



SOUTH WILTSHIRE CORONER'S INQUESTS



Sutton Veny

Joseph BARTER 25th October, 1884

The Coroner for this district (Mr F. T. Sylvester) held an inquest at the Bell inn, Sutton Veny, on Monday, on the body of Joseph Barter, carpenter and wheelwright, aged 50, who was killed on the previous Saturday by a water barrel falling on him. Mr Alfred Cowdry was chosen foreman of the jury.

The evidence of Joseph Barter, son of the deceased, went to show that on Saturday he and his father were at work fixing a pump for supplying water-barrels on Glebe Farm, in the occupation of Mr J. N. Parham. The lengths of the barrels had to be taken before the work could be commenced, and the deceased went into the yard to one of the barrels to take its length. About eight minutes after witness went to see for deceased to ask his advice about some work that he was doing, when he found his father lying on his face on the ground with the barrel tipped up on him. He called assistance, and on the barrel being removed from off the deceased it was found that life was extinct. Witness thought deceased got on to the barrel, when he over-balanced himself, and it tipped over upon him. He though the weight of the barrel was about 16 cwt.

Mr W. G. Davis, surgeon, of Heytesbury, said he saw deceased between five and six o'clock on Saturday evening. He found his neck was broken, as was also his collar-bone, and he was very badly bruised about the body. He was of opinion that the immediate cause of death was "asphyxia."

After the coroner had summed up, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death." The fatality has cast a gloom over the whole of the village, and deceased, who was much respected, leaves a wife and six children to mourn his loss.

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