

An Inquisition taken this 30<sup>th</sup> day of January 1897 at The Baptist Chapel, Cinderford in the township of East Dean on view of the body of George Heaven aged 54 years: Stone Mason:

The following Jury were Sworn:

Samuel Tyndall  
 Levi Wilce  
 Alfred E Dykins  
 Samuel Meredith  
 Reuben Meredith  
 John S Hewlett  
 Richard Williams  
 Francis Hall  
 John Cooksey  
 Joseph Pope  
 William Bingle  
 William Westaway

Witnesses:

Thomas Ansley of Cinderford: Mason  
 Rhoda Heaven of Woodside Road, Cinderford: Widow of dec'd  
 Richard Macartney of Cinderford: Surgeon  
 John Shaw Carleton of Newnham: Surgeon

Verdict:

Date of Death: 27<sup>th</sup> January 1897  
 Place: Woodside Road, Cinderford East Dean  
 Cause: Blood poisoning, the result of an injury to his right knee caused whilst removing a scaffolding at a chimney stack at Crump Meadow Colliery:

Payments:

Jurors	12	
Surgeon	1. 1	R Macartney
Witnesses	1.6	Thomas Ansley
Use of Room	2.6	John Cooksey
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Total	1.17	

Addendum to Inquest No D470 Newspaper Article relating to George Heaven

**FATAL CONSEQUENCES OF A SLIGHT ACCIDENT:**

On Saturday afternoon M F Carter Esq, Coroner attended at The Baptist Classrooms Cinderford to hold an enquiry into the cause of death of George Heaven, Mason who died Jan 27<sup>th</sup> under circumstances narrated: F S Martin Esq H M Inspector of Mines was present, and Joseph Steadman Esq District Manager of The Norwich and London Insurance Association (in which office deceased was insured) watched the proceedings on their behalf a *post mortem* examination having been made at their request.

Thomas Ansley, Mason's Assistant deposed that on the 7<sup>th</sup> Jan about 11.00 am whilst removing some scaffolding from a chimney stack at Crump Meadow Colliery in handing one of the planks round a corner deceased wrenched his knee and said "I have hurt my knee". He complained several times during the day but went to the Colliery on the 9<sup>th</sup> but did not stay.

Mrs Heaven (his widow) deposed that her husband came home in great pain on the 7<sup>th</sup> and complained of his knee. He did not go to work next day, but with great difficulty he walked to Crump Meadow and back on the 9<sup>th</sup>. On his return Dr Macartney was called in and on the 11<sup>th</sup> deceased took to his bed and did not get up again. On the morning of the 26<sup>th</sup> a change took place and deceased died at 7.00 am on the 27<sup>th</sup>. He was insured with the Norwich and London Insurance Association.

Dr Macartney deposed that on the 9<sup>th</sup> Jan he was called to attend deceased and found him complaining of great pain in the right knee, which was swollen at the joint. Deceased told witness he had injured his knee two days previously whilst working at Crump Meadow. Witness saw him on the day of the accident and he was complaining of pain but there was no visible sign of injury. On the 21<sup>st</sup> in consequence of the state of the knee witness made an incision and found a reddish fluid and pus escaping, he also found something blocking the opening made, and on inserting a probe he found a loose substance of which he had some evidence previously which turned out to be a loose cartilage of the knee. Deceased suffered intense agony most of the time he was ill. His general condition did not become serious until Sunday after which he rapidly developed symptoms which seemed to the witness to be due to septic poisoning and he died on the 27<sup>th</sup>. After witness had opened the knee the local condition improved and deceased was not much troubled with the knee joint up to his death. But for the accident in witness' opinion the symptoms which led to his death would not have supervened. It sometimes happens that from trifling injuries blood poisoning supervenes. Deceased had been an abstainer for years and was a sober steady man upon whose life a lease might have been taken.

Dr Carleton of Newnham deposed that he had that morning-----72 hours after death made a *post mortem* examination of the deceased who was a large well nourished man. *Rigor Mortis* was fairly well marked. On the right leg he found an incision one inch long, above the knee cap from which matter was oozing. On opening the join the found it bathed in disorganised pus and the inner end of the thigh bone was roughened, which would show septic trouble going on. He opened the chest, the lungs were congested, especially the posterior portion; there was no pneumonia or pleurisy. The heart surface was covered with fat and on opening the same the substance was easily torn. The valves were healthy but congested inclined to be soft and easily torn. The spleen was soft pulpy and congested, the kidneys were fair size and nothing unusual about them. In the stomach was a little fluid and it was distended. The bladder was healthy. The brain was healthy but the blood vessels in the membrane were congested. The conditions in the organs were what one would expect to find in cases of septic poisoning which would disorganise the whole system.

Mr Steadman enquired whether there was anything to account for death other than the result of the injuries to the knee and Dr Carleton replied "No". Dr Macartney said he was present at the *post mortem* examination and he endorsed the opinion expressed by Dr Carleton.

The Coroner in briefly summing up said he had held the inquest with regret, for he had known the deceased for many years as a steady straight forward man, and he was sure the Jury with himself deeply sympathized with deceased's relatives.

The Jury found that deceased died of blood poisoning, the result of an injury to his right kneew caused whilst removing scaffolding at a chimney stack at Crump Meadow Colliery. The Jury also wished their expression of sympathy to be conveyed to the bereaved family.

Mr Heaven was well known and respected was buried at The Baptist Chapel graveyard on the close of enquiry and there was a large attendance notwithstanding the frightful bad weather. The Revs J George and C J Reskelly officiated