

Wiltshire Coroners Bills 1752-1796 edited by R F Hunsett; Vol 36; 1981, of the Wiltshire Record Society.

Extracts related to Kemble, Poole Keynes, Somerford Keynes and Shorncote.

From 1792 coroners were paid £1 for every inquest on a dead body outside of gaols and 9d for every mile they had to travel. The coroners presented their bills at the quarter sessions. These bills are an important source for the social and economic conditions of the time.

Kemble and Ewen

1258 21 May 1781. Kemble. Mary Locke: suddenly died in a barton or yard; at the time she was in a passionate dispute with a neighbouring woman; it appears no blows had passed. 28 miles. £2 1s.

1667 13 Sept 1789. Ewen in Kemble. Henry Beams: fell from a rick he was thatching and killed. 31 miles. £2 3s 3d.

1881 20 Aug 1793. Smirrell (Smerrill) Farm, Ewen Field in Kemble. Thomas Drake: with another man standing on a stone at the top of a high precipice and quarry and moving and drawing a large stone at the bottom by means of a large wheel and cord, slipped and fell and was killed. Because the master of the works and the proprietor of the land were both at a distance and the employment appeared to be very dangerous in future without better contrivance and the addition of a stage, etc, it was judged highly requisite to adjourn and summon those with other evidence on 30 Aug when the said alterations and additions were agreed on and promised to be effected. 28 miles. £2 1s. Adjournment £2 1s.

Poole Keynes

1504 25 July 1786. Poole Keynes. Elizabeth Fisher, aged about 2: drowned by falling into a well. 29miles. £2 1s 9d.

1549 8 Nov 1787. Poole Keynes. William Mayo, aged under 10 weeks: natural death, not from any hurt of the mother as reported. 30 miles. £2 2s 6d.

Somerford Keynes

276 21 Dec 1759. Bolton Mill in Somerford Keynes. William Beard: drawn into the cogs and lantern of the mill and crushed to death. 28 miles. £2 1s.

1693 19 Jan 1790. Ashton Keynes. Thomas Arnold: returning from Cricklade to Somerford Keynes on a grey gelding, fell from it, and being entangled by the stirrup, was instantly killed. 30 miles. £2 2s 6d.

Shorncote

1997 15 March 1799. Shorncote. Jonathan Uzell: fell off a horse loaded with a sack of potatoes into some water as he was passing to his home at Cirencester, Glos, and though he presently got out, was soon after found dead: cold weather. 30 miles. £2 2s 6d.