



Boy Drowned Whilst Bathing

On Wednesday evening last as some boys were bathing in the River Avon, one of them named Lewellen Lewis, about 11 years of age, just out of his depth and was drowned in ten feet of water, one of his companions named Peel, nobly exerted himself to the utmost of his power to rescue him, and had a narrow escape of being drowned also. The body was not recovered till early next morning, when after great exertion, Mr. Eli Linsey, of Staverton, succeeded with the use of grappling irons in getting it out. An inquest was held on the body, on Thursday evening, before G. M. Sylvester, Esq., Deputy Coroner, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned". Great praise is due to Peel for his exertions to save the deceased.

Trowbridge and North Wilts Advertiser, 18 July 1863

To the Editor of the Trowbridge Advertiser

Sir:- The facts of the case respecting my poor boy are not entirely known, but they ought to be. Young Peel enticed him to get on his back for him to take him to the other side of the river; he took him farther than his strength would allow, not being a good swimmer himself. He attempted to return, but got confused, and let the deceased slip from his back, and finding his own strength failing left the poor boy to sink. He did hold out some little assistance to save him when it was too late, being hardly able to save himself. The insertion of this will oblige.

Yours obediently
John Lewis

Holt, Aug. 5, 1863

Trowbridge and North Wilts Advertiser, 8 August 1863

OPC Notes:-

Lewellen Lewis was one of five children (at 1863) of John and Harriet Lewis. His father was a cloth weaver and the family probably lived on Ham Green.