



# SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



## Sutton Veny

**George SHERGOLD 13<sup>th</sup> April, 1913**

### **Motor Fatality at Sutton**

A sad fatal accident occurred at Sutton Veny at mid-day on Monday, when George Shergold, an old age pensioner, was knocked down, run over and killed by a motor car belonging to Mr William Gerald Hole, an inspector under the Board of Agriculture, living at Salisbury.

Mr F. A. P. Sylvester held an inquest into the circumstances on Tuesday afternoon in the schoolroom adjoining the chapel.

Frank Shergold, a son of the deceased, a groom gardener, in the employ of Mr D. H. Waddington, identified the body.

Edward Barter, a baker, of Sutton Veny, declared that he saw the wheel of the car passing over deceased as it was backing. He shouted out and the driver stopped the car.

William Gerald Hole, of 93, London Road, Salisbury, said his car, which was 15 horse power, was driven by his chauffeur, who was an experienced driver. Witness was seated behind with the Rev H. C. Bush. The driver got into the car to move back, but before he had gone six yards witness felt a bump. The driver was looking round all the time he was backing to see where he was going. The driver pulled up immediately, got out of his seat and said, "We have run over someone." they all got out. Shergold was beneath the car with his head under the running board, but he could not understand how he got there.

The Coroner: You or Mr Bush did not look back?

Witness: No, I was probably putting papers away in my bag.

The Coroner: did you notice the deceased person at all?

Witness: The driver walked round the front of the car into the driver's seat, and if there had been anyone there, except someone crouching down under the hood, he would have seen. He thought the man was quite close to the car and tried to get out of the way when it was backed and he could not do so.

Albert Henry Cann, the driver, said he lived at 25, York Road, Salisbury, and had been driving for Mr Hole for about eighteen months. Before he started the car he saw the only convenient place to turn was at the cross-roads, a distance of about fifty yards. He walked to his seat and then turned round and looked back over the car to see if the road was clear. He did not see the deceased at all. He had proceeded about the length of the car when he felt the wheel on something. He disconnected the engine, and got out to see what it was, and found the man underneath the car. He did not hoot. He did not think it necessary because if anyone had been there they might have thought he was going forward, and as he saw no one behind he did not think it necessary to sound the hooter.

Dr Rinton said there were no broken bones. The cause of death was collapse from shock.

The Rev Robert Cromwell Bush, of Salisbury, said he was with Mr Hole in the car, but did not notice deceased walking up the road. He noticed that the driver looked back as he was reversing, and also that before doing so he looked back over the top of the car to see if the road was clear.

The jury retired to consider their verdict, and after having been absent a few minutes returned.

The foreman said, "We are unanimously agreed that it was an accident. We also think that we should exonerate the driver from all blame, and we wish to express our sympathy with the relatives.

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