



Former Chippenham Union Workhouse Building Courtesy of workhouses.org.uk

Inquest of John Wastfield/Wasfield

On Friday last an inquest was held at the Plough Inn, Kington Langley, before W. Adye, esq., and a jury of the neighbourhood, on the body of a man named Wastfield. It appears that the deceased was an inmate of the Chippenham Union Workhouse, and that he had lately left it, and was allowed 2s per week, out of door relief.

George S. Styles, esq., medical officer of the district in which he resided, was examined on oath and stated, that the deceased died from want of nutrition, &c. It appeared on the evidence of several persons who were examined that the parties with whom the deceased lived, never informed the relieving officer or medical officer of his being ill (till two days before his death, which took place on Friday morning last,) by whom the most prompt attention was paid him. He was of very filthy habits, and always refused to lay in a bed, and when found by the relieving officer was lying in one corner of the room on some straw. He was frequently seen with money in his possession, and always received any assistance from Langley House, the residence of Walter Coleman, esq., who paid him the greatest attention to his death. The Jury, after long consultation, returned a verdict to this effect, " That the deceased died from the want of the common necessaries of life, caused chiefly by his refusing to accept the shelter of the Chippenham Union Workhouse, and that in the opinion of the Jury no blame was attached to the officers of the Union."

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 21 March 1841

OPC Note:- The death is registered as John Wasfield in the Chippenham RD, March Quarter 1841