



Coroner's Inquest Report

Inquest Report on Robert Fulford

Old Man's Fatal Fall

The Salisbury City Coroner Mr. S. Buchannan Smith conducted an inquest at the Salisbury Workhouse on Monday evening into the circumstances of the death of Robert Fulford age 78 of Stratford Sub Castle, who was admitted to the Institution suffering from a fractured thigh, sustained by a fall on December 14th.

Albert Carpenter, dairyman, in the employment of Mr. E. F. Sidford, of Woodford, stated that he was driving from Salisbury to Woodford on December 14th and when on the Stratford Road, near Victoria Park, he saw the deceased. He was lying on the ground, and shouted to witness to assist him home, "as something had taken him in the legs and he could not stand." Witness assisted him into the milk float and conveyed him to Stratford.

Elizabeth Crook, widow of ex Police Constable Crook, of Stratford, said deceased was her brother. He was 78 years of age and until 4 years ago was employed as a carter by Mr. Taunton of Paccombe Farm, Downton. He came to live with her in September last. He enjoyed fairly good health, and was not attended by a doctor prior to December 14th. On that day he left the house to go to Salisbury, but was later on brought home by a milkman. He said he had fallen down on the road and could not get up and complained of having hurt his leg. Dr. Gordon attended him for a fortnight and he was then removed to the Union Infirmary.

Mr. L. S. Luckham, medical officer of the Workhouse, stated that the deceased was admitted on January 12th. He found that he had a fractured thigh and two days afterwards, with Mr. Gordon's help, he put up the fracture again, but the deceased could not stand the splints or the extension.

On Friday January 28th, he had a slight stroke, and he died on Saturday, partly from the effects of the accident and partly from the effects of the stroke. The primary cause of death was the fractured thigh.

In reply to the Foreman, the doctor expressed the opinion that the fall caused the fracture. There were no signs of any other injury on the body. In old people bones break very easily and deceased was a rather heavy man. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

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