



CORONERS INQUESTS



Homington

Inquest into the death of Henry Farris, 1882

Homington. Fatal Accident.

A gun accident, which resulted in the death of one child and the serious injury of another, occurred here on Saturday. It appears that a lad named Henry Farris, who was spending a short holiday with his uncle, Mr John Farris, was requested by his cousin to accompany him to the house for the purpose of procuring a gun which his father had directed him to bring. He acceded to the request, and the boys were returning to the spot where Mr. Farris was standing, when the lad who was carrying the gun slipped, and in falling to the ground the gun exploded, and the charge entered his cousin's body, and also injured Mr. Farris's daughter. The unfortunate lad was taken into the house and medical assistance sent for, but before Mr. Wilkes arrived the lad died.

The County Coroner (Mr. R. M. Wilson) held inquest the body on Monday, when Mr. Farris gave evidence bearing out the above statement, and added that himself tried to discharge the gun which was a double-barrelled one on the Friday night, but could not do so as it had a percussion lock. He took the deceased into the house after the accident, and noticed that he was shot in the side. The lad died about minutes after the accident.

Mrs. Farris gave corroborative evidence and said deceased never spoke after he was brought into the house.

Mr. W. D. Wilkes, surgeon, of Salisbury, said when he arrived Mr. Farris's house the lad was dead. He examined the clothes and body, and found that both were riddled with shot holes from the ribs to the groin the left side. Evidently almost the whole charge had entered the body, and blood was flowing from some the wounds. He believed the shot entered the cavity of the stomach, and death was caused by loss of blood, the shock, and laceration of the stomach.

He returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony.

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