbolic acid on Monday evening.

It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was employed on an errand by the relatives of an old inhabitant (Mr George Woods), who had died during the afternoon, and on her return took a bottle which contained carbolic acid used for disinfecting purposes, and, supposing it to be brandy, poured some into a glass and drank it.

J A Ensor, Esq, surgeon, was immediately in attendance, but his efforts were unavailing as she died six hours after taking the poison. The bottle was properly labelled and placed on one side but the unfortunate women could neither read nor write. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death from drinking carbolic acid in mistake for brandy.
Western Gazette Friday 13 March 1874
- 1875 Minnie Mullinder
An inquest was held on Monday, at Pythouse, before Mr R M Wilson, coroner, on the body of a young woman named Minnie Mullinder. Deceased, who was in the service of V F Bennett-Stanford Esq MP, died on Saturday morning after a very short illness. Mr Young, of Hindon, made a post mortem examination, when it was found that deceased had died from perforation of the stomach. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.
Western Gazette Friday 16 April 1875
- 1881 John Scott
On Tuesday, an inquest was held before Mr R M Wilson, coroner, touching the death of John Scott. Deceased (who had been subject to epileptic fits) was employed by Mr King of Wickwood Farm. On Monday the 9th inst, he was working in the field with two horses, harrowing. He was seen by his master about 10 o'clock at work, and a few minutes after he was seized with a fit and fell on his face, with his neck resting on the first bar of the harrow and his head dropped between it and the next bar.

A woman named Jane Burden, who was in the adjoining field weeding, ran to him and unfastened his shirt collar. He had received a blow on his nose and was apparently dead. Assistance was immediately summoned and Mr R Lindsay was quickly in attendance. He pronounced the man to be quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of death from epilepsy.
Western Gazette Friday 13 May 1881
- 1882 Walter Lever
During a recent gale, an ash tree, growing near the Old Castle at Wardour, was partly blown down, falling across the road into the head of an oak tree. On Monday last, four woodmen working on the estate were sent to remove it. Their names were Joseph Lever, his two sons Walter and Alban, and Thomas Lever.

They cut it off above the roots, but failed to dislodge it. They then commenced to throw the oak and when about half through the butt, the ash became disentangled and fell on three of the men, literally smashing Walter, whose neck was found to be dislocated, his back and both legs broken, and the body otherwise severely bruised.

Joseph was so much injured that he lies in a precarious condition and Thomas was slightly injured. An inquest was held on the body of Walter, by Mr R M Wilson, on Wednesday, and a verdict of accidental death was returned. The poor fellow has left a wife and three children.
Western Gazette Friday 06 October 1882

- 1886 Herbert George Blore
On Monday morning an inquest was held by Mr R A Wilson (county coroner), at Chicksgrove, in the parish of East Tisbury, on the body of Herbert George Blore, a child aged one year and nine months, who was knocked down on the railway by a goods train on Saturday morning and literally severed in two pieces. It appeared that the child strayed on to the metals and was run over before the engine driver could stop the train. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.
Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 23 September 1886
- 1889 John Trott 1889
On May 30th, a fatal accident occurred to a gate-man named John Trott, in the employ of the L & S W Railway Company at West Hatch, Tisbury.

Deceased, who was forty-five years of age, and married, but childless, was supposed to be attending to his signals shortly before five o'clock, when the train due at Tisbury at 4.46 came up the line.

At this spot the line is very open, and the train could have been seen approaching for quite a mile. Trott appears to have observed the train, for he crossed the up line, and no doubt, thought himself safe, but the corner of the engine, "buffer beam", came in contact with his head, and smashed it, death being instantaneous.

On Saturday morning, June 1st, Mr R A Wilson, coroner for the district, held an inquest into the circumstances attending the unfortunate man's death.

The jury comprised Messrs W Toms, W Everett, H J Lever, W Burridge, W White, Alfred King, Henry Scott, E Osmond, W Woods, Henry Hansford, Thos Wilkins, G Ford and Charles Read. Mr Burridge was chosen foreman of the jury.

Mr William Hill, station master at Tisbury, said on the arrival of the 4.46 train from Exeter, the driver came to his office and informed him that the engine had knocked down the gate-man at Tisbury gates near the distant signal. At once he went to the spot and found deceased lying on the embankment on the up side. His head was partly knocked off and he was quite dead.

Deceased, who had been at the gate for fourteen years, under witness's supervision, was a very quiet man.

James Parsons, engine driver, of Exeter, said he was in charge of the 2.15 train from Exeter. It was five minutes late at Tisbury.

About half way between the gates and the distant signal witness, he saw deceased take up a lamp from the "six foot way" and cross over the up line; then lost sight of him. He went to his mate's side and saw that the engine was close upon him. Opened the whistle immediately, but it was too late, the train knocking him down. Should imagine deceased was lighting the signals for the night and no doubt thought he was clear of the line.

Deceased's wife was standing at the gates with a white flag as the engine passed. The jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.
Western Gazette Friday 07 June 1889
- 1891 John King
An inquest was held at the Arundell Arms Hotel on Wednesday afternoon, before Mr Coroner Wilson, and a jury of which Mr Hill was foreman, touching the death of John King, of Tucking Mill, aged sixty-three years of age, whose body was found in the River Nadder, near the railway station, on the day previous by Ernest Cuff, son of Mr James Cuff, proprietor of the Arundell Arms.

Deceased had been to Chicksgrove club on Monday, and on returning about nine o'clock at night, had turned into the fields, through which a footpath runs terminating near the railway station. The night was dark, and it is conjectured that the old man must have gone out of the path and stumbled into the river, which skirts the field. There were traces on the bank of deceased having endeavoured to save himself, but he was overcome by the force of the water and carried some yards down the stream. On the body being found, information was conveyed to the police and PC Newman proceeded to the river and the body was removed.

Giving evidence before the Coroner, Newman stated that when the body was taken from the water, deceased's hat, in which was a club rosette, was still on his head. His pockets contained 5½d in coppers. William Baker, of Tisbury, secretary of the Compass club, of which deceased was a member, stated that King left Chicksgrove shortly before nine o'clock, and was then in a sober condition.

Edward King, deceased's son, gave evidence of identification and Dr Ensor stated that the body must have been in the water several hours. Death was due to drowning. The jury returned a verdict of Accidentally Drowned and gave their fees to deceased's family.
Western Gazette Friday 08 May 1891
- 1892 James Mullings
An inquest, touching the death of James Mullings, quarryman, of Tucking Mill, was held at Mr R Fray's house, Tucking Mill, on Saturday, before Mr R A Wilson and a jury, of which Mr T Wilkins was foreman. Harry King, labourer, Tisbury, said that on Thursday, February 4th, he was working at the crane at Mr H J Lever's quarry. The deceased had been putting stone on the crane, and was about six feet away from it.

Witness went to the edge and said, "Oh, dear! There's poor Jimmy Mullings in the hole". He had seen deceased falling forwards. The depth of the hole would be about eighteen feet, but the place where deceased first struck himself in his fall would be about six feet. Witness said there was no-one else working in the quarry. He called the other men and they went down as quickly as possible, and found deceased could not speak. Deceased had been accustomed to work there, and at the time of the fall he was working by himself. Harry Mullings, labourer, said deceased was his father, and was 55 years of age.

Witness was working at the crane with the last witness. His father was behind, boring stone and heaving waste in the quarry. He was close to the edge of the quarry. Witness did not see him fall, as he had his back to him. Witness thought deceased had been heaving a heavy stone over the edge with his bar, and, the bar slipping, he had lost his balance. He (deceased) had always been accustomed to work in quarries. Mr J A Ensor, MRCS, said he was called at about 5.30 on Thursday, Feb 4th, to see deceased at his house. He found him unconscious, suffering from concussion of the brain, apparently the effect of a fall on his head. He never recovered consciousness, and died about five o'clock the next morning. A verdict of Accident Death was returned. The jury gave their fees to the widow. Western Gazette Friday 12 February 1892

1894 Frank Grove

Mr Wilson, County Coroner, held an inquest at the Boot Inn on Saturday morning, to enquire into the cause of death of Frank Grove, a brewer's dairyman of the Quarry, Tisbury, who was found in bed on Friday morning last. The jurymen were Messrs Randall (foreman), Geo E Lush, James Jones, T Northover, W Everett, Henry Ford, Charles Ford, B Ball, H Abbott, Samuel Hibberd, James Smart and Powell.

W Scott, labourer, said that deceased had lodged with him for about 18 months, was a carter to Messrs Styring, a single man, and aged about 33 so far as he could judge. He was a native of Wylve and had no relatives in Tisbury. Witness said that deceased came home about 8.45 on Thursday evening from Salisbury. He complained of a rising in the chest and throat which nearly choked him, and only took a sip of hot tea, which he immediately vomited. He went to bed at about 9.15, and witness never saw him alive after that hour, nor did he hear anything of him in the night, but his wife heard a noise in the night and called out to him, asking how he was, to which he replied, "sometimes better, sometimes worse." Witness called him in the morning soon after six, but received no reply. After having called three times he entered the room, and found the man lying on his back dead, with the clothes undisturbed. He immediately went for Dr Ensor.

Frank Ball, labourer, of Tucking Mill, saw Grove at Ham Cross, about three miles from Tisbury, on Thursday evening about 5.45. He was driving his dray home, and witness asked him for a ride, and rode with him into Tisbury. He complained of pains in his chest, and asked witness to assist him with his work, which he did.

John Arthur Ensor, MRCS, said that he attended the deceased twice, once for an accident, and once for influenza, for the latter in the spring of the present year. He was called at 6.20 on Friday morning, and immediately went to see the deceased, whom he found dead. The face was cold but the body warm, and the man had in all probability been dead two or three hours. He apparently died in his sleep as the bed clothes were not disarranged and the cause of death was, no doubt, sudden heart spasm. The jury returned a verdict of death by the Visitation of God. The jury's fees were given to Mrs Scott, wife of the first witness. Salisbury & Winchester Journal October 26 1894

1897 Baby Fry

The District Coroner (Mr R A Wilson) held an inquest concerning the death of the newly born female child of Ellen Fry, the wife of Thomas William Fry, a shepherd, of Tisbury, on Wednesday afternoon. Mr W W Kendall was chosen foreman of the jury.

Emily Swain, mother of Ellen Fry, deposed that the husband of her daughter, Thomas William Fry, came to her home at Winterborne Stoke on Monday and asked her to come and look after her daughter who was ill. She returned to Tisbury with him, and on her arrival at his house found a child had been born about two hours previously. She found mother and child both on the floor, the child being quite dead. Thomas William Fry deposed that at the wish of his wife, he went to fetch his mother-in-law, and corroborated the evidence of the last witness.

Mr J A Ensor, surgeon, of Tisbury, stated that on examination of the infant he found no marks of violence. The child was not a strong one and not having proper attention at birth, no doubt soon died naturally. A verdict in accordance with the medical testimony was returned. Western Gazette Friday 12 March 1897

1900 Sarah Furnell

Sarah Furnell, an unmarried woman, aged 68 living at Tuckingmill, died suddenly on Monday evening and an inquest was held on Tuesday evening before Mr G M Wilson and a jury, of whom Mr J Wastfield was foreman. Mrs W Fray, cousin of the deceased, stated that deceased lived alone and had been ill for some time, complaining of pains in her left side and arm.

Elizabeth Best, widow, stated that she lived next door to deceased. On Monday evening she heard a disturbance in the next house and on going in, found deceased lying across the floor of the downstairs room on her side. A chair was turned over as if she had fallen out of it. Witness lifted her up, and bathed her face with water, but she only breathed once. Witness then sent for the doctor, who came soon after.

Dr C A Ensor said he was called and went to the house of deceased. He found her lying on her side on the floor quite dead. He had not attended her himself but his father, who was too ill to attend the inquest, had attended her some months ago. Witness was of the opinion that the deceased died from heart disease. A verdict in accordance with the medical evidence was returned.

Western Gazette Friday 17 August 1900

1909 Sydney Smith

A sad story was related before the County Coroner (Mr R A Wilson) and a jury last Thursday, at an inquest on the body of a young labourer named Sidney Smith, who was drowned the preceding day when attempting to cross a bridge. The river was swollen and in some places the roads were flooded.

Edward Hodge, a signalman, employed by the London and South Western Railway Company, residing at Tisbury Gates, said he knew the deceased, Sidney Smith, who was 21 years of age and had been employed by Mr Tom Genge at Pyt House Farm for 14 months.

On Wednesday morning at about 7.15 deceased was returning from Tisbury in the milk cart. Witness had to get his milk from the farm, and as the fields and path were flooded with water, deceased said he would take him across and bring him back. He accordingly got into the cart.

As they were going over a small bridge the horse plunged into the water, and the deceased jumped onto the left shaft of the cart and into the water. Witness was washed out of the cart into the water. He caught hold of the barbed wire and worked himself along to the bank. He did not see the deceased. The horse and cart remained in the water, the horse plunging for some time before it was drowned. Deceased had passed over the bridge on his way to Tisbury three-quarters of an hour previously.

P S Perrett, stationed at Tisbury, stated that on going to the spot he found the cart entirely submerged. The horse, which was on slightly higher ground, was almost covered.

Witness and others searched for the body of deceased, but were unable to recover it until six o'clock in the evening. The water at the spot where the body was found was 14 feet deep, there being a deep ditch close to the wire fence. The water went back during the day, but the whole of the meadow and the approaches to the bridge were under flood until the evening. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned.

Salisbury & Winchester Journal Friday 31 December 1909

1910 George Ball

The newly appointed Coroner for South Wilts, Mr W J Trethowan, of Salisbury, held his first inquest at the Arundell Arms, Tisbury, on Saturday, on a young labourer named George Ball, whose body was found on the railway.

Albert Ernest Ball, a labourer, living at Hindon Lane, Tisbury, said that the deceased was his brother, and was 29 years of age. He was married, and had a wife and four children.

Arthur D Cox, of Hatch, a porter on the L & SWR, stationed at Tisbury, said that at about 6.40 that morning, on his way to the station, he passed under Wick Bridge, and saw deceased lying by the pathway on the up road, face downwards, with his legs in the pathway. He appeared to have been struck by an up train. He was dead, and the back of his head was smashed, his brains being three or four yards away. The deceased had no right on the line.

PS Light, stationed at Tisbury, said since the previous Tuesday he had making enquiries about deceased with reference to a theft of potatoes. Deceased knew he was making the enquiries, as he had spoken to him on the Wednesday and told him what he was likely to be charged. He denied the theft. That morning he saw the body lying as described, and, from its position, he thought the deceased must have placed himself there on purpose. His hands were clenched.

Dr C A Ensor, of Tisbury, said he found a large gaping wound at the back of the skull, which was smashed. The nose was also broken. The injuries might have been caused by the wheel of a railway train striking the skull. Judging from the injury to the nose, he should say that the deceased was lying on his face when he received the blow. He should say that death was instantaneous, and had occurred some hours, the body being quite cold when found. The cause of death was fracture of the skull and laceration of the brain.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide, and added that there was no evidence to show the state of his mind. They expressed their sympathy with the widow, and gave their fees to her.

Western Gazette Friday 25 November 1910

1917 Thomas Edward Ford

The Coroner for South Wilts, Mr F H Trethowan, held an inquest on Thursday in last week in connection with the death of Thomas Edward Ford, aged 61, cabinet maker, of Hindon Road, Tisbury.

Sarah M E Winter, of Hindon, the daughter, said her father about a week before was in fair health and spirits. He was going to be married and the family were looking forward to the alliance.

Sarah Jane Snook, of Mount Pleasant, Tuckingmill, Tisbury, said she saw Mr Ford on Tuesday, April 3rd, when they made final arrangements for their wedding. She was to meet him next morning on Tisbury station at 9 o'clock and proceed to Salisbury, where they were to be married by license. She went to the station but did not see him and proceeded to his house. Finding the door locked she got in at the window, but could not see him in the house, but found him hanging in his workshop from a pipe in the roof. He was quite dead.

Everett Whatling gave corroborative evidence. Dr Baber said that death was due to strangulation, evidently caused by hanging. The jury returned a verdict of Suicide while of unsound mind.
Western Gazette Friday 13 April 1917

1918 John Scammel

A visitor to Tisbury named John Scammel committed suicide on Thursday in last week by throwing himself in front of an approaching railway train. It appeared from the evidence that he had been suffering from a nervous breakdown brought on by business worry and a personal bereavement. The facts came before the Coroner for South Wilts, Mr F H Trethowan, at an inquest held on Friday.

Edwin John Perrett, farmer, of Poldens Farm, West Tisbury, gave evidence of identification. He said that John Scammel was his brother-in-law, and was 54 years of age. He had just sold his grocer's business and lived in Portsmouth.

Three months ago he came to stay with witness for the benefit of his health as he had had a nervous breakdown and suffered from sleeplessness. He subsequently went away, but came again on Wednesday, August 14th, and did not seem to be as well as on his first visit. He was very strange at times, and often went near the railway line which ran close to the house.

About two months ago his son died and he never seemed to get over it. He had no financial worries, but his business had worried him owing to the controlled prices and the coupons, etc.

George Henry Harris, of Exeter, an engine driver on the L & SWR, stated that on August 15th he was driving a train from Exeter to Salisbury. As it approached Polden's Farm at 11.50am he saw a man moving from the top of the embankment towards the line. The engine was then about 30 yards away. Witness sounded the whistle, and then saw the man, when he got to the bottom of the bank, jump towards the engine. At first he did not think he meant to get in front of the train, but after the whistle had sounded it was quite obvious that he was trying to do so. He pulled up as quickly as possible and informed the guard.

Albert Bennett, a signal and telegraph inspector, living at 55, Wilton Road, Salisbury, said he was travelling on the train and heard the whistle sounded near Poldens Farm. When the train pulled up he and William Baggs went back along the line and found the body. One foot and one arm were cut off, as well as the top of the skull.

William Baggs, a foreman platelayer, of Railway Cottages, Salisbury, corroborated Mr Bennett's evidence.

Dr H A Baber, of Tisbury, deposed that he attended Mr Scammel three months ago for a nervous breakdown, great depression of spirits and sleeplessness. His health improved, but his mind was somewhat unhinged. He had seen the body and found that the injuries to the skull were sufficient to cause death. A verdict of "Suicide whilst of unsound mind" was returned.

Western Gazette 23 August 1918

1925 Unknown Male

Arthur Fred Baker, Duck-street, Tisbury, farmer, said about 2.45pm on the previous Monday, while he was near the River Nadder, in Mr Maidment's field at East Tisbury, he saw a man's body floating on the water. He at once notified the police. When he first saw the body it was motionless, the man being apparently dead. PC Hurd (Tisbury), who recovered the body, said it was in five or six feet of water, floating face downwards. The reason the body did not sink was that the deceased's crutch and stick were inside his belt. There were no marks of a struggle on the bank or signs of violence on the body. The coroner recorded a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity.

Western Gazette Friday 26 June 1925

1934 Joyce Adelina Freemantle

A post-mortem examination by the Wilts County Pathologist was ordered by the Coroner to ascertain the cause of the death of Joyce Adelina Freemantle, aged 17, a Chicksgrove girl, who had been employed in domestic service at Poles Farm-house, Swallowcliffe.

She was found dead on the floor of her bedroom on Saturday at 6.45 a.m., fully dressed for her morning work, with her candle still alight. There was been no sign of any exterior injury, and there had been no sound of a fall. An inquest was held on Monday by Mr A L Forrester, county coroner.

Mrs Ada Freemantle, of Quarry Gate Farm, Chicksgrove, stated that her daughter contracted diphtheria just before leaving school and had measles twelve months ago. In September, 1933, she entered the service of Mrs Hinxman, Poles Farm, Swallowcliffe. Of late she appeared to become rather fat and flabby.

Rosina Hinxman, Poles Farm, Swallowcliffe, said Joyce seemed quite normal and was never ill. On Saturday witness heard a noise of heavy breathing, which she thought was from one of her children. Her husband went to the children, and on his return said that the servant had a light in her bedroom.

Witness peeped into Joyce's room and saw the girl lying on the floor on her back. She was fully dressed. There was nothing to account for her being in a prone position and there had been no sound of a fall. The girl was in the habit of taking pills, but she had never complained of feeling ill. Dr R C C Clay, of Fovant, who was called to the farm-house, said he could find no cause to account for the girl's death.

Dr L H D Thornton, Wilts county pathologist, said he carried out a post-mortem examination at Salisbury Infirmary. There were no evidences of disease of sufficient severity to cause sudden death in a normal person.

There were evidences, however, that the girl was not normal. The spleen was nearly three times the normal size and the tonsils were considerably enlarged. Examination of the blood showed a considerable degree of anaemia and also the condition which was commonly found in persons with large lymphatic glands. The lungs were congested and watery.

Such a person was very liable to sudden death through shock, and often comparatively trivial shock. There was nothing in his findings to suggest the nature of the shock. The girl might have fallen and fainted and, instead of coming round, as a normal person would, she died. The pills she had taken were harmless and were taken for anaemia.

The Coroner said the inquest was held because no-one could say what the cause of death was. In such cases one always had to regard the persons living in the house. There was nothing untoward either in what the girl had done or taken, and he would return a verdict that she died from shock. There was nothing to show what gave rise to it, but there was evidence that the girl was abnormally sensitive to shock.
Western Gazette Friday 09 February 1934

1943

Mary Ann Moxham

Salisbury City Coroner, Mr A M Wilson, held an inquest at Salisbury Guildhall on Friday concerning the death of Miss Mary Ann Moxham, aged 77, of 61 Hatch, West Tisbury, who died in Salisbury Infirmary the previous day from injuries received when she collided with a 'bus at Tisbury on the previous Saturday.

Edward John Francis, of 61 Hatch, West Tisbury, a farm carter, said the deceased was his aunt and lived with him. She was very active, wore glasses and was rather deaf, but was in the habit of going alone to Tisbury to shop.

Dr W O Spence, resident medical officer at Salisbury Infirmary, said deceased was unconscious when admitted and had extensive head injuries. She died on Thursday from cerebral damage as the result of skull injuries.

Mrs Lily May Pearce, of Lake, a passenger on the 'bus which left Salisbury at 9am, said that just as the 'bus approached Three Arch Bridge, the deceased was walking on the pavement on the left side of the 'bus. She left the pavement and walked across the road in front of the 'bus which was slowing up to go under the bridge. The driver of the 'bus tried to avoid deceased by swerving to the right, but was unable to do so and she was knocked down. There was no other traffic about at the time; she could not say whether deceased saw the 'bus or not.

Percy John Howell, the Dene, Hindon, driver of the 'bus, said he approached the bridge at about 20 mph. When he first saw deceased she was about 20 yards away by the footpath on his near side. She was walking towards the 'bus and appeared to be wandering slightly towards the centre of the road. He was rounding a bend on his near side; he sounded his hooter and pulled to the right to give the woman more room. When he was within about five yards of deceased, she ran straight across the road in front of the 'bus.

He braked hard and pulled still further over to the right, but she was struck by the front of the 'bus. Witness stopped in about the length of the 'bus and found deceased lying under the radiator between the front wheels.

Replying to Inspector G W Townsend, witness said he did not drag deceased along the ground.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of Accidental Death and said it was impossible for the driver and to avoid hitting deceased and there was no blame attached to him.
Western Gazette Friday 22 January 1943

1947

Sylvia Macey

Mr Harold Dale, the Salisbury City Coroner, held an inquest on Saturday at Tisbury Police Station on Sylvia Macey, aged 35, wife of William Macey, of Maypole Cottage, Tuckingmill, Tisbury, who died in Salisbury Infirmary early on Thursday from throat wounds.

The husband, William Herbert Macey, a viewer of ammunition at the RAF Depot Chilmark, gave evidence of identification and said his wife became run down and on Wednesday week she saw the doctor.

She did her housework as usual and looked after the four children and was taking medicine prescribed by the doctor. She seemed brighter and when he left home on Wednesday morning she appeared to be normal and prepared the breakfast.

He left home about 7.15am and at 8.05 had a 'phone message asking him to return to his home urgently. When he went into the house he saw his wife standing in front of the fire with a throat wound. Dr Du Pre arrived shortly after, dressed the wound and ordered her removal to Salisbury Infirmary. She said, "Oh Dad, what have I done?" She had never called witness "Dad" during the whole of their 14 years married life and he thought her mind had completely gone. there were no domestic troubles and they were very happy.

Mrs Edith Ellen Hibberd, of 68 Hatch Cottage, Tuckingmill, said she had known the deceased for a number of years and was her next door neighbour. On Wednesday morning she heard Mrs Macey's children shouting to her to come quickly. Witness and Mrs Jack went into the house and found Mrs Macey on the stairs suffering from a throat wound. Witness went for the police and doctor whilst Mrs Jack took charge of the children.

Dr William Henry Du Pre stated that deceased first came to see him on Wednesday week and he thought she was developing acute melancholia and said she thought she would be alright if she could have a good sleep. There were no suicidal tendencies. When he was called on Wednesday morning, he sent her to hospital where an operation was performed. She came through that all right and early on Thursday morning she died from asphyxia and shock.

The Coroner found that deceased committed suicide whilst suffering from melancholia.

The principal mourners were Mr W Macey (husband), Mrs A Hyde and Mrs T McCann (sisters), Mr H Macey, Mrs F Cooke, Mrs W J Macey (father in law and sisters in law), Mr A Hyde, Mr W J Macey, Mr F Cooke (brothers in law), Mr and Mrs W B urt, Mr B Bye (uncles and aunt), Mrs D Pitman (cousin). A large number of friends also attended.

Mr W Macey and family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many beautiful wreaths and flowers, also for the help and assistance shown in their great loss.
Western Gazette Friday 15 August 1947