

Inquests 1843 & 1844



At West Knoyle, on Thomas Gray, aged 42 years, and George Light, aged 25 years.

These men, with a third man, and a boy, were sent by their master, Mr Butt of Pertwood, to Mere, with a wagon laden with barley. After unloading, they took up cider tackle of the weight of about three tons.

From the evidence of the boy, who was the son of Gray, it appears they visited one or two public houses, but were not intoxicated, and on their return about five o'clock pm, they were descending a hill towards Willoughby-hedge-gate at a smart trot, the two deceased men and the boy riding in the wagon, and the third man running by the side holding by the trace, when the latter stumbled and fell, and one or both near wheels passing over him, fractured his thigh bone, and otherwise injured him.

Gray observing this man lying on the ground, attempted to get out of the wagon, but fell on his head. Light also shortly after, in getting out, fell to the ground, and both near wheels passed over his abdomen. Both expired in a few minutes.

From the evidence of Mr Rumsey, surgeon, of Mere, it appears that the cause of death in Gray was concussion of the brain, and in Light, the rupture of some of the viscera of the abdomen.

Verdict in both cases: Accidentally killed

Salisbury & Winchester Journal Saturday 11 November 1843

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March 2nd, at Pertwood, in the parish of Brixton Deverill, on the body of William Hibberd, aged 53 years.

The deceased was in the employ of Mr Jukes of Tisbury, and had proceeded from that place to Warminster, with a load of barley; on his return he entrusted the team to a boy who accompanied him, whilst he rode in the waggon.

In passing down the hill near Pertwood Farm, the horses became unmanageable and went off at a rapid pace. The deceased in getting out of the waggon fell down, the hind wheel passed over him, fractured several of his ribs, and forced the broken ends of the substance of the lungs, from which he died in the course of one hour. Verdict: Accidentally killed.

Devizes & Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 07 March 1844