



ACCIDENTS IN BATH STONE QUARRIES

FROM

NEWSPAPER REPORTS

by

Alan Gray

(1384 to 2006)

Published by - Mendip Cave Registry & Archive

Whilst every care has been taken in the compilation of this book, the author cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Cover picture: Underground workings in a Bath Stone Mine (Bath & Portland Stone Firms Ltd. Collection – Magic Lantern Slide – MCRA Archive)

© Mendip Cave Registry & Archive 2025

INTRODUCTION

The majority of books on the subject of the Bath Stone Mines deal almost exclusively with the methods of mining, history of the mines and geology but very little has been written relating to the miners themselves.

In the 1960's I was an apprentice with the Ministry of Defence at the Royal Naval Stores Depot at Hartham, Copenacre. The first year was spent above ground learning mechanical skills but the second third and fourth years was spent in the Test Rooms underground at Hartham and also Monks Park. After the apprenticeship finished the next four years were also spent underground in the Test Rooms. Perhaps this is where my love of the underworld evolved from.

The life of the miners was tough and in some instances dangerous as the paragraphs below illustrate –

Source – “Tanky “ Elms Bath Stone Quarryman

- They did have stretchers on the surface, but they were made of wood and all the fabric had rotted away. If you put anybody on them, they would have fallen straight through.
- It is absolutely necessary to keep working to keep one's body temperature to what is required, coupled with the fact that all other conditions were dreadful, lighting almost nil. In some places the water dropping continuously, some men would be wet through within half an hour of starting work. It was under these conditions they had to eat their food and take a break.
- Each ganger was responsible for the safety of his own men and workings. He would leave pillars and erect props as he considered necessary. Occasionally a Mines' Inspector would visit the workings, his knowledge of stone quarries as limited as was his interest. He would inquire from the ganger if everything was alright and then be off to visit the next gang!
- The quarrymen ran up slates in the pubs, you can see their reckoning on the pillars underground Monday – so many pints, Tuesday so many pints and so on. At that time quite a few of the landlords were gangers. Of course when pay day came around the gangers would take their money first.

Source – BIAS Journal No.11 (1978)

Accidents in the underground quarries were, it is admitted, of frequent occurrence and in each instance a surgeon to attend the sufferer had to be fetched from Bath. It was not till 1786 that a remedy was found. In that year the Casualty Hospital was established on the Lower Borough Walls. To this institution the maimed quarrymen were for years promptly taken . . . The injured man was laid on a blanket covered hurdle and a sheet thrown over him. The hurdle was then raised to the shoulders of four quarrymen who with quick and measured tread bore their comrade to the Hospital'.

If you would like to add anything please get in touch. toursandresearch@yahoo.com

Alan Gray

CONTENTS

		Page
Introduction		3
Accidents	Pre 1700's	5
	1700's	5
	1800's	11
	1900's	145
	2000's	220
Quarry Locations		223
Workmen's Compensation Act		230
Analysis of Accidents		231
Summary of Bath Stone Mine Accidents		245

Pre 1700's

30 October 1384 – Grip Hill Quarry, Bradford-on-Avon

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – p.191

The first known quarry accident happened here in 1384, on the Saturday before the feast of All Saints “a man named John being beneath the quarry of the Grip and a certain stone being up above, it fell from the hill and killed the said John by misfortune.

1700's

21 August 1751 – Unnamed Quarry – Claverton Down, Bath

Source – Bath Journal – 26 August 1751

Last Saturday as one Allen, a mason, was working at the Quarry on Claverton Down near this city, some part of it fell in, which bruised him so bad a manner that he died the same day.

31 January 1755 – Unnamed Quarry – Combe Down, Bath

Source – Bath Journal – 3 February 1755

Last Friday, Edward Hale, of Westwood, mason, was killed by the falling in of part of a stone quarry, as he was at work, in the parish of Coomb, near this City. He has left a wife, but no children. The quarry wherein he worked is a most dismal cave.

16 March 1755 – Unnamed Quarry – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Journal – 24 March 1755

On Sunday the 2d instant, one Thomas Stacy fell into a quarry, on Combe Down; he was found the next day by his brother. He expired on Tuesday last, by the bruises he received.

24 June 1755 – Unnamed Quarry – Odd Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Journal – 30 June 1755

Last Tuesday evening, one William Gowing, of Combe Hay was killed by the falling in of a Quarry, on Odd Down near this city; another man was buried up to his middle he was at work also; but happily received no material injuries.

January 1760 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

John Coles fell into a quarry pit nearly 50 feet deep.

4 June 1765 – Entry Hill Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 June 1765

Tuesday, several men being at work in a quarry, on top of Entry Hill, near this City, part of it fell in, by which one of them (a native of Ireland) was killed on the spot.

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

Morris Walsh killed by the falling in of a stone quarry.

2 July 1765 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 8 July 1765

Bath. Saturday a freestone mason and wagoner, both servants to Mr. Richard Singers, were committed to Shepton Bridewell; being charged on oath with stealing two wagon loads of six inch ashler [*a block of hewn stone with straight edges for use in building*] from the said Mr. Singers's quarry, and selling the same. The wagoner had the care of Mr. Singer's horses and carriage, and the mason had the care of the quarry; and it was their practice to take the wagon and horses out at midnight, and come into Bath about two or three o'clock with the stone, which they sold; and to blind their master, worked the horses as usual the remainder of the day; this brought the poor cattle almost to skeletons, and occasioned the discovery of their villainy.

5 October 1768 – Entry Hill Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 October 1768

Thursday evening last, as one Richard Marsh was digging in a quarry at Entry Hill, some of the upper part thereof fell on him, and crushed him in so terrible a manner, that he died the next morning.

May 1769 – Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 1 June 1769

CASUALTIES SENT TO THE INFIRMARY

William Thomas, fractured skull, by a fall into a quarry.

3 July 1770 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 5 July 1770

Tuesday evening last a part of the stone quarries on Coombe Down fell in, which crushed Francis Chambury, labourer, in so shocking a manner, that he died immediately. He has left a wife and nine children.

12 August 1771 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

George Beaumont by the fall of a very large stone

22 January 1772 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 23 January 1772

Yesterday a lad (named Lacey) was crushed to death, and several persons much buried, by the falling in of a quarry on Combe Down.

30 May 1776 – Entry Hill Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 June 1776

Friday James Clapp, master of Entry Hill quarry, near this city, was killed by the falling in of a part of the quarry under which he was at work.

6 July 1777 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 10 July 1777

Saturday a lad about 12 years of age fell into a light hole of a quarry on Coombe down, and fractured his skull in so terrible a manner he died the next day.

2 March 1782 – Entry Hill Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 7 March 1782

Saturday last Alexander Teague, a labouring quarry man was killed by the falling in of the quarry on Entry Hill.

August 1783 – The Bath Journal

Source – The Bath Journal – 6 October 1783

TO THE CHARITABLE AND HUMANE

There is now existing in a lone house called Rickett's Barn, in the parish of Coomb, about two miles from Bath, John Lacey, his wife and eleven children. This numerous family have hitherto derived their principal support from the joint labours of the father and his eldest son, who worked together in the Stone Quarries; about three months ago they were deprived of the advantage arising from the boys labour, as he had the misfortune to have his thumb cut off accidentally by a free mason whom he was assisting.

The eldest daughter has a lameness, which has been dear's incurable at different infirmaries, and is helpless; the next in age have sufficient employ in their care of the youngest children, while the mother works at Bath as a washerwoman.

The father, the great support of the whole, about six weeks since was obliged to quit his labour from a violent attack in his bowels, occasioned (as he believes) by drinking too freely of water during the

intense heat of the summer, after a fortnights recess, necessity compelled him to resume his work feeble and languid as he was then, when, not being sufficiently recovered, he sunk under it, and is now confined to his miserable home.

Those who are inclined to relieve the wants of this wretched family are requested to leave their donations with Mr. Phillott, at the Bear; Mr. Charles Davis, painter; or at Marshall's Library (late Pratt's) top of Milson Street.

29 January 1790 – Entry Hill Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 4 February 1790

Friday William Vincent (the man who was advertised in 1780 as a principal is setting fire to the Roman Catholic chapel in this city) was killed by the falling in a quarry of stones in a quarry on Entry Hill. He has left a widow and three small children.

August 1790 – Farleigh Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

John Smith killed by the falling in of a stone quarry.

January 1791 – Unnamed Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 27 January 1791

ADMITTED TO THE CASUALTY HOSPITAL

John Drake, greatly contused in his body and limbs, by the falling in of the roof of a quarry.

4 February 1791 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 10 February 1791

Friday as John Gibbons was at work in a quarry at Box, it fell in on him, and crushed him terribly, then he died on the spot.

June 1791 – Unnamed Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 June 1791

ADMITTED TO THE CASUALTY HOSPITAL

Isaac Mullins, a violent contusion on his body, by falling into a quarry upwards of 90 feet.

July 1791 – Unnamed Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 7 July 1791

ADMITTED TO THE CASUALTY HOSPITAL

Benjamin Little, with violent contusions on both his legs by part of a quarry falling in upon him.

October 1791 – Unnamed Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 20 October 1791

CASUALTIES ADMITTED TO THE PAUPER HOSPITAL

Tomas Davies, much contused by the falling in of a quarry.

30 July 1792 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 2 August 1792

On Monday last at Mr. Thomas Bee's quarry on Comb Down, by a sudden fall of stones, Richard Whittle, a quarryman, was unfortunately killed on the spot, leaving a distressed widow and seven children to lament his loss. Henry Brookes, another workman, suffered a compound fracture of his legs, and his body much bruised; and Isaac Pearce, an incised wound in his head. The two latter were taken to that excellent charity the charity hospital, where the utmost attention of skill and humanity is exerted to the relief of every unhappy person under its roof. We are sorry to hear that Brookes lies in a state of great danger.

August 1792 – Entry Hill Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 August 1792

ADMITTED TO THE CASUALTY HOSPITAL

Richard Allwood, contused arms and legs at Entry Hill quarry.

7 May 1792 – Lansdown Crescent Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 May 1793

Monday James Truebury, near 60 years of age, working in the quarry behind Lansdown Crescent, the overhanging stones fell upon him, and he was unfortunately killed on the spot.

August 1794 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

James Shell digging large free stones from a quarry when a large portion fell on him.

30 December 1794 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 18 December 1792

ADMITTED TO THE CASUALTY HOSPITAL

John Sweet, a labourer in Mr. Rudman's quarry, with broken arm, fracture on the head and other bruises.

1800's

27 May 1801 – Conkwell Quarry, Winsley

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 28 May 1801

Wednesday as some men were at work at Conkwell Quarry, just above Dundas Aqueduct, on the Kennet and Avon Canal, a large portion of rock fell on them; by which accident John Simonds was killed on the spot, and another man very much bruised.

20 August 1801 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 27 August 1801

Thursday last, whilst James Morris was at work at the top of a quarry in the parish of Monkton Coomb, the earth gave way, and he was precipitated to the bottom; in which situation he lay nearly 12 hours before discovered, when every possible attention was paid to him, but he was so dreadfully bruised that he died the following day.

23 May 1802 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Hampshire Telegraph – 31 May 1802

Sunday fortnight, in the afternoon, three young Gentlemen and three ladies (sisters), of the City of Bath, entered one of the quarries on Coomb Down, with a lantern. Two of the young men, and one of the ladies, went before with the light, which by some accident was extinguished; the three who were behind soon returned out of the quarry, thinking their companions had jocularly left them in the dark and had found their way out by another passage; after waiting some time, they returned to Bath, believing their friends had previously got home; but, when it became very late at night, and neither of the other three having returned a party of seven or eight went to Coomb-Down, and called up the master of the public-house, who attended with lights into the quarries; where, after a long search they found their lost friends sitting down, quite tired with their incessant toil of more than eight hours in total darkness, endeavouring to find their way out; they were excessive cold, and inclined to drowsiness. It was half past twelve o'clock before they were discovered, and it is supposed, if they had continued in their cold damp position much longer, they would inevitably have perished.

Source – Chester Courant – 1 June 1802

A few days since three young gentlemen and three ladies of Bath, went to view the quarries at Combe Down. Two of the gentlemen and one of the ladies went out before with a light, which by some accident went out. The others, who were not far from the entrance, immediately returned, thinking their companions would be home before them. This was not however the case, and evening coming, a party went to seek them. About twelve o'clock at night, after some search, they were discovered sitting down, worn out with cold and fatigue, having wandered about the subterranean vaults seven or eight hours, without being able to extricate themselves.

14 March 1804 – Claverton Down Road Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 15 March 1804

Wednesday as a baker's boy was driving a cart down Claverton Down Road, the horse took fright at a volley that was fired by a party of the Bath Volunteers on the opposite hill, and leaping over the wall into the quarry was instantly killed. The boy was so much injured that he was taken to the Casualty Hospital with little hopes of his recovery

June 1805 – Kingsdown Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

Levi Willcox, Kingsdown Hill, large portion of quarry falling in where he was working at Kingsdown Hill in the parish of Box.

11 October 1805 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 17 October 1805

Friday afternoon David Fisher, a young man employed in drawing up stone on Coombe Down, unfortunately missing his hold, received a violent blow on the head by the handle of the windlass, which precipitated him into the quarry beneath. He was taken to the Casualty Hospital, where he died the same evening.

7 October 1807 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 08 October 1807

Wednesday a mason named Pitman, nearly 80 years of age, was killed by a mass of stone falling upon him in Mr. Morris's quarry on Coomb Down.

July 1807 – Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

William Helps, Kingsdown Old Hill, Spring Quarry, Part fell in and killed him.

Source – Wilts Quarter Sessions M1807 Coroners Bill (From Peter Addison's Archive)

At Kingsdown Old Hill, William Helps digging stone in Well Spring Quarry, part fell in and killed him.

18 September 1809 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 21 September 1809

Monday as a young man was at work in a quarry on Coomb down assisting at the crane, a stone fell on him, and bruised him so dreadfully, that he died in half an hour.

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – p. 171

Charles Lacey died on 20th September 1809, due to an accident at the quarry near the Lodge Stile. Lacey was at the crane which was used for heaving stone into waggons and a large ashlar that was standing on its end was fastened to the crane chain. The ashlar fell over, thus putting the crane mechanism and handle in motion and the handle struck Lacey with such violence that he died; the handle belonged to Patrick Byrne, a mason of Lyncombe and Widcombe

November 1810 – Turley Stone Quarry, Winsley

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

William Robins

17 January 1811 – Castle Combe Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 24 January 1811

Last Thursday two men working in a quarry at Castle Combe were killed by the falling in of earth.

[*Samuel Latham, William White*]

May 1816 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarries

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

Thomas Stiles (29) by falling into a quarry.

12 February 1818 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 19 February 1818

Thursday part of one of the quarries on Coomb Down, suddenly fell in, when one poor man at work in it was killed on the spot, and another had his leg fractured, and was otherwise severely bruised.

20 December 1818 – Kingsdown Quarries, Bathford

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 24 December 1818

On Saturday George Salmon received some severe contusions, by the falling in of part of a stone quarry on Kingsdown, near Bathford. He was taken to that excellent institution, the Casualty Hospital.

29 August 1819 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 2 September 1819

On Saturday, two men were taken to the Casualty Hospital, from the quarry of Mr. Sumpson, Combe Down, one with a fractured thigh, and another a fractured leg, in the latter case, immediate amputation was necessary ; these were occasioned by the falling of a mass of detached rock and rubbish.

February 1820 – Freshford Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Journal – 14 February 1820

Last week an inquest was taken (by Peter Layng, esq. now residing in this city) on the body of Job. Jadd, killed in a stone quarry at Freshford.

December 1820 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 14 December 1820

INQUESTS TAKEN BY P. LAYNG, ESQ., AT KEWSTOKE

George Chambury, who was killed by a large body of stone falling on him in a quarry on Combe Down, while he was at work. Verdict “Accidental Death.”

15 December 1820 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 21 December 1820

A boy named William Bennett, on Friday, fell into one of the quarries on Combe down, and is since dead.

24 July 1822 – Entry Hill Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 25 July 1822

Last evening an itinerant Italian Musician was found in a quarry at the top of Entry Hill, and being brought before E. Anderton Esq., was committed for trial for bestiality.

12 August 1822 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 29 August 1822

INQUESTS HELD IN WILTS. BY MR. CLARE

Tuesday, on the body of Robert Huntley, who was working in a quarry near Bradford, when a quantity of stone fell on him. Accidental.

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette 22 August 1822

INQUESTS HELD IN WILTS. BY MR. CLARE

On Tuesday on the remains of a poor man named Robert Huntley, who had been working in a quarry near Bradford-on-Avon on the 12th inst. When a great quantity of stones fell on him, and so severely injured him as to occasion his death the following Monday; enduring in the interval, the most excruciating agony – Accidental.

9 February 1824 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 10 February 1824

Yesterday Matthew Norris, a labourer, working in a stone quarry at Box, was killed by the falling of a quantity of stone; he has left a wife and four children. A boy who was with him would have met a similar fate, but perceiving some stones fall, and supposing they were thrown by some boys, went out to look after them, and thus escaped.

30 August 1824 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 2 September 1824

We announce the disastrous and premature death of Joseph Holmes, quarryman, of Milk street, who was killed by the falling on him of about three tons weight of stone whilst working on Coomb down on Monday last. A view of the place where Holmes worked will prove that presumptuous hardihood alone could induce him to expose himself to the most imminent and impending danger. The deceased and the man working with him were endeavouring to throw down a mass of rock, resting on a foundation not more than two feet square, over which at a great height it projected several feet, and underneath Holmes laboured to remove the shallow base of the rock; when its suddenly fall deprived a wife of her support, and four small children (one but a few weeks old) of their earthly guide and protector. An infant family are thus thrown on the mercy of the whole world, to depend on the scanty pittance of parish pay as their subsistence. Whilst we reprobate the culpable temerity of the deceased, we withhold not our good wishes and pity from his widow and helpless children; and sincerely hope that the benevolence of those who delight in doing good will not forget the widow and the fatherless.

An inquest has been held on the body, which returned the following verdict : “That Joseph Holmes was at work on 30 August in a quarry belonging to Charles Conolly esq; when and where a large body of stone fell on the deceased, which caused his instant death, and which was occasioned by his own imprudence, he having been warned of the danger; and the Jury so say the death of the said Joseph Holmes was accidental.”

1825 – Bath

Source – The Archaeology of the Combe Down Stone Mines Bath, Somerset by Lynn Willies, Neville Redvers-Higgins and Ianto Wain

The inquest of William White (1825) who had been crushed, dying later in the Casualty Hospital in Walcot, by a two ton block of stone which fell off a truck, when the way side collapsed. White was leading the shaft horse of the truck while the foreman was leading the forehorse of the team of horses.

18 March 1825 – Farley Down Quarry, Bathford

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

William White stone rolled off truck.

Source – Bath Coroners Inquests 1816 – 1827 (From Peter Addison’s Archive)

Farleigh Down – William White accident. Stone fell off truck (Horse drawn) and rolled on to deceased. Immediately taken to the casualty Hospital where he arrived 5 p.m. Died 19 March 1865.

22 May 1825 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 26 May 1825

Saturday a young man was killed in a quarry on Coomb Down, by falling from a height of 15 feet, while employed in wheeling stones over a series of single planks, nearly 40 feet in length, and scarcely 12 inches wide; several men were at work immediately underneath, one of whom was in an act of splitting a stone, on which the deceased fell. The frequency of accidents of a similar nature should impress on quarry masters the necessity of greater caution when employing their workman in hazardous situations, and of their providing wider planks.

[David Jefferies – name obtained from Around Combe Down by Peter Addison]

22 July 1825 – Bathford Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 11 August 1825

On 22nd ult. as a man named Jones, from this city, was working at a quarry near Bathford, he fell a great depth into the quarry, and was killed on the spot.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 1 September 1825

On 26th a man broke his thigh in the same quarry.

22 August 1825 – Rudloe Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 1 September 1825

On 22nd inst. As a man had just descended to the bottom of Rudloe Quarry, which is 70 feet deep, a piece of iron fell from the top and fractured his skull. 10 pieces of bone have been extracted.

8 October 1825 – Rudloe Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 13 October 1825

George Bath, a quarryman, accidentally fell into a quarry at Rudloe, near Box, on Friday, a depth of 90 feet, and was so dreadfully bruised, that his life is despaired of.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 20 October 1825

George Bath died on Sunday morning at Corsham, having survived the accident at Rudlowe Quarry only 44 hours.

[Fell down a shaft]

23 August 1826 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

23 AUGUST 1826

Silas Godwin undermining rubble.

20 July 1827 – Bath

Source – Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser – 25 July 1827

On Friday, at Bathford, near Bath, on John Brewer, aged 27. It appeared in evidence, that on Wednesday deceased was driving a stone carriage loaded with a block of stone, about 5 tons weight, on the turnpike road, and being in the act of reaching forward to place something on the carriage, he fell, and the fore wheel passing over his body he died instantly. Verdict. Accident ; and a Deodand* or five shillings on the wheel.

** The doctrine of common law by which an article that caused death was forfeit to the Crown. It was abolished in 1846 after railway engines had been held forfeit in this way]*

23 May 1828 – Winsley Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 29 May 1828

Friday the ceiling of a quarry at Winsley fell in, and killed one quarryman, and severely injured several others.

25 August 1828 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 28 August 1828

CASES OF ACCIDENT RECEIVED INTO THE UNITED HOSPITAL

Monday evening William Wilmot, a quarryman on Combe Down, who in wheeling a barrow of stone across a plank lost his balance, and was precipitated into the quarry, by which he sustained a fractured skull.

11 November 1828 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 12 November 1828

Tuesday as a boy, about 14 years of age, named Aust, was moving the sled from the mouth of Mr. Brewer's quarry at Box field, he fell in and broke his neck.

5 September 1829 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

Ezekial Hudd

4 December 1829 – Farley Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Wiltshire Gazette – 10 December 1829

SHOCKING ACCIDENT

On Friday morning last, as Thomas Read was working in a quarry belonging to Mr. James Hiscox, at Farley Down, near Bath, a large stone, which a fellow workman was loosening with a pick at some little distance above him, suddenly gave way, and falling on Read, crushed him in a most shocking manner, inflicting dreadful internal and external injuries; indeed one leg was so terribly mangled, that, on the poor fellow's arrival at the Bath Hospital, (whither he was conveyed immediately after the accident), it was deemed necessary to amputate the injured limb. What adds to this calamity is that a wife and four small children were wholly dependent on the poor man's labour for their maintenance.

28 May 1830 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 3 June 1830

A poor boy, named G. Manshan, whilst at work in one of the quarries on Combe Down, on Friday morning, an immense stone fell on him, which broke his thigh, and cut and bruised him very much about the head. He was taken to the United Hospital, and is likely to recover.

20 July 1833 – Murhill Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 25 July 1833

On Saturday, an inquest was held on the body of Thomas Bendall, a labourer. It appeared from the evidence of one of his fellow labourers, that on Saturday morning, about a quarter before 9 o'clock, witness saw a quantity of stone fall on the deceased, who was at the time undermining at a quarry near Bradford. The deceased was taken to the United Hospital where he died about '2 0'clock the same day. Verdict, Accidental Death.

20 November 1834 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 20 November 1834

A medical gentleman who has noticed the number of accidents, (chiefly dreadful fractures) which occur in the quarries about Combe Down, and the agony to which sufferers are put by want of proper conveyance to the Hospital, suggests the expedient of a light spring vehicle on wheels, which might be purchased at the expense of the quarry masters, and kept at a particular station, to be always ready in the hour of need, instead of bringing down the patients upon men's shoulders.

19 December 1836 – Mr. Hudd's Quarry, Box, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 22 December 1836

CORSHAM

On Monday last as several labourers were employed at Mr. Hudd's Quarry, at Box, the earth on the top gave way, when a large stone fell on the head of one of them named, John Hudd, of Biddestone;

the poor sufferer was immediately conveyed to Box, but before his arrival there was a corpse. About six years ago Hudd lost a son in the same quarry. His wife died only a fortnight since.

31 December 1836 – Conkwell Quarry, Winsley, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 12 January 1837

On Saturday se' unight [*week*], as Robert Rose, in the employ of Mr. Daniels, of Stoke, was working in the quarry at Conkwell, an enormous stone which had been partially worked on the previous evening, suddenly gave way, and literally crushed the poor man to death.

3 January 1837 – Box Quarries Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 12 January 1837

The following serious accident happened whilst sinking a large shaft, near Box Quarries, on Tuesday last Jan. 3rd about 9^o'clock John Clark, George Brinkworth, and Thos. Davis left the bottom of the shaft pit for the purpose of taking some refreshment, when as they were safely landed the skip in which they were brought up, owing to the want of a springer, from some degree of carelessness on the part of the workmen, from the top to the bottom upwards of 50 feet, and in weight nearly 1 cwt., on the head of Robert Davies, which killed him in about a quarter of an hour afterwards. He was taken to Box, where a Jury returned a "verdict of accidental death."

The young man's poor mother, when his remains were committed to the grave, felt almost inexpressibly, her sufferings and grief were so great, that she was obliged to be led from the grave by two men. We sincerely hope that the managers who superintend the sinking of shafts in the rail road, will exercise great caution, where the lives of so many of our creatures are in such imminent danger. Thomas Davies about half an hour before the death his son, received a heavy blow on the head from the falling of a stone from the side of the pit, but happily he did not receive much injury.

Friday last at the same shaft, a horse belonging to Mr. Freeth was struck to the ground, owing to the breaking of a large iron pin, which fasten the timber to the drum. The horse has recovered but had not the greatest care been taken, some of the workmen must have received great injuries or loss of life.

5 September 1838 – Odd Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser – 12 September 1838

On Wednesday morning, a poor man, at work in Mr. Aust's quarry, Old Down, near Bath, had his thigh broken by the falling of a block of stone.

22 September 1838 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 27 September 1838

A fatal accident occurred on Saturday to a boy named Daniel Thomas, who unfortunately fell into the shaft No. 6 of the Box 'tunnel, a depth of upwards of 100 feet. He was immediately removed from his perilous situation, and as he had fallen into a considerable quantity of water, it was hoped that his life might be saved; but the injuries he received were of so serious a nature, that he expired on Sunday afternoon. Verdict. Accidental Death.

24 September 1838 – Dodwell’s Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 27 September 1838

On Monday afternoon, a man named Hancock, whilst working in a quarry near Box, belonging to the Bath Turnpike Commissioners, was crushed by a fall of earth, his leg and thigh were fractured, and he sustained many other serious injuries. Notwithstanding the prompt assistance of Mr. Morgan, he was a corpse in less than an hour

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 27 September 1838

On Tuesday last, a labouring man engaged at Dodswell’s quarry, near Box, named Hancock, lost his life while undermining a stone, which fell and literally severed his intestines – instant death consequently ensued. Two others at work with him experienced a narrow escape; and one of them had his leg broken.

27 November 1838 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 29 November 1838

On Tuesday last, a fatal accident happened to a man of very sober und industrious habits named Isaac Archer, aged 32, in the employ of Mr. Strong, of Box quarries. The unfortunate man had entered the cavity of the quarry for the purpose of fetching an iron crow-bar, when a large stone fell upon him, which caused his death. He has left a wife and five children to lament the heavy loss they have sustained by his untimely decease.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 December 1838

On Tuesday, a fatal accident happened to a man of very sober and industrious habits, named Isaac Archer, a native of Corsham, in the employ of Mr. Strong, of Box quarries. The unfortunate man had entered a cavity of the quarry for the purpose of fetching an iron crow bar, when a large stone fell upon him, and caused his death. He leaves a wife and five children.

4 April 1840 – Monkton Farleigh Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bristol Mercury – 11 April 1840

PROVINCIAL ESCAPE

On Saturday last, the surface ground of the stone quarries at Monkton Farley, near this city, to the extent of quarter of an acre, fell in, within a very few minutes after the workmen had to go to their breakfast. Had this alarming occurrence taken place earlier, the probability is that fifteen workmen, and four horses, would have been buried alive.

7 July 1840 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 July 1840

On Tuesday morning, as a man named Thomas Painter, was taking his breakfast in a quarry at Combe Down, where he was employed, a large stone fell on him, and he was dreadfully crushed. Immediately

on the occurrence of the accident he was taken to the United Hospital, where he died yesterday afternoon.

22 October 1840 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 29 October 1840

Brought into the United Hospital on Thursday – Thomas Lacy, aged 21, with a contusion of the hip, received while working at Combe Down quarries.

17 February 1841 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 25 February 1841

Bath

A portion of the turnpike road in the immediate neighbourhood of the Carriage public house, on Combe Down, suddenly fell in on Wednesday morning last. The ground underneath having been formerly used as a quarry, it is supposed that some of the props or standards, which were left by the quarrymen to support the roof, must have become decayed and given away. The chasm thus created is not less than 30 feet wide, and vehicles are now obliged to be driven by another route.

[See the entry for 13 January 1842 – I wonder if the newspaper report, above, prompted the hoax January report of 7 acres of land on Combe Down collapsing along with massive loss of life]

1 December 1841 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser – 1 December 1841

ORGANIC REMAINS

An interesting discovery has recently been made in Mr. Brewer's quarry, in Boxfield, Box, of fossil bones, which were found in a cavern, seventy feet under the surface, and have the same appearance as the freestone, or oolite, but are much lighter; they are numerous, and amongst them the vertebrae are very distinct, and some large bones like legs, and a head, but there is nothing to indicate that they belong to any existing species. Nothing of the kind has ever before been found in the locality, nor in cutting Box tunnel, though specimens of vegetable and fish have been found in the inferior oolite, and the clay on which it was recumbent.

27 December 1841 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 30 December 1841

On Monday night the brass work connected with the cranes, in the stone quarries of Mr. Aust, Mr. Davidge, Mr. Sumsion, and Mr. Jones, on Combe Down, was forced off and stolen. In consequence of this act, the quarries were partially stopped.

13 January 1842 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

HOAX

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 13 January 1842

Some worthless scoundrel amused themselves on Sunday last in the fabrication of the following infamous falsehood, which he forwarded to the Morning Post, in which paper it appeared on Monday.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE MORNING POST

“Sir, - I am directed by the office to let you know that a tremendous and most singular occurrence has just taken place in the immediate neighbourhood of our city. In the confusion which prevails I cannot, of course, be expected to transmit particulars with anything like accuracy; but rather delay, I send you a general statement, conceiving that the earliest possible notice will be interesting to the public through the medium of your popular journal. Between four and five o’clock this evening, and when almost twilight, the entire surface of a very large piece of ground, more than seven acres, at Combe Down gave way, owing to the workmen having conducted their excavations in a stone quarry far beneath at an angle, or rather street, of that populous village, of which above 18 houses, with its beautiful new church, school house, &c., were thus completely undermined, and have been, by the instantaneous subsiding of their foundations, involved in ruin; and multitudes in the buildings and accidentally assembled on the spot have perished.

“Though late when I write, the various avenues in the outlets of the city are thronged with anxious, thousands crowding towards the scene of desolation. The bells of the Abbey and other churches are ringing violently, and the authorities are hastening to Combe to render what assistance they can to surviving sufferers. Nothing like the truth can be obtained to the loss of human life and property by this strange calamity. Report speaks of hundreds slain and mutilated.

“This hurried account shall be speedily followed by a less confused detail of what happened.

[Signed by a fictitious name and dated Wardens office, 53, Milsom street, Bath, Sunday Jan 9]

“P.S. Our paper is published on Wednesdays only,”

This statement has been copied into the other London papers, so that it will be distributed far and wide, and inexpressible anxiety and anguish will be spread among persons residing at a distance, who may have friends and relations living at Combe Down; and many poor people will, no doubt, be put to great trouble and loss in leaving their homes to enquire into the truth of the matter. This will, no doubt, be considered a good joke by the miscreant who manufactured the above letter, respecting whom the only doubt be which is his most prominent quality – the weakness in the head or badness of the heart. Our London contemporaries ought to have known that there is no such paper as “The Warden published in Bath. But setting this aside, there is “hoax” on the very face of the statement, which is stupidly framed as it is malignant.

April 1842 – Farleigh Down, Jones Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – p. 110

At Farleigh Down, Henry Gardner was killed by a violent snatch of a crane in Jones Quarry in April 1842.

9 August 1842 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 August 1842

THE BOX TUNNEL [EXTRACT]

Report of the state of Box Tunnel on the Great Western Railway, by Major General Pasley.

In order to judge more accurately of the great oolite formation in Box Tunnel, I next proceeded to examine three several quarries of that stone in the same hill; first the lower hill quarry, of considerable extent underground, which we explored by lights. The roof has been everywhere left flat and nearly horizontal, according to the natural level of the strata. The distance between the sides of the excavation, or between square pillars left here to support it, varies from 10 to 20 feet across, and as much as 29 feet if measured diagonally. There are vertical fissures of a considerable height in the spaces alluded to, but Mr. Brewer, who is an elderly man, born in the neighbourhood, assured me that those parts I examined in company with him have remained the same ever since he can remember. I afterwards examined Mr. Skell's quarry, in which there were men at work, and I observed in one part of the flat roof a fragment of stone, about 15 feet long by 5 feet in width, surrounded by an irregular vertical crack, entirely unsupported by the sides of the excavation, which were about 8 feet apart. Afterwards I examined Box Field quarry, at the summit of the hill, which is now worked by Mr. Brewer to the depth of about 100 feet, into which the workmen descend, and the stone is raised by means of several shafts, two of which are very near to each other, and all round, as well as between these two shafts, the flat roof of the quarry is intersected by a complete network of vertical cracks, cutting through the horizontal strata in a manner that to an observer unacquainted with the nature of this rock bounded by these fissures have no apparent support; and I should not like to see the roof of a tunnel in such a state. Mr. Brewer declares that they have remained in this condition for the last 20 years; and it is certain that these men constantly at work at the bottom of this quarry, who can of course, have no apprehension as to their own personal safety.

10 September 1842 – Claverton Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 22 January 1842

An inquest was held on Monday evening, before A. H. English, Esq., the city Coroner, at the Horse and Jockey, Beau Street, on the body of Philip Tiley, aged about 47. From the evidence of Mr. Morgan, the house surgeon of the Bath United Hospital, it appeared that deceased was admitted to that establishment on the morning of Saturday, the 10th inst., with a very extensive wound of the scalp extending from just above the left eye across the forehead to about the centre of the upper part of the head. There were also some contusions about his body. After being admitted to the hospital, he was attacked with erysipelas of the head and face, from the effects of which, together with the injuries he had received, he gradually sunk, and died on Sunday evening. Rowland Rose, a fellow labourer of deceased, described the nature of the accident, which occurred in one of Mr. Vaughan's quarries on Claverton Down; the deceased was clearing away the earth on the surface of the ground close to the edge of a quarry which was open, when his bar slipped and he fell headlong into the place, and was taken up insensible. The jury after a short consultation, returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

9 February 1843 – Quarry

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 16 February 1843

An inquest was held by Mr. Whitmarsh, on the 13th inst., at Colerne, on the body of Charles Tiley, 54 years of age. It appeared that Matthew Smith and the deceased were at work together in a quarry, in the afternoon of the previous Saturday, when they were preparing to get out of it, as they considered the spot dangerous, from the surface hanging over them. However, they had not time to escape before 30 tons of soil fell down and buddied the deceased out of sight; he was not dug out until half an hour afterwards, when he was quite dead. Verdict Accidental.

9 December 1844 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 12 December 1844

ACCIDENT

On Monday morning, as the eldest son of Mr. Isaac Sumsion, quarry master, of Monkton Combe, was walking alone on the brink of one of his father's quarries, on Combe Down, it being too dark for him to see his way clearly, his foot slipped, and he was precipitated into the depth below. His fall was broken by some projections, or loss of life would probably been the instantaneous result. As it was, however, the accident was a very serious one, as he received a shocking cut in his head and severe injury in his back. A painful part of the occurrence was that he lay in a helpless state for an hour, before anyone was aware of his situation. We are glad to find that hopes are entertained of his recovery.

18 December 1844 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 26 December 1844

ACCIDENT

On the morning of yesterday (Wednesday) week, the wife of a shoemaker named Edwards, living on Combe Down, left her home at an early hour to go to Bath, and finding the turnpike road exceedingly dirty and unpleasant to walk on, she turned into the field on Combe Down, which has a diagonal path in the direction of Carriage Road; but the morning being very dark with fog, though not being able to see the path she took a devious track towards an old stone quarry, on the brink of which she walked, unconscious of her situation, until she fell into the cavern below, where she was found some time afterwards in a state of insensibility, having fractured one of her arms, and sustained other serious injuries. She was removed home, and surgical aid was immediately procured. In the afternoon, she was taken to the United Hospital in a dangerous state, and after lingering until Saturday she expired. An inquest was held on the body on Monday, before A. H. English, Esq., when a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned. The jury in recording their verdict, added that in consequence of this and other recent accidents which have occurred, owing to the dangerous and exposed state in which the mouths of many quarries on Combe Down are left, endangering the lives of strangers and the inhabitants generally, the several owners ought to place such a fence around the orifices as would effectively prevent the reoccurrence of similar accidents. Several quarries were mentioned by the jury as being in a very exposed and dangerous state; and the occupiers will be greatly culpable if, after this public notice, they do not adopt measures to remedy this source of evil.

6 February 1845 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 13 February 1845

On Thursday last, as a man named Hewlings, was working in one of the quarries on Combe Down, he was buried under a quantity of stones and rubbish. Fortunately, no stones of great weight fell on him. He sustained some very severe bruises, was taken to the Bath United Hospital, and is going on well.

11 August 1846 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 13 August 1846

On Tuesday, a labourer, named Jacob Morris, had both bones of his left leg fractured by the fall of a large block of stone upon it, at a quarry on Combe Down.

23 November 1846 – Farleigh Down

Source – Bath & Cheltenham Gazette – 25 November 1846 (From Peter Addison's Archive)

On Monday Samuel Neate, a mason, was at work on Farleigh Down when a stone weighing a quarter of a ton fell on his foot crushing it in a dreadful manner. On being admitted to the United Hospital amputation was found to be indispensable.

21 March 1847 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 25 March 1847

CHANDOS HOUSE

Saturday – William Miles was summoned by Mr. McAdam for refusing to pay the toll demanded of him for a horse and cart with a load of stone, passing through the Brass Knocker gate. The defendant had gone through the gate twice, from a quarry on Combe Down, and paid once according to the Act, and on passing the third time the toll was demanded, as authorised by the same Act. The defendant pleaded that he was not liable to be charged, as he was not drawing stone, but merely chippings fit for gravelling, and had never been required to pay before, after the first load, in passing the same day. The magistrates examined the section of the act which applied in the case, and found that the word “stone,” according to the literal construction, was against the defendant; but as the object of the summons was more to show the right to make the demand than punish the defendant, he was let off by payment of the costs.

30 March 1847 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 1 April 1847

CASUALTIES

On Tuesday week, a young lad was brought to Bath United Hospital, his thumb having been very badly torn by a crane while working at Box quarries. He was admitted as an inpatient, and is doing well.

7 August 1847 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 12 August 1847

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Saturday morning, an accident occurred in a quarry near Pickwick, in the parish of Corsham, which proved fatal to a young man named George Little. It appears that the poor fellow was somewhat unacquainted with the nature of the work, being a basket maker by trade, and had only been employed a few days in his new occupation. The deceased was engaged with another man, named John Fido, at a crane, in lowering a large stone from an upper part of the quarry to a carriage used for conveying the stone to the shaft previous to it being drawn up for use, when, unfortunately, not duly considering the weight of the stone till it became unmanageable, and the handle of the crane slipping from their hands,

one struck Fido and threw him several yards, but he escaped with a severe bruise. The other handle came in contact with the fore part of the head and thigh of George Little, fracturing the skull dreadfully, and causing a compound fracture of the thigh. Notwithstanding the injuries, the deceased was sensible at intervals until he expired; his death took place 6 hours after. An inquest has been held on the body, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" returned. Deceased has left a wife and child to lament his loss.

August 1847 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 12 August 1847

INQUESTS

At Avoncliff, on Job Jones, aged 34 years. The deceased resided at Road, and was employed by Mr. Spencer, of Bradford, in a quarry near the town, when the quantity of five or six tons of earth fell on him, and so crushed him that death occurred in about 12 hours.

6 September 1847 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 September 1847

On Monday, a lad, the son of a quarryman on Combe Down, named George Buck, was at work in turning the windlass of a crane in a quarry, when the bolt inserted to stop its revolutions after lifting the stone, slipped out, from being much worn, and the crank of the windlass struck him in the forehead with tremendous force, making a frightful wound. He was conveyed to the United Hospital in a state of insensibility, where he now lies. He is likely to recover.

June 1848 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 12 June 1848

INQUESTS TAKEN BEFORE MR. WHITMARSH

At Box, on Stephen Gale, 22 years of age. Deceased was at work in a quarry, and whilst turning one of the handles of (what is called) a crab, the stone they were hauling fell on one side and jerked the chain, which caused the handle which James Coombes was also turning to come off. The consequence was, the deceased had all the weight of the stone on his handle, which overpowered him, and his handle struck him in the head, and he fell back on some stones. He was taken up insensible, and immediately attended by Mr. Goldstone, of Box, but he died shortly afterwards. Verdict "Accident."

5 July 1848 – Monkton Farleigh Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 July 1848

ACCIDENT

Yesterday, as a lad named Silas Tucker, of Bradford, in the employ of James Batten, in loading a wagon, a large stone fell from the crane chain, and struck him on the left eye, making a severe wound, and bruising him about the breast and arms. He was conveyed to the Bath United Hospital, bleeding profusely.

28 September 1848 – Vineyard Down Quarry, Monkton Combe, Bath

[Also known as Vinegar Down Quarry]

Source – *Bell's New Weekly Messenger* – 8 October 1848

FATAL ACCIDENT

An accident, attended with loss of life, has occurred at the Vineyard Down Quarry, near the paper mills, in the parish of Monkton Combe. A man named Samuel Nowells, with his two sons, were working the quarry, which belongs to Mr. Spence, of Combe Down, when Mr. Radborne, of Carriage Road, who had purchased a bar of stone, and was about to have it removed, called on them to render him some assistance. Nowells and one of his sons immediately came out of the quarry, but they had no sooner done so, than the roof fell in upon the remaining son, a lad of about 15 years of age. The mass of stone which fell separated into two parts, leaving the body of the deceased exposed to view betwixt them. The poor fellow was instantly caught up by his father, but life was quite extinct, and the body presented a most lamentable spectacle; it had been literally crushed, and the bowels were protruding. It is thought the accident must have arisen from want of props.

30 October 1848 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* – 2 November 1848

ACCIDENT

On Monday, as George Yeeles, a quarryman, in the employ of Mr. Spence, of Combe Down, was assisting in raising a heavy stone in the quarry with a crane, the stone overbalanced, and fell on him, fracturing his left leg. He was taken to the Bath United Hospital, where he remains as an in patient.

August 1849 – Box Field Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard* – 21 August 1849

INQUESTS TAKEN BEFORE MR. WITMARSH

At Box, on the body of John Betteridge, 18 years of age. Charles Smith, labourer, stated that about half past one o'clock, in the afternoon he was a Box Field quarry with deceased and others. They were at the side of a shaft at work, and whilst a large block of stone was being drawn up, he saw part of the body of the deceased falling down the shaft. Witness at the time was five yards off, and the nearest to him. Deceased was in the act of assisting to land the stone with a bar, when he fell down the shaft, which is 100 feet deep. Witness went down immediately, and found deceased much injured in the head, which hurt had caused instantaneous death.

Verdict "Accidental death."

8 June 1850 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* – 13 June 1850

MALICIOUS ACT

At some time on Saturday evening and Monday morning some badly disposed person or persons wilfully injured the cranes in the quarries belonging to Mr. John Vaughan, of this city, on Combe Down, and also damaged a quantity of carved free stone, intended to form part of the Wesleyan College, now in course of erection on Landsown. Mr. Vaughan has offered a reward of £20 for such information as may lead to the apprehension and conviction of the offender or offenders.

14 September 1850 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 19 September 1850

On Saturday last an accident happened to a man named George Bartlett, which might have proved fatal but for the great presence of mind of Mr. Randell, of Redding. A steam engine has recently been erected in the quarry, worked by Messrs. Randell and Saunders, at the entrance to Box Tunnel, and by a very ingenious contrivance a number of saws are brought into action, so as to cut the stone from its natural bed, thereby performing the work in one hour than could be accomplished by four men in twelve. The man Bartlett had charge of the machinery, and whilst superintending some portion of it on the day mentioned, his waistcoat was caught by a revolving spindle, which at each turn dragged him downwards, till it laid firm hold of his neckerchief, and he was being taken off his legs when Mr. Randell seized, and by great effort released him from his perilous situation, leaving the greater part of his clothing in the machinery. But for the assistance of Mr. Randell, in another instant the man's head must have been severed from his body.

He escaped with a few bruises, but was unable to attend to his work,

16 September 1850 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 19 September 1850

A fellow workman was deputised to superintend during his absence [*See report on 14 September – George Bartlett above*]. On Monday, he, while oiling some part of the machinery, got his hand entangled between a rope and a cylinder, nor could it be extracted till the engine was stopped; all the flesh was torn away from the palm of the hand, one figure dragged from its socket, and the others much injured. He was immediately conveyed to the Bath Hospital, where he is going on favourably.

10 October 1850 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 17 October 1850

On Thursday last, a fatal accident occurred to a man named William Aust, who was in the employ of Messrs. Raddall and Saunders, in their extensive quarries, in the parish of Corsham. It appears that the poor fellow was walking near or on the rails which run from the works to join the Great Western line, at the mouth of the Box Tunnel, when his foot slipped, and several of the trucks, which were loaded with stone, passed over him, causing such injuries that he survived only about three hours. An inquest was held on the body. Verdict "Accidental death."

16 January 1851 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 16 January 1851

Corsham – The extensive free stone quarries of Messrs. Saunders and Co., are about to be lighted with gas. A public meeting of the inhabitants of Corsham, convened by the Bailiff, in compliance with a requisition, is to be held at the Methuen Arms on Wednesday next, for the purpose of considering the propriety of making an arrangement for lighting the town with gas.

Source – Devises and Wiltshire Gazette – 16 January 1851

Corsham – Messrs Saunders and Co. have determined on erecting a gasometer for supplying their extensive quarrying and freestone works with gas; and from its proximity to the town, the inhabitants met on Monday evening, to take into consideration the propriety of extending its advantage for the use of Corsham, and, we are happy to state, that there is every probability of an amicable arrangement being carried out.

15 February 1851 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 20 February 1851

On Saturday last, as an old man, named James Hart, a quarryman, was assisting to raise a large piece of stone, at a quarry on Combe Down, it accidentally fell upon his leg, inflicting a very severe fracture of the limb, and other injuries. He was removed to the Bath United Hospital, where every attention is being paid to him.

20 March 1851 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath & Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 20 March 1851

GREAT EXHIBITION

Mr Vaughn, builder of this city, has executed for the Great Exhibition, an elaborate piece of carved stone work, in the shape of a vase and pedestal, which will form a striking example of the capabilities of the Bath oolite. The block forming the pedestal is five feet by three, and was taken from the “lodge Style Quarry,” on Combe Down, the stone of which is remarkable for its endurance uninjured by all vicissitudes of weather. The base is rusticated, and the shaft is ornamented with the Royal and City Arms, alternated with St. George’s crosses, enclosed within wreaths of oak, and rose, shamrock and thistle, the carving of which is as sharp, delicate and defined as similar workings in wood. How so fragile and yet so cumbrous a piece of workmanship is to escape damage in packing and removal we are at a loss to think. It will be completed and forwarded to the Exhibition building, we believe, the latter part of this week.

Mr. Williams, the engineer, of Westgate Buildings, is preparing a variety of machines of different kinds for the Exhibition, and has announced his intention of exhibiting them to the public of bath prior to despatching them. His shops will also contain a working model of the sawing machine and crane used by Messrs. Randell and Saunders in raising stone from their extensive quarries at Box.

27 March 1851 – Corsham Down Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 27 March 1851

GREAT EXHIBITION

The following is a description of machinery that will be sent to the Exhibition by Messrs. Randell and Saunders, who are the inventors and patentees :

2. A model of a quarry saw frame, driven by steam power, for cutting stone from its natural rock, now working at Corsham Down Quarries.

5. A model of a steam traversing crane, a simple and efficient arrangement for moving stone, timber, &c., by steam power, also in use at Corsham Down Quarries.

Source - 1851 Great Exhibition: Official Catalogue: Class VI

324. RANDELL and SAUNDERS, 14 Orange Grove, Bath – Inventors.

Patent machine for driving saws, for the purpose of cutting stone in its natural beds. The novelty consists in driving saws from one end only, and in placing the guide frame on the same axis as the crank shaft by which the saws are driven; by this arrangement the saws adapt themselves to their work at any angle. Each saw is allowed an independent action.

Traversing crane driven by steam power, and constructed for working in underground quarries.

Patent saw frame for cutting blocks of stone, marble, etc., balanced, and turning on the same axis as the crank shaft by which the saws are driven.

Patent portable saw frame.

Source – The Berkshire Chronicle – 12 April 1851

The same parties will exhibit a sawing machine for cutting stone from the bed. The will be shown in operation in a stone model representing one of the headings in Corsham Down Quarry : it works eight saws, which, in the original machine, are 24 feet long. By a simple arrangement each saw is allowed an action quite independent of the others, and can be worked at any angle which may be required. In case of any impediment, it is arranged for either saw to stop before it is strained, and without interfering with the action of the others. This machine does the work of seventy men. When the stone is cut out into blocks it is removed by a traversing crane, worked by the same ropes which work the saw frame, and both are driven by steam power.

26 May 1851 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 29 May 1851

ACCIDENT

A young man, named James Hardiman, of Corsham, met with a dangerous accident on Monday afternoon, whilst at work in a quarry near box. He was raising a stone by a crane, when the handle of the winch slipped from his hands, and, turning round at a great speed, struck him on the head so severely as to fracture his skull. The poor fellow was removed as speedily as possible to the Bath United Hospital, where he lies in a state which almost precludes recovery.

31 May 1851 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 5 June 1851

EXPENSIVE SPORT

On Saturday evening, some boys mischievously drove a colt, in a field on Combe Down, until the animal, in its fright, leaped over the wall of one of the shaft holes made to ventilate the stone quarries, and was killed on the spot. The animal belonged to Mr. Samuel Spence, and was worth £25.

3 December 1852 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 December 1852

MALICIOUS ACT

On Friday night last, the wheels of three cranes in the stone quarries belonging to Mr. Lankesheer, on Combe Down, were destroyed. A quarry master, named Taylor, on the same night had the crane in a quarry situated in the same neighbourhood injured in a similar manner. It is suspected that the mischief has been perpetrated by some discontented workmen.

7 March 1853 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 10 March 1853

SHOCKING ACCIDENT IN A STONE QUARRY

On Monday morning, a young man, named James Davidge, at work in his father's stone quarry, on Combe Down, met with his death in a shocking manner. He was standing near the crane when on operation of lifting a block of stone heavy enough to load a wagon, and one of the links of the chain happened to give way. He was knocked down, and the stone fell on his body in sight of his father, who was appalled at the scene. As speedily as possible the stone was removed, but the poor fellow being yet alive was taken to the United Hospital. While on the way, he spoke of his anguish, and said he was dying; and by the time the conveyance reached Prior Park Buildings death put an end to his sufferings. A Coroner's inquest was held on the body by A. H. English, Esq., in the evening at the Devonshire Arms, St. James Parade, when evidence to the above effect being given, a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

Source – Wells Journal – 12 March 1853

DEPLORABLE ACCIDENT

On Monday morning a young man, named James Davidge, aged 19, while working in his father's stone quarry, on Combe Down, met with an accident, which we regret to say, cost him his life. Davidge, it appeared, went to his employ at nine o'clock on the above morning, and shortly after was assisting to raise a large block of stone, which had just been excavated. The block was attached to the crane in the usual manner, and Davidge had his hands on it directing it to the level for the purpose of being worked up. Suddenly the large chain attached to the shears which clasped the stone broke, and the whole mass, weighing two or three tons, fell over on the unfortunate young man, crushing him to the earth. His father and uncle, who stood close by him, narrowly escaped being involved in the same catastrophe. As soon as possible the block, which was resting on his loins and bowels was removed. After this was effected, though he never moved, he was alive and quite sensible, and a stretcher having been procured, he was placed upon it, in order to take him to the Bath United Hospital, but before those who carried him arrived at the White Hart, Widcombe, death had terminated his sufferings. The chain employed in raising the stone had lifted a much heavier weight, and was considerably the strongest in the quarry.

An inquest was held on the body on Monday evening, at the Devonshire Arms, St. James's Parade, before A. H. English, Esq., and the above facts having been deposed to by the father of the deceased, the Jury returned a verdict accordingly.

30 April 1853 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wells Journal – 30 April 1853

The works carried on by Messrs. Randell and Saunders, at the entrance of Box Tunnel, are now in full operation, as also their range of workshops near the Station, where the blocks of stone from the quarries are worked up previous to removal by the night good trains. Messrs. Randell and Co. having the contract for the supply of stone to the new Crystal Palace, every effort is now used, and the works present an animated appearance, upwards of a hundred men being engaged.

12 May 1853 – Corsham Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 19 May 1853

APPALLING ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF THREE LIVES

On Thursday morning, May 12th, the inhabitants were startled by the intelligence that the Box Tunnel Quarry had fallen in, and that some men there at work had been crushed to death by fallen mass. Further particulars confirmed the gloomy intelligence. It seems that at the time of the accident – about 7 o'clock in the morning – seven men were there at work; they heard a noise over head, and instantly the rock above gave way, about thirty tons of stone falling to the bottom. Four of the men escaped, but the other three, James Bowles, Thomas Holborn and Arthur Mizen, were not so fortunate, and lost their lives. The inquest was held at the Station Hotel, by the Corsham Coroner, William Kemm, Esq., and a respectable jury. After lengthy investigations, to which every facility was given by Messrs. Randell and Saunders, proprietors of the quarry, a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned. This has been the only fatal accident which has taken place since the quarry has been opened, notwithstanding the number of men engaged, and the steam, gas, and other machinery, used in the extensive works, and Messrs. Randell and Saunders have adopted every precaution, even to brilliantly lighting the quarry, to ensure safety to those employed. Such an occurrence is said to be unknown in the memory of the oldest quarrymen. The bodies of Bowles and Mizen were interred in the parish churchyard, on Saturday afternoon; Bowles being an Odd Fellow, and universally respected by all who knew him, a large funeral procession accompanied the remains to the grave, in the presence of two hundred spectators, who evinced the utmost sympathy. Both men have left wives and families.

Source – Devizes Gazette – 19 May 1853 (From Peter Addison's Archive)

CORSHAM

An inquest was held on Thursday last on the bodies of John Bowles, Thomas Holborn and Arthur Mizen, men killed in a quarry of Messrs. Randell & Saunders by a part of the ceiling falling on them. Verdict – "Accidental Death" no blame was attached to anyone. The part which fell had been examined the night before and found quite safe. Previous to the inquest the coroner and the jury viewed the place in the quarry where the accident occurred in which they were assisted by Mr. Saunders who placed a truck for their accommodation and gave every information in his power on the spot and subsequently at the inquest.

24 May 1853 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 26 May 1853

ACCIDENT

On Tuesday, a young man, named Robert Acland, met with a serious accident, while at work in a stone quarry, at Box, the property of Mr. Strong. He was raising a large block of stone, with a crane, when the handle of the winch slipped from his hand, and, before he could move from the spot, it struck him a blow on the head, inflicting a very severe wound, and also to the right leg, which was fractured by the blow, immediately below the cap of the knee. The sufferer was removed to the Bath United Hospital, where he is progressing favourably.

9 July 1853 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 14 July 1853

BOX – FATAL ACCIDENT

A shocking occurrence, which terminated fatally, happened on Saturday, at the stone quarries of Messrs. Randall and Saunders, at Box, the sufferer being a young man named Joseph Day, aged 26. Day was employed about 12 o'clock in driving a horse and wagon laden with stone along a tramroad, leading through a tunnel connecting the quarries with the stone works contiguous to the line of the Great Western Railway at Box. After he had gone some distance through the tunnel, the light of the lantern he carried was extinguished by a current of air, owing to negligence on his part in not having secured the door, or to having incautiously opened it for the purpose of obtaining more light. This caused him suddenly to arrest the progress of the horse, and the hind part of the animal was in consequence struck by the wagon, which caused it to rear up, and by some means Day was knocked on the tramway, and the wheels of the vehicle passed over him. A boy who followed the waggon, surmising that an accident had occurred, went back to the quarry and gave information to one of the men, who came to the spot with a light, and found the unfortunate young man sitting on the ground with right thigh and foot nearly severed from his body, the toes the foot being cut completely off. He was notwithstanding quite sensible. He was taken to the Bath United Hospital, where he lingered till 1 o'clock on Sunday morning when death terminated his sufferings. An Inquest was held on the body by A. H. English, Esq. at the Freemasons' tavern, on Monday evening, and a verdict in accordance with the above facts was returned.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 14 July 1853

SHOCKING ACCIDENT IN A STONE QUARRY

An inquest was held by A. H. English, Esq., on Monday evening, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the body of Joseph Day, a quarry labourer, of Corsham, who died in the Bath United Hospital, on Sunday from injuries received by an accident while at work on the previous day. The quarry in which deceased was employed belongs to Messrs. Saunders and Randell, and extends subterraneously to a considerable length, so that in conveying loads of stone from it over the tramway, the workmen are obliged to use lanterns. The deceased was proceeding with a truck load of six tons, drawn by a horse, and when about a hundred yards down his light went out, through his not closing the door of his lantern. In his endeavour to control the horse, in order to stop it, the truck went off the rail, and deceased fell under it. A boy who accompanied him, went back to the other workmen to tell them what had happened; they went to his assistance as soon as possible, and found his right thigh almost severed, and his left foot mangled most severely. The deceased was quite conscious, and bore the anguish under which he

suffered with extraordinary fortitude, talking to his fellow workmen as they bore him up to the railway station, and describing to them how the accident happened. He was conveyed to the Hospital, where he lingered in great suffering till it was terminated by death. In answer to questions as to whether the deceased was sober, the witness who gave evidence said he was not in the least affected by liquor. Verdict, “Accidental death.”

October 1853 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 6 October 1853

INQUESTS TAKEN BEFORE GEORGE SYLVESTER ESQ.

At Troule, in the parish of Bradford, on William Parker, aged 52 years. The deceased was employed by William Gibbons, and was working on the top of a quarry at Bradford; he was standing on a stone of the weight of 1½ ton, which, being partially undermined, gave way, and fell with the deceased to the bottom of the quarry (a distance of 20 feet) on his head, fracturing and depressing the frontal bone and rupturing the sinus of the brain, from which blood flowed in a large quantity, causing immediate death. Verdict “Accidentally killed.”

28 November 1853 – Farleigh Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Salisbury and Winchester Journal – 3 December 1853

INQUESTS BEFORE CORONER SYLVESTER ESQ.

At Monkton Farleigh, on Joseph Rogers, aged 48 years. The deceased resided at Winsley, and was employed in the freestone quarries at the above place. He was removing stone from the ceiling of the quarry, when another portion, of a ton weight suddenly fell, knocked him down; the stone fell on his legs, beat in some of his ribs, and wounded the vital parts of the chest; it also caused a compound dislocation of the ankle joint, and fracture of the thigh bone of the left extremity, together with a compound fracture of both bones of the right leg. He died in a few minutes.

Verdict “Accidental death.”

1851 Census

Address – Winsley, Bradford, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, England

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Joseph</i>	<i>Rogers</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>1806</i>	<i>Stonemason & clerk of church</i>
Elizabeth	Rogers	Wife	Married	Female	46	1805	-
Harriett	Rogers	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	24	1827	Daughter spinster
William	Rogers	Son	Unmarried	Male	20	1831	Ag lab
Thomas	Rogers	Son	Unmarried	Male	18	1833	Ag lab
Jane	Rogers	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	16	1835	Daughter spinster

George	Rogers	Son	Unmarried	Male	15	1836	Shepherd
John	Rogers	Son	Unmarried	Male	13	1838	Shepherd
Francis	Rogers	Son	Unmarried	Male	11	1840	Scholar
Henry	Rogers	Son	Unmarried	Male	8	1843	Scholar
Joseph	Rogers	Son	Unmarried	Male	7	1844	Scholar
Moses	Rogers	Son	Unmarried	Male	5	1846	Scholar

Source – Bath Chronicle – 22 December 1853

BEREAVEMENT JOSEPH ROGERS

Twenty Years Parish Clerk of Winsley, Wilts, and Teacher in the Sunday School, was crushed to death by the sudden fail of quantity of stone. while at his daily quarry, work, under ground, on 28th of Nov. last, leaving a widow and ten children, seven of whom are unable, entirely, to maintain themselves; he was. hard-working man, very attentive and diligent in his duties as Parish Clerk and Teacher, a good Husband and Father, and much respected by his Clergyman and the Parishioners. Unable, from the expense of his numerous family of children (once twelve in number), to belong to any benefit club, his sudden death, in the prime of life, has deprived his widow and family of all their means of support.

An appeal is therefore respectfully made to the Charitable for their Benefactions, to be placed in the hands of a Committee. for the benefit of his widow and younger children.

Donations by Post-Office Order, or otherwise, will be thankfully received and acknowledged by the Rev. LEWIS R. COGAN, Winsley, Bradford, Wilts; Mr. JAMES BABER. Churchwarden, Limpley-Stoke-ridge, near Bath; Mr. HENRY EDMONDS, Factory, ditto; Mr. JOHN GIBBS. Clerk Of the Old Church, Bradford, Wilts; and STUCKEY'S BANKING COMPANY, Old Bond Street, Bath. Winsley, December 15th,

Messrs. Freeman, Owners of the Quarry	£10	0	0
Rev. L. R. Cogan	1	0	0
Mr. A., Bath	1	0	0
B. Little. Esq.	0	10	0
Mr. Flewster	0	10	0
Miss Bailward	1	0	0
G. Vivian. Esq.	1	0	0
Mr. A., (2nd Donation)	1	0	0
Quarrymen	0	4	0
A few Labourers At Conkwell	0	2	0
Mr. Dowse	0	5	0
Mr. J. Bourne	1	0	0
Mrs. M. Stewart	0	12	6

May 1854 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 18 May 1854

INQUESTS TAKEN BEFORE MR. WHITMARSH

At Kingsdown in the parish of Box, on the body of William Angel, 36 years of age. James Angel stated that he and deceased were at work together in a quarry near Swan Inn, about half past 11 o'clock in the morning, when a stone of 30 cwt. Suddenly fell from the side of the rock, and crushed deceased on the spot. Witness, with assistance, had the stone removed from the body in about 15 minutes afterwards, when it exhibited a frightful spectacle. Verdict "Accidentally killed."

1851 Census

Address – Kingsdown, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire, England

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>William</i>	<i>Angel</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>1818</i>	<i>Quarry man</i>
Jane	Angel	Wife	Married	Female	35	1816	-
James	Angel	Son	-	Male	16	1835	Quarry man
William	Angel	Son	-	Male	13	1838	Ag lab bird keeper
Alfred	Angel	Son	-	Male	10	1841	Ag lab bird keeper
Jane	Angel	Daughter	-	Female	8	1843	Scholar

27 June 1854 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – *Wells Journal* – 1 July 1854

CORSHAM

On Tuesday last this neighbourhood was enlivened by the festivities attending the opening of a branch railway connecting the Box Hill ground stone quarries of Messrs. Randell and Saunders with their Corsham Down quarries, and through them with the Great Western Railway. The workmen and visitors assembled at the entrance to the Corsham Down Quarries about one o'clock, and after perambulating the works, which were brilliantly lit for the occasion, they proceeded in carriages along the new railway to the Box hill quarries. The first block of stone was then placed on the line, followed by other carriages for the workmen and visitors. The train was conducted by Mr. Saunders, who had throughout acted as engineer to the works, along the line the new railway to Corsham quarries, and through them to the junction with the Great Western Railway at the east entrance of the Box Tunnel. After business of the day, the workmen and visitors retired to a tent provided for the occasion where they sat down to a considerable repast. After some addresses, the meeting adjourned to a musical entertainment by Dr. Shaw, whose services Messrs. Randell and Saunders engaged for the evening. To this about 600 additional visitors were admitted. During an interval of the performance a plentiful supply of coffee and buns was distributed amongst the wives and children of the workmen.

28 November 1854 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* – 30 November 1854

SHOCKING ACCIDENT

On Tuesday afternoon, a large quantity of earth slipped at one of the quarries on Combe Down, and a workman, in falling with it, broke his thigh and severely lacerated one of his arms, which was caught by the hook of a crane. He was removed to the Bath United Hospital.

12 August 1857 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 13 August 1857

ACCIDENT

Yesterday (Wednesday) an elderly man, named George Hancock, residing at Kingsdown, was received into the United Hospital, having sustained a fracture of one of his legs, by the falling of a large stone in a quarry near Box.

25 July 1859 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 28 July 1859

A man, named Davidge, met with a serious accident on Monday at Combe Down. He was trying to reach a chain for the purpose of re-fixing the crane, when he fell into the bottom of the quarry, a depth of more than thirty feet. He sustained a very severe scalp wound on the head, and fractured his collar bone and leg. The sufferer was conveyed to the Bath United Hospital as promptly as possible.

8 September 1859 – Clift Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Devises and Wiltshire Gazette – 15 September 1859

INQUESTS TAKEN BEFORE MR. WITMARSH

At Box, on the body of John Hayward, 53 years of age.

Henry Aust, deposed that he and deceased were at work in Mr. Pictor's Clift Quarry, at half past 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 8th inst. Deceased said, "its seems to me that my ceiling is getting hollow." Witness asked him if it was broken anywhere? and he replied that he didn't know. Witness looked about and found the ceiling was broken. He then shifted forwards from under it, while deceased hit his picking peck against it. Two tons of stone immediately fell down and buried the deceased, who was taken out dead in a quarter of an hour afterwards, the body having been terribly crushed. Verdict "Accidentally killed."

23 April 1860 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 26 April 1860

ACCIDENT

On Monday morning, as a labourer named Mizen was at work in the quarry of Mr. Jones, at Bradford-on-Avon, a large piece of stone fell on him. He was promptly removed from his perilous position by his fellow workmen, and brought on their shoulders to the Bath United Hospital; and on being examined by the medical men of the establishment, it was found, contrary to expectation that he had only suffered a dislocation of the ankle. He is progressing satisfactorily.

Source – 3 May 1860 – The Western Counties Herald, and Bridgwater Mercury.

A man named Mizen was taken to the United Hospital on Monday from Bradford-on-Avon, suffering, as thought, from a very serious injury, caused by a block of stone falling on him while at work in a quarry. He was found on examination to have sustained only a dislocation of the ankle and severe bruises.

24 April 1860 – Corsham Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – 3 May 1860 – The Western Counties Herald, and Bridgwater Mercury.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT

On Tuesday a labourer named Moses Joyce was admitted to the United Hospital, suffering from fractures of the arm, thigh and leg. While at work in a quarry at Corsham Down a large block of stone fell on him and inflicted the injuries stated. His condition is a present somewhat precarious.

28 August 1860 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 September 1860

CORSHAM

A few days ago a very unfortunate accident occurred at the quarry, near Pockeridge, in the occupation of Mr. Pictor, of Box. Several men were employed in sinking a shaft hole, at which gunpowder was used for blasting the rock. Before the foul air which accompanied the explosion had escaped from the shaft, a man named Charles Cowley, hastened to descend. The foulness of the air took away his senses, and thus being no longer able to keep his hold on the rope, he fell to the bottom. The back part of his head was smashed, producing instantaneous death. Another man on the top, George Weston by name, anxious to know the fate of his companion, was also let down by the rope, but when about half way down he was deprived of his senses and fell to the bottom. He lingered in a state of insensibility till the following Friday. Two or three men having made themselves secure, descended, but were pulled up as dead, from the action of the foul air, but remedies being applied, they soon recovered. It was somewhat remarkable that the man who first fell was lying on the top of the other, giving reason to suppose that a severe struggle for life took place. An inquest was held before W. Kemm, Esq., of Corsham, and a verdict of “Accidental death, through neglect,” returned. Both men leave widows and a family to deplore their loss.

9 May 1861 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 16 May 1861

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Thursday last, as the workmen were at work in the stone quarries at Sturford, near this town, a quantity of clay and stones fell in upon them, and the consequence was a boy, about 14 years of age, named Wilkins, of Westwood, was killed on the spot. An inquest was held on the body the same evening. At the New Inn, Westwood, before G. Sylvester, Esq., coroner when a verdict of “Accidental Death” was returned. Several of the men were rather seriously injured by the accident.

27 May 1861 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 30 May 1861

ACCIDENT

On Monday morning a man, named George Slade, who was engaged at his work in a quarry on Combe Down was in the act of wheeling a barrow laden with stone across a plank, when his foot slipped and he fell to a considerable depth. The barrow fell upon him, and he sustained a compound fracture of the leg. He was immediately taken up and conveyed to the Bath United Hospital, where he is progressing favourably under the circumstances.

21 July 1862 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 24 July 1862

On Monday last, a labourer, named John Dickenson, was admitted to the United Hospital with a fracture of the thigh. He was at work in one of the quarries on Combe Down, and while assisting to load a cart with stone, a block slipped from the shears, and falling on him, caused the injury stated.

Source – Devizes and Wilts Advertiser – 24 July 1862

BOX ACCIDENT

A man named Dixon had both legs broken while working in a quarry at Box, on Friday week.

20 August 1862 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 21 August 1862

A serious accident occurred near this village [*Corsham*] yesterday (Wednesday) morning, a large block of stone having fallen on a quarryman named Anthony Bigwood, and broken his left arm and thigh. Bigwood was taken to the Bath Hospital, where his arm was amputated, and he lies in a precarious condition. He is a married man, and has several children.

Source – Warminster Herald – 30 August 1862

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Wednesday, as Antony Bigwood, a quarryman in the employ of Mr. Randell, was working in a quarry at Corsham, a large stone fell upon him fracturing both his left arm and his thigh. He was at once removed to the United Hospital, where an amputation of the limbs was found to be necessary, but he expired the same night. The unfortunate man was 38 years of age, and has left a widow and four little children entirely unprovided for.

4 September 1862 – Corsham and Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 4 September 1862

BOX HILL AND ITS BATH STONE QUARRIES

Box Tunnel, that great supererogatory work of Brunel, cuts a straight line nearly due east and west, through one of the most important members of the Jurassic group of strata in England, geologically named the Lower Oolite, but here more commonly known as Bath or Free Stone. Box Hill itself forms the centre of the oolite district, roughly triangular in outline, and comprising an area of about three square miles. Many parts of this and the neighbouring locality have been worked for stone, with more or less activity, from a very early date; but though quarries were opened here as many as 300 years ago, it was not until after Brunel's tunnelling operations had demonstrated how large an amount of good material might be got out of the district, that the workings began to receive any adequate development. The construction of the Great Western Railroad, however, gave a great impulse to this previously limited industry, and the remarkable facilities for transit which its completion afforded soon attracted the attention of practical men. Indeed, it could hardly have been otherwise; here was an almost unlimited supply of a material whose usefulness for many constructional purposes had been established by use; and cutting almost through the sites of future workings was this great broad-gauge line. The present proprietors of the Box and Corsham quarries, Messrs. Randell and Saunders, were not long in seizing upon the opportunity which these circumstances appeared to offer for the establishment of a large trade, and in the year 1845 they commenced the undertaking, which has since attained its present large proportions. Having recently paid a visit to these quarries, where we spent some pleasant hours watching the work and investigating the methods in use for getting out stone, we propose to describe what we saw, and explain to all whom it may interest the manner in which this building material is obtained. Nothing can be more unlike the ordinary experiences of mining excursions than a visit to Corsham quarries. Those who, like ourselves, have suffered in various parts of the country from hot, damp, and dirty scrambles through underground passages, whose narrowness and darkness were both alike incapable of the slightest alleviation, either by persevering stooping, or liberal illumination, will have a sense of surprise and pleasure when they first set foot within the wide, lofty and well ventilated roads which ramify for miles through the bowels of Box Hill.

Before conducting our readers into the workings, however, we will first examine a little into their general lie and disposition a few minutes attention to which will probably save us, by and bye, from that feeling of utter bewilderment too often visitor's only companion in the subterranean regions given over to the miner's craft. All the workings which have yet to be opened are situate on the northern side of the tunnel. They are divided into two districts, called respectively Corsham Down and Box Hill quarries, the former occupying the eastern and the latter the western side of the hill. Entrance to both of these is obtained at the Corsham end, where the main road joins the Great Western Railway on a level; communication between the two sides being established by means of the road along which all the Box stone is hauled to the railway trucks. Both these roads run parallel with the tunnel, the former debouching, as we have seen, upon the main line, and puzzling visitors strange to the locality with the apparently anomalous phenomenon of a double entrance to Mr. Brunel's great work. The dimensions of this approach almost rival those of its neighbour, permitting the ingress of two rows of wagons for some distance, but presently narrowing to one line of broad-gauge rails, which are continued as far as the first of the Corsham workings, where they terminate opposite the discharging platform, to be more fully described hereafter. Greatly as these ample roads contrast with the straitened passages of ordinary mines, their size is not only convenient but profitable. Unlike coal, or other similar minerals, there is no object here in keeping the excavation within the narrowest possible limits. All the material taken out is commercially valuable, and hence the wealth of space throughout the whole quarries so pleasantly surprising to those whose underground experiences have previously been confined to some less favoured locality. From the main roads the workings spread northwards and westwards, into complex reticulations of great and yearly increasing extent, all of which communicate by means of gently falling tramways with the discharging platform. The utilisation of gravity as a means of locomotion is carried out with much completeness throughout the works. In drawing from the Box side, horses are employed to haul the stone only through a portion of the distance; more than half of it being accomplished by gradients. The natural disposition of the strata has greatly assisted in laying out

the quarry thus; and nature is supplemented by the art in arrangement for economising horse traction, wherever such economy is at all practicable.

We shall make no attempt to follow the windings of all the workings, since the methods employed for getting stone are everywhere similar, and we shall learn more by confining our attention to one spot, than by rambling with desultory aimlessness through the whole of the quarry. Changing our point of view, then, from one of general observation only, let us enter the right hand of the two tunnel mouths which meet us on our walk down the main line from Corsham. Pausing inside for a few minutes to go through the preliminary ceremonies of lighting candles and tallowing our fingers – melancholy rites only too painfully characteristic of all subterranean explorations – we presently get our eyesight, and are able, without risk of stumbling, to step out on our journey.

A hundred paces along the main road suffice to dispel any apprehensions of discomfort that we may have anticipated from ordinary mining miseries. The path is dry enough, wide enough; and, above all there is air enough, and to spare. Instead of the sluggish current of hot and carbonised air with which one fights for breath amongst the stalls or headings of a coal pit, there is a cool breeze flying past us at a great rate on its way to the distant workings towards which we are progressing. Those of our readers who are not acquainted with the methods commonly in use for the ventilation of underground works will probably be glad of such an explanation of the first principles on which these depend, as will enable them to understand the reasons for the efficiency of the process in action here. At Box no artificial stimulus is needed to keep up the circulation. The down cast shaft being here represented by a wide and lofty road entering the hill upon a level, admits air so readily, that a few “upcasts,” here and there communicating with the surface, suffice to establish an abundant current. Nowhere throughout the whole quarries is there anything approaching to a scant supply of oxygen; and the visitor is never conscious of breathing under conditions at all different from those of ordinary life, though he is often likely to be made aware of the rapidity with which the wind traverses these subterranean passages by the coolness of his person, and the difficulty he will sometimes find (in the larger roads especially) to keep his candle from being blown out by the draught.

A walk of about a furlong brings us opposite the point where all the stone taken out is loaded into railway trucks, a process effected with great simplicity and economy. The single line of broad-gauge rails which we have hitherto followed stops here, but it is met and accompanied through the last few hundred yards of its length by a narrow tramroad about 2½ feet gauge, running parallel with the main line, but laid at such a level as to bring the little trollies forming its “rolling stock” to the same height as the larger waggons, into which the blocks are readily shifted by means of two powerful cranes, without any lifting whatever. By this arrangement a large amount of work is got through in the course of a day, one crane alone being capable of loading up some 6,000 feet of stone, or nearly 400 tons in ten hours. This discharging platform, as we have previously named it, is in direct communication with the whole of the workings, every one of which has its own branch of narrow gauge rails; and along some of these feeder lines the small trucks are constantly passing with their burdens. Immediately opposite where we now stand is an entrance to the first of the Corsham side workings, lying a little off the main road, and approached by a narrower passage cut almost at right angles to it. Turning into this, we shortly find ourselves in a large open space, lighted with tolerable brilliance by many candles, and occupied by a group of workmen all busily engaged in various quarrying operations – some sawing, others hoisting; some prizing great blocks on rollers towards the trollies in waiting, and others manning the handles of a crane occupying the centre of this little amphitheatre. We will make this working our pattern card; in describing it we describe all its fellows, and there is no reason to prolong our walk for the sake of seeking information which can be had here for the asking. One uniform system of getting stone prevails, suggested and occasionally slightly modified by the natural peculiarities of the rock itself, which it will be necessary to understand before we can gain any definite notion of the object to be attained by the different processes we see going on around us.

Like almost all other stratified deposits, the Bath oolite lies in “beds,” as they are named by geologists and quarrymen. In other words, the total depth of the stratum is made up of many successive layers of stone, varying very much in their respective thickness, and separated from each other by natural joints or “Partings.” In the oolite these partings are extremely thin; they appear as if marking certain periods in the formation of the rock, during which the process of deposition was arrested, and the stone allowed to harden before fresh accumulations of calcareous sediment were thrown down upon it. Out of the whole mass of freestone forming the core of Box hill, only those beds are quarried which are known to produce good stone. The number, lie, and position of these were ascertained with considerable accuracy during the progress of the tunnel, whose shafts penetrating through the whole formation, afforded the best possible opportunities for an examination of its constituent members. The average depth of the workable beds varies from 8 feet to 30 feet, and their respective thicknesses range from 6 feet to 1 foot. The uppermost of them is only about ten inches thick, and this is called the “picking bed,” for a reason which will become clearer as we proceed. The actual getting of all minerals differs greatly with the character of the materials to be dealt with, depending of course upon their respective hardness, softness, toughness, or friability. Granite, for example, is torn by main force of gunpowder from the parent rock; while coal is won by the picker and the pick. Portland stone, a harder form of oolite, is blasted out, like granite, in shapeless masses, which are afterwards reduced to form by the chisel and bar; but the freestone, from its soft nature and the regular occurrence of the joints, to which we have alluded, permits a very different mode of treatment. Those of our readers who are acquainted with the methods ordinarily employed by colliers will understand our description the better for being told that these processes resemble an almost exact inversion of those in use at Box and Corsham. In the former every successive measure is thrown down from above by continued excavations at the floor level of the mine, which, removing the support from one mass of mineral after another, suffers to separate itself by its own gravity from the overlying strata at one of the partings, which characterise the carboniferous equally with the oolite formation. In the latter, undercutting is replaced by what we might aptly designate overcutting; an operation precisely similar in principle, though different in detail to those employed in the winning of coal, are commenced at the roof instead of the floor of the mine. In these quarries the roof is generally very strong, and the system of commencing to extricate in the topmost member of the beds affords an absolute security from falls – the most common and fatal of the miners’ many dangers. The removal of only nine or ten inches of material beneath the ceiling deprives the overlying strata of support as effectively as cutting away all the stone from roof to floor would do; hence, should there be any tendency to settle, it is always shown at a period when human life is not expected to its influence, and when an actual drop could do no possible injury to the workmen.

The picking is effected by means of tools shaped something like an adze, the heads of which can be shifted on to longer handles as the work gets out of reach; and thus the men carry the narrow hole a distance of about twelve feet back into the rock. This completes the first process, and an entirely new agency now comes into action for the final removal of the blocks.

Every one acquainted with Bath stone knows that it can be readily cut up by means of an ordinary saw. This is the case even after the whole substance has become hardened by exposure to the air; but it is specially so in the quarry, where the stone is rendered softer by the large amount of moisture diffused throughout the beds. After the bed has been divided down to the natural joint, and the blocks thus separated from the parent rock on all sides but one, levers are introduced into the parting, and the whole detached by forcibly breaking off at the back, when the stone is ready for immediate removal to the discharge platform. We have already mentioned that a branch of the narrow gauge line runs through each of the workings, connecting them with the railway wagons; and it is now the time to speak of the manner in which stone is loaded on the trollies after being quarried. Immediately after opening out a face of work, a five or ten ton crane is erected in such a position as to sweep it all over. These cranes are ingeniously contrived to suit variations in headway, such as are caused by differences in the depths of the valuable beds. The post is telescopic, being capable either of sliding out to the loftiest, or contracting to the lowest space afforded. A large expense in continual alterations is thus avoided, and

the periodical shifts of worked out to new localities is made without trouble or loss of time. After the blocks have been loosened a lewis bolt is let into the face of each stone, and the chain of the crane made fast to it; one piece after another is thus dragged out, assisted by the crowbars of men, and falls to the floor, whence it is soon conveyed by trollies to the discharging platform. The next and all the remaining beds are taken out by a modification of the processes which we have just described. By the removal of the layer immediately below the picking bed sufficient space is obtained to allow the workmen and entrance under the roof. Vertical cuts are again carried down to the next succeeding parting; but, as there is now room to work the saw transversely as well, another cut is made, which, separating the blocks from the hinder attachment, renders any further breaking off behind unnecessary. Meanwhile the cutting is continued in the picking bed, and stone got out just in the same way as before; everything below this point, however, is quarried with all sides sawn excepting those abutting on the natural joints. Hence there is very little loss or waste; each piece comes out square, finished and ready to pass at once into the hands of the dealer or builder. Continued repetitions of these several operations produce a terraced profile in the workings; and this is the form in which they are usually found by a visitor. At such times their aspect is quite picturesque. On all sides there are lights, which, unlike those of the dim colliery lamp, whose rays are all absorbed by the black mineral they vainly strive to reveal, are reflected from the white surfaces of stone, and give a really respectable amount of illumination.

Each of the platforms is occupied by groups of men, all healthy, cleanly, and cheerful looking fellows, busily occupied either with pick, crow bar, or saw, and shouting occasional directions one to another in a tongue whose determined provincialism none but a born Wiltshire man could hope to interpret. Piecework prevails throughout the quarries; every crane being let to a ganger, who contacts with the proprietors to supply stone at a given price per foot delivered into the trucks. Each ganger pays his own men, generally by the piece also; and when tolerably fortunate in the lie and nature of the stone, all the workmen make good wages, earning enough to enable those who are careful to put by something for a rainy day, after paying for the support of themselves and their families. Accidents to life and limb are almost unknown throughout the works; a few casualties have occurred since they were first opened; but these are unimportant in comparison with the large quantity of material which is got yearly in safety. The two special perils of miners are entirely absent. Gas, of course, there is none; and falls of roof are prevented, as we have seen, by the methods employed in working. When we remember that in the subterranean world of Staffordshire, Lancashire or Wales, some three fourths of the disasters of which we hear so much every now and then are directly due to one of the two agencies, we shall cease to be surprised at the wide differences exhibited in this respect by two classes of works apparently so similar in everything except the character of the mineral with which they deal.

Several of the ventilation shafts serving to produce a circulation of air through the workings rise to the surface of the ground by a tolerably gentle ascent, and are furnished with steps from top to bottom. These are made use of by the workmen for access to the quarries, and they form a designedly valuable arrangement for their health and comfort, bringing the men by short cuts to and from their work in the morning and evening.

The average daily produce of stone from these quarries is about 150 tons, being nearly double the quantity taken out from all the other Bath stone quarries together. The length of underground tramway leading to several workings, exclusive of those which have been worked out and abandoned, is somewhat over five miles; and the direct line running east and west through the length of the quarry is nearly two miles. The number of cranes in constant use at the several workings is about fifty, each one of which keeps two or three of the narrow gauge trollies fully employed; while the rolling stock comprises of forty six broad gauge wagons actually belonging to the quarries, and exclusive of the Great Western Railway trucks, in which a large part of the traffic is carried on. The busy time extends from May to Christmas, though the stone is got out for stock throughout the whole year; and the quarrymen are thus seldom thrown out of employ at a time when most require work and wages.

The Builder.

11 February 1863 – Murhill Stone Quarry, Winsley, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge & North Wilts Advertiser – 14 February 1863

WINSLEY – SERIOUS QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Wednesday last, a quarry man, named John Strugnell a married man, working in Murhill Stone quarry, fell from a projecting proton into the quarry beneath. When picked up he was insensible, it was found that his leg just above the ankle, was completely smashed, and that he had received other injuries of a serious nature, in other parts of his body. Amputation of the foot it is feared will be necessary to prevent mortification of the limb. It is singular that one of his wife's children by a former husband was killed in a quarry at Farleigh, in a similar manner.

24 September 1863 – Bethell Quarries, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 26 September 1863

FATAL ACCIDENT

A shocking accident occurred on Thursday afternoon last, just before our reporter left Bradford, to a man named George Davis, about thirty six years of age, a carter in the employ of Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings, of Bethell Quarries, in this town, whereby he lost his life. It appears he was coming out of the quarry with a horse and wagon load of stone; when on nearing the mouth he stumbled over something and fell against the wall and as there was not room to allow the horse and wagon to pass, Davis's head was crushed against the wall, and death was instantaneous. His comrades a few yards further in the quarry hastened to his assistance, but the poor fellow was beyond all human aid – a gasp, and all was over. His lifeless body was conveyed to his home, to await the coroner's inquest. Davis was a married man, but had no children.

Source – Trowbridge & North Wilts Advertiser – 26 September 1863

BRADFORD-ON-AVON – SHOCKING ACCIDENT THROUGH DRINK

Yesterday afternoon a man named Davis, in the employ of Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings, quarrymen, proceeded from Trowbridge to Bradford, in charge of a waggon and horses, for the purpose of fetching a load of stone. On the way he drank freely of beer, and when he arrived at the quarry he was so overcome as to be more fit to go home than proceed with his work. The wagon however, was loaded with three tons of stone and started. The deceased accompanied it, and while on the way he staggered and fell under the fore wheels, which passed over his head, crushing it in a frightful manner and killing him on the spot. He was picked up, and a medical gentleman sent for, but his services of course were of no use. The body was removed to the adjoining inn, and an inquest held on the body before Mr. G. Sylvester. The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the circumstances.

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 3 October 1863

THE LATE FATAL ACCIDENT AT BTHELL QUARRIES

An inquest was held on Friday last, at the Masons' Arms Inn, before G. Sylvester esq., coroner, on the body of George Davis, who met with his death at the Bethell Quarries, the particulars of which appeared in our last. After hearing the evidence of the witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death." The funeral of the unfortunate man took place on Monday last, in the Bradford Cemetery, and a great deal of sympathy was manifested by the inhabitants, the streets en route to the cemetery being

lined with spectators. All the men and boys in the employ of Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings, of the extensive Bethell Quarries, to the number of 50, met at the railway station, and proceeded to the house of the deceased, for the purpose of flowing the remains of their comrade to the grave. Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings were also present. On the coffin being brought out six of his fellow workmen were selected as bearers of the body and six to bear the pall. The procession was then formed. The deceased's employers with the managers of the funeral, and the parish clerk, proceeded the corpse, the widow and relatives following, and the workmen bringing up the rear, in all about 70. Through the town the course was kept clear by Inspector Pitney; the spectators deeply feeling his untimely end. On arriving at the cemetery the beautiful and solemn burial service of the Church of England was read by the Rev. Mr. Miller, the curate, and during its reading many tears were shed by the bystanders. After a look into the grave the mourners, workmen, and spectators retired in the most orderly manner. We may here remark that all workmen and boys were well clad in suits of black clothes; and also each one of them, of their pittance, contributed a small sum towards relieving the disconsolate widow, whilst the Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings bore the whole expense of the funeral. We have been informed by those gentlemen that the deceased was very attentive to his duties as carter, and that his loss will long be felt by them.

7 October 1863 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 17 October 1863

John Gibbons, a quarryman, was brought up at the Townhall, before T. B. Saunders Esq., charged with unlawfully absenting himself from the employ of Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings, quarry masters, on 7th October, without leave of absence. Charles Westwood Poole, foreman, in the course of his evidence said the defendant had engaged to superintend a crane, and came to work, but after working one hour, the defendant left his tools and left work, and had not returned, thus putting Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings to great inconvenience by the stoppage of the crane. Defendant expressed his willingness to return to work Monday, and pay the costs amounting to 6s.

17 December 1863 – Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 17 December 1863 (Extract)

CORSHAM

Serious Fire – At an early hour on Saturday morning, the inhabitants of Corsham were aroused from their slumbers by cries of “fire,” and the rapid role of the alarm drum resounding through the streets. It was soon ascertained that the offices of Randell and Saunders adjacent to the railway station, were enveloped in flames.It was cheering to observe the hearty good will with which the quarrymen, many of whom were present, laboured at the engine, and exerted their utmost energies to rescue from the flames every article within reach; thus testifying the high estimation in which the firm stand with their workmen. We are sorry to add that the office, many of the books, maps, and surveys of the extensive Box hill quarries were entirely destroyed. The loss is estimated at not less than £5,000, no part of which is covered by insurance.

1 April 1864 – Box Quarry No. 4, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 7 April 1864

A man named John Lucas, about 33 years of age, met with a shocking death in one of Messrs. Randell and Saunders's quarries at Box on Friday last. He was at work with other men in quarry No. 4, when a

stone which he was engaged in dislodging, weighing between 5 and 6 tons, suddenly dropped from above, and fell directly upon him, causing instantaneous death. He had, it appears, been warned to be careful, and to put props under the fatal stone, but he neglected to do so, and hence the catastrophe. Mr. Whitmarsh held an inquest upon the body on Saturday, when a verdict was returned of “accidentally killed.”

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 13 (?) April 1864 (Peter Addison’s Archive)

CORSHAM

Fatal accident to a man named Lucas. He was told by fellow workmen that the immense block they were loosening was giving way. He stopped to pick up his pickaxe and the stone fell. He was “hurried to eternity.” He left a widow and six children.

1861 Census

Address – Corsham Side, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire, England

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>John</i>	<i>Lucas</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>1832</i>	<i>Quarry labourer</i>
Eliza	Lucas	Wife	Married	Female	30	1831	Quarry labourer
Elizabeth	Lucas	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	9	1852	Scholar
Ellen	Lucas	Daughter		Female	7	1854	
Joshua	Lucas	Son		Male	4	1857	
Thomas	Lucas	Son		Male	2	1859	
William	Lucas	Son		Male	0	1861	

13 July 1864 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 14 July 1864

Yesterday afternoon a quarryman, named James Slade, residing at Monkton Combe, was wheeling a barrow across a plank at one of the quarries on Combe Down, when he unfortunately slipped, and fell off. Falling upon his head upon the stones beneath, he sustained such severe injuries that the poor fellow died soon after his admission to the United Hospital, to which institution he was conveyed with as little delay as possible.

Source – Bristol Daily Post – 15 July 1864

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Wednesday, a man named James Slade was wheeling a barrow containing stones across an elevated plank at Combe Down quarry, when his foot slipped, and he was precipitated into the excavation below, a depth of 30 feet. On assistance being rendered to him, it was found that his head was very severely injured, and he was removed to the United Hospital, where he expired the same night. The deceased was 50 years of age, and has left a widow and six children entirely unprovided for.

11 July 1864 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – *Trowbridge Chronicle* – 16 July 1864

CORSHAM ACCIDENT

On Monday last an accident happened to a lad, named Wootton, of Pickwick, whilst at work in a quarry near the “Travellers' Rest.” He was engaged in poising a large stone with an iron bar, and, missing his footing, fell a depth of nearly fifteen feet fracturing one of his arms and receiving other severe injuries. Medical assistance was soon on the spot and the injuries were promptly attended to, and we are glad to say he is progressing favourably under the circumstances.

10 August 1864 – Monkton Farleigh Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – *Bristol Mercury* – 13 August 1864

FATAL ACCIDENT

A shocking and lamentable accident occurred on Wednesday afternoon, to a man named Walter Mizen, who resided at Bearfield. It appears that the poor man had mounted a stone waggon at the quarries, Monkton Farleigh, to ride home, and almost immediately afterwards fell over the side under the wheels, one of which passed over his neck and killed him. He leaves a wife and family.

Source – *Frome Times* – 24 August 1864

INQUESTS BEFORE CORONER SYLVESTER

At Monkton Farleigh, on Walter Mizen, aged 55 years. William Daniels, of Monkton Farleigh, deposed that he was a carter to Mr. Long, of Bradford-on-Avon, and on Wednesday August 10th, at 5 o'clock p.m., he had the care of a wagon, drawn by three horses, laden with 3 tons of freestone, proceeding to Bradford. The deceased who resided at Berryfield, had visited Farleigh, it being the revel. He was not sober, but was permitted to ride on the wagon. When he had gone a short way he fell to the road, and was killed instantly. The ribs of the deceased were fractured each side, penetrating the lungs and the heart. Verdict “Accidentally killed, caused by intemperance.”

1861 Census

Address – Bearfield, Bradford, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, England

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Walter	Mizen	Head	Married	Male	48	1813	Stone mason
Eliza	Mizen	Wife	Married	Female	46	1815	Woollen factory worker
Charlotte	Mizen	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	16	1845	Woollen factory worker
Ellen	Mizen	Daughter		Female	14	1847	Woollen factory worker
Edwin	Mizen	Son		Male	8	1853	Scholar
Arthur J	Mizen	Son		Male	6	1855	Scholar
Jane	Mizen	Daughter		Female	11	1850	Scholar

Henry	Mizen	Son		Male	3	1858	Scholar
-------	-------	-----	--	------	---	------	---------

Note – discrepancy between ages Newspaper 55 years old Census 48 years old.

23 August 1864 – Potley Bridge, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

William Smart (25), upsetting of a cart.

21 September 1864 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 29 September 1864

On Tuesday, at Box hill, respecting the death of Thomas Maslen, fifteen years of age. John Milsom deposed that he, with deceased and four other men, were at work a little before five o'clock in the afternoon of the previous day, in Messrs. Pictor's quarry. Deceased had just cut away the bottom of a stone, not observing there was a joint in it, when part of the stone (half a ton weight) suddenly fell upon his body, killing him instantaneously. Verdict, Accidentally Killed.

November 1864 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

In a well.

December 1864 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bee-Hive – 3 December 1864

STRIKE OF QUARRYMEN

There has been a strike of quarrymen in the employ of Pictor and Sons, Bath stone merchants, at their Box ground stone quarry. It appears that the men wanted a farthing per foot cube extra on the price agreed, on all stone dug from the 1st November till Christmas. To this Messrs. Pictor and Sons would not agree; but they offered a farthing extra for one month, as they expected the demand to be less in a month or six weeks. The men, after consulting, would not accept the offer, but ceased work, the whole leaving the quarry in a body. A written notice was sent to the principal men of them, requiring their attendance the next morning in order that their work might be settled off. They came, and one half of them agreed to go on work without the farthing per foot asked. Messrs. Pictor and Sons told the remainder that, seeing they had struck work, they would now not give the farthing even for the month. In the course of the next day the remainder agreed to go on, and began to get their men together again. All are now at work. [The effects of disunion.]

22 March 1865 – Bethel Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 23 March 1865

BRADFORD-ON-AVON - ACCIDENT

A sad accident happened on Wednesday last at the Bethell Quarries of Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings in this town, to a young man named Bryant. It appears the men were hoisting a large block of stone by a crane, when some part of the machine gave way, and the block fell and struck Bryant on the thigh. He was picked up and conveyed to his home, but it could not then be ascertained whether his thigh was broken or not. He was unable to move it and in great pain.

23 August 1865 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 31 August 1865

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Saturday evening the City Coroner held an inquest, at the Guildhall, on the body of a young man named William Smart, aged 25, in the employ of Messrs. Pictor and Son, quarry masters, Corsham. On Wednesday the deceased was attending a trolley laden with stone, down a tramroad, when a portion of the stone slipped off and fell upon him, causing severe injuries. The poor fellow was brought to the United Hospital, but died on Friday. Verdict “Accidental Death.”

30 October 1865 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 2 November 1865

BRADFORD-ON-AVON - ACCIDENT

An accident happened a few days ago in Mr. Long’s quarries, Paulton, [*Poulton*] to two men named Banks and Chapman. It appears that some portion of the roof of the quarry had been in a dangerous state for some time, and Mr. Long ordered the men to prop it up with timber, which they neglected to do, and on Monday a portion of it fell down and struck Banks on his hips, and completely knocked off a piece of flesh some two or three inches long, beside otherwise bruising him. Chapman, who was near, came off with a slight bruise in the leg, and is, we hear, to resume his work. Banks is in fair way of doing well. Mr. Long has since had the dangerous part properly secured.

26 May 1866 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Western Daily Press – 29 May 1866

SHOCKING ACCIDENT IN QUARRY

On Saturday considerable sensation was created in Bradford-on-Avon by the report that man had been killed at Paulton [*Poulton*] Stone Quarries. It seems that the proprietor of the quarries has a large contract with the Seend Iron Company, to supply them with something like 300 tons of limestone weekly, for purposes in connection with the iron works. The quality of stone supplied is what is called refuse, which could not accumulate to the enormous quantity required in the proper progress of quarrying, consequently the men, instead of quarrying it out, as is usually done, resort to the dangerous and reckless mode of blasting it out with gunpowder. On Saturday the men were at work, and had put in a large charge of powder, when a piece of stone, about a ton weight, fell and crushed a man to death instantly, frightfully mutilating him.

Source – Frome Times – 13 June 1866

RECENT QUARRY ACCIDENT AT PAULTON [*POULTON*]

In a recent impression we recorded a fatal accident to a man named George Sergeant, while engaged working at Paulton Quarry, belonging to Mr. William Long, of Bradford-on-Avon. We are glad to find from a report of the evidence adduced at the inquest that any charge of recklessness or want of care in the general management of the quarry was unfounded. It appeared that the deceased George Sergeant, a quarryman in employ of Mr. W. Long, and with other men, were paid so much a ton for quarrying out stone for the Seend Iron Works, so that the more stone they got out the more money they earned. The deceased was in the habit of working at a part of the quarry where the stone was in a dangerous state, and on Friday evening he placed a charge of powder near one of the large stones called pillars, which support the roof of the quarry, and blew a quantity stone down, and in doing so loosened the pillar. The following morning just before the accident occurred, Mr. Long said he went to the quarry about half-past six o'clock, but could not see Sergeant anywhere. He called out his name but received no answer. He inquired of the other men where deceased was, and they said he was in the quarry somewhere. Mr. Long then discovered that a portion of the pillar had been blown down, and cautioned the men not to go near there. Sergeant came out of corner of the quarry, and told one of the men named Morris that he heard Mr. Long calling him, but he put his candle out because he should not find him, as he would not let him work in that part of the quarry. Shortly before Sergeant was killed Morris told him he saw a stone projecting from the roof of the quarry in a most dangerous condition, but deceased paid no heed to the caution, and while he was at work near the stone, about a ton weight, fell from the roof perpendicularly, and toppled over upon deceased, striking him upon his head and chest crushing him frightfully, and killing him on the spot. He never spoke after the stone fell. The alarm was given and a party of men with iron bars got the stone off, and deceased was taken out quite dead. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," caused by deceased's own negligence.

5 September 1866 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge & North Wilts Advertiser – 8 September 1866

MONKTON FARLEIGH - FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Wednesday afternoon a large stone fell from the ceiling on one of the men working in the quarry, belonging to Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings, and the crushed poor man frightfully. He was instantly conveyed to the Bath hospital, but died before reaching it. This painful event cast a great gloom on all the men in the quarry. About half an hour before the occurrence the foreman called attention to the ceiling, and asked the men to sound it, and not considering it very safe, recommended a prop, which one man put ; the other, thinking all right, neglected to do so, and hence the melancholy accident. The deceased was a steady man, living at Kingsdown, and had been working in the quarry for nearly 30 years. Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings were very careful to have the ceiling examined as a preventative to such occurrences.

Source – Wiltshire and Gloucestershire Standard – 15 September 1866

BRADFORD-ON-AVON – FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

An accident has occurred at a quarry at Monckton Farleigh, near Bradford-on-Avon, by which a man lost his life. The quarry belongs to Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings of Bradford, and the custom is to work the stone as to leave portion to form what are called pillars or supporters of the roof. In the present case the deceased had been cautioned by the foreman not to work too near one of these pillars, but he seems to have neglected the caution, and the consequence that a mass of stone, weighing several tons, fell upon him. He received frightful injuries, and was immediately removed towards the Bath United Hospital, but died on the way.

6 September 1866 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge & North Wilts Advertiser – 8 September 1866

On the day following while loading a waggon with stone four tons weight, at a crane, the chain slipped and the handle caught a boy on the head and felled him to the ground, bleeding profusely. He was quickly removed to Bath hospital, and hopes are entertained that he is progressing favourably. There appears to be no blame attached to any one in either case.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 13 September 1866

SERIOUS QUARRY ACCIDENTS

A fatal accident has occurred at a quarry belonging to Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings, quarry masters, of Bradford-on-Avon, and situated at Monkton Farleigh. The cause is one that unfortunately happens in the best conducted quarries. It seems that in a working quarry, portions of stone are left to form what are called pillars, or supports, to form a roof. In the present case the foreman had cautioned the deceased about working near one of these pillars, but he seems to have neglected the caution, and a mass of stone work fell upon him, inflicting serious injuries. He was removed to the Bath United Hospital, but died upon the road.

At the same quarry some men were loading a wagon with a stone a ton weight, which was being lifted by a crane. The chain slipped off the stone, and the handle of the crane flew round and knocked down a boy, inflicting serious injuries upon him. He was also removed to the United Hospital, where he remains in a precarious state.

11 September 1866 – Monkton Farleigh Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 15 September 1866

A QUARRYMAN'S FUNERAL

The funeral of the late Mr. Isaac Dainton, accidentally killed at Messrs. Rogers and Rawlins's quarry, Monkton Farleigh, by a stone from the ceiling falling on him, took place at Box Cemetery on Tuesday last. The deceased was 63 years of age, and had always borne an exemplary character. The whole of the men and boys employed in the quarry attended the funeral, and joined in the procession, which was headed by Messrs. Rogers and Rawlins. The corpse was brought out from the cottage, and the ancient custom of singing a suitable hymn over the corpse was observed by the mourners. The cortege (which was considerably augmented by a large number of villagers) then proceeded over the Downs, and on arriving at the Cemetery Gates they were met by the minister, who preceded them into the chapel, which provided far too small to accommodate all the friends of the deceased. After the corpse had been interred, the procession returned to the cottage, in front of which they assembled, and some very suitable remarks were made by one of the firm. Then they sung the doxology, and afterwards partook of some refreshments, which were provided by the firm, and all returned to their homes, deeply impressed with the solemn proceedings of the day. We hear the Messrs. Rogers and Rawlins contributed largely towards the funeral expenses, and the workmen have also raised a subscription for the benefit of the widow.

1861 Census

Address – Kingsdown, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
----------------------	------------------	---------------------	-----------------------	------------	------------	-------------------	-------------------

<i>Isaac</i>	<i>Dainton</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>1805</i>	<i>Stone quarryman</i>
Ruth	Dainton	Wife	Married	Female	60	1801	-
Abraham	Dainton	Son	Unmarried	Male	37	1824	Stone quarryman
James	Dainton	Son	Unmarried	Male	19	1842	Stone quarryman
Frederick A	Bradfield	Grandson		Male	6	1855	Scholar
Edwin	Fielding	Boarder		Male	7	1854	Scholar
Harriet	Bradfield	Granddaughter		Female	3	1858	Scholar

15 September 1867 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – *Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents*

Fido stone falling on him.

25 September 1867 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Trowbridge Chronicle – 28 September 1867*

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Wednesday, a man of the name of James Arlett, aged 57, was at work in the quarry at Box, when a crane accidentally fell upon him and injured his abdomen in a frightful manner. He was conveyed as quickly as possible to the Bath United Hospital, where he died at nine, about two hours after his arrival. An inquest was held on Thursday evening, and a verdict of “Accidental death” returned.

Source – *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 3 October 1867*

BOX – FATAL ACCIDENT

Wednesday an accident, causing the death of James Arlett, a quarryman of about 50, working for Messrs. Rogers and Rawlings, of Bradford-on-Avon, occurred in a freestone quarry, on Quarry Hill. The quarry had not been used for some years, but being supposed not to be worked out, men had been again working there, when on Wednesday the crane used fell and injured Arlett so badly about the chest and body that Mr. T. F. Snow, surgeon, after examining him, advised his removal to the Bath United Hospital, where he died the same evening. At the inquest on Thursday a verdict of “Accidental Death” was returned.

1861 Census

Address – Washwells, Henley, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>James</i>	<i>Arlett</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>1818</i>	<i>Stone quarryman</i>
Emily	Arlett	Wife	Married	Female	42	1819	
Sarah	Arlett	Daughter		Female	13	1848	Scholar

Mary	Arlett	Daughter		Female	9	1852	
------	--------	----------	--	--------	---	------	--

15 October 1867 – Box No. 4 Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 24 October 1867

On the 15th inst., in the freestone quarry of Messrs. Randell and Saunders, of Corsham and Box, near the No. 4 shaft of the box tunnel, a quarryman, named George Jenkins, about 35 years of age, received injuries from the fall of a block of stone, resulting in his almost immediate death. An inquest has been held at the deceased's cottage, on Box Hill, by Mr. W. B. Whitmarsh. Thomas Bishop, a quarryman, was sworn, and said, I am in the employ of George Dancey, a sub contractor, or ganger, in Messrs. Randell and Saunders quarry. George Jenkins was a "pecker," working there with me and four others. On Tuesday morning, about 12 o'clock, he came from where he was at work to assist us. There was a block of freestone standing up that we had been working at. Jenkins was stooping down examining it, when he pulled out some small pieces of stone from the bottom, and the stone fell and jammed him against another stone. It appears from what followed that the stone which caused Jenkin's death was about four feet six inches in height, by sixteen inches in thickness, containing about thirty cubic feet, and weighing about two tons. The witness then said, that in about four minutes, by using the crane, we released him. He merely slightly cried out twice, became insensible, and died about twenty minutes after. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

8 July 1868 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 July 1868

A man named Solomon Watson, while engaged at Corsham side quarry, yesterday, was crushed between two stones and badly bruised. He was removed to the Royal United Hospital and detained.

14 August 1868 – Clift Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 20 August 1868

BOX – FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

One of those sad accidents which periodically occur in the underground freestone quarries in this parish, and which are apparently unavoidable, happened on Friday last in the Clift Quarry, at Box Hill, belonging to Messrs. Pictor and Sons. There are, as many of our readers are doubtlessly aware, a number of quarries here, which, aggregately, give employment to hundreds of men and boys; in fact, they form the principal labour market for the major portion of the male inhabitants of Box, and also for a great number from the neighbouring places; and the work being rather hard, and fraught with some danger (as the accident in question exemplifies), the wages are exceedingly good. The men are divided into gangs, there being a crane for the use of each gang, and a "ganger" to overlook them. On Friday last, John Fishlock, Mark Pinic, John Benjamin, and James Bence were working in one of these gangs, Fishlock and Pinic, were what is technically known as "pinchers." Everything had gone on all right up to mid-day. At that time Pinic, who was working in another bedding, came round to have a friendly chat, and Fishlock, having to work in a stooping position, ceased and got onto a resting attitude. They had been in this position but a few minutes, Fishlock and Pinic talking, and Benjamin and Bence working near, when suddenly there was a cracking noise heard, and Pinic, who heard the sound, immediately interpreted it as a sign of danger, shouted to his companions to look out. Scarcely had this startling ejaculation escaped his lips, and before either of them could get out of the way, a mass of stone and [#####] what is called the "ceiling," weighing nearly twenty tons, came down, burying

Fishlock and Pinic, and Benjamin, the former of whom only live a few minutes, during which time, however, consciousness did not desert him, and he begged his companions to release him as soon as possible, and was heard to murmur, "Lord have mercy on me," several times. Pinic was severely injured, one of his legs being completely smashed. Bence had a very narrow escape, a stone grazing his arm in its fall. Benjamin's escape, however was the most extraordinary and miraculous we have ever had to chronicle. When the stuff had done falling, part of Fishlock's body was all that could be seen, although Pinic could be heard groaning sometimes, and as soon as the other men of the gang had recovered from the fright which the event had naturally caused, they sent for assistance, and soon dozens of willing hands came to the rescue, and, with courage and energy that cannot be too highly praised, set to work to release their companions; a task which was very dangerous, as the rock still kept dropping, and they did not know but that at any moment another mass might bury them as it had done their companions, and Messrs. Robert and William Pictor, two of the proprietors, were also quickly on the spot, and rendered valuable assistance in directing the men what to do. To extricate them, however, was a very difficult task, as several tons of stone and clay had to be removed before the poor fellows could be got at. Fishlock was much the easiest to get out, but by the time they had well begun he was found to be dead. Pinic was alive, but much more difficult to get out. If, however, they had got Fishlock out first, the other would inevitably have been killed, so that the longest way was very much the best. The men however, set to work with a will, and, after an hour's hard work they succeeded in liberating Pinic. Till this time nothing was heard or seen of Benjamin, and everybody had concluded he was dead; but the men had to remove a large block of stone, which was "tilted" against the rock, and no sooner had they removed it about a foot from the rock than they were not less surprised that gratified to see Benjamin come forth." He was unhurt; but as may be imagined, dreadfully frightened. It appears that, on hearing the warning of Pinic, he got somehow, but how he is unable to tell, into a "joint," and thus escaped almost certain death. The news of the accident spread like lightning, and all the men working in the Clift Quarry, numbering over one hundred, rushed at once to the spot, and a great many from the other quarries also hastened there, and during the progress of the work of liberating the men, they kept arriving all the time, while at the mouth of the quarry, were men, women and children by the dozens, who were much excited, as the nature of the accident was not rightly known, and, as usual, some exaggerated rumours had been set afloat; and inside the scene struck on observers as extraordinary and melancholy in the extreme. In the foreground were as many men and boys, as could conveniently work, endeavouring to liberate their comrades, and as soon as one who tired another willingly took his place; while in the background, were 150 to 200 men and boys, each holding a candle in his hand, which illuminated this underground workshop in the most perfect manner, and discovered the roadway crammed with men and boys with bleached faces, all talking eagerly, and with the keenest anxiety plainly depicted on their countenances, while the tears were seen to trace each other down the face of more than one sturdy quarryman. Dr. Snow and Dr. Kemm were in attendance, and did all in their power for the injured men. When they were brought to the mouth, Benjamin, and Bence were able to go home but Pinic was conveyed to the bath Royal United Hospital, and, although frightfully injured, hopes are entertained for his recovery. No work was done in the quarry that day or the next, and the accident caused quite a gloom to settle on the inhabitants of the village. Fishlock, who had not quite reached his 30th year, was an experienced workman, as honest, well-behaved, and industrious man, who was much liked by all his fellow workmen, respected by all who knew him. He was a married man, but has left no family. An inquest was held on Saturday on the body, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

December 1868 – Bradford-on Avon Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 31 December 1868

INQUESTS TAKEN BEFORE MR. CORONER SYLVESTER

At Limpley Stoke, parish of Bradford on Avon, on Job Townsend, aged 78 years. The deceased was working in a quarry, when a large stone when a large stone fell from the side of the quarry to the

bottom, and rolling against the deceased knocked him down, producing a fracture of several ribs on the right side, and smashing the left ankle joint. He was found lying in the quarry insensible, was conveyed home, and died in four hours. Verdict, "Accidental Death."

[date given in "Digging Bath Stone" by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents is December 1871 which is incorrect]

6 March 1869 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 11 March 1869

A man named George Gingell, belonging to Atworth, broke his leg while at work for Messrs. Stone quarries, Corsham, and he was received into the Royal United Hospital.

22 April 1869 – Corsham Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 22 April 1869

We are pleased to announce that the flooding of Messrs. Pictor and Son's Corsham Down stone quarry has completely subsided, and that quarrying operations were recommenced last week. The workmen, nearly one hundred in number, have been thrown out of work for the last 20 weeks, thereby causing great distress, happening as it did at the dull season of the year. The proprietors did all in their power to alleviate the distress, by putting as many of the men as possible at the other quarries, but unfortunately there was a great number unemployed. The flooding of the quarry is attributed to the heavy rainfall that we had at the close of last year. The volume of water when it first broke in was computed at 60,000 gallons per hour. This continued to flow until there was enough water in the quarry to fill a lake, equal to three and a half acres in extent, averaging nine feet deep. The present working chambers were high and dry, but not accessible by the workmen, the entrance being on a lower level, the stone inclining from the bottom of the shaft three feet in 100, consequently blocking the only entrance; in fact, at that point the water is 15 feet deep, that is 7 feet higher in the shaft than the ceiling of the quarry. The proprietors, at considerable cost and trouble, are sinking another inclined shaft that will penetrate to the workings at a level above that reached by the water, so that should there be a flood again next winter there will be every provision made that the working of the quarry may not be delayed.

5 May 1868 – Combe Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 6 May 1869

A sad accident happened yesterday at the Combe Down Quarry, belonging to Messrs. Randell and Saunders of Corsham. A man in the employ of these gentlemen, named William Pocock, of Whitley, was engaged raising a stone in the quarry of 5 tons weight, by means of a crane, when the "dog" of the crane slipped, and the poor fellow was raised to the roof of the quarry with great violence, causing a tremendous gash in his forehead, and breaking both his legs and one of his arms. Mr. Kemm and his assistant were promptly in attendance, the broken limbs were set, the gash in the forehead was sewn up, and the poor man was conveyed home where he lies in a very precarious state.

20 January 1870 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 27 January 1870

A shocking occurrence took place in one of Messrs. Randall and Saunders's quarries, near No. 4 shaft of Box tunnel, on Thursday morning. Two men named Spaulding and Strange were picking, and while so engaged a mass of stone from the roof of the quarry fell upon them, Spaulding being fearfully mangled, and of course, killed on the spot, while Strange was very much injured, and had to be taken to the Bath Royal United Hospital, where he now lies in a precarious condition.

July 1870 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 7 July 1870

A sad accident was sustained by a man named Allen, in Messrs. Pictor's quarries at Box, one day last week. A heavy piece of stone fell upon his hand, and crushed his fingers very badly. He was brought to the United Hospital, where four fingers were taken off.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 14 July 1870

A paragraph which appeared in our last week's issue with reference to an accident to a man named Allen, which is stated to have occurred in Messrs. Pictor's quarries at Box is incorrect. The accident spoken of occurred in a neighbouring quarry.

22 July 1870 – Box, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 28 July 1870

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Friday a quarryman named George Norris, who was employed as a picker in the quarry of Mr. Strong, of Box, was killed while at work. He was engaged in the process of picking when a mass of stone suddenly fell upon him, crushing him, and of course killing him instantaneously. An inquest was held on the body on Saturday morning, before Mr. W. H. Whitmarsh, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned. We understand that Norris was a very steady man, and one of the most experienced and cautious quarrymen in the district.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 4 August 1870

The man, Norris, who met with an accident in Mr. Strong's quarry at Box recently has died. The deceased was about 30 years of age, and was shortly to be married.

11 November 1870 – Box, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 17 November 1870

FATAL ACCIDENT IN A WELL

On Friday last, as some men were sinking a well at Messrs. Pictor's quarry, Box, a fatal accident occurred, apparently through carelessness of the man whose life was sacrificed. The wall had been blasted, in order to remove some rock, and in spite of the expostulations of his fellow workmen, the deceased man, Charles Jones, aged 57, persisted in going down before the smoke of gunpowder had cleared away. On reaching the bottom, about 30 feet, he was heard to call out "Pill up!" several times.

He was instantly drawn up, but on his arriving within 10 feet of the top his senses had entirely left him, and being unable to hold himself in the “skip,” fell to the bottom, pitching on his head. Another man named Frankling, went down to recover the body, and he was also taken up insensible from the effects of the smoke, and had subsequently to be carried home in that condition. The deceased sustained a fracture of the skull and died the same evening, a quarter of an hour after arriving at the Royal Hospital, Bath. The other man afterwards recovered. An inquest held before the coroner, A. H. English, Esq., on Saturday evening, a verdict of “Accidental death” was returned.

Source – Wiltshire Independent – 17 November 1870

To the Editor of the “Wiltshire Independent”

Sir, - We will thank you to contradict the statement made in your paper of Thursday last, reporting the accident to Charles Jones. The deceased was in the employ of “The Bath Stone Company,” and not of Pictor and Sons, as stated.

Yours truly,
Pictor & Sons

1861 Census

Address – Poolgreen, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Charles</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>1814</i>	<i>Quarry labourer</i>
Caroline	Jones	Wife	Married	Female	53	1808	
George	Jones	Son	Unmarried	Male	18	1843	
Sarah	Jones	Daughter	Unmarried	Female	13	1848	

19 May 1871 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – North Wilts Herald – 22 May 1871

BOX - ACCIDENTS

On Friday last, Henry Lambert, a mason, of this place, had one of his fingers cut off and another very much crushed by a block of stone falling on his hand. On the following day, Charles Wicks, of Colerne, while engaged underground in a quarry shook the rock to get a very heavy stone out, when the bar over-balanced, and came down on his arm and hand, causing severe injuries.

20 May 1871 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – North Wilts Herald – 22 May 1871

BOX - ACCIDENTS

On the following day, Charles Wicks, of Colerne, while engaged underground in a quarry shook the rock to get a very heavy stone out, when the bar over-balanced, and came down on his arm and hand, causing severe injuries

6 July 1871 – Clift Quarry, Box, Wiltshire

Source – North Wilts Herald – 10 July 1871

A shocking accident happened on Thursday morning to Henry Rose, of Colerne, whilst riding into Mr. Pictor's quarry on some empty trucks, drawn by an engine. From some cause he fell off, and the trucks passed over him, breaking his head and severely injuring his head and bowels. He was at once taken to the Bath Hospital, and it is doubtful if he will recover.

Source – Bath Chronicle – Western Daily Press – 8 July 1871

FATAL ACCIDENT AT BOX

An inquest was held at the Bath Guildhall last evening, touching the death of a man named Henry Rowe [Rose], who died at the Royal United Hospital on the previous day. The deceased, who was 38 years of age, was a quarryman living at Colerne, and working in the Box stone quarries for Messrs. Pictor and Son. A few days since he was proceeding along the underground tramway in a truck, and as the train stopped he began to get off, but before he had actually reached the ground the engine backed, and deceased was knocked down. Some of the wheels passed over him, and the man was very badly injured, his leg, jaw, and several of his ribs being fractured and from these injuries he died. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

Source – Bath Chronicle – 13 July 1871

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A QUARRYMAN

On Friday evening an inquest was held at the Guildhall before Mr. A. H. English, in reference to the death of a quarryman named Henry Rose, which took place at the Royal United Hospital on the previous day. The deceased was in the employ of Messrs. Pictor, at Box, and on Thursday morning he went into the quarry by the tramway. When the train stopped he got off, but no sooner had his feet touched the ground than the engine backed, and he was knocked down, the wheels passing over his body. As soon as he was disengaged he was brought to the Hospital at Bath, but he died soon after. Mr. Hopkins, the house surgeon at the Hospital, stated that the deceased's lower jaw was fractured, some of his left ribs were broken, and he had also sustained a compound fracture of the left leg. A verdict of Accidental Death was returned. Deceased leaves a widow and six children.

Source – North Wilts Herald – 15 July 1871

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Friday evening an inquest was held at the Guildhall on the body of a man named Henry Rose, 38 years of age, a quarryman in the employment of Messrs. Pictor. The deceased worked at Box but resided at Colerne. He was brought to the Hospital at one o'clock on Thursday, suffering from a fracture of the lower jaw, a fracture of some of the ribs on the left side, a compound comminuted fracture of the left lung – beside a number of bruises in various parts of the body. He died two hours afterwards from the injuries received. Henry Smith, also a quarryman in the employ of Messrs. Pictor, stated that on Thursday morning about 10 o'clock the deceased and himself and 20 others were returning from their breakfast to their work on a number of trams drawn by a steam engine. When they had proceeded a short distance underground a halt was made for the purpose of obtaining a light. The deceased and witness were sitting on the hind position of the last tram, and as soon as the engine stopped the deceased jumped off. Before he could get clear of the tram upon which he had been riding the engine was reversed, and he was knocked down, several of the trams running over his body. The engine would have also passed over him had it not been for the fact that the fire box was so short a distance from the

ground as to preclude its clearing his body. When deceased was extricated he was conveyed outside and attended to by Mr. T. Snow, surgeon, who sewed up an extensive cut on his face. He was subsequently removed to the Hospital. From the darkness the engine driver could not have known that the deceased had got off the tram. Had he jumped off at the side instead of behind the accident would not have occurred. The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death”. The deceased leaves a wife and six children, the youngest of whom is no more than two months old.

1871 Census

Address – Widdenham, Colerne, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Henry</i>	<i>Rose</i>	<i>Head</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>1833</i>	<i>Ag lab</i>
Elizabeth	Rose	Wife		Female	37	1834	Quarry man
Pamela	Rose	Daughter		Female	13	1858	
Stephen	Rose	Son		Male	10	1861	Scholar
Abner	Rose	Son		Male	6	1865	Scholar
Jesse	Rose	Son		Male	4	1867	Scholar
George	Rose	Son		Male	1	1870	Scholar

Note – Although the occupation of Henry is given as an Agricultural Labourer his age and address correspond to the newspaper articles.

18 September 1871 – Mount Pleasant Quarry, Bath

Source – Shields Gazette – 21 September 1871

FATAL ACCIDENT IN A QUARRY

On Monday afternoon, a fatal accident occurred Combe Down Stone Quarries, from which most of the celebrated Bath stone is obtained. An elderly man named Williams had returned from dinner, and working in company with another on a piece of stone in an underground quarry, when a large block of stone from the ceiling fell and crushed him to death. The other man escaped, as did also two “pickers” and a boy who were in the same working. Immediate efforts were made to extricate the deceased, but in clearing away the rubbish a stone was loosened from one of the supports and further quantity of rock fell upon him. Four hours elapsed before the deceased could be recovered among the stone and rubbish. The quarry belongs to Messrs. Stone and Co., who employ some 300 men, most of their quarries being underground. The deceased had only a little while before expressed his belief that the roof was perfectly safe, and so great has been the care taken that the ceiling should be properly supported that an accident of this kind has not occurred in any of their quarries for many years past.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 21 September 1871

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT AT BATH

Yesterday the Deputy Coroner, Mr. R. Biggs, held an inquest at the Hadley Arms, Combe Down, in reference to the death of William Williams, a quarryman, who met his death on Monday afternoon, while working in Mount Pleasant quarry, Combe Down, belonging to Messrs. Stone Brothers, quarry masters of this city. The vicar of Combe Down, the rev. G. N. Newnham, was foreman of the jury,

which comprised a number of men practically acquainted with the working of quarries. Mr. Payne appeared on behalf of Messrs. Stone. The Coroner, in opening the proceedings, said that the case might turn out the merest accident or a matter of the most serious nature, and in any case he had requested that he might have a jury fully competent to enter into the question, as it involved the most serious considerations as to the amount of security afforded to the poor men working in these quarries, and it was incumbent upon them to satisfy themselves that they were adequately protected. If this had been a coal pit they would have been spared a deal of trouble and anxiety from the fact that it would have come under the notice of one of her Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, who would have taken upon himself to prosecute any person upon whom he considered blame to have rested, but by some anomaly stone quarries were exempted from that, and the duty of protecting these poor men fell upon a coroner's jury. The jury then went to the house of the deceased, in Mount Pleasant, where the body lay, and afterwards to the quarry where the accident took place, which is about one hundred yards distant. The quarry is an underground one, and the spot where the accident happened is not more than thirty yards from the entrance and is immediately in front of a large crane which was fastened between the floor and the roof of the chamber. At this spot there was an immense heap of stone of various sizes, some of them weighing many tons, and the fall of the ceiling had of course displaced the crane, which was lying all across the heap. Having spent some time in examining the quarry the jury returned to the inquest room, and before the proceedings were resumed Mr. Payne said that he was instructed by Messrs. Stone not only to express their extreme regret at what had happened, but their desire that the most searching inquiry should be made into the matter. He should be able to bring before the jury the evidence of an expert in quarrying, who had had many years' experience in such matters. The Coroner said that they would be happy for Mr. Payne to assist in the inquiry, but it should be a matter for the jury to decide whether they should take the opinion of an expert, and if so whether he should not be someone totally unconnected with these quarries, in fact a stranger to the locality. If he took the evidence of Mr. Maslen, to which Mr. Payne had referred, he could take him at the wish of Mr. Stone, and the jury must take his evidence quantum valeat, and as such perhaps – he did not use the word offensively – not free from suspicion of being in Mr. Stone's behalf. Mr. Payne said that he should be most delighted for the Coroner to bring any expert evidence that he liked, but felt sure he would not refuse to hear evidence of a person competent to speak on the subject, and he was also sure that it would not be supposed by the jury or by anyone in the neighbourhood who was acquainted with the character of Messrs. Stone that they were capable of "making evidence" for the occasion, and he might add that he had known Mr. Maslen for a number of years, and knew him to be a most upright man. The Coroner said that he was not supposing there was anything of the sort, he was there on his behalf and to give the jury information. The Coroner then proceeded to take the evidence, the effect of which was as follows. The deceased, who was 56 years old, was a ganger in the quarry, where he and his son had worked two years. On Monday he and a number of others were at work, and just before three o'clock in the afternoon his son, who was working not half a dozen yards from him, saw a large stone suddenly, and without any warning, fall upon the deceased, knocking him down of course, and covering him so that only a portion of his back could be seen. The weight of the stone is estimated at four tons. The men who were near at once got a crab and set to work to get the man out, and when they had been engaged in this for three quarters of an hour, they were interrupted by the fall of a much larger mass of rock from above, and for an hour or so their efforts had to be suspended lest there should be a fresh fall from above. It was seven o'clock before the remains of the poor man – for body it can scarcely be called – was recovered from under the heap of stone. They were in a fearfully emaciated state, and the body was crushed in every way, every rib, and both arms and legs being broken, while the skull was broken and the brains lacerated. The features, however, were perfectly recognisable. As to the cause of the accident, an opinion was given by deceased's son, who has worked in this particular quarry ever since his father, and Edward Hossey, the picker, who cut under the ceiling of the chamber where the accident took place. Both concurred in the opinion that the accident arose from the key-stone being as it were, in inverted form, the upper portion being narrower than the lower surface. None of the evidence seemed in the least degree to point to neglect on the part of the proprietors or their servants. Hossey said he found the ceiling as safe as any ceiling he had ever worked under, and last Friday when it was tapped it seemed quite solid as could be. From the evidence of another quarryman the pillars, which are placed

in triangles, are twenty feet wide, the same width as the span, and the quarries are supported in the same way as those at Box and elsewhere. This witness, whose name was Bartlett, said that he should have considered the quarry perfectly safe when the man was killed, and he had never seen a better ceiling. The deceased himself had not long before expressed his confidence in the safety of the quarry, and if wedges and props had been necessary it lay with deceased, as foreman, to determine if they should be put up. Deceased's own son, too, said that he considered the quarry safer than another he had formerly worked in. Mr. Payne said that Mr. Stone and Mr. Maslen were quite prepared to give any evidence that might be considered necessary. The Coroner thought that there was nothing for Mr. Stone to answer. The case as far as it had gone showed that if there had been any neglect it was on the part of the unfortunate man, and all the witnesses were perfectly satisfied of the safety of the quarry, so that he did not think it necessary to call those gentlemen. The Foreman (Mr. Newnham) said that there was one question of very general importance, and that was why it was impossible to get sober foreman in quarries. He had never known one since he had been on Comb Down, who had not been given to drink. If they had men who were notoriously the most drunken men in the quarries placed over the workmen it was a most lamentable thing. He had heard it asserted that quarry masters could not get sober men to be foremen, and it was really a most painful fact. After further conversation the Foreman took the opinion of the jury, who were unanimous in returning a verdict of accidental death. The Rev. F. Pocock said that if anyone was disposed to give the widow any assistance he should be much obliged if they would send it through him.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 28 September 1871

CORRESPONDENCE – THE LATE ACCIDENT ON COMBE DOWN

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BATH CHRONICLE

Sir, - Allow me to say that your report of the late inquest on Combe Down has by a slip of the pen done injustice to both the speaker and his neighbours; the foreman of the jury said that he had known *but* one sober foreman of a quarry – he might have said 2 or 3, but that is a small proportion out of 20 or 30. The mischief is done thus – a drinking foreman allows his men the credit of his name at the publican's. Thus they are able to draw more largely than they could in their own names, and so anticipate Saturday's wages, as to have little to receive for the family calls at the pay table.

One of the Jury

[The slip, if there were, was not ours – Ed. B. C.]

Source – Western Daily Press – 21 September 1871

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT AT BATH

Yesterday afternoon, an inquest was held at the Hadley Arms, Combe Down, on the body of a quarryman, named William Williams, 56 years of age, who was accidentally killed by a fall of stone, in a quarry belonging to Messrs. Stone Brothers, at Combe Down, on Monday afternoon. The inquest was held before Mr. Robert Biggs, the deputy coroner for the county; and the jury, which was composed mainly of men practically acquainted with the working of stone, including the vicar of the parish, the Rev. G. Newnham (foreman), and the Rev. F. Pocock, rector of the adjoining parish of Monkton Combe. The jury having viewed the body, proceeded to the quarry where the accident took place, where they spent some time in examining its general condition, and where the circumstances of the occurrence were briefly described. On their return to the Hadley Arms, the coroner proceeded to take evidence. The first witness examined was William Williams, a son of the deceased, who said his father was 56 years of age, and lived at Mount Pleasant, Monkton Combe, and the body which the jury had seen was that of his father. On Monday witness was working in the quarry with his father. At about

quarter to three in the afternoon when witness was not half a dozen yards from his father, who was chopping up a floor of the quarry, he saw a large stone fall from the ceiling, suddenly and without any warning, upon deceased. The stone almost covered deceased, and only a part of his back remained visible. There were a number of men at work on the spot, and some of them at once got a "crab" and set to work to get him out. Whilst they were doing this, a mass of stone, larger than the first, fell upon the deceased. It took about four hours from the time of the first fall to get deceased out. He was quite dead. His father and himself had worked in the quarry for more than two years. No portion of the roof had ever fallen in before, nor had any injury or accident from such a cause taken place there within his knowledge. Witness had worked in Mr. Shepard's quarries near Entry Hill, and both these quarries were supported in the same way; he had always thought Mr. Stone's quarry the safest. The roof was supported by props, and not by cross pieces which were not considered necessary. His opinion of the cause of the accident was that the keystone tapered upwards and inwards, instead of downwards, but it had been discovered afterwards. He had never any doubt about the safety of the quarry.

By the Jury : I have never heard of a fall of stone at night in this quarry. There were rather more props in Mr. Sheppard's quarry, because the rag at the top was not so thick as at Mr. Stone's, and did not need support. There is no limit to the distance between pillars, but the men use their own judgement in the matter. It was my father's duty, as foreman, to determine where supports and pillars were needed.

By Mr. Payne (on behalf of Messrs. Stone) : My father said that he had been a quarryman forty years. The chamber where the accident took place was completed nine months ago, and the point where the accident took place was picked at about that time. There was no crane at work at the time of the accident, and, though the ceiling was regularly tapped as the pickings went on, no hollow sound was given. The thickness of the rag is about 3½ feet.

Joseph Bartlett, quarryman, said that on Monday afternoon he was at work in the quarry with deceased. He was in front of Williams, with his side towards him, and he saw a piece of rock fall upon him. He and others began to get him out, and while they were doing so, about three quarters of an hour after the first fall, another mass fell. Witness had worked in the quarries fifteen years, and in the Combe Down quarries since March last. These quarries were supported in much the same way as those at Box, and from his experience in such matters, he considered the quarry in question was safe, and he should have felt himself perfectly safe in working where the deceased was killed. He had seen more cross supports used than there were here, but he had never seen a better ceiling, and he did not consider more support necessary. Even now he did not consider cross pieces necessary. In the morning he had pointed out to the deceased an unusual piece of stone, and advised him not to cut it too far under the joint; this piece fell after the fall of the other had given it vent. The crane lock was not in the piece of stone which first fell, but it fell with the second mass of stone. The crane had been used that day, and had lifted a piece of stone about two tons in weight.

By Mr. Payne : I have seen 5 or 6 tons at the same crane. The pillars in the quarry are the largest I have ever seen. I should think that the stone fell upon the man was about six tons in weight. The span from pillar to pillar was about 20 feet, and the pillars were of the same thickness. The deceased was a skilful workman. There was always a plentiful supply of wood for props, and witness had never heard applications for wood being used. The deceased had not long before said that the stone was one of the safest he had ever seen, and if "cletes" had been necessary it would have been deceased duty to put them there.

By the Coroner : I can give no opinion as to the cause of the accident. On Friday we sounded the ceiling in the presence of Mr. Stone, and we found no fault in it.

Edward Hossey, a picker in the quarry, who cut out the ceiling, said that he found it as safe as any ceiling he had ever worked under, and he found it so last Friday. He had seen the place since the accident, and he attributed it to the keystone being narrower at the top than below. He could not attribute the loosening of the stone to the working of the cranes near it.

Dr. Carter had examined the body, and attributed death to fracture of the skull, and lacerations of the brain. Both legs and all the ribs were broken, and the soft parts above the legs were torn away, besides other very serious injuries.

Mr. Stone expressed his readiness to give any information as to the quarry, but the coroner and the jury considered this unnecessary, and that he was completely exonerated from all blame in the matter.

A verdict of “Accidental death” was returned unhesitatingly.

1871 Census

Address – Mount Pleasant, Monkton Combe, Bath, Somerset.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>William</i>	<i>Williams</i>	<i>Head</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>1817</i>	<i>Quarry horseman</i>
Anne	Williams	Wife		Female	53	1818	-
William	Williams	Son		Male	16	1855	Quarry man
John	Williams	Son		Male	13	1858	Quarry boy
Louise	Williams	Daughter		Female	10	1861	Scholar

November 1871 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

Henry Franklin, aged 16 years, had his leg broken by a stone falling upon it in a Corsham quarry in November 1871, dying in hospital two days later.

29 October 1872 – Box Hill Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard – 2 November 1872

FATAL ACCIDENT AT BOX

Last night Mr. G. H. Cook, deputy coroner for Bath, held an inquest at the Guildhall, in that city, on the body of William Mullins, a quarryman living at Colerne, who died in the United Hospital on the previous day from the effects of the accident. The deceased was engaged on Tuesday, with two other men, in working a crane at Messrs. Randall and Saunders’ stone quarries at Box, when a piece of stone which they were about to move caused the crane to swing around suddenly and strike the deceased in the bowels, the blow forcing him against a stone pillar. He was removed to the hospital, where he died early on Wednesday morning. A post mortem examination of the body was made, which revealed a fracture of the lower left ribs; this caused a lacerated wound of the left lung, and a similar injury to the lining membrane of the abdomen. Verdict “Accidental death.”

6 February 1873 – Box Hill Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 February 1873

A man named Summer, employed by Mr. Noble, quarry master of Box, was killed on Thursday by a piece of stone weighing from eight to ten hundredweight falling upon him. His right leg and thigh were fractured, and he died about an hour and a half after his admission to Bath United Hospital.

Source – North Wilts Herald – 10 February 1873

FATAL ACCIDENT

An inquest was held at the Guildhall, Bath, on Friday, before the city coroner, Mr. A. H. English, touching the death of George Summer, aged 50, a quarryman, who came by his death under the following circumstances. The deceased was a picker employed in the quarries belonging to Mr. S. R. Noble, at Box hill. On Thursday afternoon he was engaged in driving the stone to clear the way for the cutters, when he came upon a loose bed of stone and endeavoured to dislodge it. He was unable to do this, and placed a prop in the centre to support it, and proceeded to cut out the stone. Whilst doing this one piece of the stone, weighing, perhaps, 7 to 8 cwt., gave way and fell a top of him, breaking both of his legs and inflicting several other injuries. He was at once taken to the Royal United Hospital, where he died an hour and a half after his admission. It was stated that the deceased was one of the most experienced men in the district, and that plenty of props were at his disposal if he had thought it necessary to use them for supporting the stone during the time he was at work underneath it. A verdict of “Accidental death” was returned.

24 October 1873 – Freshford Quarry

Source – Shepton Mallet Journal – 31 October 1873

A man named Robbins employed in Messrs. Stone’s quarry at Freshford was killed on Friday by a fall of heavy mass of stone on his head.

Source – Warminster Herald – 1 November 1873

QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Friday last week, a man named Robbins, met with his death while engaged in the quarry of Messrs. Stone, at Limpley Stoke. The deceased was a ganger, and at the time of the accident was working underground in getting out a large stone. In drawing out the stone, one of the props supporting the ceiling was knocked down. Instead of at once replacing this prop, the deceased commenced to cut up the stone where it lay, and called another man to bring him a saw. Almost immediately a large portion of the ceiling, which the fallen prop was supporting fell in upon him, killing him. A second man was knocked down but not injured. The deceased had been telling his comrades just before that he had dreamed he was going to be killed, which presentiment proved only too true

Source – Bristol Mercury – 1 November 1873 (This is the same fatality as that reported on 24 October they have the wrong name Baker should read Robbins)

FATAL ACCIDENT IN A QUARRY

On Monday afternoon, an inquest was held on the body of James Baker. Mr. Biggs was the coroner. The evidence showed that deceased was removing a block of stone from the side of one of the Freshford quarries, carried on by Messrs. Stone and Stone, when it fell and knocked down a prop which supported the ceiling. Deceased, who was the foreman, and answerable for the security of that portion of the quarry in which he was working, instead of replacing the prop, called for a saw and commenced cutting

the block which had fallen. Almost before he had commenced a mass of stone, weighing nearly two tons fell on him causing instant death, and also knocking down a man who gave evidence. Much discussion ensued amongst the jury as to whether or not the quarry was safely protected, and to satisfy them the proprietor of the quarry was called as a witness. The effect of his evidence was that the deceased took a contract, which would not expire till Christmas, to get out stone. Deceased alone was answerable for the security of the quarry, and witness had no power to interfere. The jury consequently express an opinion that the cause of death was a result of the poor man's own negligence, and returned a verdict of "Accidental death." The jury gave their fees to the widow, who has five children; and Mr. Stone supplemented it with the liberal donation of £10.

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 1 November 1873

A DREAM FULFILLED

On Friday last a man named James Robbins, living at Turley met with his death whilst at work in the quarry of Messrs. Stone and Son, at Freshford, under the following circumstances. He was underground engaged in drawing out a large stone, when one of the props which acted as a support to the ceiling fell. The deceased did not, as he should have done, replace this support, and almost immediately afterwards a piece of the material, weighing no less than 16 cwt., fell upon him and caused instantaneous death. A second quarryman was also knocked down, but escaped unhurt. It is a curious fact that the deceased had dreamt that he should be killed on Friday, and previous to leaving his family that morning was more than usually affectionate, as if believing his dream would be fulfilled. He took each of his children on his knee before going to work and bade them goodbye. He also, in the course of the day, spoke to some of his fellow-workmen of the dream he had had. His age was 30, and he leaves a wife and children. At the inquest, held on Monday afternoon before Mr. Biggs, deputy-coroner, a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned, the jury expressing an opinion that the accident was the result of the poor man's own negligence. The jury gave their fees to the widow; and Mr. Stone supplemented it with the liberal donation of £10.

1 November 1873 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wilts Advertiser – 6 November 1873

On Friday last an accident occurred in a quarry belonging to Mr. Robert Strong, whereby a man engaged at the works, named William Gingell, met with his death. The deceased was a member and "Chaplain" of the Good Templar lodge at Box, and a local preacher among the Methodists. He was interred in Box Cemetery on Tuesday last, nearly the whole the lodge as well as neighbouring lodges being in attendance. After the burial service was completed, the address and prayer appointed by the order were beautifully rendered by Bro. Peacock, who acted as Worthy Chaplain, and which made it compare favourably with the grand service of the Church of England. Afterwards a few words were to addresses to those assembled by some members of the persuasion to which deceased belonged the whole proceedings being particularly impressive.

16 November 1873 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 20 November 1873

A little boy nine years of age, the son of a quarryman named Franklin, of Box, was playing near a disused quarry at Box hill on Sunday and fell into the pit a depth of about twelve feet crushing his arm very badly. He was brought to the Bath Hospital where the poor little fellow died on Tuesday. It was stated at the inquest on that day there was a number of disused quarries in that locality in a dangerous

condition and at the request of the jury the Coroner promised to communicate with the responsible parties.

Source – Warminster Herald – 22 November 1873

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT AT BOX

On Monday evening Mr. A. H. English held an inquest at the Guildhall, Bath, to inquire into the death of a lad named John Franklin, aged 9 years. Deceased was the son of a quarryman residing at Box Hill. On Sunday, about 12 o'clock, he was playing with other children on the edge of a quarry, into which he slipped a distance of twelve feet, and some two tons of rag stone fell upon him. The effect of the fall was to crush the deceased's arm, in consequence of which he was removed to the Royal United Hospital. The limb was there amputated under surgical consultation, as the only means of saving the boy's life. The deceased was almost insensible when he was brought to the hospital, and had the bone protruding from the arm in two places. After the amputation deceased became unconscious, and died on the following day from traumatic fever, which set in. The jury ultimately returned a verdict of "Accidental death." As it appeared from the evidence of the deceased's father that there were a quantity of disused quarries in this place, in a dangerous condition, the Coroner, at the request of the jury, promised to make a representation of the same to Mr. Bruce, the agent to the lord of the manor, Col. Northey, in order that the place might be fenced in.

4 June 1874 – Bethel Quarry, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 4 June 1874

The celebrated Bethel stone quarries at Bradford-on Avon, formerly in the occupation of Mr. N. Rogers, have been bought by Messrs. Pictor and Son.

1 August 1874 – Stone Mines Bath and Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge and North Wilts Advertiser – 1 August 1874

GOVERNMENT INSPECTION OF STONE QUARRIES

Mr. Lionel Brough, Inspector of Mines, has made tour amongst the underground Bath stone quarries at Box, Coombe Down, Farley Down, Bradford, Corsham and Limpley Stoke, with a view of including them for Government inspection under the new Mines Act. A schedule of the quarries has been completed, and Mr. Brough has supplied to each quarry master a list of instructions. One of the most important of these prevents boys under 13 years of age labouring in underground quarries. The quarry owners in the district affected have just discharged the boys employed on their works. Upwards of 200 have been thus discharged, causing some inconvenience to the gangers, or sub-contractors who are responsible for the actual work.

13 March 1875 – Hudswell Quarry, Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Western Daily Press – 18 March 1875

FATAL ACCIDENT AT CORSHAM

Yesterday Mr. Kemm, coroner, held an inquest at Corsham Brewery, on the body of a man named Thomas Wheeler. The inquest was attended by Mr. Lionel Brough, the inspector of mines for the district, and under whose charge the Bath stone quarries were placed by the new Mines Act. The Bath stone trade has largely increased of late years, and Messrs. Randall and Saunders, of Corsham, have lately sunk two new shafts at Hudswell, near Corsham. Deceased and others were engaged in lining the shaft with masonry, and while fixing the last course, one of the supports which held up the stage on which they stood suddenly gave way, and deceased fell to the bottom of the shaft, a distance of 95 feet. Another man (named Trotman) experienced a narrow escape, as when the stage fell he clung to the wall and was rescued. After a careful investigation, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

10 September 1875 – Ridge Quarry, Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 10 June 1875

A man named Albert Gale, was killed, and two others injured, at Corsham, last Thursday, in an accident in a stone quarry.

10 September 1875 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 16 September 1875

On Saturday evening, an inquest was held at the Guildhall, before Mr. Coroner English, on the body of James Hillyer, aged 70, who met with his death under the following circumstances : Deceased was a quarryman, and was employed at the new quarry, near the turnpike, at Combe Down, belonging to Messrs. Randall and Saunders. On Friday, he was engaged with another man, named George Huntley, in lowering the "jib" of the crane, and whilst the latter was holding up the "dog" the deceased loosed his hold on the handle, which consequently struck him a violent blow on the forehead and broke his arm. He died within fifteen minutes of the occurrence. It was stated that the deceased was sober at the time, and that probably he let the handle slip through weakness. The jury returned a verdict of "accidental death."

28 January 1876 – Stoke Hill Quarry, Freshford

Source – Western Daily Press – 18 February 1876

FATAL ACCIDENT AT FRESHFORD

Last evening Mr. A. H. English, coroner for Bath, held an inquest at the Guildhall of that city on the body of John Goodhind, a quarryman, who died in the Royal United Hospital on Wednesday. The deceased was working in Messrs. Stone's quarries at Freshford, about three weeks since, when he loosened a huge block of stone overhead and brought it down upon him. His head was much injured, his ribs broken, and he sustained some internal injuries. Erysipelas supervened [*serious skin infection that can lead to gangrene*] after his removal to the hospital, but previous to his death he appeared to be getting round again. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

1 April 1876 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 1 April 1876

BOX – STRIKE OF QUARRYMEN

The whole of the day hands, comprising a considerable number of workmen, employed in the extensive stone quarries of the Box district, came out on strike on Monday in consequence of the refusal of the employers to advance the wages of the men 2s. a week. The men working by contract in the Box district, and also in the adjoining district of Bathford, have intimated that at the expiration of their contracts, in a few days time, unless the demands of the day men are conceded they will also leave work. If this determination of the contract hands should be adhered to, between 1500 and 1600 men would be thrown idle.

24 May 1876 – Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Western Gazette – 2 June 1876

George Sheppard, a quarry foreman, was assisting to get a train, laden with blocks of stone, on the metals, from which it had run, when one of the stones, weighing a ton, fell upon him and killed him instantly.

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 3 June 1876

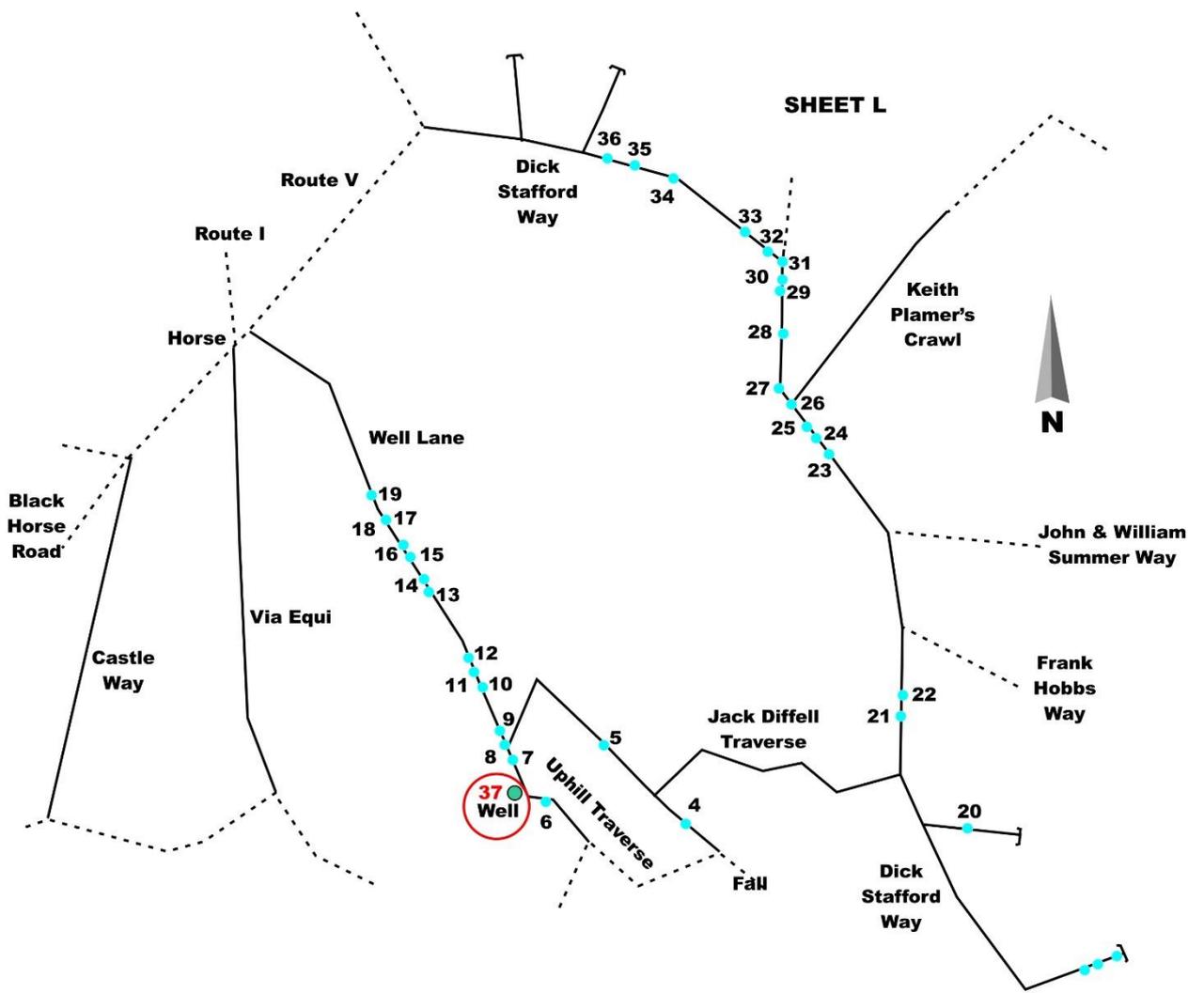
BOX – A SAD AND FATAL ACCIDENT

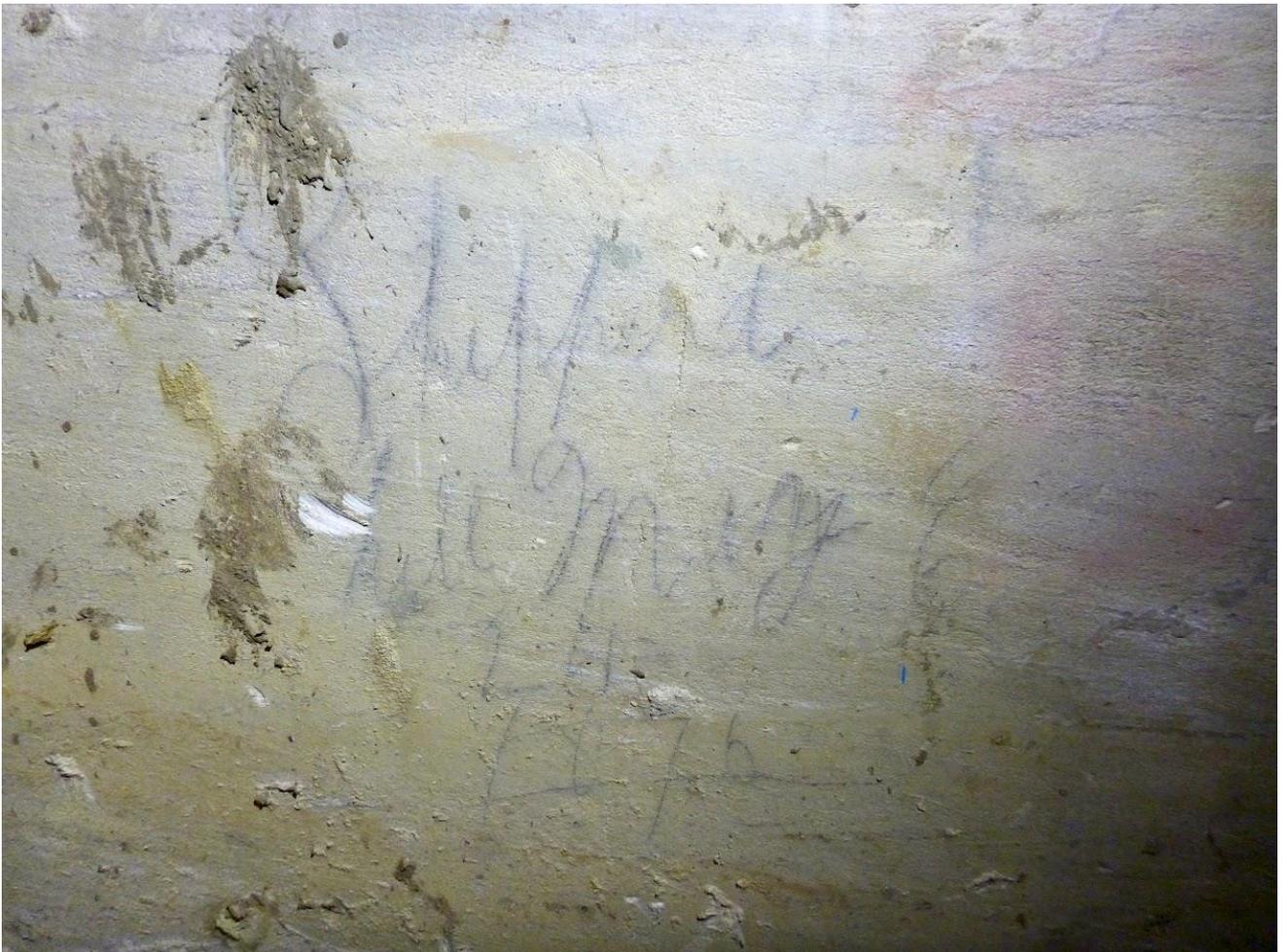
A sad and fatal accident happened in Messrs. Pictor and Sons' Corsham quarry on Wednesday, which resulted in the death of George Sheppard, jun. It appears that a trolley, en route for the bottom of the quarry shaft, and being drawn by a horse, from some cause or other, left the metals. The deceased, who was a ganger, with two other workmen employed by him, were sent for from another part of the quarry to assist the men usually employed to run the stone to place the trolley again on the metals. Whilst it was being weighed up the lever slipped, upsetting the trolley and throwing the block of stone, about one ton, on the deceased, which resulted in almost instantaneous death. An inquest was held before the Coroner for the Hundred (Dr. Kemm) on Thursday, at the Railway Station Hotel, Corsham, when the jury returned a verdict of Accidental Death.

The deceased was highly respected, and was a member of The Forester's Society, and at his funeral on Sunday last, a number of members followed his remains to the grave.

Source – Scripta Legenda – Box Quarries – Cotham Speleological Society – Volume 1 , Page 27

Sheet L – Inscription 37 – Inscription on wall – “ Sheppard kill May 26 1876.”





Photograph – Mark Jenkinson – Very faint inscription

2 August 1876 – Box No. 4 Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bristol Times and Mirror – 4 August 1876

FATAL ACCIDENT AT BOX

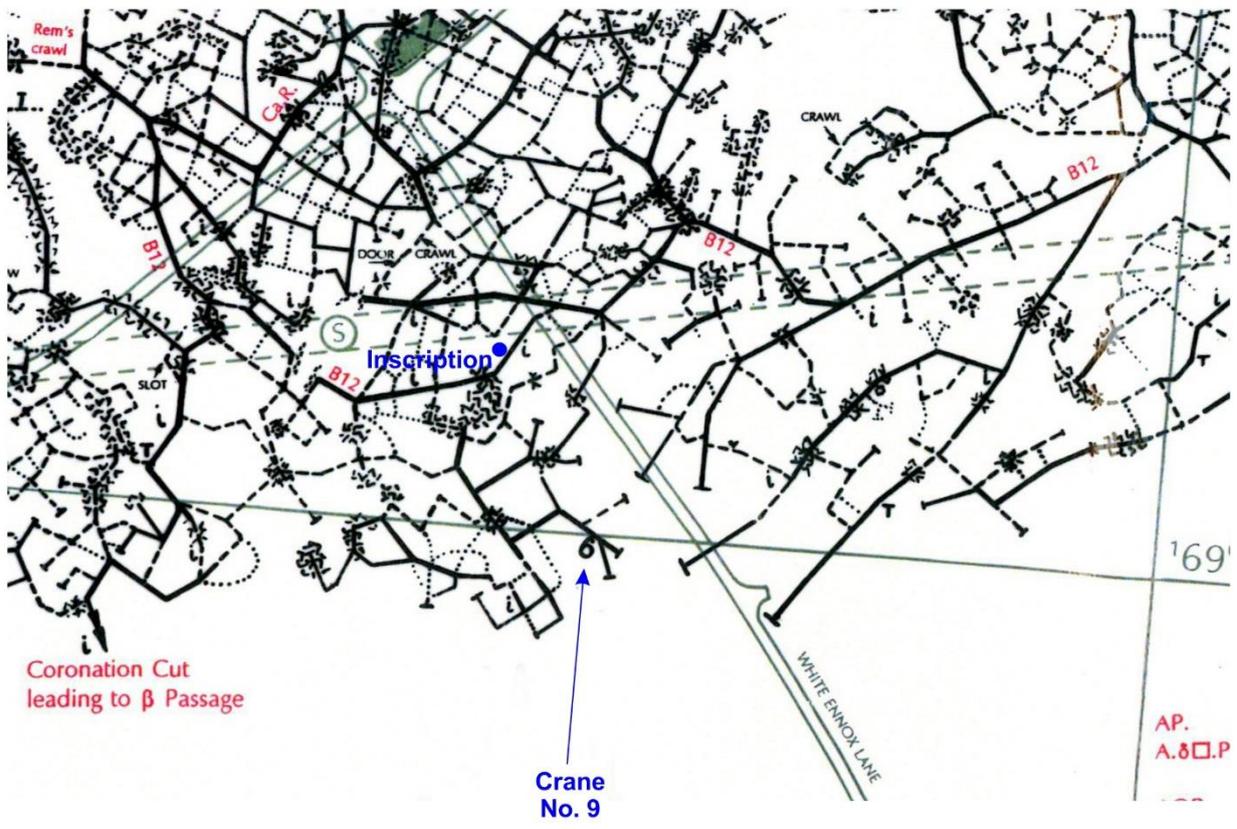
Yesterday a serious accident happened at the underground quarries of Messrs Randall and Saunders, near the village of Box. The victim was a boy named Cousins. He was in charge of a horse drawing a tram laden with stones. He was looking round a block of stone on the tram, when his head became jammed between it and the wall of the heading, and he was killed.

Source – North Wilts Herald – 14 August 1876

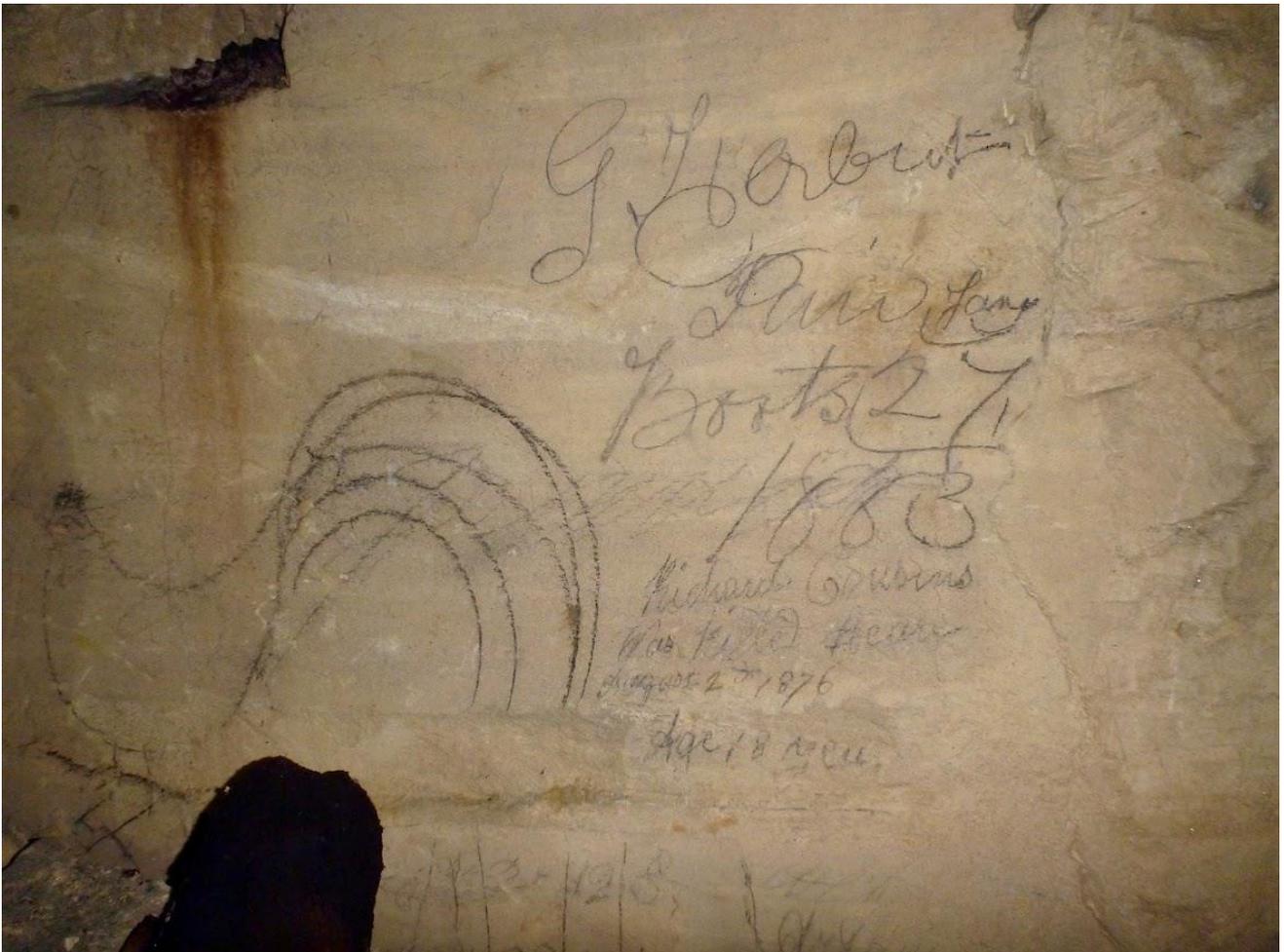
FATAL ACCIDENT

Mr. Coroner Whitmarsh held an inquest last Saturday, at Boxhill, on the body of Richard Cousins, a quarryman, in the employ of Messrs. Randell and Saunders, seventeen years of age. About two o'clock in the afternoon of the previous Wednesday, Joshua Lucas, engaged in another quarry, was passing along in No. 4, when he found deceased alone, who had been driving a trolley loaded with stone and drawn by four horses, which were remaining quiet. He was jammed between the load and a rock pillar, and his death must have been instantaneous. It appeared he had been riding on the fore part of the trolley to mind the break, and it is supposed he was looking back to see if the block would pass the

pillar when the accident happened. Usually there were two men with the trolley, but the one who attended the horses was absent that day. Verdict “Accidentally killed,” with a recommendation that in future, two men should be invariably employed as driver and breaker to a trolley.



Survey (partial) – Box Freestone Mine (Central) SMCC 1990 to 1992.



Photograph – Mark Jenkinson

The Inscription to the right of the pencil drawn arcs – “Richard Cousins was killed here August 2nd 1876”

26 September 1876 – Mr. Yockney’s Quarry

Source – North Wilts Herald – 21 October 1876

QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Tuesday last William Sawyer, of Corsham Side, while engaged in his occupation of connecting Bath stone trollies, was caught between two of them and sustained a severe fracture of the collarbone.

29 September 1876 – Unnamed Quarry

Source – North Wilts Herald – 21 October 1876

QUARRY ACCIDENT

Friday last J. Aust, who is also employed in a quarry in the neighbourhood, fell and hurt his side rather seriously.

8 January 1877 – Corsham Down No. 6 Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – North Wilts Herald – 13 January 1877

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Monday last, as Thomas Hale, aged 19, of Corsham, was working in Messrs. Stone's quarry, a piece of stone detached itself from the roof, and fell on his head, killing him on the spot.

Source – Devizes and Wilts Advertiser – 11 January 1877

CORSHAM FATAL ACCIDENT

On Monday afternoon, a young man named Thomas Hales was killed in an underground quarry worked by Stone & Co., stone merchants, of Bath, near this place. It seems that whilst following his usual avocation a large stone fell from the ceiling and killed him. Deceased was 28 years of age.

27 January 1877 – Corsham Down No. 6 Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Argus, Bath – 29 January 1877

FATAL ACCIDENT AT A QUARRY

A fatal accident happened at Messrs. Stone and Son's No. 6 underground stone quarry situate midway between Box and Corsham, on Saturday morning. A boy, named Edwin Phelps, 14 years of age, was engaged with several men in "stacking" block in the quarry an operation necessary in winter. The deceased was stooping down to remove a stone which partly supported a block, nearly a ton in weight, when another mass of stone, weighing five tons, and which was being swung in the "shears" of a crane, struck the smaller one, and knocked it over, and the deceased, who was close by in a stooping condition, was crushed so badly that he was killed instantaneously. The deceased was a venturesome lad, and had been previously cautioned respecting his reckless behaviour.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 1 February 1877

Edward Phelps, about 14 years of age (in the employ of Messrs. Stone Brothers, stone merchants), was killed in a quarry between Box and Corsham on Saturday, by a block of stone falling upon him.

Source – Wilts and Gloucestershire Standard – 3 February 1877

FATAL ACCIDENT

Another accident took place on Saturday last, at Messrs. Stone Brothers quarry, at No. 6, resulting in the death of a lad named Edward Phelps, aged 14, residing at Box. The deceased was engaged with a horse to bring the trollies loaded with stone to the stacking crane, and having brought a loaded trolley to the crane, was standing near the pile of stones, when by some mishap a large block of stone fell on him and crushed him to death. An inquest was held on the body on Monday, at Box, and a verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

Source – North Wilts Advertiser – 3 February 1877

SHOCKING AND FATAL ACCIDENT

On Saturday morning, a fatal accident happened at Messrs. Stone and Sons' No. 6 underground stone quarry, situate between this village and Corsham. A boy named Edwin Phelps, 13 years of age, was engaged, with several men, in "stacking" block in the quarry, an operation necessary in winter. The deceased was stooping down to remove a stone which supported a bloc nearly a ton in weight, when another mass of stone, weighing five tons, and which was being swung in the " of a crane, struck the smaller one and knocked it over, and deceased, who was close by, in a stooping position, was instantaneously crushed to death. Deceased was a venturesome lad, and had been previously cautioned respecting his reckless behaviour. On Wednesday an inquest was held before Mr. Whitmarsh, coroner. Mr. Cadman, her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, was in attendance, the whole of the Bath underground stone quarries having recently come within the operation of the Mines Act. From the evidence of John Milsom, it appeared that deceased, who was employed at the No. 6 Quarry of Messrs. Stone and Co. as carter's boy, was standing by whilst three men were engaged in lifting by means of a crane a block of stone, weighing five tons, from trolley and placing it amongst a stack of other stone. Unknown to the men, he got behind the immense block of stone they were removing, and which, on being deposited, tilted over a smaller stone, which fell on deceased and killed him instantly. The question of the exact age of the deceased was raised by the foreman of the jury, the Act of Parliament forbidding any child below 12 to be employed. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the exact age of the deceased, but it was ultimately proved by the parish baptismal register, that he must have been 13 years of age. The foreman of the quarry, however, admitted that deceased had been in the service of the firm two years. The foreman of the jury expressed strong disapprobation at the employment of boys at so tender an age and doubted whether it was legal in the face of the Education Act. In reply to Mr. Cadman, the foreman of the quarry stated that when he employed a boy he took his word as to his age, and made no further inquiries. Mr. Cadman said that in coal mines a certificate or some positive proof was required. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and added a strong recommendation that no boys should be employed unless their age was verified.

Source – North Wilts Herald – 3 February 1877

CRUSHED TO DEATH IN A STONE QUARRY

Mr. Coroner Whitmarsh, on Wednesday, held an inquest at Box on the body of a lad named Edward Phelps. Mr. Cadman, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, was in attendance, the whole of Bath Underground stone quarries having recently come within the operations of the Mines Act. From the evidence of John Milsom, it appeared that deceased, who was employed at the No. 6 Quarry of Messrs. Stone and Co., as a carter's boy, was standing by whilst three men were engaged in lifting by means of a crane a block of stone, weighing five tons, from a trolley and placing it amongst a stack of other stone. Unknown to the man, he got behind the immense block of stone they were removing, and which on being deposited tilted over a smaller stone, which fell on deceased and killed him instantly. The question of the exact age of the deceased was raised by the foreman of the jury, the Act of Parliament forbidding any child below twelve to be employed. Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining the exact age of the deceased, but it was ultimately proved by the parish baptismal register that he must have been 13 years of age. The foreman of the quarry however, admitted that deceased had been in the service of the firm two years. The foreman of the jury expressed strong disapprobation at the employment of boys at so tender an age, and doubted whether it was legal in the face of the Education Act. In reply to Mr. Cadman, the foreman of the quarry stated that when he employed a boy he took his word as to his age, and made no further inquiries. Mr. Cadman said that in coal mines a certificate or some positive proof was required. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and added a strong recommendation that no boys should be employed unless their age was verified.

13 February 1877 – Farleigh Wick Quarry, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Argus, Bath – 14 February 1877

LOCAL NEWS.

Accident. –As John Doel. A quarryman, about 20 years of age, in the employ of Messrs. Stone Bros., was yesterday engaged in loading a piece of stone of very heavy weight, at Farleigh Wick, the chain of the crane broke, and the block of stone fell on his left leg, crushing it in a frightful manner. He was speedily removed to the Royal United Hospital by the Rev. H. Tooke, in his phaeton [a light, open four-wheeled horse-drawn carriage], where he is detained.

15 February 1877 – Box No. 6 Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Argus, Bath – 16 February 1877

MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

Yesterday, a boy named Webb, employed at the No. 6 quarry of the Bath Stone Company, near Bath, had a wonderful escape from death either by the force of the fall or drowning. The lad had gone to the mouth of a well 90 feet deep for some purpose, and accidentally fell in. Extraordinary as it may appear, he sustained no serious injury from the fall, and, as the water was too shallow to occasion death by drowning, he was subsequently recovered, the accident having been found out from the fact of the candle he was carrying being left burning on the brink of the well.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 17 February 1877

BOX – MIRACULOUS ESCAPE

On Thursday, a boy named Webb, employed at the No. 6 Quarry of the Bath Stone Company, went to the mouth of a well 90 feet deep, for some purpose and accidentally fell in. Extraordinary as it may appear he sustained no serious injury from the fall, and as the water proved too shallow to occasion death by drowning, he was subsequently recovered the accident having been found from the fact of the candle he was carrying being left burning on the brink of the well.

20 July 1877 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Taunton Courier, and Western Advertiser – 25 July 1877

A fatal accident occurred here on Friday. A man named George Sheppard was engaged with several others in sinking a shaft in connection with a quarry. They had penetrated to a depth of 90 feet, and were continuing to blast the rocks. After firing a shot the deceased descended the shaft, and feeling himself dangerously affected by the foul air which existed there, shouted to his comrades to draw him up. This they did, but in the middle of the shaft the deceased swooned, fell out of the lift, and was killed. An hour elapsed before the body was recovered, so unsafe was the condition of the shaft. Fifteen years ago a similar accident, by which two men lost their lives, occurred. After firing a shot it is usual to throw water down the shaft to disperse the foul gas, and to lower a lighted candle to see if it will burn. It appears no precautions were taken in this instance.

Source – Trowbridge & North Wilts Advertiser – 28 July 1877

CORSHAM – FATAL ACCIDENT IN QUARRY SHAFT

An inquest was held at the Station Hotel, on Tuesday, before Dr. Kemm, coroner for the borough, on view of the body of George Sheppard, aged 31, who was killed on Friday under the following

circumstances and leaves a widow and a family.

Mr. Thos. Cadman, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines for South Western District, was present to watch the inquiry, and the inquest was deferred till today for his attendance. The jury sworn were as follows Messrs. William Neat (foreman), William Bromley, James Boscombe, Charles Churchel, James Burraston, Eli Day, David bath, John Baines, John Bates, Matthew Pitney, William Hancock, William Always. They then proceeded to view the body, which was black, decomposition having rapidly set in. The head appeared to be much injured. The first witness was

George Moody, who said – on Friday about half past seven o'clock, I was against John West's, working in the Spring Quarry under ground, belonging to Mr. Pictor. I live at Gastard. I was going to work. When I went on top of Mr. Pictor's Quarry, I heard that a man had fallen down the shaft, in Mr. Bracher's ground; there were 40 or 50 people there, and no one going down after him, I ran up there as fast as I could. As soon as I got up there I saw several let the skip down, and as no one would go down, I offered to go down. I went right to the bottom at once. The air was not bad, only smelt a little warm; that was all. I saw deceased lying on his face at the bottom of the hole. I recognized him as the deceased. There was no water there sufficient to cover his face. He was dead. I took the rope off the skip and tied it round him, and signalled the men at the top to pull him up.

By the Inspector – It was five minutes past nine when I went down. Before I got there water had been thrown down. I don't know why others were afraid to go down, except that they were afraid. Lamps had been lit and put down, and then I went down. I had no difficulty in breathing down there. When I saw the lamps burn down there I went down.

By a juror – I was on my way to work, when I heard of the accident. I did not go to the shaft till an hour after I heard of the accident; others could have gone down before if they liked.

Mr. Pictor, in answer to the Coroner, said the father and sons had the quarrying work at this spot, to carry out between them by contract,

Job Sheppard, father of deceased, said – I live at Shaw Hill, Melksham. I and my sons had the contract to sink this shaft for Mr. Pictor. We commenced at half past five, and fired one charge. The deceased was down the hole at half past five to seven, to ram the charge and prepare it for firing. It was fired at about 10 minutes past seven. Deceased had not complained of foul air in the shaft. The fuse was three feet six inches long, and allowed four minutes for deceased to come up. He was at the top of the hole several minutes before the charge exploded. We let the bucket down several times to cut the air, before anyone goes down. The depth of the shaft was 87 feet, and 5ft. in diameter, but 7½ft. up in the mouth. There is always some foul air in a shaft, after firing, but mostly smoke. The deceased went down about 10 to 12 minutes after the charge was fired. He went down of his own accord. After he had been down half a minute, he holloed out "pull up," and I and my other son did so as quickly as one could. He called out as strong and as clear as at any other time. We found him fall out as we were pulling, about 50 feet from the bottom. We did not see him but heard him groan two or three times after he was in the bottom. We sent for some men on the trolley roads, and seeing smoke, one threw some water down. It was half an hour before anyone went down, as the smoke hung about there.

By the Inspector – I noticed no foul air in the shaft before, nor no difficulty in breathing there. We generally go down soon after the shot is fired. The deceased was a strong healthy man.

By the Coroner – We fired no shot the day before, but we did two days before.

By the Inspector – I trembled so I was afraid to go down myself. When I heard him give two or three groans, I thought he was dead. I think my son was overcome by the smoke and fell out of the bucket.

We go down when we like. We have no direction from our employers as to when we should go down a shaft after firing. I have sunk shafts from Mr. Randall, 101 feet deep, and never had any accidents.

By a juror – I thought it unusual in deceased to call out to be pulled up.

James Pictor, of the firm of Pictor and Son, said – The deceased was in our employ. I gave him no instructions as to sinking this shaft, thinking he was experienced. I visited it when they had got down about 50 feet. I smelt no foul air, only powder smoke. I leave it to their judgement when you go down. I give no directions.

By the Inspector – What means do you take to ventilate these shafts?

Witness – I take no means. I should have done so if I thought it was necessary. I let the contract to these men and left them to carry on.

The Inspector – You must remember that the liability to ventilate these shafts rests upon the owner, after all, not upon the contractor.

By the Coroner – I have sunk five or six shafts within as many years, but have never ventilated any. This shaft was comparatively dry to what some are.

There was no medical testimony as to the exact cause of death, and the Coroner made no remarks to the jury, beyond telling them to consider their verdict. The court was then cleared for that purpose.

The Coroner first asked the Government Inspector if he wished to address the jury, but he said no.

The jury deliberated for a few minutes, and returned a verdict of “Accidental death.”

We are informed that some other men were sinking a shaft about 300 yards from this spot at the same time, and after blasting in the same strata, a rush of foul air overtook the man who went down in the skip. He was signalled to be pulled up, and when he arrived at the top he was so overcome, that he was in the act of falling when he was saved by his comrades, who caught hold of him. This shows that some regulations should be adopted as to ventilating shafts of this description.

The jury handed their fees, 9s., to the distressed widow and fatherless little ones, and doubtless some other effort will be made by the benevolent people of Corsham to affording her aid.

21 July 1877 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Central Somerset Gazette – 28 July 1877

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Saturday, several men were engaged in an underground quarry at Combe Down, worked by Randall, Sanders, and Co., lifting a block of stone weighing nearly four tons by means of a crane. It had hardly left the ground when the chain that held it broke, and it fell over, nearly crushing five men. Three of them managed to escape, but one of them Edward Fido, aged 29, was buried beneath the fallen mass, and a youth named Frederick Dulton had his leg injured, for which he is now under treatment at the Royal United Hospital. The body of Fido, who leaves a widow with two children, was removed to the Forester's Arms, and an inquest held.

Source – Southern Times and Dorset County Herald – 28 July 1877 (Extract)

An inquest was held on Monday evening by Mr. A. H. English. Satisfactory evidence of proper testing of the chain which caused the accident was adduced by the proprietors, and a verdict of "Accidental death" returned.

Source – The Wiltshire County Mirror – 31 July 1877

BATH – FATAL ACCIDENT

A chain by which a block of stone of four tons weight was being brought up a shaft broke, and the block falling to the bottom killed a man named Filo, and injured another named Button.

September 1877 – Corsham Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge & North Wilts Advertiser – 28 September 1877

SERIOUS ACCIDENT

A correspondent writes – A man named Nathaniel Fidoe engaged in an underground quarry belonging to Messrs. Yockney & Co., in drawing out a huge block he was adjusting a roller beneath, when the stone fell forward and knocked him down underneath it, which bruised him very much. Had it not been for the roller, he must have been killed on the spot. A medical man was soon in attendance, Mr. Bush, of Corsham, who examined him and found there no bones broken. A kind friend, Mr. C. Barnett, procured some brandy, as prescribed by the doctor, but the poor suffering man being a Good Templar, said he did not wish to have it; and up spoke another, rather higher in the same order, and said "Don't! don't! I would take a drop myself if I was sure it would save my life." Now, I should like to know what this man's estimate could be of his life? as this poor sufferer was in a fainting state and not allowed to receive the contents of the good Samaritan's bottle, which might have refreshed his quivering lips in such a precarious case as this appeared to be.

4 October 1877 – Odd Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Argus, Bath – 5 October 1877

ACCIDENT

A quarryman, named Samuel Budd, sustained a fractured thigh by some stone falling upon him whilst at work in a quarry on Odd Down yesterday.

22 October 1877 – Lansdown Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 25 October 1877

ACCIDENT

A man, named Henry Goddrige, employed as a labourer at Miss Strangeway's stone quarries, at Lansdown, fell backwards on Monday morning while at work, and severely injured his back and head. He was taken to the Royal United Hospital and detained.

1 December 1877 – The Tump Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 December 1877

On Monday, a man, named Samuel Beaven, was killed on the opening of a new iron tramway from Westwood to Avoncliffe, made for the purpose of facilitating the removal of stone from the quarries by Messrs. Stone and Son.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 8 December 1877

BRADFORD-ON-AVON FATAL ACCIDENT AT AVONCLIFFE

Mr. F. T. Sylvester held an enquiry at the New Bear Hotel, Bradford-on-Avon, on Tuesday, on the death of Samuel Beaven, who was killed the New Tramway, Avoncliffe, on Saturday under circumstances detailed in the evidence given below.

The Coroner explained that the deceased, whose death had called them together, was foreman of the loaders at the New Quarry Tramway, Westwood Avoncliffe, at the former of which places the quarry itself was situated. It would be for them to consider the cause of the accident, and of course if negligence or carelessness was to be attached they would say so in their verdict.

The jury then proceeded to view the body, on and their return into Court the Coroner observed that he believed some of the jury wished to visit and examine scene of accident. This they could do if they wished, and it for them to say whether they would do so at once, or first hear the evidence.

The jury expressed a desire to hear the evidence

The first witness called was Jacob Beavan, who deposed – I have been employed at the Quarry where the deceased, who was my brother, was foreman. He had been employed also to load stone at Bradford. He lived with his brother at Bradford. I was at work with my brother on Saturday. He appeared to be in good health. I was not present when the accident but I should think I was there about ten minutes or so afterwards. I had to run to the top of incline, and I went up as quickly as I could. I cannot say positively what time it was but should was about eleven or half-past. He was doubled up under the trolley and a large piece of oak lying upon him. I did not see anything of the accident myself. I got assistance as quickly as I could and extricated my brother. We took him at once to the of Mr. Tanner, about 100 yards away. I stayed with the deceased till half-put three, and then I came on to Bradford in order to get a conveyance; I did this in consequence of the deceased expressing a wish be taken home.

The Coroner—Did you not send for a surgeon ?

Witness – Yes, sir, and got one, but it was three and a half hours before he came. I met him on the road as I was coming Bradford for a conveyance. He saw the deceased between three and four. I got a conveyance, returned to Avoncliffe, and brought the deceased home. The deceased died at ten minutes to twelve the same night.

A Juryman—How long was it before you got him out ?

Witness – I should say two or three minutes when I got there; as fast the man could saw the of wood through.

The Coroner— You went to your brother as soon as you heard of it ?

Witness—Yes. I heard him cry out.

There were other men there before you ?

Yes sir, there were.

Was he crushed about the body?

He was “plied over,” doubled up,

The tram was on him then ?

It had passed over. The tram must have come very suddenly upon him.

Dr. Adye, surgeon, said he understood the trolley to have made a complete somersault.

A Juryman— Had your brother ever expressed any fear of an accident ?

Witness—Yes, he had.

How long before ?

We had talked about it several times.

Did you ever know a trolley leave the road before?

No. The stone on the trolley measured 86 feet. I have known stone of 88 feet brought down the incline, but no longer.

Dr. William Adye, surgeon, was the next witness. He deposed that he first saw the deceased at Tanner's house at half past four on Saturday. He found him quite sensible and suffering from spinal and internal injuries. He was not, however, in a state of collapse. Witness could find no fracture ; and, on examining the body after death, he could find no marks of injury. In witness's opinion, death resulted from internal injuries and shock to the nervous system. The blow must have fallen just on the side of the spine. Had it struck deceased directly, it would probably have caused instant death.

By the jury—Did not believe if the deceased had been attended to more quickly, it would in the slightest degree have affected his death.

John Stokes was the next witness. He deposed – I am a quarryman in the employ of Messrs. Pictor, and I work at Limpley Stoke. I knew the deceased, and on Saturday I went over to see him. (The witness was asked what he wanted with the deceased. At first he said he went out of curiosity, and afterwards for business ; and on being further asked, said that the last statement correct.) He continued. The deceased was engaged in letting down stone on the tramway, by means of the brakes. Another man was assisting him in hitching on the trollies. He had lowered down two or three trollies, and then a very big stone was taken out of the quarry. I should think it was between 80 and 90 feet. The deceased was about to give orders to a man to put some ashes on the rails at the bottom of the incline, on account of their being very slippery. The trolley was then pushed over the top, and the deceased screwed on the brake. The trolley over-ran the deceased and rushed down the incline, bringing the other one up also, at a very rapid pace. The bond or iron rope, skidded on the wheel, and the deceased lost all control of the trolley immediately. He never again got control of it. The empty trolley was drawn violently round at the top and struck down the deceased. I consider the accident was traceable to the extreme weight of the stone.

A juryman—Did the deceased try to get out of the way? Witness—I cannot say, but I think he was trying to stop the tram.

By the Coroner—I should think the stone would measure between 80 and 90 cube feet. I cannot judge what the weight would be. Had been at the same work for the last 20 years. From where the deceased was he could have distinctly seen a trolley coming up.

The Coroner—You say you think the accident was due to the weight of the ? Did you apprehend any danger when the tram started ? Witness—No sir, I did not. You don't know the power of this brake ?

No, sir; I never saw one of the same sort before. Is it usual to send such heavy stones down inclines?

Yes, sir much heavier ones than that. Are you of opinion was want of brake power ?

No, sir.

Then why could not the deceased stop the trolley ?

I don't think the bond of the wheel was tied to the slip properly?

Then you don't think it was want of brake power?

No. I think the brake was powerful enough.

Well then, what was the cause of the accident ?

The bond did not hold well.

What was the reason of that ?

I am sure I don't know, sir.

What was the bond ?

A steel wire rope.

Mr. Baine (Government inspector) — Explained that the steel wire rope used for letting the trollies up and down wag called the bond.

The Coroner (to witness) —Can you give us a reason for the bond not bolding ?

No, sir.

You say it skidded ?

Yes, sir.

Well now, would not be on account of the enormous weight of the stone ?

Yes; I should think so ?

Was there anything to hold it ?

Nothing more than the empty trolley.

The foreman— The biting surface of the travelling wheel is intended to hold it.

Mr. Baine—Have you seen any stones coming down before ?

Witness—Yes, sir.

Has there been any signs of the rope giving ?

No, sir.

Have you ever worked at an incline ?

No, sir.

By Mr. Randall, (of the firm of Randall and Saunders, proprietors of the quarry) – I have never examined the brake . I could not say how much heavier this stone was than those which have been sent down before.

The witness was also interrogated by Mr. Hancock, manager of Messrs. Randall and Saunder's business, and in answer to that gentleman be said that he believed the deceased could have easily got out of the way after the tram ran away. Believed deceased stuck to his post in order to save injury to the works. When he had screwed on the brake he was not called on to do anything more.

A juryman remarked that he did not think the scene of the accident was a fit place for any man to be on.

Another juryman said he visited the place that and thought very differently.

The Coroner reminded the jury that any preconceived opinion they might have, had nothing to do with their duties that day. They must frame their verdict on the evidence and on the evidence alone.

William Tanner deposed—I am a quarryman and live at Westwood. I had been working at the Westwood Quarries with the deceased for two years, and was working with him on Saturday. I did not see the accident, but I saw the deceased directly afterwards. I did not see the stone with which the trolley

loaded previous to the accident. I saw it afterwards. The trolley had capsised before I came up. I was underground at the time, and came out just as it was done. I have not seen so large a stone come down the incline, but have seen one only 3 feet smaller. I cannot account for the accident in any way whatever. I have no practical acquaintance with the machinery.

The foreman remarked that he should like a man named William Clark called, inasmuch as he believed that he could speak to having heard of the trolley jumping before.

John Hudd, general foreman of Messrs. Randall and Saunders' works, was next examined. He deposed that he lived at Corsham. He was at home at the time of the accident.

The Coroner—Do you concur in the view of the accident given by the witness Stokes ?

Witness—Yes, sir, I do,

Do you know this brake?

Yes, sir.

Are you of opinion that it is of sufficient power?

Yes, sir, I am.

What experience have you had?

I have laid down hundreds of roads.

You have heard the measurement of this stone.

Have you ever let down as weighty a one ?

Not there, sir.

Or anywhere else with the same pattern brake ?

No, sir.

Do you consider brake is powerful enough ?

Yes.

To let down any weight, sir.

Well, if that were so, how do you account for the accident ?

The rope must have slipped on the clip. I should think the deceased could have got out of the way. I could have myself. Is there anything to prevent the rope slipping? There are the clips. Why did it not hold now ?

I can't say.

Do you think it was the weight of the stone?

Yes, I should think so.

Do you think it unwise on the part of the deceased to send down so large a stone ?

It is the practice to send them down in some places.

There must be a certain amount of danger, you see in this case it was the stone that caused the accident. If it had been lighter the rope would not have slipped would it ?

The clips ought to have held it.

Supposing you had been there would you have thought there had been any danger ?

No, sir, I certainly should not.

Then why did it slip ?

I cannot tell.

Did you ever see a rope slip before ?

No, sir.

You would not have any fear yourself ?

No, sir.

You would not have expected the rope to skid.

No, sir.

If it did, what would you think was the reason ?

I should think the wheel was in fault.

Have you seen this wheel ?

I have.

Have you discovered any fault ?

None whatever.

Have you any practical knowledge of engineering?

No, sir.

The Foreman—if the clips bit as they should, would they have let down a stone twice that weight? Certainly.

Mr. Hancock here mentioned that the wheel had previously been worked in Cornwall.

The foreman (to Mr. Hudd) – If the brake were put on too suddenly, might that tend to cause the slipping?

Yes, sir.

In answer farther questions witness said the brake would have the same command whether the weather was wet or dry. Had I been in deceased's position, I could have got out of the way in time to save myself. It would not be practicable to have a level at the bottom of the incline, as the empty trolley would not come up.

One of the jury (Mr. Rogers) expressed an opinion that it would be most satisfactory the jury to view the spot. He believed that deceased only stopped on the spot to do his duty, and knew he was a man that never flinched from duty.

At the request of Mr. Hancock, the Coroner asked what weight of the loads of ballast that had been carried down the same during the last five months.

Witness said they averaged four tons.

Mr. Hancock said that reckoning 16 feet to ton, the usual standard for Bath stone, this block would be 5 tons 7cwt. 21bs.

Mr. Raudall made statement to the jury to the effect that the machinery was used in Cornwall for drawing water up an incline and other purposes. It was there fitted with lever brake, but when brought to Avoncliffe it was fitted with a screw brake, by which arrangement the man could a ply it and leave, whereas with the lever brake he had to hold it on, and if therefore in this case the man to stop in the way it was due to his own want of discretion.

A jurymen asked if there was any provision for securing the brake by ring, similar to that used on railways.

Mr. Randall replied that there was not, it was quite unnecessary. He thought the skidding was probably due to the too hurried application of the brakes.

Stokes was recalled, and in answer the Coroner said he quite agreed with this hypothesis.

Mr. Rundell added that he thought it very likely the attention of the deceased was for the moment distracted from his work by some other object.

The Coroner remarked that it appeared to him that the wheels did not bite properly, for it was certain the brakes were in good order. In addition they had heard it given as the opinion of practical men that when the deceased found he had lost control he could had he tried to have got out of the way. They could now go and view the machinery if they wished.

Several of the jury said they considered it unnecessary, whilst others wished to go. A vote was taken the visit was rejected by 6 to 5, Mr. Rogers remarking that he thought the jury would wish they had gone.

Mr. Baine made a few remarks to the Court, explaining that the deceased would have full view of the trams as soon as ever they came in motion. If he had just stepped aside he would have been perfectly

safe. He thought the accident must have been caused by the rope getting out of the clips. Did not think he ever heard of it occurring before.

The Coroner—Do you think the clips bite properly ?

I have not examined them closely, but they seem rather loose.

Stokes was again recalled, and said he heard of this rope skidding through the brake being applied too sharp.

Mr. Hudd said he had known the rope skid a little, and on the brake being eased it was all right.

The Coroner.—Could you suggest any means to prevent its slipping ?

No, sir, I could not.

Mr. Hancock thought the remedy might be found by in future passing the rope right round the pulley once which would give it a treble grip.

It was also explained that the deceased was not only foreman of the loaders, but he had supreme control of the works here, even to the extent of discharging and putting on men, and if there was anything wrong with the machinery, it was his duty at once to report it. The machinery was still unbroken and the rope was recommended by a Birmingham firm and was the higher priced of two. It had been tested to a minimum breaking strain of 35 tons.

The Coroner then summed up the case to the jury, pointing out that the deceased was on Saturday engaged in his usual duties, and in the course of those duties proceeded to let down as one, which as they had heard from the evidence was larger than any that had been let down before, and therefore the machinery was subjected to a more severe strain than it been hitherto. They were told however that the loads of ballast which had been frequently let down during the preceding 4 or 5 months was almost equal in weight, having reached between 4 and 5 tons. The deceased appeared to have been experienced in the work, and, as foreman, had control of everything. Now he to have had no fear for safety in letting down the stone although it was unusually heavy; and he did not speak as to its being probable an accident would occur. It was evident that the deceased lost control through the trolley going down at such speed, and it drew up the other with such celerity that it went under the machinery and fell over thus, causing his death the same night. These kinds of accidents had occurred before with lifts, &c. There was a case only the other day at Westbury. Sometimes they heard of them at ironworks, owing to a cage being drawn over the pulleys consequent on the weight of the descending cage, and many persons had been killed in this way. So it was here. The empty trolley rushed up such a speed that it dashed under the; machinery and the deceased was killed. It was evident that there was grave injury to the spine and severe internal injuries which together caused death beyond all doubt. It would be their duty to consider the cause of the of occurrence of the accident. They heard the opinions of competent men that there was no fault to be found with the breaks, and they had also had the assistance of members of the firm in coming to a decision in the matter. All the witnesses were of opinion that the accident was caused by the wheel skidding, but the cause of that skidding they were unable to give, although that it did skid was a fact that admitted of no doubt.

The foreman expressed an opinion that it was owing to the want of biting of the wheel.

The Coroner remarking their foreman being a gentleman personally connected with engineering was well able to advise them. He told them that had the wheel bitten properly, the accident would not have happened, but at the same time the loss of control over the brake was really the cause, inasmuch as there would have been no want of bite, had the brake acted properly.

The foreman said it was the bite of the wheel that ought to keep the trolley back, and in fact it was the only thing to do it.

The Coroner continued, that if they thought that any one was to blame, whether it was employers or workmen, they would say so in verdict, and they might also suggest any improvements that they thought might be desirable in the future. They would not be of opinion, he presumed, that anyone was guilty in this case of any criminal neglect, which he thought had in no way been proved either against employer or employed ; but any recommendations to prevent accidents in future, they might think proper to make, they would do so. The Coroner also pointed out the fact that there was time after deceased lost control of the trolley for him have got out of the way and the jury then proceeded to consider their verdict.

After consulting for about half an hour, the following verdict was returned :

“We are unanimously of opinion that the death of Samuel Beaven was accidentally caused. We would suggest that the rope wheel described by Messrs. Randell, Saunders and Co’s manager, Hancock, with treble biting surface or rope, be in future used; and that the tramroad be ballasted from the brow to the end of the wireway, to equalize the strain throughout.”

The enquiry, which lasted nearly three hours, then terminated.

22 February 1878 – Monkton Farleigh Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle, Bradford-on-Avon Times, and Melksham and Westbury Gazette – 23 February 1878

MONKTON FARLEIGH – ACCIDENT

On Friday a man named George Bailey, living at Freshford, was admitted into the Royal United Hospital, Bath, suffering from a fractured leg, having met with an accident whilst working in a stone quarry at Monkton Farleigh.

25 June 1878 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 29 June 1878

On Tuesday morning, Charles Elms, a stone quarryman, of Corsham, was winding a crane, when the handle struck him in the head, fracturing his skull, and causing a severe scalp wound.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 4 July 1878

A verdict of accidental death was last night returned by the coroner’s jury, at the Guildhall, and inquiry having been held as to the cause of the death of Charles Elmes, aged 25, who received injuries in a fall from a crane platform at Messrs. Pictor and Son’s Corsham quarries.

25 July 1878 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 27 July 1878

CORSHAM – ACCIDENT

Eli West, 27 years of age, quarryman, of Corsham, had his leg broken by a stone falling upon it, whilst he at work on Thursday. He was taken to the United Hospital and detained.

10 December 1878 – Stoke Hill Quarry, Limpley Stoke

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 21 December 1878

An inquest was held at Limpley Stoke on Thursday last, before Mr. Sylvester, coroner, on the body of Thomas Medden, aged 34 years. Deceased was a labourer, working at Stoke Hill quarry, for Mr. Alfred Wallington, and was engaged on the previous Tuesday breaking up some rough stone on the floor of the quarry, when a piece of rock, weighing 30 cwt., fell from the roof or ceiling on the back of deceased, completely doubling him up, causing a fracture of the spine and right thigh also injuring the skull and producing instant death. The jury having viewed the body, visited the quarry and the scene of the accident, accompanied by the coroner and the Government Inspector of Mines for the district. Mr. Wallington and Mr. Charles Payne, the proprietor and foreman of the quarry; also Henry Burt who worked near deceased, were examined as witnesses all agreeing that the ceiling had been tried in the usual way, and considered sound the same morning and that the fall of the stone could not be accounted for. Dr. Flemming, of Freshford, having stated the cause of death, the jury returned a verdict of “Accidentally killed.”

10 January 1879 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge & North Wilts Advertiser – 11 January 1879

CORSHAM – QUARRY ACCIDENT

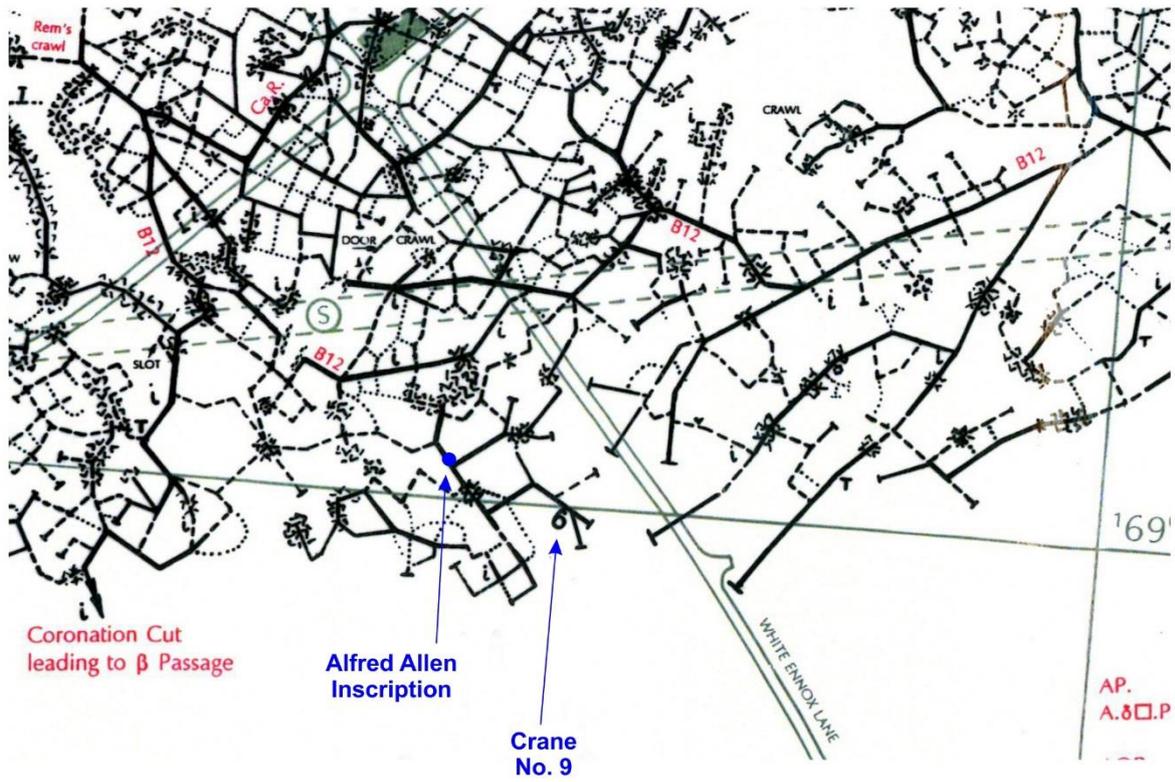
On Friday last a ganger by the name of Elijah Fidoe, was employed at the Messrs. Pictor’s underground works. As the men were working one crane he was standing on a block steadying another crane that was being drawn up, when by some means the shears gave way and the block fell on his foot bruising it very badly, but providentially no bone broken. He is under the skilful attendance of Mr. Kemm, surgeon, of Corsham, and in progressing as favourably as can be expected.

19 February 1879 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

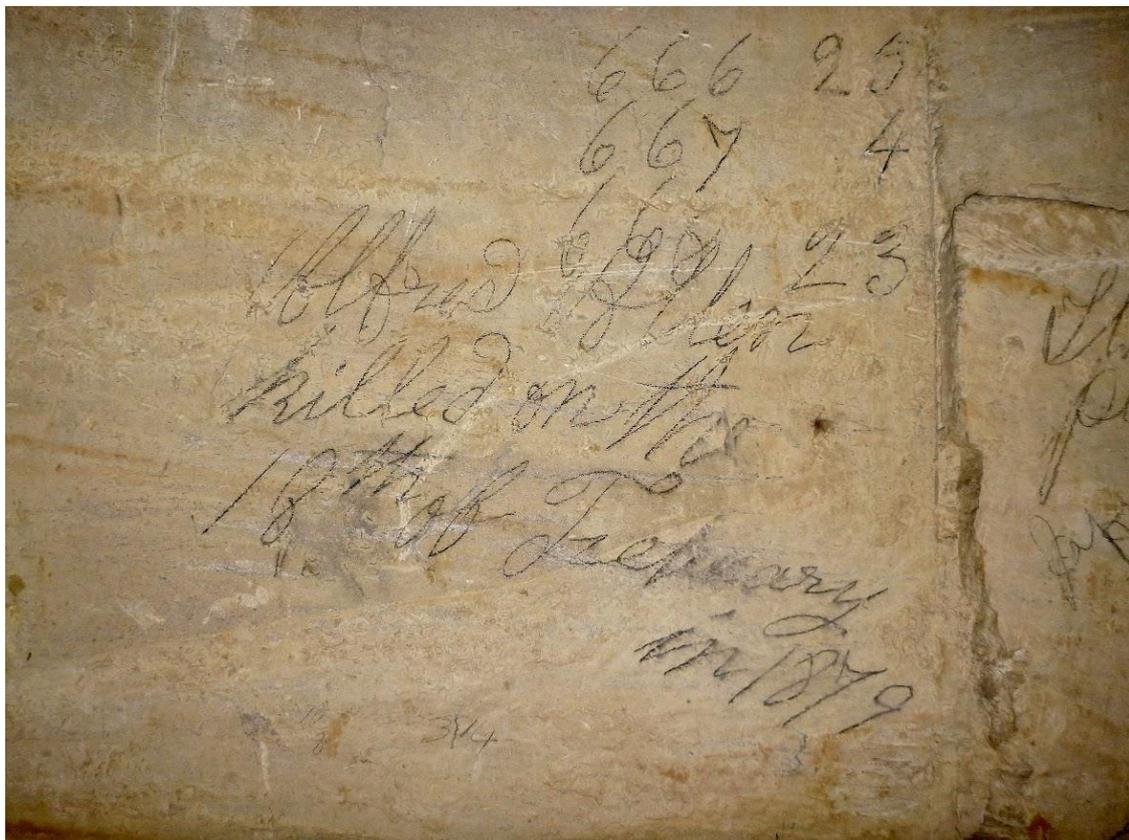
Source – Wiltshire Telegraph – 1 March 1879

INQUESTS HELD BY MR. W. B. WHITMARSH

On Friday last, at Box, on the body of Alfred Allen, a quarryman, aged 49. It appeared in evidence that he was at work in Box Hill quarry with another man pecking underneath the ceiling and cleaning the stones, when a portion of the ceiling fell on deceased, and crushed him in a moment. The inspector of Mines was in attendance at the inquiry, and being satisfied there was no blame in the matter, a verdict was returned of “Accidental Death.”

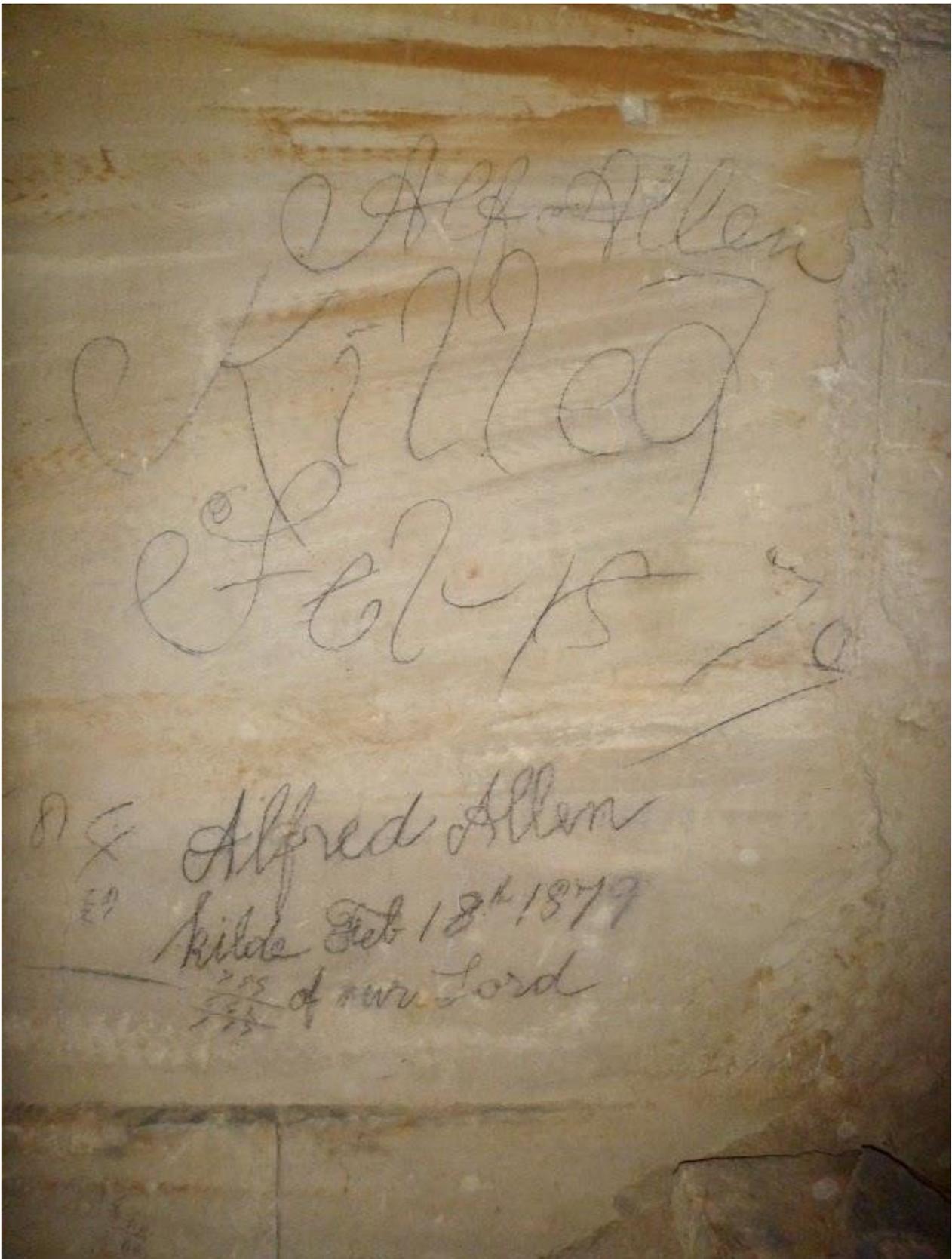


Survey (partial) – Box Freestone Mine (Central) SMCC 1990 to 1992.



Photograph – Mark Jenkinson

This inscription is near the Crane marked on the survey



Photograph – Mark Jenkinson

This inscription is located in the central Box Mines area

6 October 1879 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 October 1879

On Thursday morning, a named Henry Hancock, of Claverton to the Royal United Hospital suffering from concussion of the brain, caused by a blow he received on the head when working with a crane at Combe Down.

16 October 1879 – Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 25 October 1879

An inquest (which was adjourned from Friday last week for the attendance of the Government Inspector of Mines) was held at the Hare and Hound Inn, Pickwick, before Mr. Kemm, coroner, on Monday on the body of Roland Lodge, a little boy of 12 years of age, who was found dead in a well in Messrs. Pictor's underground works. Mr. J. Burraston was chosen foreman of the jury. The Inspector in his evidence stated that in his opinion no one was culpable for the accident. He had examined the well, and if Messrs. Pictor provided covers to the well as they had guaranteed to do, it would meet with his satisfaction. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

Source - Wiltshire Telegraph – 25 October 1879

CORSHAM

An inquest was hold at Pickwick, on Friday last, by Mr. Kemm, coroner for Corsham, on Rowland Lodge, 12 years of age. From the evidence it appeared that deceased was employed in Pictor's quarry, to draw and carry water to men work. In the morning he was missed tor about a quarter of an hour, and on search being made be seen by Benjamin Jones, one of the quarry men, at the bottom of a well, his lamp with a light being placed at the side. Shortly after Joshua James, the ganger, came to the spot, and having put a new chain on the windlass went down the well and found the boy lying at the bottom. He secured him to the chain and he was immediately hauled up, but quite dead. The bucket and chain had evidently gone down first, as the former was knocked to pieces, and the chain had run off the drum. The deceased had, previous to being employed in the quarry, passed the last standard according the Education Act, and had been at the work six weeks. Mr. Thomas Perren, of Box Hill. gave the measurements of the opening of the well, bucket, and windlass. The inquest was adjourned for the Inspector of Mines to be present. This gentleman having attended, said he had seen the quarry, and the evidence already taken being read, he expressed himself quite satisfied. Mr. Pictor stated that to prevent a future similar occurrence he would have folding doors placed over the well, and when not in use locked up. Verdict, "Accidentally killed by falling into a well in a stone quarry."

2 November 1879 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 November 1879

A quarryman named William Sheppard, of Atworth, Corsham, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital on Friday, suffering from severe injuries occasioned by the fall of a block of stone upon him in a quarry. The unfortunate man has both thighs broken and one arm, his arm is also cut and his body is much contused.

17 November 1879 – Kingsdown Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 20 November 1879

ACCIDENT

On Saturday, George Baldwin, of Kingsdown, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital, suffering from incised wound on the brow and lower lip, caused by falling backwards into a quarry, 15 feet deep.

22 November 1879 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 27 November 1879

ACCIDENT

Thomas Vinall, a quarryman, of Atworth, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital suffering from an injury to his knee, occasioned by something falling on it

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 29 November 1879

SERIOUS ACCIDENT

About 8 o'clock on Thursday morning, a man named T. Vinell, living at Atworth, was lowering a stone by means of a crane, at Messrs. Pictor's of Corsham quarries, when by some means his hand slipped from the handle, which ran around and caught the man's right arm, knocking his elbow off and smashing his knuckles. The poor fellow was taken to Dr. Kemm, who ordered him to go the Bath Hospital, directing him not to go by himself. He was then taken to the Railway Hotel, where he waited by himself in the taproom. No refreshment was provided, except what the landlady kindly gave him. When the 10 o'clock down train arrived there was no one to help him, and he had to stay in the room, suffering acute pain, until the next train or conveyance could be obtained. Surely this is not the way for fellow workmen to treat an injured mate. – *Correspondent.*

January 1880 – Underground Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 24 January 1880

CORSHAMSIDE – ACCIDENTS IN THE UNDERGROUND QUARRY

A man named Eli West, of Elly Green, fell off a rock and injured his knee. The same leg, strange to say, was broken not much more than twelve months ago. George Poplar, of Westwells, had his hand bruised and Jacob Knott, ganger of Moor Green, his foot injured. All three were disabled, but we are glad to say no bones were broken.

4 May 1880 – Quarry at Hudswell, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 8 May 1880

CORSHAM

At Messrs. Randell and Saunders quarry at Hudswell on Tuesday morning, before ten, as the engine was drawing stone, just before it came to the top of the shaft the rope broke, and it went down with a

crash to the bottom, about 100 feet. As the men go down at 6 and 9 o'clock in the cage, sometimes 40 or 50 at a time, we are very glad it was not then, as many lives might have been lost.

6 May 1880 – Westwood Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 29 May 1880

PETTY SESSIONS – DISPUTE BETWEEN QUARRYMEN

Thomas Francis, of Freshford, was summoned by Charles Dunning for assaulting him on 6th May. The complainant, a quarryman, also living at Freshford, said that on the day in question he defendant, and another man were at work in a quarry at Westwood, when, after a dispute about a stone and some water the defendant “up with his fist” and struck him once in the face. He had since tried to come to terms with the defendant, but would not agree to give him what he wanted, viz., 8s.

William Tucker, another quarryman, said he was working with the other man on the 6th of May when he saw defendant strike the complainant with his fist and knock him down.

The defendant denied striking the complainant, and said the latter fell against a stone and thus struck himself.

The Bench fined the defendant 10s. and costs, or fourteen days in default.

6 June 1880 – The Tump Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 12 June 1880

SERIOUS ACCIDENT

A man named Jacob Targett, of Monkton Farleigh, was severely injured on Friday whilst at work in Messrs. Randall and Saunder's quarry. He was engaged in drawing and wedging a block, when it gave way and fell upon him, so fearfully crushing his left leg that it has since been amputated at the Bath Royal United Hospital, while his other leg was severely bruised. We hear that he progressing favourably at the hospital named.

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle, Bradford-on-Avon Times, and Melksham and Westbury Gazette – 12 June 1880

WESTWOOD – SHOCKING ACCIDENT IN THE QUARRY

A very serious accident occurred on Friday in last week to a man named Jacob Targett, working at Messrs. Randall and Saunders' quarry at Westwood. It seems that lately, in consequence of an accident with the crane, it has not been able to be used for drawing the stone, and the quarry has been crowded with block. Targett was engaged on Friday morning drawing and wedging a block, when it broke unexpectedly and fell forward. The poor fellow endeavoured to get out of the way, but on account of the quarry being so crowded he could not, and the large stone fell upon him crushing him against the stack in shocking manner. With the exception of the sinews, one leg was nearly crushed off and the other badly bruised. He was conveyed to the Bath United Hospital where one of his legs was amputated. Much sympathy is felt for the poor sufferer, who has a wife and two children living at Church Lane, Bradford. He had only working at the quarry two days, having come here from Farleigh.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 26 June 1880

The man Jacob Targett who met with an accident at Westwood the other week, died at the Bath United Hospital on Tuesday, at about three o'clock. He leaves a widow with one child to mourn his loss.

11 June 1880 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 17 June 1880

ACCIDENT

On Friday Samuel Button, a quarryman, Southfield place, Odd Down, was admitted into the Royal United Hospital suffering from somewhat severe injuries to the head and back received by falling from a height of 20 feet into one of the quarries on Odd Down that morning.

31 August 1880 – Monkton Farleigh Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 4 September 1880

MONKTON FARLEIGH- FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

A man named John Gale was killed on Thursday morning by a piece of stone falling upon him while he was at work in Messrs. Pictor and Son's Farleigh quarry. The body was taken to the New Inn, Bathford, where it awaits the Coroner's inquisition.

27 October 1880 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 30 October 1880

BOX – ACCIDENT

An accident happened to a man named Issac Bird on Wednesday whilst engaged in Messrs. Randell and Saunders quarries, which caused a fracture of one of his legs and serious injury to the other. It was found necessary to remove him to the Bath United Hospital.

19 November 1880 – no location

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 25 November 1880

ACCIDENT

On Friday morning, William Burchall, quarryman of Bathford, had some stone fall upon him by accident in a quarry, causing a fracture of his thigh. He was taken to the Hospital.

January 1881 – Underground Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 22 January 1881

CORSHAMSIDE

Our correspondent says :- There have been several accidents although the year is so young in the underground quarries, three in one gang belonging to Mr. T. Knott having their fingers hurt, the last being his father aged 70. It is feared he will have to lose one of his fingers.

3 March 1881 – Monks Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bristol Mercury – 5 March 1881

Accident – Yesterday a man named George Hales, of Ridge Side, Corsham, quarryman, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital suffering from a fractured leg and other injuries, sustained at his work by the falling of a block of stone. It was found necessary to amputate the limb.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 10 March 1881

FATAL ACCIDENT AT CORSHAM

On Tuesday Mr. A. H. English, the city coroner, held an inquiry at the Guildhall, touching the death of George Hale (55), late of Ridge Side, Corsham, carter, who died in the Royal United Hospital on Monday, from the effects of an amputation.

Mr. Richard Scott, surgeon at the Hospital, deposed that deceased was admitted about one p.m. on 3rd inst., suffering from a fracture of the left leg and a severely lacerated wound of the left foot, caused by an accident, and necessitating amputation of the leg the same day. Deceased bore the amputation fairly well, and progressed fairly until 12 hours before his death, which occurred on Monday. He was found to be suffering from aneurism of the aorta and pleurisy of the left lung, and a slight congestion of the left lung. The death was from natural causes, accelerated by the accident and the shock of the amputation.

John Chapman said deceased was a carter and shunter underground at Monks Quarry, in the employ of the Bath Stone Company, Corsham. Witness is manager of the quarries. Witness saw deceased directly after the accident happened on 3rd inst. Deceased was taking a loaded trolley from one of the cranes. The trolley came in contact with the points on the rail, which suddenly stopped the trolley, and one block of stone fell off the trolley upon the deceased. He could not account for the accident, and he could not say that the same accident might not occur again. There was no apparent reason for the stoppage, as the trolley was not facing the points. It was the carter's duty to attend to the points, as they only had to go a few yards. The points were in perfect order, and the deceased had worked the same points for 18 months. The stone which fell on him would probably weigh three quarters of a ton. Witness sent word to the Government Inspector. No accident had previously happened in the quarry.

Alfred Day, foreman in the quarry, said he gave the deceased permission to move the trolley to another line, and in about five minutes he heard a cry out. Witness went to him at once and found about a dozen men with him. He was sitting on a stone supported by one of the men. Witness noticed the trolley had left the rails and was stopped at the points. The rails are in perfect order, and witness could not account for the trolley leaving the rails. The trolley wheels would drop about four inches when it went off the rail. And would cause the stone to fall off.

Samuel Poulson, the ganger, loaded the trolley. He saw deceased laid on the ground shortly afterwards, with the stone on top of him. He could not tell why the trolley left the line.

A verdict of "Accidental Death," was returned.

9 March 1881 – Farleigh New Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 12 March 1881

BOX – ACCIDENT

Daniel Sawyer, of Box, quarryman, has been admitted to the Bath Royal United Hospital, suffering from a fractured leg. Sawyer was employed at Messrs. Pictor and Sons Farleigh New Quarry, and while at work a piece of stone fell on his leg.

April 1881 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 9 April 1881

A case of glanders [*highly infectious horse disease*] occurred during the past month at the quarry stables of Messrs. Pictor and Sons, at Box. The horses affected had been slaughtered, and the question of compensation would have to be considered by the committee.

21 June 1881 – Corsham Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 25 June 1881

CORSHAMSIDE

On Tuesday Joseph Webb met with an accident in the underground quarry of Mr. Pictor, by which his foot was very badly bruised.

7 September 1881 – no location

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 8 September 1881

QUARRY ACCIDENT

A quarryman named John Baldwin, of Kingsdown, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital yesterday morning suffering from wounds of the head caused by a fall of stone in a quarry.

29 September 1881 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 October 1881

ACCIDENT

On Monday a quarryman named Frank Davies, was admitted to the Hospital, suffering from a severe wound of the nose and right eye. He was at work in a quarry when he accidentally cut his face with an iron bar.

21 December 1881 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 24 December 1881

BOX – ACCIDENT TO A QUARRYMAN

Albert Guest, a quarryman of Colerne, was on Wednesday admitted Royal United Hospital, Bath, suffering from an incised wound on the left thigh, the result of an accident which befell him while at work in a quarry at Box.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 14 January 1882

BOX – FATAL FALL

A man named Alfred Garsford, while at work in a stone quarry at Box on the 21st December, fell from a staging and sustained severe injuries. He was removed to the Royal United Hospital, where he expired early on Thursday morning.

Source – North Wilts Herald – 23 January 1882

COLERNE – FATAL ACCIDENT AT BOX HILL QUARRIES

Monday evening the City Coroner (Mr. English) held an inquest at the Guildhall, Bath, concerning the death of Gaisford, aged 20, of Colerne, who died at the Royal United Hospital on December 21st. It appeared that the deceased was in a part of the quarry by himself, and in moving a stone fell off the stage upon which he working. In falling his hip struck sharp pointed bar which he had been using. Although a beginner, it was stated that he undertook his work well. He was taken to the hospital, and appeared to be suffering from a puncture wound in his side, from which there had been considerable haemorrhage and also symptoms of internal injuries. Some nine days after his admission he gradually got worse, and died on Wednesday. Mr. H. G. Terry made a post mortem examination and found that haemorrhage was the immediate cause of death. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned by the jury.

20 March 1882 – Drum Quarry, Monkton Farleigh, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 23 March 1882

QUARRY ACCIDENT

Thomas Fielding a labourer, of Kingsdown, was on Tuesday morning admitted to the Royal United Hospital suffering from a scalp wound caused by an accidental blow on the head from a crane, while at work quarry on Monday afternoon.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 13 April 1882

FATAL RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT

Last night the City Coroner (Mr. A. H. English) held an inquiry at the Guildhall, into the circumstances of the death of Edwin Fielding (28), who died in the Royal United Hospital on Monday, having being admitted suffering from the effects of an accident whilst at work in a stone quarry near Box, on the 20th March.

Elisha Aust, of Colerne, said he was working with deceased when the accident occurred at one of Mr. Pictor's quarries. They were not working underground. Deceased was using the windlass and having neglected to put the " dog" in at the proper time to scotch the cog wheel, was stooping to do so, when the handle of the windlass spun round and struck him on the head. The windlass was used for pulling a trolley up an incline and lowering it. The weight of the trolley caused it to run down the line, and this would have been prevented had the dog been inserted. The accident arose from an oversight on the part of the deceased.

Thomas Perrin, assistant manager, said the trolley could only have run down a distance of eight or nine feet, as the tramway was only that length. As the drum of the windless was three feet in diameter the handle would only revolve three times. The machinery was in perfect order.

Henry George Terry, house-surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, said when deceased was admitted on the 21st he appeared to have very little the matter with him. In the night, however, he had severe convulsions which continued for a week. It was necessary to trephine, or remove parts of the skull, under the scalp wound. This relieved the symptoms and for a few days he was better. On the 5th inst. he began to get worse, and died on the 10th. A post-mortem examination showed that death was due to inflammation of the membranes Of the brain and exhaustion from fits.

A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned the jury.

6 April 1882 – Unnamed Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 6 April 1882

ACCIDENT

On Thursday, while James Baldwin, a quarryman of Bathford, was at work he fell from a stage in the quarry, a distance of five feet, and internally injured himself. He was taken to the Royal United Hospital, and there detained.

17 July 1882 – Unnamed Quarries, Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – July 1882

ACCIDENT

A quarryman named John Knott, living at Corsham, met with an accident on Monday. He fell from a stone on which he was standing and was severely cut about the lips and face. He was admitted to the Hospital where he is now undergoing treatment.

23 August 1882 – Ridge Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 31 August 1882

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

Mr. A. H. English, coroner, and a jury, held an inquiry on Monday night at the Guildhall into the circumstances connected with the death of John Hancock (45), of Corsham side.

Mr. H. G. Terry, house surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, said deceased was admitted to the Hospital about 8:45 on the night of the 23rd. He then appeared to be suffering from injuries to the chest and spine. He gradually got worse, and died on the following day about 11 p.m. Witness said he made a post mortem examination, and found that death was caused due to haemorrhage from both lungs, caused by a fracture of the ribs which penetrated them. He also had a ruptured spleen and a bruised spine, which were contributory causes of death.

William Clark, Whitley, quarry labourer, said the deceased was in the employ of Thomas Chivers, ganger of the Ridge quarry, Corsham side, and had been working there for a fortnight and three days. On Wednesday last week, about three o'clock, deceased met with an accident, but as he was working alone no one saw the occurrence. Witness was about thirty yards away, and heard Hancock call out for help. He was lying on his side and said his back was hurt. Deceased told witness that a stone from a pile had fallen on him and "doubled him up." The stone weighed, witness thought, about 8 cwt. Deceased was moving the heap and the upper stone fell upon him. There was no blame attaching to anyone. Witness obtained help and the deceased was taken to the office. A doctor was fetched and subsequently he was taken to the hospital. Deceased was perfectly sober; the accident occurred under ground, and every man carried his own lamp.

In reply to a juror, witness said deceased had gone to fetch away a bit of stone which was leaning against the stack.

Mr. James Barnes said he was foreman to the Corsham Bath Stone Company. The deceased had been employed at the works for about a fortnight. Witness saw him after the accident, before he had been removed from the quarry, but got no information from him. Deceased had permission from the ganger to take away a piece of stone for his own use, and on this occasion he had stopped behind to prepare it. He had placed it against a pile with the intention of taking it away. Witness supposed that deceased was in the act of pulling up the stone, which weighed about three quarters of a hundredweight, when it overpowered him and fell against the stack, throwing it out of perpendicular and causing the top block to fall down.

A verdict of "Accidental Death" was, after some considerable discussion, returned by the jury.

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle, Bradford-on-Avon Times, and Melksham and Westbury Gazette – 2 September 1882

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Monday evening the Bath city coroner held an inquest at the Guildhall on the body of John Hancock, of Corshamside, who died at the Royal United Hospital on the 24th ult. The man was injured while working in a quarry, and died from haemorrhage from both lungs the result of fractured ribs which had perforated them. Mr. Henry George Terry, house surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, deposed that deceased was admitted a patient on the 23rd suffering from injuries to the chest and spine. He died on the following day, when a post mortem examination was made. This disclosed that the cause of death was haemorrhage of both lungs, caused by their perforation by fractured rib, and the injuries to the spine.

William Clark, quarry labourer, of Whitley, said that deceased was in the employ of Thomas Chivers, ganger at the Ridge Quarry at Corshamside, and was quarry labourer, having been employed at the quarry nearly three weeks. On Wednesday when accident happened to the deceased, but no one witnessed the actual occurrence. Witness, who was about 30 yards away, heard the deceased calling for help, went to him and found him lying on his side and saying his back was hurt. Going up the shaft the deceased, who been getting some ashlar for himself, said a stone had fallen upon him from heap,

and doubled him up. The weight of the stone was about eight hundred-weight. No blame could be attached to anyone, as the deceased must have caused the stone to fall entirely by his own action. He was, after being by a doctor, removed to the Hospital.

By a juryman : The ashlar stone supporting the pile of stones from which the block fell, but the deceased must have disarranged the heap, probably by striking against it.

James Barnes, foreman to the Corsham Bath Stone Company, was next called and deposed to finding the deceased, when called, lying in the manner described by the witness.

Coroner announced that he had written to the Government Inspector for the district, announcing the inquiry was to be made, but he had received no answer. Had he visited the quarries?

Witness – Not unless he has done so since 4 o'clock today.

In answer to further questions the witness said he could not account for the stone falling of the stack in that way, as he had no reason to suppose the stack was not firmly built.

The brother of the deceased, who was in Court, announced his age to be 45, and the enquiry then closed.

The jury returned a verdict, of "Accidental death."

1881 Census

Address – Flooks Cottages, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>John</i>	<i>Hancock</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>1838</i>	<i>Quarryman</i>
Susan	Hancock	Wife	Married	Female	47	1834	Quarryman
Mary	Bolton		Widow	Female	83	1798	Quarryman
Henry	Oatley	Lodger	Single	Male	23	1858	Quarryman

23 November 1882 – Farleigh Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 30 November 1882

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT AT FARLEIGH DOWN

Mr. Coroner Sylvester held an inquest on Saturday last at Monkton Farleigh on the body of William Gullis, of Kingsdown, aged 21 years, a quarryman, who was instantly killed while working in a stone quarry on Farleigh Down on the previous Thursday. M. M. Inspector of Mines watched the case on the part of the Government. It appeared from the evidence that deceased and three other men were employed stacking blocks of stone, and had just completed the stacking of three blocks one above the other when deceased was requested by the ganger to remove the shears from the uppermost stone; on doing so the three other blocks fell over before the deceased could get away, one block crushing his skull and causing instant death. The same ground had been used on many occasions for stacking stones, and was tested by the ganger in this instance, but it is supposed to have become soft and rotten from the recent incessant rains, and thus gave way. Verdict "Accidentally killed."

Source – Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser – 2 December 1882

MONKTON FARLEIGH – THE FATAL ACCIDENT IN A QUARRY

On Saturday, at the King's Arms Inn, Monkton Farleigh, Mr. Coroner Sylvester held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of a quarryman, which was briefly reported in our last. The deceased, whose name was William Gullis, was 21 years of age and, at the time of the accident, was working in Messrs. Randell and Saunders's quarry.

The first witness was his father, Thomas Gullis who identified the body as that of his son.

Frederick Pinnock ganger of the crane at which deceased worked, deposed that the accident occurred on Thursday morning, at about ten o'clock, after they had been at work the greater part of the night. Two stones had been got out of the hole they were quarrying, a third was being placed on top of the other two by means of the crane, and the deceased was loosening the hold of the shears, when the rubbish underneath the blocks shifted a little and caused the top stone to overbalance and fall on the deceased. Witness told the deceased to take off the shears, thinking that the blocks were perfectly safe. It was probable the recent heavy rains caused the foundations to become unsafe.

Another quarryman named Gardiner, who was working at the same crane, gave similar evidence and said he was of opinion that the stones were perfectly safe.

Dr W. D. Lovell. who had examined the body, said deceased's head was greatly injured and in all probability the skull was fractured.

The Coroner, in summing up the evidence, asked the jury if they thought any blame attached to the ganger. They replied in the negative and returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

The remains of the deceased were interred on Wednesday at Box.

1881 Census

Address – Kingsdown, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Thomas	Gullis	Head	Married	Male	40	1841	Quarryman
Mary	Gullis	Wife	Married	Female	45	1836	
William	Gullis	Son	Single	Male	19	1862	Quarryman
John	Gullis	Son	Single	Male	18	1863	Quarryman
Alice Maud	Rice	Visitor	Single	Female	1	1880	

17 February 1883 – Monkton Farleigh Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 22 February 1883

QUARRY ACCIDENT

A quarryman named Thomas Howell (28), living at Bradford Leigh, while at work in a quarry at Monkton Farleigh on Saturday, had his right leg and back severely injured by the fall of a block of stone upon him. He was removed to the Royal United Hospital

18 June 1883 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 21 June 1883

QUARRY ACCIDENT

While a man named William Wilkins, aged 30, living at Box hill, was employed at the Corsham quarry, on Monday, in shifting a crane, the latter slipped, fell upon him, and inflicted upon him such injuries as necessitated his removal to the Royal United Hospital.

16 October 1883 – Bathford Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 18 October 1883

MISHAP AT BATHFORD QUARRY

William Gibbs, quarryman of Bathford, was on Tuesday morning admitted to the Royal United Hospital, suffering from general contusions, caused by the fall of stone upon his body.

October 1883 – Corsham Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 20 October 1883

A MISCHIEVOUS BOY

A boy named Frederick Sawyer was charged with doing damage at Messrs. Pictor and Sons' quarry, Corsham. He started a loaded trolley along the incline at the bottom of which were stables, whilst two other loaded trolleys were on the ramps. Defendant was ordered to pay 9s., including costs.

29 October 1883 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 1 November 1883

QUARRY ACCIDENT

James Brinkworth (46), Corsham was admitted to the Royal United Hospital on Monday suffering from a broken leg, caused by a fall of some stones at the quarry where he worked.

22 November 1883 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 29 November 1883

QUARRY ACCIDENT

A boy named Edward Cettett (15), of Corsham was admitted to the Royal United Hospital on Thursday afternoon suffering from a crushed foot, caused by the fall of some stones in a quarry.

29 November 1883 – Corsham Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 1 December 1883

CORSHAM

A lad named Edward Barrett, aged 15, of Corsham, was admitted into the Bath Royal United Hospital on Thursday, having accidentally crushed his foot while at work in a quarry. It was found necessary to amputate two toes.

19 January 1884 – Winsley Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 24 January 1884

QUARRY ACCIDENT AT WINSLEY

George Gerrish, (25), of Winsley, was at work in a quarry on Saturday, when an iron bar fell upon him. He was taken to the Royal United Hospital where it was found that he had sustained two fractures of his left leg.

7 February 1884 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 14 February 1884

QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Thursday evening Isaac Bright (36), Corsham, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital suffering from a fractured leg caused by an accident in a quarry.

19 May 1884 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 22 May 1884

QUARRY ACCIDENT

William Tison (40), Box hill, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital on Monday, suffering from a fractured leg. The injury was sustained while the man was at work in a quarry.

30 October 1884 – Corsham Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 1 November 1884

CORSHAM – QUARRY ACCIDENT

Alfred Davies, 50, of the Ridge, was injured at a quarry on Thursday and removed to the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

15 November 1884 – Bradford-on-Avon Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 20 November 1884

QUARRY ACCIDENT

William Hulbert (32), Bradford-on-Avon, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital on Saturday, suffering from injuries received while he was working in a quarry.

18 March 1885 – Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle – 26 March 1885

FATAL RESULT OF A QUARRY ACCIDENT.

An inquest was held on Tuesday night at the Guildhall, before the City Coroner (Mr. W. J. English), concerning the death of George Elms, aged 20, of Chapel Knapp, Corsham, who died on Monday, from the result of an accident which occurred in a stone quarry, at Corsham, on Wednesday, the 18th.

Mr. Edwin Roberts, house surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, said the deceased was admitted at the Hospital on the 18th inst. Deceased was conscious, but suffering from some amount of collapse due to the following injuries: a compound fracture of the right leg, fractured pelvis, and bleeding into the abdominal cavity. Deceased told him he fell off a quarry, and became ledged between two pieces of stone, from which cause it was likely he received his injuries. Deceased did not attribute blame to anyone. Deceased died on Monday morning from collapse, resulting from his injuries.

George Jones, ganger of the quarrymen in the employ of Messrs. Pictor, said he was the ganger and deceased worked under him. On Wednesday last deceased was working with others sawing. That was in No. 7 quarry, which was underground. There was a tramway close by. Deceased was standing throwing water on to a place where another man was working. The width of the working was 19 feet. Deceased was pouring out the water when a stone, which had been cut away and pulled forward, fell on to him. The ledge from which the stone fell was about six feet above the level of the tramway, and was left there to be pulled down and carried away. The stone was about four feet square. They were cutting another stone when that fell down. They tried to shift it in the morning, but the men could not move it. Witness did not know what caused it to fall. They tried to move the stone in the morning to see if it was safe. When the stone fell it threw deceased up against another stone. Witness and others got bars and removed the stone from deceased's leg, picked him up and brought him to the hospital as quickly as possible.

By juror: The weight of the stone that fell was about five cwt.

Thos. Perren, assistant manager to Messrs. Pictor and Sons, described the situation of the quarry, and the relative positions of deceased and the stone. It was usual to leave stones so near to the edge of the ledge that two men could easily lever them over into the cars. He could not account for the falling of the stone.

The Coroner summed up and the jury returned a verdict of " Accidental Death," and added that they did not consider there was blame attaching to anyone.

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 28 March 1885

FATAL ACCIDENT

The Bath city coroner (Mr. W. J. English) held an inquest at the Guildhall, on Tuesday night, touching the death of George Elms, aged 20, of Chapel Knapp, Corsham, who died at the Royal United Hospital, on Monday, from the effects of an accident received while at work in the quarry at Corsham. He was crushed between two blocks of stone, and was so injured that he died of collapse. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death." Mr. Edwin Roberts, house surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, said the deceased was admitted at the Hospital on the 18th inst. Deceased was conscious but suffering from some amount of collapse due to the following injuries, a compound fracture of the right leg, fractured pelvis, and bleeding into the abdominal cavity. Deceased told him he fell off a quarry, and became ledged between two pieces of stone, from which cause it was likely he received his injuries. . Deceased did not attribute blame to anyone. Deceased died on Monday morning from collapse resulting from his injuries.

George Jones, ganger of the quarrymen in the employ of Messrs. Pictor, said he was a ganger and deceased worked under him. On Wednesday last deceased was working with others sawing. That was in No. 7 quarry, which was underground. There was a tramway close by. Deceased was standing throwing water on to a place where a man was working. The width of the working was 19 feet. Deceased was pouring out the water when a sone, which had been cut away and pulled forward, fell on to him. The ledge from which the stone fell was about six feet above the level of the tramway, and was left there to be pulled down and carried away. The stone was about four feet square. They were cutting another stone when that fell down. They tried to shift it in the morning, but the men could not move it. Witness did not know what caused it to fall. They tried to move the stone in the morning to see if it was safe. When the stone fell it threw deceased up against another stone. Witness and others got bars and removed the stone from deceased's leg and brought him to hospital as quick as possible.

By a juror. The weight of the stone that fell was about five cwt.

Thomas Perrent assistant manager to Messrs. Pictor & Sons, described the situation of the quarry, and the relative positions of deceased and stone. It was usual to leave stones so near the edge of the ledge that two men could easily lever them over into cars. He could not account for the falling of the stone.

17 November 1885 – Box Hill Quarry, Wiltshire

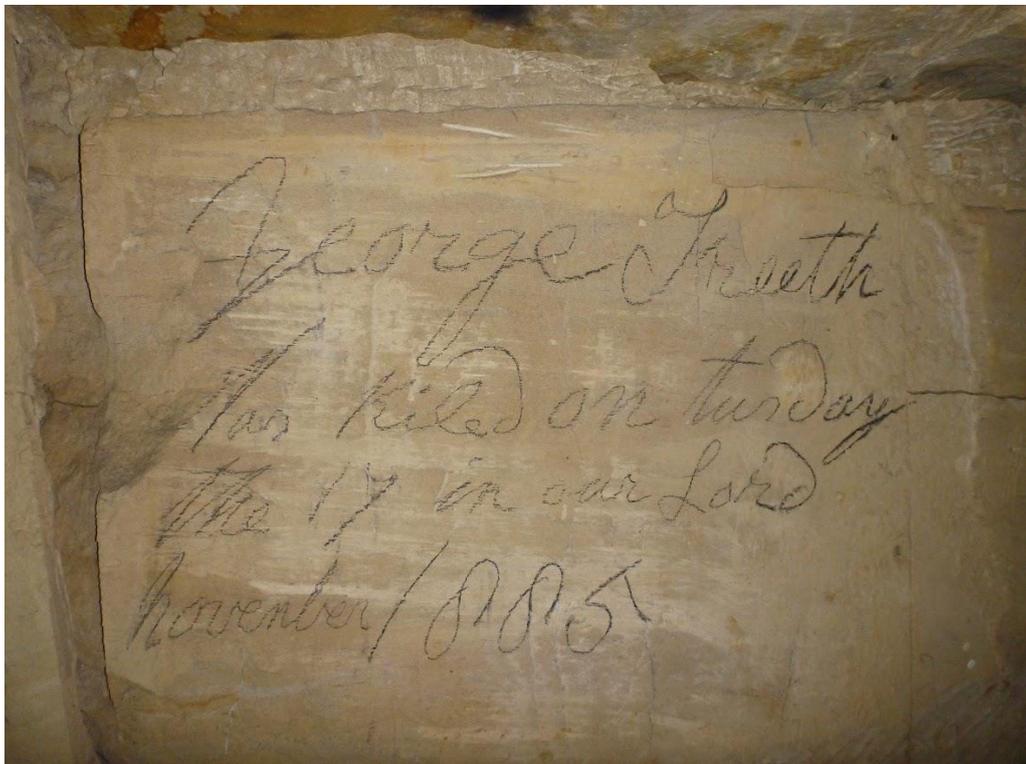
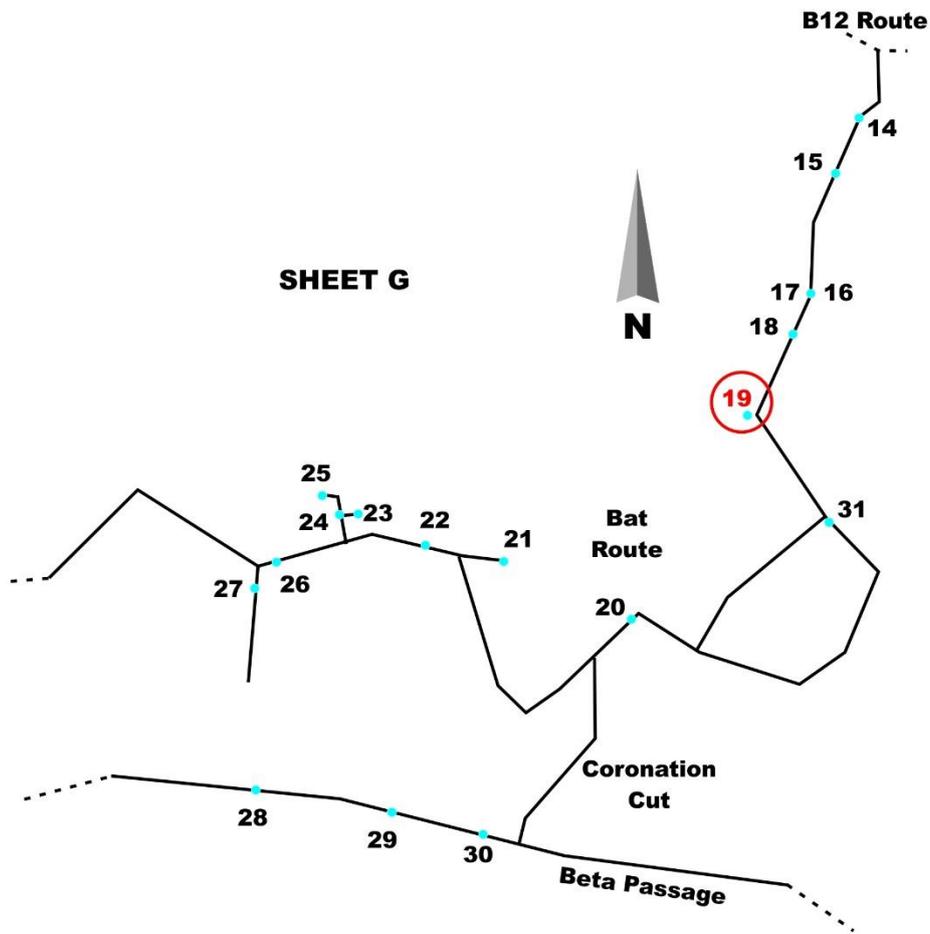
Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 21 November 1885

FATAL ACCIDENT IN THE QUARRIES

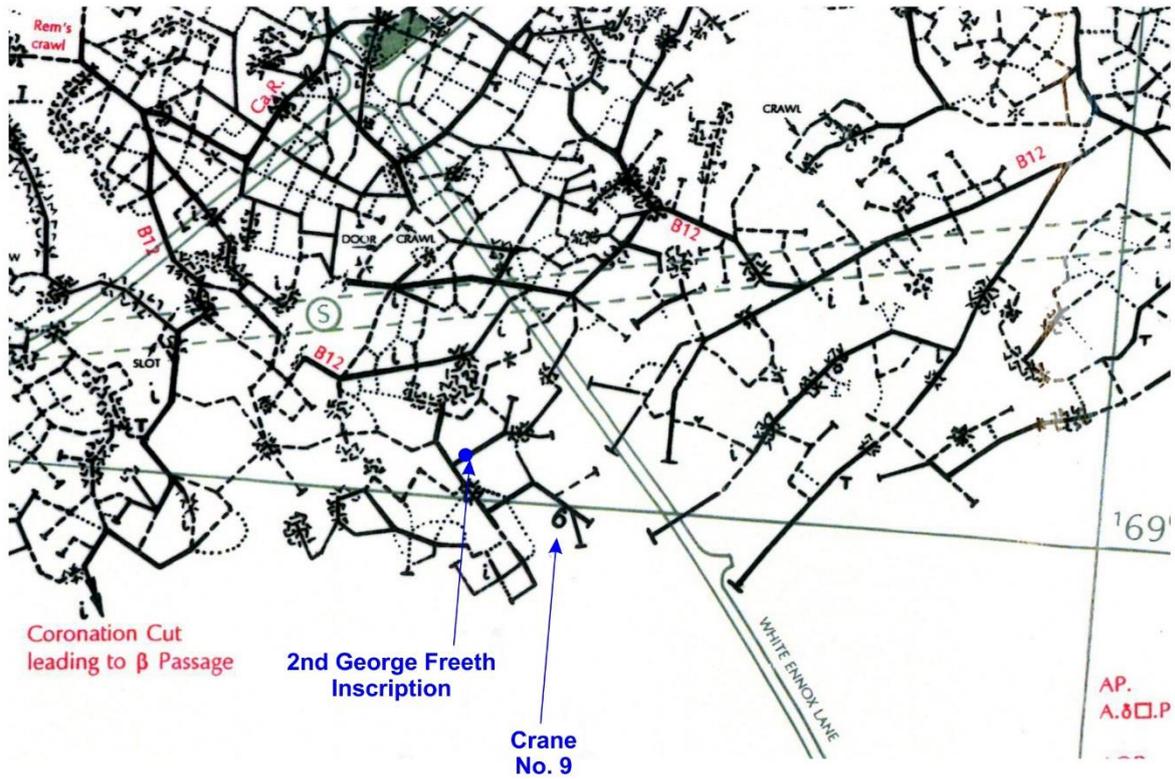
On Tuesday afternoon, as George Freeth, a single man, about 45 years of age, was working at Messrs. Sumsion's stone quarries, a large mass of rock, about three tons in weight, suddenly fell from the ceiling, and striking Freeth on the head, killed him instantly.

Source – Scripta Legenda – Box Quarries – Cotham Speleological Society – Volume 1, Page 16

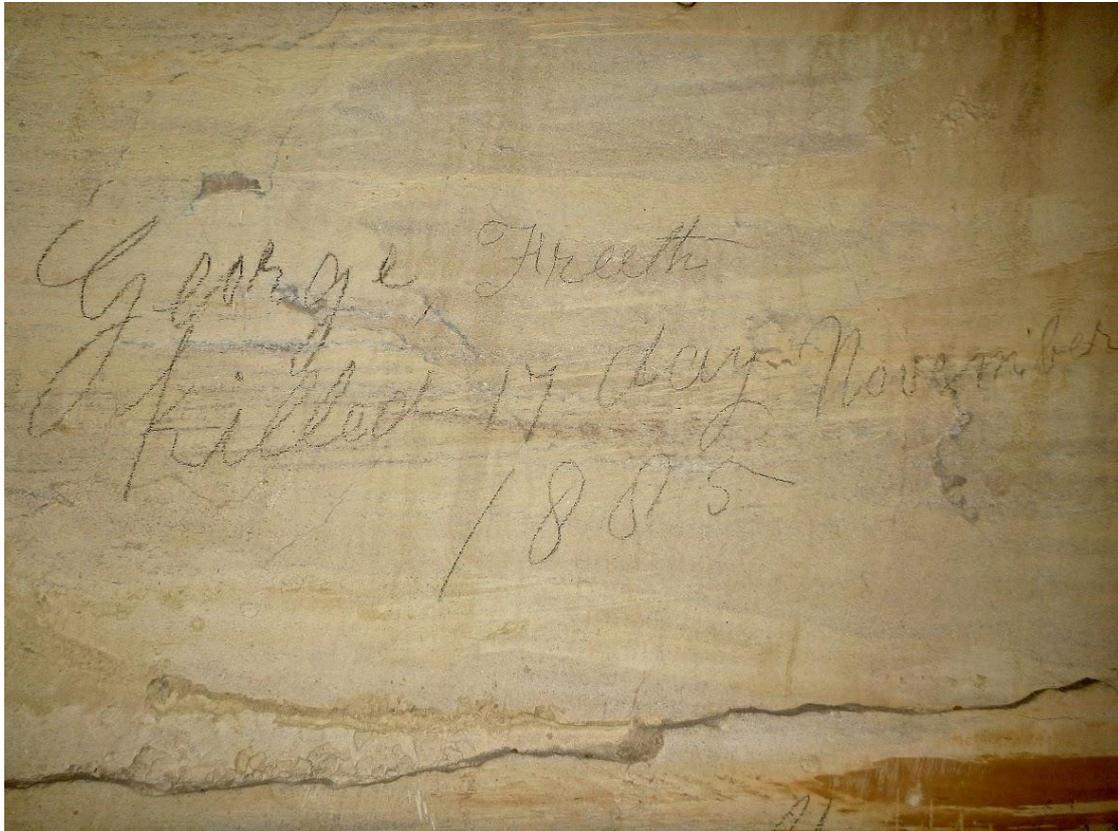
Sheet G – Inscription 19 – Inscription on wall – "George Freeth was killed on Tuesday the 17 in our Lord November 1885."



Photograph – Mark Jenkinson



*Survey (partial) – Box Freestone Mine (Central) SMCC 1990 to 1992.
Showing the location of the second George Freeth inscription – near the carne*



Photograph – Mark Jenkinson

June 1886 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard – Appendix 1 – Fatal Accidents

Edward Hancock (37), Box quarries, Randell & Saunders, crushed by a wrist stone.

[The first operation in driving a heading is to remove two or three inches of the stone which is called the jad. A wrist stone is the taper-shaped (smaller at back than front) stone first pulled out from under the jad in working ahead.]

25 August 1886 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 28 August 1886

QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Wednesday afternoon a lad named John Burton, aged 16, of Box, was taken to the Bath Royal United Hospital suffering from a fractured arm and contusions, occasioned by a stone falling upon him while at work.

15 October 1886 – Bathford Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 21 October 1886

FATAL ACCIDENT

Mr. W. J. English (City Coroner) held an inquest on Monday into the circumstances touching the death of George Bailey, of Kingsdown, who died from the effects of injuries received while at work in a quarry at Bathford on the 15th inst.

Mr. J. E. Trask, house surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, said the deceased was admitted to the Hospital at a little after four o'clock on Friday afternoon in a semi-conscious state and remained so to the time of death, which occurred on the 16th inst. about midnight. He was suffering from a very bad compound fracture of both bones of his left leg, two scalp wounds, severe concussion of the brain, and considerable internal injuries. He died from the effects of the above injuries.

George Burdon, of Box, a workman employed in the same quarry, said he was working with deceased at Bathford wharf last Friday about twenty minutes past two, when he was loading a wagon of stone. Deceased was in the act of putting the shears of the crane, which witness was working, over a stone about 6½ cwt. when it gave way, carrying the deceased with it. He thought that the rough wind which was blowing at the time materially helped to cause the stone to fall. He did not think the deceased moved the stone. Deceased had the shear in one corner of the stone and was putting it over the other when it fell. Two stones fell upon the deceased, one on his chest and one on his foot. Witness removed the stone from off his chest, and obtained help and a conveyance and brought him to the Hospital. In answer to a juryman, the witness stated that the deceased had worked there for three years. There had never been an accident at the quarry before.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

1881 Census

Address – Kingsdown, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
George	Bailey	Head	Married	Male	60	1821	Miner
Sarah	Bailey	Wife	Married	Female	59	1822	-
Edward	Bailey	Son	Single	Male	23	1858	Miner
George	Bailey	Son	Single	Male	21	1860	Miner
Thomas	Bailey	Son	Single	Male	14	1867	Lab (ag)

27 November 1886 – Ridge Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 4 December 1886

ACCIDENT

On Saturday morning an accident happened at the Ridge Quarry, belonging to the Bath Stone Company. Some men were about to turn a stone when another stone slipped from behind and jammed Noah Alford between the two stones. Assistance being at hand, the stone was quickly removed, and he was taken home and attended to by Mr. Rumball, who found four of his ribs broken, beside other injuries. It is a wonder that Alford, who is progressing favourable, was not killed on the spot.

13 January 1887 – Grip Hill Quarry, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

Source – The Bath Chronicle – 20 January 1887

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT AT BRADFORD

A shocking accident occurred on Thursday, by which a quarryman, named William Garton, aged 28, who leaves a widow and four little children, met with his death. The deceased, who worked at Grip Hill quarry, belonging to Mr. Isaac Jones, stayed at work till nearly nine o'clock at night, a man named York, a labourer, working with him, getting out a huge piece of rock, weighing about 30 tons, underneath which he had cut away all support, but had the end propped up with a piece of elm. Just as he was about to go home the immense mass fell, and before he could get away he was knocked down, the stone coming right upon his legs and lower part of his body. There he lay in mortal agony for two and a half hours before he could be released, the stone having to be cut before this could be effected. He was, however, expired immediately he was extricated. His remains were conveyed to the Barge Inn to await a coroner's inquest, which took place before Mr. F. T. Sylvester on Saturday. After hearing evidence to the above effect, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," appending a rider to the effect that greater care should be exercised in propping up the quarries, so as to prevent a repetition of so melancholy a catastrophe.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 22 January 1887

BRADFORD – ON – AVON – THE FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

In our last issue we briefly recorded an accident which took place on Thursday evening at Grip Hill quarry, by which William Garton lost his life.

The inquest was held at the Barge Inn on Saturday, before Mr. Coroner Sylvester, and a jury of whom Mr. W. Butt was foreman.

The Coroner briefly stated the circumstances of the case, remarking that the deceased man was working at the quarry at about half past nine in the evening, when a large stone fell on him. Having alluded to Charles York, the assistant who was working with the deceased, and Mr. Jones, the proprietor of the quarry, who would be called as witnesses, the Coroner proceeded to remark that accident in quarries were numerous, but many did not come to the knowledge of the public, as the sufferers were removed to the hospitals, Bath hospital particularly. Stone quarries were under the Mines Act, and subject to be inspected by Government Inspectors, who went round occasionally to see that all was going right. The inspector for this district was Mr. Thomas Cadman, of Gloucester. He was unable to be present that day, but if after hearing the evidence the jury were of the opinion that there had been any act on the part of any person which might have led to the accident, perhaps it might be necessary to adjourn the inquiry for the attendance of the inspector.

The jury then viewed the body, from the appearance of which it was evident that the stone fell on the legs and lower part of the frame, the upper part and head being comparatively unhurt. The jury subsequently, at the suggestion of the Coroner, viewed the spot at the quarry where the occurrence took place. The following evidence was given :- Dr. Adye said he was called by Mr. Jones at about quarter to ten o'clock on Thursday evening to visit his quarry, where an accident had occurred by a stone falling on a man. He proceeded to this spot immediately and found the deceased lying down with the stone covering his legs, one of which was completely crushed. Had it been possible to have extricated the man from his position, he might have survived his injuries. It would then have been necessary to amputate the right leg immediately. Having described the nature of the injuries, the doctor said there was no fracture of the skull, and the injuries and loss of blood sustained would not in themselves have been sufficient to cause death, which must have resulted from the shock to the system.

Charles York deposed that he was employed by the deceased to assist him, the deceased being engaged by Mr. Isaac Jones, on piecework. On Thursday evening he was at work with the deceased at the quarry, when the accident took place. Mr. Jones visited the quarry during the afternoon, and did not make any complaint as to the way in which the work was being done, but told deceased not to work too late. He believed the occurrence took place about nine o'clock. Witness was close by the deceased who was clearing the way to get down the stone which fell. There was a prop under the stone which deceased thought would be sufficient to support it. The stone did not come down so quickly as they had expected, and they thought there must be something behind it which kept it back. Immediately before the stone fell witness heard a crack and thought it was coming. He called out "Look up, Bill; it's coming." The next moment he saw deceased on the ground and the stone on him. The first indication of the occurrence was the breaking of the prop, which split into about 20 pieces. He was only just in time to get clear himself before the stone came down. The lamp went out, and as soon as he could light it again, he found the stone across the legs of the deceased, who was then quite sensible. Witness said "Bill, this is a bad job," and he replied "It is." Witness then went immediately to find assistance, and the first person he saw was Mr. Jones, the proprietor of the quarry. Stokes had not been there to witness's knowledge that day. In reply to Coroner the witness here admitted that the prop which was placed under the stone was not, in his opinion, sufficient to support it.

The Coroner : Then why should you endanger your life by working under it; why did you not insist upon it that more props should be procured?

Witness replied that deceased himself was the ganger, and had his own way, and he thought the prop was sufficient. Witness, a few minutes before the accident told the deceased he thought they had better leave it for the night, and perhaps the stone would be down in the morning.

The Coroner, having remarked that quarrymen were often too reckless in their work, questioned the witness who admitted that there had been more props, the accident would not have occurred. Sometimes they used one support, and sometimes more than one, according as they thought necessary. Mr. Jones when he visited the spot did not, to witness's knowledge, advise the using of more props.

John Stokes, quarryman, in the employ of Mr. Jones, said he was a foreman in one part of the workings, but not in the part where the deceased was engaged. It would not be his duty to direct that part; the deceased himself was the foreman there. Witness saw the place where the deceased was working about a week previous to the accident, and told him the timber he had there as supports was not sufficient to bear the weight over it. Deceased, however, contended it was. Witness had no doubt that the accident arose from the want of sufficient props, and the deceased himself was responsible. One good stout prop would have been sufficient for the stone, but the one which deceased used was not strong enough. The way deceased was working was the wrong one; he should have been on top of the stone instead of under it, and so clear the way as he went; in that case an accident of that kind was impossible.

Isaac Jones, quarry master, said he was proprietor of the quarry where the accident occurred, which was called Grips Hill quarry. Deceased was in his employ as "ganger" in the part where he was engaged; no other person had any authority there except witness himself; Stokes had nothing to do with that part of the working. It was the duty of the deceased to make arrangements for the work to go on properly. Witness visited the working twice on Thursday before the accident. The last time was at about five o'clock in the evening. Deceased and York were both working there at that time, deceased being engaged in clearing away the rock from the stone which afterwards fell. The way they were working was left pretty much to the men themselves; deceased was an experienced man, and was competent; he had worked at the quarry a long time, and had never met with an accident before. The men worked by the piece, and generally pleased themselves as to what time they left; they were supposed to be there in the day, and if they chose to stop on a bit of an evening they could do so. The way in which the deceased was working was not the proper way. When witness was at the place he advised men to be careful, but did not give any specific directions as to the use of more supports, or doing the work in any different way, as he considered that deceased being an experienced man knew himself what to do. At the time he saw the stone he believed the one prop was sufficient to support it. York worked for the deceased as an assistant, and was not employed by witness.

In reply to the Coroner, Mr. Jones said no accident had ever occurred at this quarry before.

The Coroner, in summing up, reviewed the evidence, and remarked on the negligence and carelessness of men who work in the quarries and mines, and proceeded to allude to the precautions taken by the Government in order to prevent accidents. When he was young, it was no uncommon occurrence to see the mangled corpses of men who had been killed by machinery, carried out of the factories in Trowbridge. Since he had been in office, about 14 or 15 years, no cases of fatal accident had occurred in any factory in the town, which he thought was a great thing, considering the number of people employed, and the amount of machinery used. That owing to the precautions taken by the Government in insisting that the machinery should be protected. Passing on to allude again to the subject under notice, the Coroner noticed that owing to the weight of the stone, which Mr. Jones estimated at between 20 and 30 tons, it was impossible that the man could be extricated at once, the work taking about two hours. Under the circumstances he had no doubt the jury would come to the decision that the verdict must be one of accidental death, and it would therefore be unnecessary to adjourn the inquest for the attendance of the inspector. If, however, the jury thought it advisable to add any appendix to their verdict, giving advise as to precautions in the future, of course they would be quite in order in doing so. There was no blame attaching to any person, the lapse, if any, being on the part of the deceased himself.

The foreman thought they might recommend a little caution; he did not know that they could do anything else.

A juryman suggested that they might advise proprietors to take more into their own hands, and not to leave it so much to the gangers.

The jury then returned a verdict of "Accidental death," adding a rider advising more caution by men engaged in quarries in the future.

The deceased man, who was only 33 years of age, leaves a wife and four children.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, when the remains were interred at the Cemetery.

Source – Warminster Herald – 22 January 1887

A QUARRYMAN CRUSHED TO DEATH

The words of scripture "The one shall be taken and the other left," were verified at Grip Hill quarry in a shocking manner late on Thursday night, the 13th inst. Two quarrymen, named William Garton and Charles York, in the employ of Mr. I. Jones, were working in this quarry on the night named, when a stone, estimated to weigh at least 20 tons, under which they were working, fell. York hearing the prop under the stone snap suddenly called to Garton, and then ran and fell forward just clearing the stone, and thus no doubt saved his life, but Garton was not so fortunate, for the stone fell on him and crushed him so severely that he expired directly he was extricated some two hours later. His body was then taken to the Barge Inn where on being examined it was found to be frightfully mangled at the lower parts, the right leg being fractured in several places, and the foot crushed. There were also some abrasions on the upper part of the body, and one side of the chest appeared to be badly injured. The deceased, who was a steady man, was but 23 years of age and leaves a wife and four children under seven years of age, and much sympathy is felt for the bereaved ones.

The inquest on the body was held on Saturday morning at the Barge Inn, before Mr. F. T. Sylvester, coroner, and a respectable jury over whom Mr. William Butt was chosen foreman.

The coroner, in opening the enquiry, remarked that the deceased was 23 years of age, and on Thursday night about half past nine was at work with Charles York in a quarry in that locality when from some reason a stone of great weight fell upon him. Assistance was procured, but he believed deceased was not extricated for two hours when life was found to be extinct. The reason why he was at work so late at night they would hear in evidence. Accidents in stone quarries were very numerous, but perhaps many of them were not brought to their notice because they are sent to the Bath Hospital. He thought it was a pity that these accidents could not be prevented. However, they were not so frequent as in years gone by, which fact he attributed to the overlooking of the Government Inspectors. The inspector for that district was Mr. Cadman, of Gloucester, but he was unfortunately unable to attend the enquiry that day, and if they (the jury) found that deceased came by his death through the omission or commission of any person they could adjourn the enquiry so that he may be present.

The jury accompanied by the Coroner then viewed the body and also visited the quarry where the accident occurred. Although it was stated that the quarry was perfectly safe, the state of the entrance which was propped up seemed to belie that statement, and several of the jury hesitated as to whether they would enter or not. The whole of the jury however went in, and with the light of several candles which were provided they inspected the spot. The stone is situated some 40 yards from the entrance, and considering its situation and its surroundings it is a matter of surprise that the deceased was not crushed to pieces.

On return of the jury to the inn the first witness was called.

Dr. Adey, of Bradford, who said on Thursday night about quarter to ten o'clock he received a message from Inspector Gale asking him to go over to Mr. Jones' quarry as a man had been crushed there by a stone. He went immediately and found the deceased under an enormous stone, but it was impossible to get near or do anything for him. Deceased was alive and moaned, and it was nearly two hours before he was extricated. As deceased's legs appeared to be crushed and he was otherwise bruised, he sent for Dr. Highmore, believing that if extracted alive, amputation would at once have to be performed. When extricated he found the deceased's right leg was fractured in two places, his foot crushed as well as was the lower portion of his body. There were other abrasions about the body, but his skull was not fractured. Deceased breathed once or twice after being released, and then expired. He believed the cause of his death was shock to the system arising from the injuries, and from his groaning he thought that he was sensible up to the time of his death. His left foot was perfectly sound. The injury might have occurred in dragging him out from under the stone, which had to be chipped before his foot could be released.

Charles York, a labourer, of Bradford, said he was at work with the deceased at the time of the accident. Deceased was at work the whole of the day, but witness did not commence until two o'clock the same afternoon. Deceased was working by the piece and was working for him. No one was at work in the quarry beside witness and deceased, and no one entered the quarry but Mr. Jones during Thursday afternoon. They worked by the light of three lamps in which they used benzoline oil. Mr. Jones found no fault with the way in which they were working, but ordered them not to work late at night. He believed the accident occurred at nine o'clock. They were engaged in clearing for the stone over them to come down when he heard the prop placed to support it, snap. He cried out to deceased "Look out Bill, the stone is coming," and then ran back but had not gone many steps before he hitched his foot in a stone and fell forward. Had he not fallen he firmly believed he would have been struck with the end of the stone. Two of the lamps were blown out. He got up and with the other lighted lamp went back to look for deceased, and found him under the stone, with his head and arms protruding. He moved the small stones near his head and deceased, who was alive and sensible, said, "It's a bad job." He further added that he believed his ribs were crushed in, and the stone was on his leg. As witness could not extricate him he went for Mr. Jones who returned with Mr. Mizen and another man to the quarry and succeeded in getting deceased out in about two hours. After deceased was released he breathed twice and then succumbed. A few minutes before the accident he said to the deceased, "let's leave the stone now, and perhaps it will be down in the morning," but he replied he would hit out a bit more first. Deceased was using a pick-axe. He believed it was usual to use more props for so large a stone, but it was no use for him to speak, for deceased would always have his own way. Had there been some more props under the stone it would not have fallen. Mr. Stokes, the foreman of the other quarry, also assisted in rescuing the deceased. Mr. Jones did not in witness's presence advise that more props should be put up, neither did he say what time the stone may come down.

John Stokes, quarryman, Bradford, said he worked for Mr. Jones. He was foreman at one part of the working, but was not foreman of the part where deceased was working and had nothing to do with it. About a fortnight since he visited the part of the quarry where the accident happened. Deceased was then at work, and then he told him he considered a prop he had under the stone was insufficient to support the weight, but he said it was. Had he put more props as he (witness) advised, the stone would not have fallen. He had had about thirty years' experience in quarries, and he was of opinion that the accident arose from want of sufficient support, for which deceased alone was responsible. The prop deceased used was a small one, but if he had used a stout one it would have carried the stone. He believed quarrymen, as a rule were reckless, and had deceased worked on top of the stone as he ought to have done, instead of under, he would not have been killed.

Mr. Isaac Jones, quarry master, residing at the Lock, Bradford, said he was the proprietor of Grip Hill quarry. Deceased was in his employ as a ganger and had the management of the quarry. Stokes had no authority there. It was deceased's duty to make arrangements for the work, and at the same time to see it went properly. He went to the quarry on Thursday twice; the first time being about nine o'clock in

the morning, and the second at about five o'clock in the afternoon, and saw deceased and York there at work at the same place where the accident happened. Deceased was a competent workman, and he had never any reason to find fault with his work. He was at piece work and worked at what time he liked. York was working for deceased. He knew that the stone under which they were working was coming down, and that the way in which they were working was wrong, and he advised them to be careful, as he considered the prop was not sufficient to keep up the stone when it was cleared. Deceased worked at his own risk, and he made no complaint with the way they were working. When he visited the quarry in the morning there was no danger of the stone falling. To his knowledge the inspector of mines had not visited his quarries very recently. If he had witness had not seen him. York was sober when he saw him in the afternoon.

Inspector Gale produced a few articles including a pipe, some tobacco and a knife, which was found on deceased and he was ordered to hand them over to his widow.

The Coroner, in summing up said he thought the evidence fully explained the cause of the accident without an adjournment. It was clear deceased's death was caused by the fall of the stone, and that the stone fell through there not being sufficient support underneath after the other material had been cleared away. The insufficiency of the support was attributable to deceased alone, who, although advised to the contrary maintained that it would be sufficient. They all knew how careless men were who worked in quarries and factories, and at a great many factories many lives were now saved through the compulsory protection of machinery. When he was a boy it was no uncommon thing to see a mangle corpse brought out of the Trowbridge factories, but that state of things were now altered, and during the fifteen years he had been coroner in that district there had not been a single fatal accident at the factories there. In the present case he believed the deceased died from the loss of blood and shock he had received. The stone that had fallen on him was at least 20 tons. He appeared to have been warned on the previous week that he had not put sufficient props under the stone, yet he was perfectly satisfied to risk his life under the one small prop. He believed men frequently worked under stones until they gave a little and then ran away, but that was a very dangerous thing to do. He thought after hearing the evidence they would be of the opinion it was an accident, and that the lapse or want of caution in not placing a greater support under the stone would fall on the deceased as ganger of the quarry.

The foreman thought they should recommend a little more caution in quarries.

A juryman was of the opinion that it would be useless as the quarrymen would do as they liked.

In answer to the Coroner, Mr. Jones said no man had been killed or hurt in the quarry before.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death" and as a rider recommended quarrymen to use more caution in their work.

The funeral of deceased took place on Tuesday afternoon being attended by several members of his family.

Mr. Bain, deputy inspector under the Quarry and Mines Act, of Newport, visited the quarry at which the accident took place on Tuesday afternoon with Mr. Jones, and we hear that he certified the quarry to be perfectly safe, and that the accident was attributable alone to the deceased's want of caution in proceeding with his work.

1 February 1887 – Drum & Pit Quarry, Monkton Farleigh, Wiltshire

Source – Warminster & Westbury Journal, and Wilts County Advertiser – 5 February 1887

CRUSHED TO DEATH

A quarryman named [*Albert*] West, engaged in a quarry at Monkton Farley, near here, has been crushed to death by a stone weighing about a ton falling on him. His death appears to have been instantaneous.

1881 Census

Address – Kingsdown, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Albert</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>1844</i>	<i>Quarryman</i>
Elizabeth	West	Wife	Married	Female	34	1847	
Frederick	West	Son	Single	Male	12	1869	Scholar
Herbert	West	Son	Single	Male	10	1871	Scholar
Florence	West	Daughter	Single	Female	1	1880	

15 July 1887 – Pictor’s Quarry, Winsley, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wilts Advertiser – 21 July 1887

FATAL ACCIDENT AT QUARRY

A quarryman, named Albert Ernest Dagger, working for Messrs. Pictor and Sons, at Winsley quarry, met with a fatal accident on Thursday morning, through the breaking of a girder of the crane, which was being used to raise a block of stone, the structure falling upon him, breaking his leg and thigh and severely bruising his head. A doctor was sent for and the deceased removed to his home at Bradford, but he died before reaching there. An inquest was held at the Castle Hotel on Friday, and a verdict of “accidental death” was returned. The district inspector of mines (Mr. J. S. Martin, of Clifton) attended, and he said he did not attach blame to anyone.

Source – Warminster & Westbury Journal, and Wilts County Advertiser – 23 July 1887

FATAL ACCIDENT AT WINSLEY

An inquest has been held at the Castle Inn, Bradford-on Avon., on the body of Albert Ernest Dagger, 26, who died on 15th inst. From injuries received by a crane falling on him at Winsley Quarry that morning. Deceased worked with his brother for Messrs. Pictor and Son, of Box, and on Thursday morning turned the crane handle to draw a stone up from the bottom of the quarry. The stone having been lifted about ten feet, the crane was stopped so that the stone might be placed on a landing. While this was being done the iron stay of the crane broke and the stone fell to the bottom dragging the crane over on the deceased. He was released in a few minutes in an insensible state. A conveyance was procured, and he was driven towards his home, but he died on the way without having gained consciousness. Dr. Day Lovell, who examined the deceased, found that he had received a severe lacerated wound over the right eye, penetrating to the brain. On the right side, four ribs were broken and the lung lacerated. The right thigh was broken in two places and the left leg fractured. Mr. J. S. Martin, of Clifton, the district inspector of mines, who declined to take an oath but affirmed, said he had examined the crane at Winsley, and thought the accident was caused by a flaw in the chain. He did not attach blame to anyone. A verdict of “Accidental death” was returned, the jury attaching no blame to anyone.

August 1887 – Corsham Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 13 August 1887

Albert Wait, of Pound Pit, Corsham, is in Bath hospital with one of his legs in a terrible condition. Whilst in a quarry, he was caught by one of the trollies, which dragged him for some distance along the ground, tearing the flesh off his leg from thigh to the ankle.

31 August 1887 – Pictor's Quarry, Winsley, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 1 September 1887

ACCIDENT

An accident occurred at Messrs. Pictor's quarry at Winsley on Wednesday to a man named John Stokes, aged 45. It appears that while working at the crane he allowed the handle to slip from his grasp, and it catching in his clothes revolved with the weight of stone several times, dashing him to the ground each time, and he received such severe injuries that death resulted in a short time.

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle – 3 September 1887

ANOTHER FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

In our last issue we recorded an accident which happened on the previous Wednesday morning to John Stokes, aged 45, a quarryman residing at Budbury. With a companion he was engaged in one of Messrs. Pictor's quarries at Winsley hoisting a stone on the stack, when the crane by some means suddenly slipped from slow to quick time. Deceased was taken round by the handle several times, and received injuries which terminated fatally on Friday morning.

An inquiry into the circumstances was held by Mr. Coroner Sylvester at the Rising Sun on Saturday last. Mr. Tom Moore was chosen foreman of the jury, and Mr. C. J. Pictor was present on behalf of the firm.

The Coroner, in opening the proceedings, said another valuable life had been lost, that of a man in the prime of his life. It appeared that the deceased man was at work in a stone quarry at Winsley on Wednesday, and met with injuries which resulted in his death at 3 o'clock on the previous morning. He resided at Bradford, and that was the reason he was brought there for treatment. These fatal accidents have been rather frequent in the locality lately, and he made some remarks on the subject at a former inquest. He believed this accident occurred in the same quarry as the fatal one recently.

Inspector Gale : Yes, sir.

The Coroner, continuing, said that it appeared to have taken place from a fall, but this had something to do with the crane. He mentioned to them, at the previous inquest, that it behoved masters, and the law expected, that they would take due care of those in their employment, by having their machinery, gear and tackle in good order. If a master sent out a labourer or a carter with a horse, he must see that the cart and harness is in good order. If he employed people in a factory he was bound, by the law, to see the machinery was in proper condition. There were men appointed by the Government to superintend this, as they were aware. There were also inspectors of mines. This accident did not appear to have taken place underground, but the inspector of mines had been there that day, and satisfied himself as to its cause. He had had an interview with him, and he would give them the result of it later on. It was the same with machinery driven by steam, or water, or hand; it was the master's duty, and

the law obliged him, to see that everything was in good order, so that lives of those in his employment should not be endangered. If they found that these fatal accidents occurred from any omission on the part of the master, it was the duty to say so.

The body having been viewed, the first witness called was.

George Westgrath, quarryman of Morgan's Hill, Bradford, who said he worked for the deceased in a quarry belonging to the Messrs. Pictor, of Box. Deceased was a ganger and took work by contract. Sometimes he employed 12 or 13 hands, sometimes less. He was at work with him on Wednesday last, and was present when the accident occurred, just after 9 o'clock. Witness and deceased had attached the shears of the crane to a stone measuring about 15 feet, and pulled it up high enough to place on the stack, when suddenly the crane slipped from slow into quick time. He was struck by one of the handles, and nearly knocked down, and when he recovered he saw the deceased, who had been taken around by the other handle, fall on the rock below. He and others at once went to his assistance. He was partially sensible, but did not speak. He could not explain how it was the crane slipped into quick time; it had never done so before. He did not think there was anything wrong with it. Since the accident some weights have been put on it. If these had been there before he did not think the accident would have occurred. Nothing ever passed between him and the deceased about the crane. The stone was not nearly so large as others they had lifted. He did not think there was any fault to be attached to the deceased.

A juryman : If the crane was perfect why have they put weights on it?

Witness : I suppose to try and prevent accidents in future.

By the Coroner : I did not see deceased's head strike the ground.

Another juryman : Is it usual to attach weights to these cranes?

Witness : I have never seen them before.

Daniel Gay, another quarryman, of Budbury, deposed to seeing the accident happen to the deceased, who was carried round by the handle four or five times, but he did not see any part of his body strike the ground. The last witness and deceased were pushing round a stone. The crane had been greased lately, and whether they had the clip down properly or not he could not say. If it had been the crane would not have slipped. It was the duty of the men who were working the crane to see to this; not more that of the ganger than any of the workmen. He considered the crane no in good order, and he thought it had been all along. He never called the attention of the foreman or master to it. Cranes were very apt to jump when they were being worked. Had he seen anything wrong he should have called the deceased's attention to it. He saw the handle of the crane strike the deceased as it went round, and his head must have touched the ground.

Mr. Pictor said he understood from this witness that the handle went round several times before the deceased caught it, so that undoubtedly he thought he could stop it himself. If he had chosen he might have let the handle go.

Gay said he could not have got out of the way of the handle if he wanted to do so.

The witness Westgrath was then recalled, and said the clip was down when they started to hoist the stone. He himself pulled the crane into gear, and put it from quick to slow time.

Dr. Day Lovell said he first saw the deceased about 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning at his own house. He was not sensible then, but he believed he had been previously. There were signs of extensive blows to the stomach and bowels, which were swollen, and deceased complained of intense pain there.

His head was also injured. There was no fracture of the skull, but he found a considerable depression; also a small scalp wound at the back, but that was nothing very serious. Deceased regained consciousness to a certain extent, but not entirely. He saw him again the same day and the next. The blows he had received were the cause of death, and they might have been inflicted in the manner described by the witness. One of deceased's ribs was also broken. Had he not received the blow on the skull he did not think he would have recovered, as he should imagine the intestines were ruptured.

Mary Ann Stokes, the widow, said the deceased was in good health previous to the accident. He was not subject to fits. She was at home when he was brought there. He was sensible, and told her that the crane had slipped, and that he went round with the handle, but did not think it much, and he should be alright in a day or two. He did not blame anyone.

Mr. Pictor was then sworn and said the cause of the accident was difficult to determine, but it was a question in his mind whether the clip was put down properly. It had been the accident would not have happened. Their cranes were all similarly constructed. They had been working them for 14 years and never had an accident before this year. Previous to their coming into their possession they were doing Government work. As to the weights put on, the men got so used to do things that they often put the clip down whilst perhaps thinking of something else, and their idea was to make the lifting of it so heavy that attention should be called to it, not that weights were absolutely necessary. He did not think the crane slipped through a jerk. Since the previous accident he had visited this particular quarry twice a week, and the foreman was talking to the deceased about a quarter of an hour before the accident happened. The foreman was responsible for everything being in good order, and it was part of the men's duty to inform him if it were not. He saw the deceased after the accident, and he thought he should be out in a few days. He did not blame anyone.

Henry Aust, of 22 Frome Road, foreman for Messrs. Pictor, said nothing particular respecting the crane had ever come to his notice. He had examined it since the accident, but had discovered no defects. He did not find out the cause of the accident, but he was rather inclined to think that the clip was not properly down. Had it been it was quite possible to jerk it out.

The Coroner : So is anyone liable to meet with an accident such as tis?

Witness : Not unless it was an extraordinary jerk. In answer to further question he said the weights had been put on to make the clip more difficult to handle.

By the foreman : He considered the deceased as good a workman as he had ever had anything to do with. His work was piece work and he would try to do as much as he could.

Mr. Tom Moore : So that a little carelessness in his part might be attributed to his wanting to do as much work as possible.

Witness said the clip was on the side that Westgrath was, and it would be his duty to see that it was down.

In summing up the Coroner said it did not appear that anybody was responsible for this accident. They had heard Westgrath's account of it, and he seemed to think that the clip was properly down, but the other witness who was at a distance, was of opinion that if it had been it would not have slipped, except from a jerk. The evidence of the foreman appeared to confirm that of the other witnesses, that the crane was in good order. This crane did not come under the Mines' Act, and the Inspector did not consider it his duty to inspect it when he came round periodically. He had visited the quarry that morning, however, and from what he heard he was of the opinion that the accident was due to some fault on the part of the two men who were working the crane. There was nothing to suppose it was out of order in any way. Mr. Pictor had also told then what he thought about the matter, and there was no reason to

doubt his evidence, although he was an interested party. He was of the opinion that the clip was not in its proper place, and therefore the responsibility for this accident would fall on the deceased himself, or on the person working with him. Of course there was no intentional carelessness or culpability on the part of any person. It is impossible to say whether Westgrath had the clip in its proper position or not. He should consider the deceased the most responsible person of the two, and the inspector of mines seemed to think the same thing too. There did not appear to be any act of omission on the part of the foreman, and under all the circumstances he thought the jury would be of the opinion that this was a case of accidental death.

The jury returned the verdict to this effect and exonerated everybody from blame.

1881 Census

Address – 22, Budbury Cottages, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
John	Stokes	Head	Married	Male	39	1842	Bath stone miner
Mary A	Stokes	Wife	Married	Female	38	1843	-
Fanny	Stokes	Daughter	Single	Female	13	1868	Scholar
Sarah A	Stokes	Daughter	Single	Female	8	1873	Scholar
Mary E	Stokes	Daughter	Single	Female	6	1875	Scholar
Ellen	Stokes	Daughter	Single	Female	4	1877	
William	Wootten	Grand son	Single	Male	3	1878	

3 October 1887 – Clift Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 8 October 1887

BOX – QUARRY ACCIDENT

An accident occurred in Messrs. Pictor's Clift Quarry, Box Hill, on Monday morning about 10 o'clock, resulting in injuries to two quarrymen, Irura Bradfield [*Irvine Bradford quoted on page three of this newspaper*], Box Hill, and Thomas Hillier, of Colerne. They were engaged with a crane in tipping a block of stone, about seven tons, from its bed, by means of a loose chain around it. The block, in tipping, instead of falling through the chain as was expected, caught in it, bringing the weight with a jerk on the crane, causing it to swerve round and knocking down the quarrymen who had hold of the handles. Bradfield received a nasty blow to the head and fell into a hole about 20 feet deep, pitching on some rough stones. Hillier happily escaped with slight injuries, and it was not thought necessary to detain him at the Bath Hospital, to which they were immediately conveyed, and where Bradfield now lies. He is reported to be progressing favourably, one arm and leg being fractured.

14 December 1887 – Box Clift Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Western Chronicle 23 December – 1887

FATAL CRUSH

Mr. William Foot (deputy coroner) held an inquest, on Saturday, on the body of Thomas James, a mason, who was crushed to death on Wednesday, as he was repairing a wall on the side of the tramway at Messrs. Pictor's quarry works. It appears that the driver of some trucks which were being shunted missed the deceased from the line, looked back, and saw him between two trucks. When he was taken out he was quite dead. No one appeared to be to blame in the matter, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 17 December 1887

FATAL ACCIDENT AT BOX HILL

Early on Wednesday morning, an accident, unfortunately attended with loss of life, occurred at Messrs. Pictor's stone quarries. An aged man named Thomas Tanner [*see report above – he is named as Thomas James*] was engaged in repairing a wall adjoining the tramways near the opening of the Clift Quarry, the wall being on one side of the tram, and the material he was using on the other. Opposite the place were several loaded trolleys or trucks, with a space between them for him to pass over, and it is supposed the poor fellow was crossing the line when the engine, with another load of stone, came from the Quarry and shunted into the others, thus literally squeezing him to death. The driver of the engine knew nothing of the matter, and, some little time elapsed before he was found dead, between two loaded trucks. Dr. Martin was quickly on the spot and gave his opinion that death was instantaneous. An inquest was held at the Rising Sun Inn, Box Hill, on Thursday afternoon. After a long inquiry and examination of several witnesses, the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death." The deceased who was 74 years of age, has been in the employ of Messrs. Pictor for upwards of 40 years, leaves a widow and two children.

9 April 1888 – Combe Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 26 April 1888

FATAL ACCIDENT TO A QUARRYMAN

On Friday the City Coroner held an adjourned inquest at the Guildhall, on the body of a labourer named William Jones, who died at the royal United Hospital on the 15th inst., from injuries received by falling down the shaft of a quarry at Combe Down on 9th inst.

The Coroner, in opening the inquiry, said he had been in communication with the Inspector of Mines, but as he had not sent him any intimation he supposed he would not attend. He had given him the requisite forty eight hours notice.

George Williams said he was on the platform above the shaft at the time the deceased fell. He was using an iron bar for the purpose of untwisting the pulley chain. He had never known it twist before when a stone was being raised. Deceased was pushing outwards when the chain broke and deceased fell down the shaft, which was twenty five or twenty six feet deep. Witness went down and assisted to bring him to the surface. Deceased was accustomed to quarry work.

Theodore Minty, proprietor of the quarry, said they had been working it three weeks last Saturday. He had had nothing to do with quarries before. Mr. Bladwell lent him the gear to work the quarry. He had it looked over by a blacksmith after he fetched it from Mr. Bladwell's yard, and he pronounced it fit for use. There had been no accident before. The stone got to the bottom before Jones Fell. It was just under two tons. All the men employed by witness were used to quarry work.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

17 May 1888 – Box, Wiltshire

Source – *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* – 24 May 1888

FATAL RESULT OF AN ACCIDENT

An inquest was held on Monday last before Mr. W. E. N. Brown, district coroner, relative to the death of William Mumford, aged 33 years, who died from the result of injuries received in a quarry on the Thursday previous.

From evidence of George Mumford, brother to the deceased, a man named Samuel Webb, it appeared that the stone was being lifted by means of a crane, when the stone broke in two, one part falling upon the deceased and crushing him severely.

Dr. Wood who attended the deceased, deposed that he sustained a severe bruise on his side, and he was in too dangerous a condition to be removed to the hospital.

Verdict, “Accidental death.”

1881 Census

Address – Corshamside, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>William</i>	<i>Mumford</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>1855</i>	<i>Stone miner</i>
Susannah	Mumford	Wife	Married	Female	24	1857	
Henry T	Mumford	Son	Single	Male	1	1880	

9 June 1888 – Box Wharf, Wiltshire

Source – *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* – 14 June 1888

FATAL ACCIDENT AT A STONE WHARF

On Tuesday evening Mr. W. J. English, the City Coroner, held an inquest at the Guildhall on the body of Frank Bradfield, a boy, aged 13, who died in the Royal United Hospital on Saturday evening, from injuries received at the stone wharf at Box that morning. Mr. Donald Bain, Assistant District Inspector of Mines, was present.

Mr. Thomas Perren, assistant manager to the Bath Stone Firm (Limited), stated that the deceased was engaged about our months ago to mind the horses; witness cautioned Bradfield never to move the trolleys, and a boy had been previously dismissed for doing so.

Samuel Gale, foreman of Bath Stone Firms Wharf at Box, said the deceased's duty was to lead the horses. Witness did not know how the accident occurred.

Mr. George Hancock, manager to Bath Stone Firms, stated that he had made enquiries, and ascertained that deceased was leading a horse attached to a loaded trolley along the tramway at the Box wharf, and by some means or other he was crushed between the trolley and a stationary pile of stone which was some one foot nine inches to two feet from the tram line. Deceased had received two distinct orders

not to move trolleys, and he believed when the accident happened he had been directed to do something else.

William Dancey, a stone sawyer engaged at the wharf, said he saw the deceased attach the horse to the trolley, and draw it towards the crane. The man whose duty to do this was at breakfast. When near the stack of stones the boy went to the trolley and did something to the break; the stone on the trolley struck him and he was crushed between it and the stack.

The House Surgeon, deposed that Bradfield was admitted to the Hospital on Saturday morning suffering from severe internal injuries from which he died the same day.

Henry Fisher, whose duty it was to move the trolleys, said he was having his breakfast in the office when the accident happened. He had told deceased to get a horse ready and wait for witness until he was ready to move the trolley. He did not tell him to attach the horse to the truck.

A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned.

6 October 1888 – Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wilts Advertiser – 11 October 1888

SUICIDE

SUICIDE.—On Saturday morning a man named Edward Hudd was discovered by some of his fellow workmen lying with his throat cut in an old pit, about 8 feet in depth, situated in the quarry known as No. 6, or Spring Quarry. Dr. Crisp promptly attended, but found Hudd quite dead, and the nature of the wound, and other circumstances, left little doubt that the deceased had committed suicide. The body was conveyed on a litter to the Station hotel, awaiting the inquest, which was held in the evening by Mr. Richard Balch, the town coroner. Henry Sawyer, quarryman, was the first witness, and said he was working in No. 6 quarry on Saturday morning, and about seven o'clock he missed deceased from the crane. After some searching deceased was found in an old disused part of the quarry, lying dead with a wound in his throat, and an open knife close to his side. Witness had no conversation with him that morning, but had observed nothing strange in his manner.

James Cousins, quarryman, gave corroborative evidence. Benjamin Davis, quarryman, said he was working at the same crane as deceased on Saturday morning, and about seven o'clock, after being there for an hour, deceased left the crane, saying he was going for some water. He was a long time gone, and witness going out, found the water in a pail in the road, a long way from the place where the body was found. Several other witnesses were examined, and the jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of "Suicide while in an unsound state of mind."

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 13 October 1888

SUICIDE OF A QUARRYMAN

While at work at Spring Quarry, on Saturday morning last, a quarryman named Edward Hudd, residing at Greenhill, committed suicide by cutting his throat. When he was found he was lying in a disused pit about eight feet deep, and was quite dead. The body was removed to the Station Hotel, where on Saturday evening an inquest was held by Mr. R. Balch, coroner for the liberty of Corsham, Mr. J. Crosse being foreman of the jury.

Edward Hudd, son of the deceased, stated that he saw his father before going to work on Saturday morning, and he then appeared to be perfectly rational.

Benjamin Davis, who was working with deceased at Spring Quarry, stated that about seven o'clock on Saturday Hudd left the crane, saying he was going to fetch some water. As he did not return a search was initiated.

Henry Sawyer, who was working near, spoke to Hudd being missed from the quarry, and on searching they found his body in a disused pit with his throat cut, and an open knife close by.

Henry Smith, foreman at the quarry, and James Cousins, quarryman, gave corroborative evidence.

Fred Wheeler, Hudd's son-in-law, stated that the working at which he had been engaged had been rather trying, owing to its not being as remunerative as usual.

Dr. Crisp proved examining the body, and finding a wound in the throat two inches wide and one inch deep, and the jugular vein was severed. In his opinion death was due to haemorrhage. There were small superficial bruises from the side to the top of the head, and hairs, as if the deceased, after committing the act, had fallen forward.

The jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst in an unsound mind.

About three years ago a man named Dyke who for many years a partner with deceased in quarry work, committed suicide by cutting his throat.

22 December 1888 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 22 December 1888

BOX – GOOD NEWS

We hear that it is the intention of Messrs. Marsh and Gibbs to open up the quarry at the top of Rudloe Hill, which for some time past has not been used.

16 March 1889 – Farleigh Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette – 21 March 1889

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT NEAR BATH

On Monday Mr. F. T. Sylvester, coroner for West Wilts, held an inquest at the King's Arms, Monkton Farleigh, concerning the death of Charles Wilfred Baldwin, aged 37, a quarryman, of Bathford, who was killed in the Farleigh Down Quarry, belonging to the Bath Stone Firms, Limited, on Saturday. Mr. J. S. Martin, Inspector of Mines, from Bristol, was in attendance. Jesse Crew, a quarryman, who, with two other men, was working with deceased, stated that they had put up a prop against the ceiling of the working in which they were, and were about to cut another, when a block of stone weighing over two tons suddenly fell, snapping off the one prop. A block weighing about a hundredweight struck Baldwin's head, and another weighing over a ton fell on his side. Witness and his mates immediately removed the stone from the body with iron bars, but Baldwin was quite dead. Kemery, the foreman of the quarry, examined the ceiling on the previous day and considered it safe, as also did the witness. Edward Brown, who was working with Crew and the deceased, gave corroborative evidence. Henry Kemery, the foreman of the quarry, stated that he tried the ceiling on Tuesday and again on Friday. He did not think it was liable to shift. Mr. J. W. Adye, surgeon, described the terrible injuries the man

received. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned. The jury gave their fees to the deceased's widow, who is left with several young children.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 21 March 1889

SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON FARLEIGH DOWN

Mr. F. T. Sylveter, coroner for West Wilts, held an inquest at the King's Arms Inn, Monkton Farleigh, on Monday, touching the death of Charles Wilfred Baldwin, aged 37, of Bathford, who was killed in the Farleigh Down Quarry, on Saturday, under the circumstances related in the following evidence. Mr. J. S. Martin, Inspector of Mines, from Clifton, was present.

Jesse Crew quarryman, living at Bathford, stated that he worked in the same gang with the deceased in Farleigh Down Quarry, he and deceased were gangers and they worked by the piece; they had two men with them. They were under directions from Mr. Kemery, the foreman employed by the Bath Stone Firms, Limited. At about half-past eleven on Saturday they were patting up a second prop to secure the ceiling; they had put up one. They were walking away to cut second prop when a large mass of stone, which they were about to prop up, cracked and fell instantly; Baldwin, who behind the others, heard the crack and tried to get out of the way, but a piece weighing not less than a hundredweight struck him on the head, while another block weighing over a ton caught him on the right side. Witness and the other men removed the stone from the body with iron bars, but deceased quite dead. The weight of all the stone that fell he should say was over two tons. Mr. Kemery, the foreman on the day before tried the ceiling at this point and considered it secure.

In answer to Mr. Martin, the witness said that the working was about six yards wide at the mouth and about four yards at the end where the accident happened; the spot was 26 feet from the roadway and the working was some six feet high. They had one-prop under the stone that fell; he never knew the ceiling in that part of the quarry to fall before. He did not think they were trusting a little too much to the roof. There were several props in the working; suitable timber was provided 20 yards from where the accident happened. There were several cracks in the ceiling. Witness had been working in the Farleigh Down quarries for over 20 years.

By Mr. G. Hancock, manager of the Bath Stone Firms: the stone had removed from under where the ceiling fell four clear days.

Edward Brown, quarryman, who was also working with deceased, said they saw on Saturday that the stone which fell had shifted a little, but they struck it with a bar and did not think it would fall.

By Mr. Martin : The ceiling did not look worse than usual.

Henry Kemery, the foreman, he examined the ceiling five days before the accident and again on Friday. He told the men to watch it, to see that it alright and to tell him if it shifted. The stone had not shifted on Friday, and he did not think it likely to shift. He did not consider the ceiling to be in more dangerous condition than in other parts of the quarry. There were no cracks in ceiling except the natural joints; he thought the men took proper precautions to prevent accident.

By Mr. Martin : Where joints were seen it was advisable to take more precautions. In some cases they rendered the ceiling less secure, and in other cases it was not so. The men could see these joints and use their judgement concerning them.

Mr. Martin said he had visited the place where the accident occurred. He thought an additional prop or two would have been desirable, the men ought to have known it.

Mr. W. J. Adye, surgeon, who had made a post mortem examination, said there scalp wound on the deceased's head six inches long, and the skull fractured right through the base ; all the lower ribs on the right side were broken into pieces ; the left arm fractured and the spine injured..

The Coroner, in summing up, said the jury would have to consider whether sufficient precautions were taken.

A verdict of "Accidental Death" was returned, and the jury expressed their opinion that no one was to blame.

The jurors gave their fees to the deceased's widow, who is left with several little children.

August 1889 – Old Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 3 August 1889

BATH – FATAL ACCIDENT

A little girl named Gertrude Berry, aged three, was walking near a disused quarry on Old Down [*Odd Down in other Newspapers and Bloomfield Quarry in the Trowbridge Chronicle*], when she fell into it, a depth of nearly 30 feet, fracturing her skull. She was taken to the Royal United Hospital, but died a few hours after admission. The quarry in question had been brought before the notice of the Surveying Committee as a dangerous place.

31 August 1889 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 31 August 1889

THE QUARRIES

For the past few weeks the local stone quarries have been close owing to the slackness of the trade. The idea in stopping work at present time is to give the men an opportunity of taking part in harvest operations. It is hoped that work in the quarries will soon be resumed.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 7 September 1889

WORK AT THE QUARRIES

To the Editor – Sir : In your issue of the 31st ultimo we notice a paragraph stating that the Corsham quarries have been closed in order that the men may take part in harvest operations. For many years past it has been the custom for some men to take outdoor work in the harvest season, and they have done so this year; but not one of our quarries has been closed, either at Corsham or elsewhere. Perhaps you would kindly insert this correction in you next issue. Yours truly, The Bath Stone Firms, Limited, per George Hancock, Manager.

23 November 1889 – Box Hill Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 23 November 1889

THE WAGES OF QUARRYMEN

To the Editor – Sir : It is great wonder this question has not been taken up before, but now someone has started I do not see why the quarrymen at Box Hill should not have a word or two to say, for when men have to live on next to starvation wages when the firms are paying 7 or 8 per cent. I think the men ought to have a little more. At the Clift Quarry the men get £1 6s per 100 feet for stone sent out and £1 4s in stock, and I venture to say any quarryman knows it cannot be done for the money, and when they keep us blocked up half the time it is more still. We have stone at our crane that was dug six months ago, and if a so called gentleman at the end of a fortnight had to take the money and pay his men and mates, it would bring him round to think the quarrymen's life was not a bed of roses when he has a wife and five or six children to keep. It is no good to do the same as we did last Christmas and afterwards say we are fools for doing it. Let us take and call a meeting and appoint a man to see the manager and lay the case plainly before him and no man to sign for longer than three months; it would give the men a better chance, for we cannot and will not always work hard and starve, whilst managers and directors are living in luxury. Hoping some abler pen than mine will take the matter up, I remain, yours truly,

A CLIFT GANGER

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 7 December 1889

An interesting correspondence has been going on in our columns on the wages and other incidents of employment of labour in the stone quarrying districts. One point that seems to be made out is the undesirability of too long terms for gangers' contracts, and also of too elaborate and technical conditions in these documents. The practice is to bind the men for twelve months, and the contract, which contains between 30 to 40 clauses, is complained of as being one sided, losses arising purely from faults in the stone being their operation thrown wholly on the poor gangers, who sometimes lose all the fruits of their own labour in consequence. As regards the wages of quarry labour, these are thought high by some, whilst by the men themselves they are regarded as not high enough. Those who are of former opinion should remember that quarry work is very hard, and the conditions of life of those who for weeks together never see the light of day from Sunday Eve to Saturday afternoon cannot be called enviable. Sooner or later labouring men must, by common agreement and mutual forbearance, fix a minimum of wage and a maximum of working hours, but the time has not yet come when this is possible, and quarrymen have at present to consider how much exposed to competition their trade is, and how greatly dependent upon the fancy taste of the day, which fluctuates between this and that style of building and of decorative architecture.

1 March 1890 – Rudloe Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 8 March 1890

BOX - ACCIDENT

While working at Rudloe Quarry on Saturday a man named Charles Tylee [?] had his foot badly crushed by a stone falling on it from a trolley. He was taken to Bath Hospital, where his injuries were attended to.

30 June 1890 – Monkton Farleigh Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 3 July 1890

ACCIDENT

William Coles, labourer, of Box, was working in a quarry at Monkton Farleigh on Monday, when a block of stone weighing about four cwt. fell on his leg and fractured it.

8 July 1890 – Hartham No. 1 Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – North Wilts Herald – 18 July 1890

FATAL ACCIDENT

On Monday evening the remains of Mr. Henry Eyles, of Quarry Hill, Box, were interred in the cemetery amidst many marks of respect. Deceased was for nearly 20 years in the employ of the firm Messrs. Marsh, Son and Gibbs, quarry proprietors, and since the re-opening of the Hartham quarry till his death he was their most valued foreman of masons, and was greatly esteemed by both employers and those who worked under him. On the previous Tuesday deceased proceeded into one of the workings of the Hartham quarry for the purpose of pointing out to the sawyers, who accompanied him, some stone which was required, when, taking a wrong turning, he fell into a hole some 12 feet deep, striking his head. He was conveyed to his house in an unconscious state, and though his injuries were at first thought not to be of a fatal character he died on Thursday. He leaves a widow and nine children to mourn his untimely loss.

1881 Census

Address – Quarry Hill, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Henry	Eyles	Head	Married	Male	46	1835	Stone mason
Ann	Eyles	Wife	Married	Female	45	1836	-
Charles	Eyles	Son	Single	Male	16	1865	Sone mason
Catherine	Eyles	Daughter	Single	Female	14	1867	Scholar
Arthur	Eyles	Son	Single	Male	12	1869	Scholar
Thomas	Eyles	Son	Single	Male	10	1871	Scholar
Francis	Eyles	Son	Single	Male	6	1875	-
Elizabeth	Eyles	Daughter	Single	Female	3	1878	-
Ada	Eyles	Daughter	Single	Female	1	1880	-

November 1890 – Farley Quarry

Source – Trowbridge Chronicle, Bradford-on-Avon Times, and Melksham and Westbury Gazette – 15 November 1890

QUARRY ACCIDENTS

Two quarrymen named Frederick Pinnock and James Harford, both of South Wraxhall, whilst working in a quarry near Farley, last week met with serious accidents by a quantity of stone falling on them breaking Pinnock's leg and Harford's thigh. They were both conveyed to the Royal United Hospital and there detained. The accidents occurred on successive days.

15 April 1891 – Westwood Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Trowbridge Chronicle* – 25 April 1891

FATAL ACCIDENT

James Cottle, of Staples Hill, for many years in the employment of Mr. Godwin, quarry master, of Westwood, was one day last week assisting to load a trolley, when a large stone, which had been hoisted on to the vehicle, slipped, pinned him against another, and inflicted serious internal injuries. He was extricated as soon as possible, and lingered on until Tuesday, when he succumbed. An inquest was held by Mr. Coroner Sylvester on the following day, when a verdict of “Accidental death” was returned.

1891 Census

Address – Westwood, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>James</i>	<i>Cottle</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>1854</i>	<i>Quarryman</i>
Harriet	Cottle	Wife	Married	Female	65	1826	-
Alfred	Cottle	Son	Single	Male	30	1861	General labourer

June 1893 – Hartham Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette* – 15 June 1893

QUARRY ACCIDENT

An accident of a serious nature has occurred at Messrs. Marsh, Son and Gibbs’s Hartham Quarry, which in a few minutes resulted in the loss of one hundred pounds worth of property. The block of stone is drawn up from the quarry, a distance of 75 feet, to the surface; the wheels of the truck are then blocked in order that the trolley can be backed against it and the stone lifted from truck to trolley. Through neglect on some one’s part, the wheels of the truck containing the stone were omitted to be made secure, and the trolley coming in contact with it caused it to move backwards on the rails. The waggon immediately descended the mouth of the quarry dragging the horse (which was a valuable one, costing £60 only a fortnight before) with it. On examination, horse, trolley, and harness were found to be a complete mass of ruins. No blame whatsoever is attached to the carter, George Burton, who together with Mr. Marsh, junior, saw in a moment the danger, and endeavoured to avert it, but the dead weight of the trolley was too much.

7 July 1893 – Odd Down Quarry, Bath

Source – *Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette* – 13 July 1893

CORONER’S INQUEST – FATALITY ON ODD DOWN

Mr. B. A. Dyer, City Coroner, held an inquest at the Guildhall on Monday on the body of William James Painter, aged five years.

Alfred George Painter, of Clifton View, Odd Down, father of the boy, said he was at work on Friday afternoon at Shellard’s stone quarry opposite the Workhouse, where he was foreman. At five o’clock the deceased as usual brought the witness his tea. He saw him safe away from the spot where they were

working, but subsequently he heard a cry and on running up he found his son at the bottom of a 12 feet drop in an unconscious condition and bleeding from a wound in the head. He asked a gentleman who was driving by if he would take the boy to the Hospital and he did so. Questioned by the Coroner the witness said the child was not obliged to go to the spot where he fell from.

George Burden, of Monkton Combe, quarryman, who was also working at Mr. Shellard's quarry at the time of the accident, said he was shovelling rubble into the quarry from the same level from which the child fell. As witness was throwing a shovelful of muck he saw the child falling over the edge. His shovel did not touch the boy but some of the rubbish he was shovelling overtook him in the fall. Witness was six or seven feet from the edge of the rock, and the boy came from behind him. He believed that the boy slipped on small stones near the edge and fell over. The only reason for the deceased to have come to the spot could have been to see what witness was doing. When he fell over witness cried out "The child must be killed," and ran down to the bottom, but before he got there one of the men working below, Frederick James, had the child in his arms. Another man named Wilcox was also shovelling rubble over the edge, but he was eight or ten feet father away from the deceased than witness.

Henry Shellard, of Rock View, Bloomfield Road, owner of the quarry, said he was on the scene in a few minutes. Witness produced a rough sketch of the quarry, and explained the position of the witness and the child who dropped a depth of 11 or 12 feet. He believed it was a pure accident.

Frederick James said he heard a shout and found the boy at the bottom. He took him to the Workhouse thinking he might find a doctor there.

Mr. Shellard, recalled, was asked by the Coroner what account Burden gave him of the occurrence. At first he said Burden told him nothing, but afterwards said Burden stated that he was busy with the muck, that the boy ran up the bank and the muck struck him. It was impossible to tell the real facts of the case, and Burden could not possibly say whether he really struck the boy with the muck or not.

The Coroner intimated that he did not wish Mr. Shellard to make a speech.

Mr. Shellard : I don't want to screen anybody. I speak what I honestly believe in the case.

The Coroner : I didn't suggest that you want to screen anybody, but it is a pity you cannot be more clear. Addressing the jury, the Coroner said it seemed very difficult to make Mr. Shellard understand. He wanted to ascertain whether Burden gave the same account of the occurrence at the time as he did that afternoon.

Mr. Walsh, resident medical officer at the Royal United Hospital, stated that the boy died at 2:30 on Saturday morning from fracture of the skull, there being a severe cut in the forehead.

By a juror : The wound had not the appearance of being caused by a blow from the shovel.

The Coroner, in summing up, said he was rather surprised that Mr. Shellard, after making the inquiries which it was his business to do, was not able to give them a distinct and clear account of what Burden told him just after the accident. Whether muck struck the boy or not was immaterial, supposing that it struck him while Burden was engaged in his work, or without negligence on his part.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and expressed an opinion that steps should be taken to prevent similar accidents.

Seems as though there is conflicting evidence – "boy fell from the top" – "boy was running up the slope."

24 September 1893 – Combe Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 28 September 1893

FATALITY AT SOUTHSTOKE

At the Pack Horse Inn, Southstoke, on Monday, Mr. S. Craddock, Coroner for North Somerset, held an inquest concerning the death of Charles Osborne, 45, quarryman, of Quarry Bottom, Combe Down, who was found dead on Sunday afternoon in a deep hole below a plank from which he had evidently slipped. Mr R. Wolfe was chosen as foreman of the jury.

Henry Hamlen, a brewer's cellar man, said on Sunday at 5:20 he was returning to Southstoke from Bath, when he heard that deceased was missing. He went to Mr. Wainwright's quarry, and saw Osborne lying at the bottom of a gullet about 20 feet deep. His head was downwards and his feet up.

P.S. Rapson proved finding the body after being informed by the brother of the last witness. The legs were towards Southstoke and the head towards the Cross Keys. On the edge of one of the stones, which evidently had been broken off about six feet from the top of the hole, was some human hair, and under deceased's head was a quantity of blood. Osborne was quite dead and witness had him removed to his home.

Alfred Cleeves, a quarryman, deposed that on last Thursday afternoon he was working with deceased at Mr. Wainwright's quarry. Witness and deceased left work together at half past four and went to the Cross Keys. Osborne left that house at half past five to get some jackets which had been left in the quarry on some ashlar. As deceased did not return witness went to the quarry and fetched his own jacket and that of fellow workman named Gibbs. He then saw Osborn's coat on the freestone and supposed he would come to fetch it later on. The jackets were on the far side of the gullet over which a plank was placed. It was customary for one of them at the end of the day's work to take a check book of stone removed during the day to the hut. Witness and other men searched for the book but could not find it. Deceased was evidently taking the book across the plank to the hut when he fell, for he had the check book with him when found. Across the plank was the nearest cut. They had walked the plank for 18 months.

The Coroner : it is a very dangerous place.

Witness said he did not go to work on Friday last, but Gibbs and another man did. Witness did not hear that the deceased was missing until Sunday morning.

The Coroner : Is it customary to play for two or three days after working?

Witness said they did sometimes. Deceased was lame in his right leg. He was sober when he left the Cross Keys. Four or five of them drank two quarts of ale. Osborne, who was a steady man, went across the plank more often than any of the, as he generally carried the check book across to the hut. The men placed the plank in position themselves nearly two years ago.

By Jurors : Witness passed over the plank below which deceased was lying on Saturday, but it never entered his head or the minds of his fellow workmen that Osborne had fallen from the plank.

William Gibbs, foreman of Mr. Wainwrights quarry, gave similar evidence to the last witness. Witness went to work in the quarry on Friday and passed over the plank several times. He did not know deceased was missing until Saturday.

P.S. Rapson, recalled, said he found the check book (produced) at the deceased's side. He thought the fact that inquiries were not made by the fellow workmen was accounted for by the circumstances that the deceased sometimes left for home for a day or two because of domestic quarrels. The widow had not seen deceased since the Thursday morning.

Dr. E. H. Biddlecombe, of Pierrepont Street, Bath, who had made a post mortem examination, said he found three or four wounds on the back of the head; there were numerous bruises and scratches about the head and body. The skull was fractured below the wounds. The deceased might have lived twenty four hours after receiving the wound. Death resulted from the fracture and haemorrhage on the brain.

The Coroner having summed up, the jury found a verdict of "Accidental death."

A juror expressed the opinion that in future the plank in question, which is set up a steep incline, should have another by its side and also a handrail.

Mr. Wainwright, the owner of the quarry, said the men placed the plank there themselves. By going a few yards further they need not use it.

The Coroner thought the best thing would be to remove the plank altogether and Mr. Wainwright said he would see this was done.

The deceased leaves a widow and a boy of seven years.

1891 Census

Address – 5, Quarry Bottom, Monkton Combe, Bath, Somerset.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Charles</i>	<i>Osborne</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>1849</i>	<i>Stone quarryman</i>
Emma	Osborne	Wife	Married	Female	41	1850	
William	Osborne	Son		Male	2	1889	

18 November 1893 – Corsham Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Warminster & Westbury Journal, and Wilts County Advertiser* – 25 November 1893

FATAL ACCIDENT AT A STONE QUARRY

A shocking accident occurred at Messrs. Yockney and Co.'s stone quarries early on Saturday morning, by which a man named William Shewring was crushed to death. It appeared while he was working the ceiling suddenly gave way, and about two tons of stone and debris fell upon him, literally crushing him to a pulp. A man named William Tanner, who was working near, at once went to his assistance, and with other help succeeded in getting him out. A doctor was sent for, but it was of no use, the death must have been instantaneous. Deceased who was married nearly two years ago, leaves a widow and one child. Deceased was well known in Corsham, and was captain of the Football Club for two seasons. At the inquest a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

Source – *Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser* – 25 March 1893

SHOCKING ACCIDENT IN MESSRS YOCKNEY'S QUARRY

A QUARRYMAN CRUSHED TO DEATH

Mr. R. Balch, coroner for the liberty of Corsham, held an inquest at the Station Hotel on Monday evening, touching the death of William Shewring, aged 32, who was killed whilst working in Messrs. Yockney and Company's quarry, on the previous Saturday morning. Mr. J. Crosse was foreman of the jury. Mr. J. E. Martin, Government Inspector, was present, and Mr. W. Yockney wated the proceedings on behalf of the firm.

The first witness called was William Davis, a quarryman, who, before proceeding to give evidence, conducted himself in a very unusual manner. He first of all objected to the jury, but was informed by the Coroner that he had no power in this matter, and when about to be sworn he gave further trouble. As soon as the Book was put in his hand witness threw it down again, and when it was put in his right hand he transferred it to his left, and essayed not to understand the meaning of the proceedings. The formality, however, was ultimately got over, and proceeding with his evidence witness said that about 20 minutes to eight on Saturday morning he was at work with Shewring in No. 7 quarry, belonging to Messrs. Yockney and Co. They had just put the bar under a stone when the ceiling fell as quick as a flash of lightening and struck Shewring.

By the Coroner : They had never thought the ceiling was unsafe, because Shewring's father and brother told them the day before it was safe. At Mr. Yockney's works if they asked for a prop they could never get it. A man had asked for a prop a fortnight previously and he could not have it. His master said the day before the accident the ceiling wanted a prop, but he could not get it.

The Coroner : You think there is an insufficiency of props in the quarry? Witness : Yes.

The Coroner : Have you anything more to say. Witness : There ought to be a man to go round and see that everything is safe. It was though their neglect that William Shewring was killed.

By Mr. Martin : He has been a quarryman 10 years, and during the last 18 months had been employed at Messrs. Yockney's quarries with deceased. Thomas Helps was the ganger, and was an experienced quarryman, but he was not at work on Saturday. Helps was at work on Friday until half past two. Paul Shewring was not there on Friday, but deceased's brother was. It was on Thursday the father said the ceiling was safe, and the brother, Daniel Shewring, when they left work, expressed the same opinion. At the time of the accident there was no one present but witness and a boy. Deceased had been a soldier, but had been a quarryman before he enlisted.

A juryman though this matter was irrelevant, and observed that they were there to enquire as to the cause of the death of the deceased.

Mr. Martin : That is what I am trying to find out, but of course if you like to object to it you can do so.

The juryman : Well, it is a long way round.

Mr. Martin : I have a duty to perform and must do it.

Proceeding, witness said that the other workmen, Harry Law, John Shewring, and William Alderman, were all experienced, but none of them made any remarks about the pit being unsafe.

A juryman remarked that they ought to have a description of the pit where the accident occurred.

Mr. Martin : If you will be good enough to allow me to finish my questions, then you can put to the witness any questions you like.

The Foreman : I suppose you are asking the questions for the purpose of a report.

A juryman : I do not know who you are.

The Coroner : This is the Government Inspector.

Replying to further questions from Mr. Martin, witness said that none of them had looked at the ceiling that morning; it was not their duty to do so.

Mr. Martin : But was it not the duty of a quarryman to look after his own safety.

Witness : There ought to be a man to go round. He would be competent to know whether the ceiling was safe or not. He considered that the firm ought to look after their safety, and it was the duty of the ganger to see that all was safe and sound. The ganger arrived in the pit about ten minutes after the accident. He had never seen anyone test the ceiling. If props were required Helps would have to go for them to the underground foreman, named Frederick Barnett, who visited the quarry every morning. He had heard George Aust ask for timber for another place a fortnight previously, and he had not got it yet. He heard Helps tell Daniel Shewring the day before the accident that the ceiling was safe. The setting of the prop would be included in the piecework. The size of the stone that fell was twelve feet long, about seven feet wide, about ten inches in front and one foot ten inches behind. He could give no idea what released it. The stone which killed Shewring grazed witness's shoulder as it fell.

By Mr. Kinneir (on behalf of Messrs. Yockney) : He should not feel any safer in having the ceiling inspected by a stranger than his own ganger, but he considered there ought to be an experienced quarryman to examine the ceiling.

Mr. Kinneir : If the ganger is responsible why have another man? Witness : The firm ought to have a man to go round on behalf of the men.

Mr. Yockney : Have you ever applied for timber and not got it? Witness : Thomas Helps has not applied for timber and not got it, but George Aust has.

A juryman observed that he thought they ought to ascertain if it was the rubbing of the pillar which caused the ceiling to fall.

Thomas Helps, ganger at No. 7 quarry, then called, and said that he had no idea the ceiling was unsafe. It was the pickers duty to see that their work was safe, and he believed they did it. The day before the accident he asked the picker if he thought there was any danger, and he said "no," and on the Thursday deceased's father said it was all right.

Replying to Mr. Martin, witness said the pickers were expected to see that the place where they were working was safe, but it was the duty of the ganger to see that the place where his gang was working was safe. On Friday he did not examine the ceiling himself, but went by what the pickers said. He examined it himself once or twice a week. A fortnight before he thought the ceiling wanted a prop and told the picker to get one, but the deceased did not think it required a prop.

Mr. Martin : The matters come to a deadlock.

The Coroner : We think you should have enforced your order for a prop. Witness : I ought to have done so.

Mr. Martin : Did you tell anyone to set the prop up. Witness : I spoke to deceased about the ceiling as to whether there was any alteration in it, and he said "No."

Mr. Martin : Can you say whether you ordered a prop to be set up the day before. Witness : I do not think I did.

Mr. Martin : Are you sure? Witness : Yes.

If you want timber is there any to be had? Yes, at the top of the shafts.

Have you seen timber there? Yes.

Have you heard of any scarcity of timber there? Yes.

Have you heard of any scarcity of timber or of any ganger not getting timber when it was wanted? I got it when I asked for it.

What do you think released the stone which fell? The weight above it.

By Mr. Yockney : When I ordered the prop to be put under it was to make the ceiling extra safe to give confidence to the workmen. He saw the joints in the stone, but did not think it was necessary to wedge them as they were so close together.

Paul Shewring, father of deceased, said he worked in the same quarry as his son, but was not there when the accident happened. He examined the ceiling several times during the week and found it safe. He thought the removal of a portion of the pillar might have weakened it. The pillar must have twisted, causing the stone to break. He never heard any complaints as to placing props, but he did not do much work at Messrs. Yockney's quarry. He had often found pillars twist.

By Mr. Martin : He had forty one years experience, and his experience was that the more joints the more timber is required. The joints in this instance were so close together that he did not think timber was necessary.

The Coroner asked if the jury thought it was necessary to call more witnesses, and the jury were unanimously of the opinion that the men working in the quarry at the same time should be called.

Daniel Shewring, brother of deceased, said he worked in No. 7 quarry as a picker. On the day before the accident the conditions of the ceiling was good, and appeared perfectly safe when he left work. Helps and himself had talked about putting a prop there, but as Helps did not order it to be done witness did not set it up. He had worked as a picker for Helps for the past three years, and had never experienced any difficulty in getting timber when he required it. He accounted for the falling of the ceiling by the shifting which sometimes took place.

George Aust, who was not sworn, stated, in reply to Mr. Martin, that when he wanted timber he got it from the foreman. It was not true, as stated by Davis, that he (Aust) asked for timber and was not able to get it. He had worked for 34 years in a quarry, and six years for Messrs. Yockney, and knew when a ceiling was safe as well as any man.

Frederick Barnett, foreman at No. 7 quarry, said he was about 150 yards away when the accident happened. He had no idea that the ceiling was dangerous. It was his duty if he saw anything wrong to put it right on receiving any reports from the gangers.

By Mr. Martin : They had been working in that pit two or three weeks, and he had not examined the ceiling. There was no difficulty in getting timber.

Dr. Crisp spoke to being called to the quarry when the accident occurred, and on his arrival found deceased crushed to death under a stone. Death must have been instantaneous, and was due to compression of the body by the weight of the stone.

The jury, after a short consultation, returned a verdict of “Accidental death.”

1891 Census

Address – Green Hill, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Paul	Shewring	Head	Married	Male	64	1827	Quarryman
Jane	Shewring	Wife	Married	Female	59	1832	
Elizabeth	Shewring	Daughter	Single	Female	35	1856	
William	Shewring	Son	Single	Male	29	1862	Quarryman
Mark	Shewring	Son	Single	Male	18	1873	Quarryman
John	Shewring	Son	Single	Male	16	1875	Quarryman

14 December 1893

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 14 December 1893

We (Times) understand that the departmental committee appointed by the Home Secretary to inquire into the conditions under which the quarrying of stone, limestone, slate, and clay is conducted with the object of diminishing any proved dangers to the life or health of the work people engaged, have reported in favour of placing quarries in the same category as metalliferous mines, and making the inspection of quarries an integral part of the duty of every inspector of mines. In existing circumstances the law relating to quarries is confusing in the extreme owing to the varying conditions of labour therein. Some quarries are classed as workshops and others factories, according to their respective schemes of employment; and these come under the purview of inspectors of workshops and factories. The boring of a tunnel, or any other form of underground work, however, is sufficient to convert a quarry into a metalliferous mine from the technical and legal point of view; while in certain cases neither the Factory and Workshop Act nor the Metalliferous Act apply. In as much as the percentage of accidents in quarries is extremely high the committee are of the opinion that this state of things should be remedied without delay; hence their suggestion that as a commencement all quarries should be placed on the same footing.

December 1893 – Combe Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 16 December 1893

A verdict of accidental death has been returned in the case of Edward Williams, who was killed by falling into a quarry on Combe Down.

27 October 1894 – Stoke Quarry, Freshford

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 1 November 1894

An inquest was held at Limpley Stoke, by Mr. Coroner Sylvester, on Monday, on the body of William Nash, single, a stone quarryman, residing at Limpley Stoke, who was killed in Northey and Co.'s quarry on Saturday last. Mr. Martin, H. M. Inspector of Mines and Quarries, attended the inquest and produced a sketch depicting the position and nature of the accident. A gentleman representing the firm of Northey and Co. expressed their sorrow for the lamentable occurrence, and said they intended to do something for the relatives of the deceased. The evidence of several men connected with the quarry was taken, one of whom witnessed the accident, from what it appeared that deceased was assisting with the aid of a crane to move a stone of three tons weight on to a trolley; by some means, probably from the floor being uneven, the stone tipped up when deceased was standing between it and a pillar supporting the roof, squeezing the upper part of his body between the two, fracturing the ribs and shoulder, and crushing the lungs and heart, causing instant death. The jury considered there was no culpability on the part of any person, and returned a verdict of accidental death.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 3 November 1894

LIMPLEY STOKE – SHOCKING ACCIDENT – A QUARRYMAN CRUSHED TO DEATH

A painful occurrence, attended, unfortunately, with a fatal result, took place in one of Messrs. Northey and Co.'s quarries early on Saturday morning. A large stone was being drawn out when, from some unexplained cause, it toppled over and jammed William Nash, a quarryman, against one of the pillars supporting the roof. The unfortunate man, who was 39 years of age and unmarried, was killed almost instantly.

An inquest was held at the Hop Pole Inn, on Monday morning, before Mr. Coroner Sylvester and a jury of whom Mr. Joseph Lydiard was foreman. Mr. Josh. S. Martin, Government inspector of Mines and quarries, was present, and Mr. Thomas Lambert, manager appeared for the firm.

Dr. Fleeming, of Freshford, stated that he had examined the body of the deceased and found that it had been severely crushed on the left side from hip to shoulder. The collar bone, shoulder blade, hip bones and all the ribs were broken, and death must have been instantaneous.

Henry Hosey said he saw Nash just before the accident, but was not there at the time it occurred. He could not form an opinion as to the cause of the stone slipping. All the other men were working at the crane, and deceased was trying to trig the stone away from the pillar. The men were pulling the stone out by the crane in order to get it on a trolley.

The Coroner asked if the men were experienced at the work, or whether it arose from any fault or want of proper knowledge.

Witness said the men were experienced and he did not think any blame could be attached to anyone. The stone was quite clear of the ceiling.

The Coroner : Was it Nash's place to be there to see the stone round the pillar and voluntarily offered to trig it away.

Mr. Martin : Were they pulling in the ordinary way?

Witness : Yes sir.

Frank Gerish who was present at the time, said the accident occurred at half past eight in the morning. There were four men pulling at the crane and Nash was watching the stone go past the pillar. As they

were pulling he heard a crash, and on looking round he found the stone had toppled over and fallen on Nash.

The Coroner : Can you account for the stone slipping; is the floor irregular?

Witness : The floor is as level as a die.

The Coroner : Was he sensible afterwards?

Witness : No sir, he never spoke or moved; he appeared to have died immediately.

The Coroner : Are you allowed to move these stones without an overlooker?

Witness : Yes sir. It is our usual work.

A juror : How long did it take to liberate the deceased?

Witness : I should think about ten minutes. We called all the men directly, and got a screw jack and raised the stone.

Mr. Lambert : Who put the chain round the stone?

Witness : I did.

The Coroner : The chain did not shift at all?

Witness : Not at all.

Mr. Martin : What was the size of the stone?

Witness : About 5 feet high and 4 feet 2 inches by 3 feet.

Mr. Martin : How far was it from the pillar?

Witness : About three feet.

Alfred Mizen, foreman of the quarry, said he left on Friday afternoon, and was not present at all on Saturday.

The Coroner : If you had been present it would have been your duty to direct the removal of this stone?

Witness : I might have been there or I might have been doing something else.

Mr. Martin : Is it not your duty to see it is done properly?

Witness : Yes sir; if I had any fear I should have done so.

Mr. Martin : Do you think there was any fault on the part of any of them?

Witness : No sir.

Mr. Martin said he had visited the spot, showing the course of the stone round the pillar and how it fell. He believed it to be a pure accident. He could not exactly state what caused the stone to overbalance,

whether it cut against any rough point, or whether the pulling caused it to come forward. The chain seemed secure, and the work was done in the ordinary way.

A juror asked if it would have happened if the stone had been put flat.

The Inspector said it was a question as to whether there had been any room for that. He explained that it was a different kind of accident to those which usually occurred in quarries; it was not a fall of the roof. It was not really a mining accident at all, but one in the removal of large stones.

The Coroner in summing up, explained that where the accident occurred was in Somersetshire, on the borders of Wiltshire, but the body had been removed to deceased's home in Wiltshire. Some few years ago they would have had to remove the body into Somersetshire again for the inquest to be held, but under the Coroner's Act of 1887 the law had been altered, and now it is stated that the coroner within whose jurisdiction the body was lying should hold the inquest. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Mr. Lambert said he should like to state that the company sincerely regretted the accident had occurred, and he hoped they would convey condolence to the deceased's widowed mother in another shape.

The Coroner said he hoped they would.

The witnesses and several other jurymen gave their fees to the mother.

1881 Census

Address – Ivy Cottages, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Elizabeth	Nash	Head	Single	Female	48	1833	Charwoman
William	Nash	Son	Single	Male	25	1856	Stone quarry man
Arthur	Nash	Son	Single	Male	18	1863	((invalid))
Catherine	Nash	Mother	Widow	Female	87	1794	Late cloth worker
Frederic	Moore	Lodger	Single	Male	29	1852	India rubber worker (out of employ)
Henry	Vincent	Lodger	Single	Male	29	1852	Plasterers labourer

18 March 1895 – Ridge Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser* – 23 March 1895

CORSHAM – QUARRY ACCIDENT

Whilst working at the Ridge Quarry on Monday, a man named James Rose, of Pickwick, fell a distance of about eight feet, and sustained serious injuries to the head, necessitating his removal to the Bath Hospital.

June 1895 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – *Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette* – 6 June 1895

VISIT OF TECHNICAL STUDENTS TO THE BOX QUARRIES

A party of students of the Merchant Venturers' Technical School, by kind permission of the Bath Stone Firms, was recently enabled to inspect the workings at the celebrated Box quarries, and to study the tools and machinery employed in getting this extensively used building stone. The valuable bed of stone lies about 100 feet beneath the surface, and it is removed without disturbing the over burden. The party were received by the general manager, Mr. George Hancock, who guided them through long, dark passages to the spots where the large blocks of stone were being sawn out of the solid mass and prepared for sale. Blocks can be obtained weighing 14 or 15 tons, but the men are restricted to a maximum size of one hundred cubic feet, weighing seven tons, this being the largest size that can be readily conveyed by rail. The party were entertained at luncheon by the manager, and returned to Bristol in the afternoon, having had a thorough practical and instructive lesson in stone quarrying.

23 August 1895 – Colerne Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 24 August 1895

COLERNE – QUARRY ACCIDENT

On Friday a quarryman named John Baker, of Colerne, was admitted into the Royal United Hospital, Bath, suffering from injuries to the lower part of the left leg. While working in the Cliff quarry, a block of stone fell out of position and crunched his foot.

10 September 1895 – Hudswell Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Warminster & Westbury Journal, and Wilts County Advertiser – 14 September 1895

QUARRY ACCIDENT AT CORSHAM

An accident which was happily unattended with serious consequences occurred on Tuesday morning. The stone from Hudswell quarry which is worked by the Bath Stone Firms, is conveyed to the wharf at the station by an incline tramway. A block weighing nearly four tons, together with three other small blocks, left the quarry on a trolley about half past eight, in charge of a young man named George Hale. Soon after starting the trolley commenced to "skid" and became unmanageable. At a sharp curve near Potley Bridge two of the small blocks broke loose and knocked Hale from off the trolley, which then ran a short distance farther, when at another curve it left the rails and the heavy block was thrown with tremendous force on the adjoining embankment. The remaining small block also fell off. Another trolley was following, but at a sufficient distance to enable it to be pulled up in good time, otherwise the disaster might have been much more serious. The work of replacing the heavy block on to the tramway was one of considerable difficulty.

20 July 1896 – Barn Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle – 25 July 1896

FATALITY ON STONE QUARRY

On Tuesday last an inquest was opened at the Quarryman's Arms, Box, before Mr. W. E. N. Browne, county coroner, on the body of George Smith, a quarryman who died from injuries received whilst at work in the quarries the previous day.

Henry Fletcher said he was working with deceased on Monday afternoon, drawing up some stone out of the quarry. They had drawn an immense stone weighting between three and four ton some distance, when they stopped, and the stone fell across the chain and jerked the crane about two feet out against Smith. It was really underground where they were working, and they worked with lights. Deceased called out. "Harry I'm hurt badly." Witness went to his assistance and found blood issuing from his mouth. He at once ran for assistance, The stone must have caught his chest.

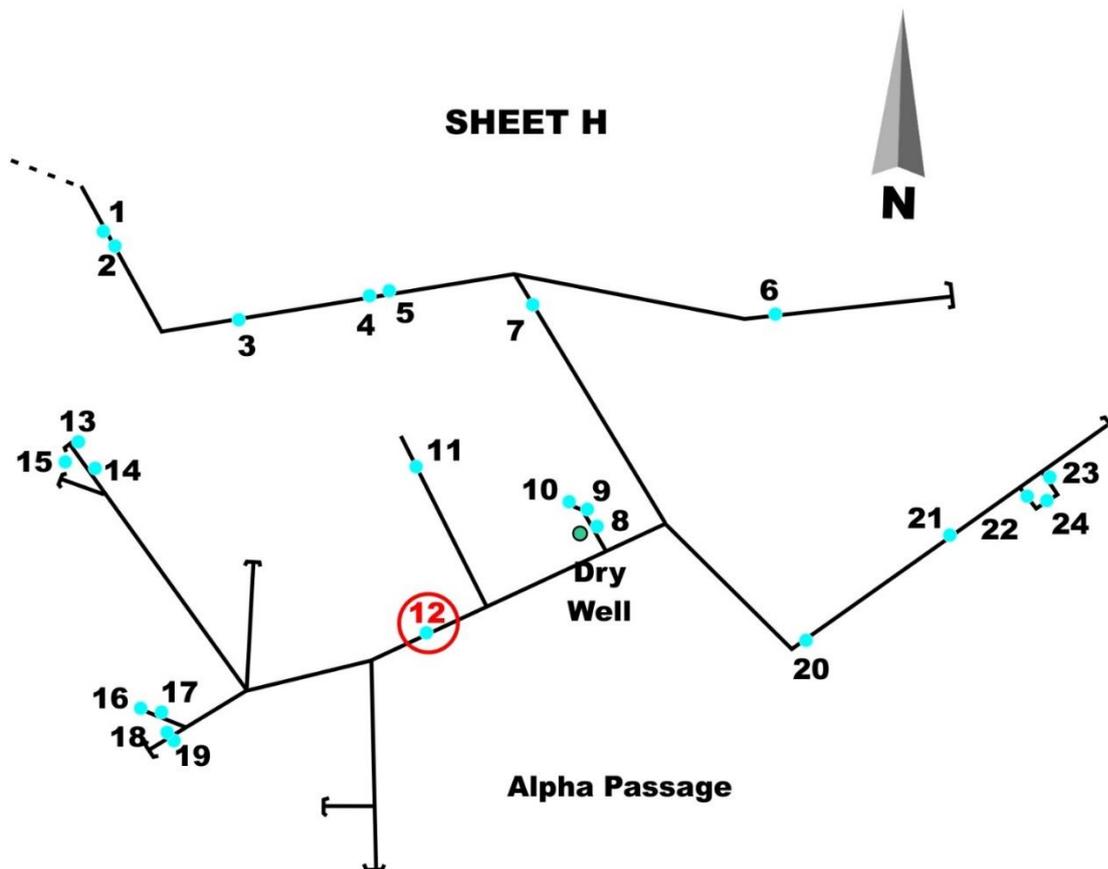
William Coles, another workman, said he was called to deceased and found him in a sitting position. He remained with him for about three minutes, and then went to fetch some brandy. When he returned Smith was dead.

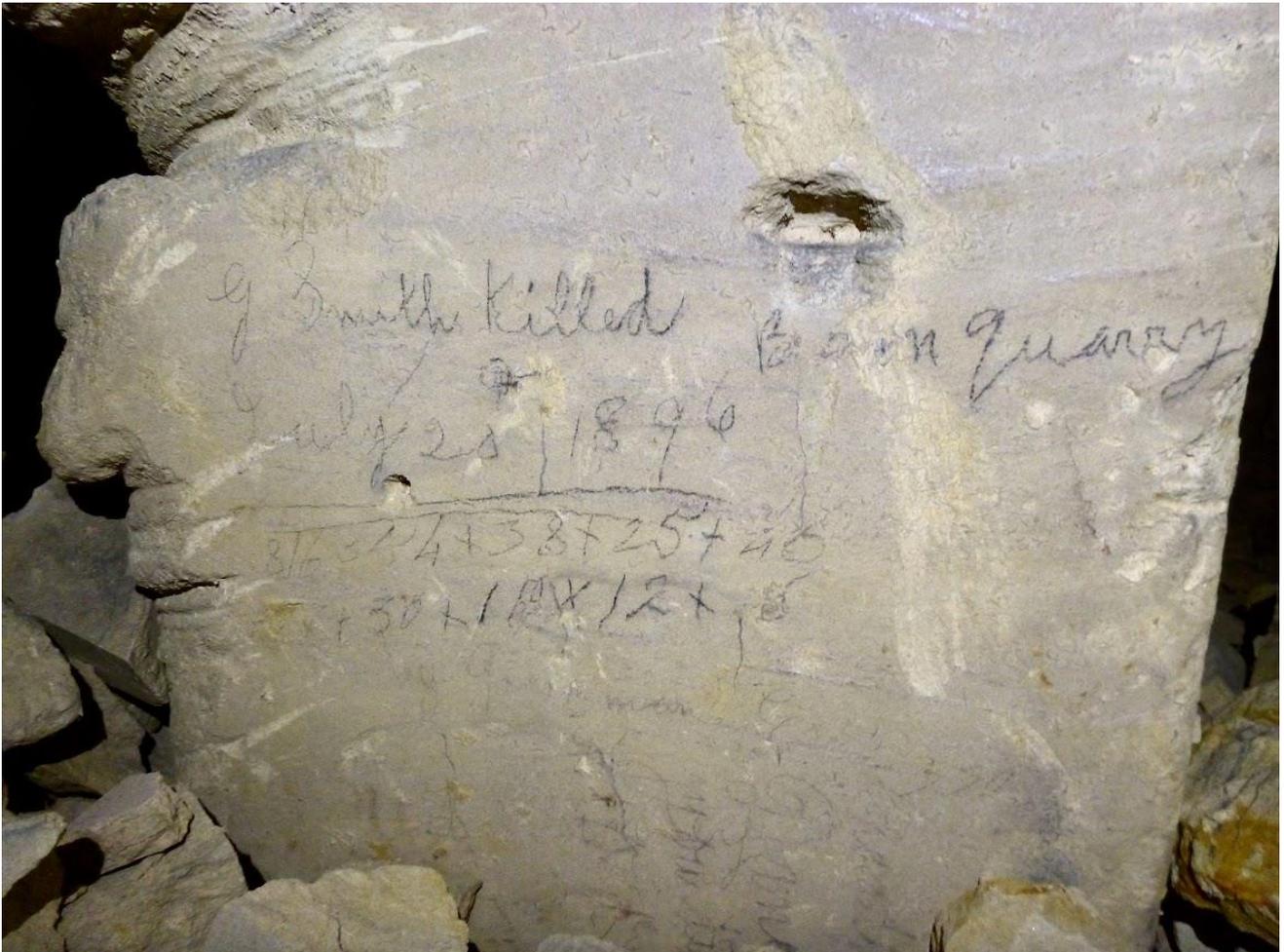
Dr. C. H. Hill, of Box, said he was called to deceased about 4:30 p.m. on Monday and found him dead. Three of the upper ribs were broken and pressing on the heart, sufficient to cause death, which was really caused by rupture of the heart.

The inquest was adjourned until Thursday for the attendance of G. J. Martin, Esq. Mines Inspector, when the evidence was repeated, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death

Source – *Scripta Legenda – Box Quarries – Cotham Speleological Society – Volume 1, Page 16*

Sheet H – Inscription 12 – Inscription on wall – "G. Smith killed Barn quarry July 20th 1896."





Photograph – Mark Jenkinson

1891 Census

Address – Box Hill, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
George	Smith	Head	Married	Male	45	1846	Labourer quarryman
Elizabeth	Smith	Wife	Married	Female	35	1856	
John	Simpkins	Son	Single	Male	16	1875	Labourer quarryman
Alfred	Smith	Son	Single	Male	14	1877	Grooms assistant
Annie	Smith	Daughter	Single	Female	11	1880	Scholar
Frederick	Smith	Son	Single	Male	8	1883	Scholar
James	Smith	Son	Single	Male	6	1885	Scholar
Susan	Smith	Daughter	Single	Female	4	1887	
Kate	Smith	Daughter	Single	Female	2	1889	
Nelly	Smith	Daughter	Single	Female	0	1891	

19 October 1896 – Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 24 October 1896

ACCIDENT

William Sawyer, aged 22, was admitted to the Bath United Hospital, on Monday, suffering from an injured leg caused by a stone falling on it as he was working in the Spring Quarry.

27 April 1898 – Claverton Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 28 April 1898

SUICIDE ON CLAVERTON DOWN – JUMP INTO THE QUARRY

William Hancock, a young man about 20 years of age, son of Mr. Edward Hancock, quarry master, of Claverton Down, committed suicide in a remarkable manner yesterday morning. Deceased, who had always been strange in his manner, acted as a carter in his father's business, and lived with his parents at 10, Clarence Terrace, at the top of Widcombe Hill. On Tuesday morning he informed his father he was not going out with the horses, and having dressed himself in his best clothes he left home for the day, returning at night and going to bed. He rose at about seven o'clock this morning and had his breakfast. It is alleged he was very peculiar in his manner and said something about committing suicide. He left the house and went in the direction of the quarries worked by his father, a short distance above the house. Some members of the family thinking that Hancock might have been speaking in earnest went out after him, but not closely in his wake. He was seen dancing about the edge of the quarry near the main road across Claverton Down, and the attention of some employees of his father, who were working not far away, was called to him by shouts, but before they could get near him Hancock jumped head first into the quarry. It is not of great depth, probably about 15 feet, but he alighted on a quantity of loose rough stones, and when picked up was insensible, having received severe injuries to his head. A conveyance was obtained with all despatch and the young man taken to the Royal United Hospital, but he evidently died en route, for the house surgeon says he was dead when admitted to the institution.

[Coroner's inquest – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 5 May 1898]

18 August 1898 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 25 August 1898

ACCIDENT TO A QUARRYMAN

At Box Hill on Thursday, Henry A [?], 32, a quarryman, received a fractured leg, owing to the breaking of a crane. He was conveyed in a waggon to the Bath Royal United Hospital, where he is receiving attention.

17 March 1899 – West Wells Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bristol Mercury – 11 March 1899

QUARRY ACCIDENT AT CORSIAM

Yesterday morning a serious accident occurred to two men during some blasting operations in a stone quarry belonging to the Bath and Corsham Freestone Company, situated at West Wells, near Corsham.

It appears that a charge was being rammed home, when it is supposed that a spark caused it to explode, and the two men who happened to be looking into the hole at the time sustained severe injuries. Their names are William Clothier, of Corsham, and John Slavin, of Colerne. Their comrades at once went to their assistance, and medical aid was requisitioned from Corsham, and ultimately the men were brought to Bath to the Royal United Hospital, where they were admitted.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 18 March 1899

SERIOUSLY INJURED

A serious explosion occurred on Friday afternoon at West Wells quarry, Corsham, occupied by the Bath and Corsham Freestone Company Ltd., the result of which was serious injuries to William Clothier, a single man, living in Corsham, and John Savin, a married man with family, living at Colerne. The men were engaged in some blasting operations in a sloping shaft being sunk there, and the loose powder had already been poured into a vertical hole in the rock by one of the two men. A match was struck for the purpose of lighting a benzoline lamp, and the spent match thrown into the bore hole on the loose powder, this caused the explosion. The men both of whom received injuries to their faces, will probably lose their sight, were taken to the Bath Royal United Hospital.

17 April 1899 – Bethel Quarry, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 22 April 1899

ACCIDENT

Joseph Banks, living in St. Margaret's Hill, and employed by the Bath Stone Firms, at Bethel Quarry, met with an accident in his work on Monday afternoon. A plank on which he was standing gave way and he fell, receiving very severe injuries about his head and arms, &c. He had a very narrow escape. No bones, however, were broken. He is at home, under the care of Dr. Adye.

28 June 1899 – Monk's Park Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 29 June 1899

ACCIDENT TO A QUARRYMAN

Thomas Lawrence, aged 55, of Corsham, was admitted into the Royal United Hospital on Tuesday suffering from a broken leg. Lawrence works as a picker in the Bath Stone Firm's quarries at Monk's Park. He was picking out a stone, when it fell upon him unexpectedly.

5 July 1899 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 6 July 1899

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT AT BOX

An accident which proved fatal happened to Theodore Parsons, a workman employed by the Bath Stone Firms, at their quarries at Box shortly after nine o'clock yesterday. Parsons, who, it seems, has been in the service of the firm only three months, was engaged in repairing the road between two rails at Pictor's Siding, Box Wharf, when some empty trucks were sent down the next siding, in the course

of shunting operations. Parsons, thinking the empty trucks were going at too high a speed, attempted to cross the line in front of them in order to apply a break at the further side, but was caught by a buffer, and, being thrown down, three wheels passed over his legs. He died in less than three minutes and was taken to his father's house. Deceased lost his wife recently.

21 September 1899 – No. 6 Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle – 29 September 1899

FATALITY IN A QUARRY – SHOCKING DEATH OF A QUARRYMAN INQUEST AT BOX

On Saturday an inquest was held at the Jockey Inn, before Mr. W. E. Nicholson Browne, County Coroner, and Mr I. S. Martin, Her Majesty's Inspector of Mines, on the body of Henry John Franklin, age 53, a miner, lately employed in the Box Quarries, belonging to the Bath Stone Firm Company.

William Mizen said he was a ganger in No. 6 Spring Quarry, and deceased was working under him. He was working close by witness, who was beating a "wrist." Witness placed every confidence in Franklin as a practical man. He left deceased for two seconds to get a "razor" or small saw to go along under the ceiling. The man left his pick for a quarter of a second, and it dropped 30 cwt. They weighed it up with the bars, and got deceased out. The block formed part of the ceiling, and was not a piece which they wanted to get out.

By Dr. Martin : He (witness) had sounded the stone just after dinner – at 2:30 – and it sounded dead and hard, and not hollow, as a good ceiling stone should. The accident happened after 4 o'clock. He never had such an accident before in all his 35 years experience. – Q : Was there a clay joint? – A : Not that I saw.

Mr. Martin explained that he had visited the quarry in the morning, and found a clay joint one side, and it only had three sides to hold it, and in his opinion it ought to have been propped up.

The witness then said : he did not examine it after the accident, nor had he been near since. There were several clay joints in the pit, but if the ceiling was firm there would be no clay joint. Deceased put his point in it, and witness heard him say it would never hurt, and others heard it too. – Q : Was there any official in the place during the day? – A : No. I am responsible for the working of the place.. Tuesday evening was the last time it was inspected. We keep props close by the crane; 6 feet by 8 feet, and 10 inches thick was the size of some, as measured by William Davis, the foreman. It broke in two places.

Dr. Crisp, of Corsham, said he was called at 5:15 p.m. to No. 6 Spring Quarry, and found deceased lying in a shed on the bank. All the large bones of the body were broken, there were injuries about the head, the chest was completely crushed, the collar bones broken, the heart ruptured, and the chest compressed. Death must have been instantaneous.

A verdict of "Accidentally killed," was returned, and the jury, of whom Mr. W. Noble was foreman, gave their fees to the widow of the deceased.

The Bath Stone Firm was represented by the manager.

1891 Census

Address – Hatt Old Jockey, Devizes Road, Box, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Henry J</i>	<i>Franklin</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>1846</i>	<i>Stone quarryman</i>
Lucy M	Franklin	Wife	Married	Female	45	1846	
Harry G	Franklin	Son	Single	Male	22	1869	Farm labourer
Edward V	Franklin	Son		Male	14	1877	Farm labourer
David H	Franklin	Son		Male	11	1880	Scholar
Eveline A	Franklin	Daughter		Female	9	1882	Scholar
Lucy E	Franklin	Daughter		Female	6	1885	Scholar
Francis F	Franklin	Son		Male	5	1886	
Arthur H	Franklin	Son		Male	2	1889	

18 October 1899 – South Wraxall Quarries, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire

Source – *Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette* – 19 October 1899

QUARRY ACCIDENT AT SOUTH WRAXALL

A young man named George Derrick, of South Wraxall, was working in a quarry of the Bath Stone Firm's at South Wraxall, yesterday, when the gudgeon pin of a crane broke, letting the crane fall on the man and severely crushing him. He was brought to Bath and taken to the Royal United Hospital, but it is not yet known what injuries he has received.

14 December 1899 – Hills Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser* – 6 January 1900

KILLED THROUGH A QUARRY ACCIDENT

An inquest was held at Bath Guildhall on Saturday, by the city coroner, concerning the death of Thomas Jones, aged 51, of Corsham. On December 14th Jones was, with other men, working at the sinking of a shaft on the property of the Bath and Corsham Freestone Quarries, Limited, when he was severely crushed by a mass of clay slipping upon him. He was taken to Bath Hospital, where he died on the [?] December. A verdict of "accidental death" was returned.

1891 Census

Address – Westwells, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Jones</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>1845</i>	<i>Stone miner</i>
Mary	Jones	Wife	Married	Female	42	1849	
Douglas	Jones	Son		Male	13	1878	Agricultural labourer
Frank	Jones	Son		Male	11	1880	Scholar
William H	Jones	Son		Male	10	1881	Scholar

George	Jones	Son		Male	8	1883	Scholar
Arthur	Jones	Son		Male	7	1884	
Lillian A	Jones	Daughter		Female	5	1886	Scholar
Millicent A	Jones	Daughter		Female	3	1888	
Mabel B	Jones	Daughter		Female	1	1890	

1900's

10 January 1900 – Corsham Court Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 20 January 1900

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENTS : INQUEST

Mr. R. Balch held an inquest on Friday evening at the Chequers Inn, touching the death of Fredrick Wootten who, as reported in our last, was killed in a shaft which was being made to preparatory to quarrying operations near Westrip.

James Merrett, who was working with deceased, gave evidence of blasting operations being carried on, and said that after the shot had fired and they thought it was exhausted Wootten went down, but immediately cried out for witness to pull him up, which he did for some distance, and Wootten must then have been overcome for he fell out of the "skip." Witness descended and found Wootten lying senseless at the bottom of the shaft. A fellow workman named F. Smith brought Wootten up.

In reply to Mr. Nicholls, as representing the Bath Stone Firms, witness said in cases of foul air there was always a "blower" to be obtained

F. Smith, who was also working at the shaft, gave evidence, and said that when Wootten was lowered down the shaft he was told to tie himself in the "skip." He saw Wootten fall out when about 25 yards from the bottom.

Dr. Wood said that when he arrived Wootten was lying insensible. There was a gash on the left side of the head, and the face was much discoloured. Wootten died about two o'clock the same day from the injuries he had received.

Verdict accordingly.

18 January 1900 – Corsham Down Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 27 January 1900

At the Station Hotel on Saturday afternoon, Mr. R. Balch, and a jury of whom Mr. Cruse was foreman, held an inquest touching the death of Henry Clarke, age 43, quarryman, who as reported in our last, was killed on the previous Thursday morning while working in Mr. Yockney's quarry, and engaged in moving a "stacker," or crane.

William Clarke, brother of the deceased man, stated that he superintended the operation of moving the "stacker." His brother was on top of the crane, about to put a piece of wood into the ceiling as a socket for the upright portion of the crane, when the structure suddenly swerved and fell sideways. His brother jumped from his position, but on reaching the ground the crane fell on him. He was pinned down by the crane, but was released in about two minutes. After breathing hard a few times he expired. Witness could not give any reason why the accident occurred, as every precaution was taken to sufficiently prop the "stacker" at the base of the uprights, and his brother was well accustomed to the work, having been a quarryman all his life.

In reply to Mr. Martin, inspector of mines, who was present, witness said the only way he could account for the accident, was that his brother's weight when on the crane caused it to swerve and fall on one side. Witness explained the details of propping, and admitted that if it was not sufficiently propped it would fall over. Witness did not admit that the reason the crane fell over was because it was not propped sufficiently.

Mr. Martin : But take the results; you say the crane has never fallen before because it was properly plugged, wouldn't that inference be that it fell now, because there wasn't sufficient plugging?

Witness : I do not say that, and I cannot account for the accident, except that the weight of my brother in getting on the top of the crane cause it to fall. The crane would be about two tons in weight. In reply to a juryman witness said that the "stackers" or cranes were removed frequently, and everything done in a way of propping on previous occasions was done on Thursday morning when the accident occurred.

Mr. Martin : Can you make no suggestion as how an accident may be prevented in the future? Witness : No, sir.

Edward Howell, of Biddestone, deposed he was at the wheel whilst the crane was being erected, and he was of the opinion that there was no fault with the "trigging" of the structure.

Dr. Thorpe, *locum tenens* to Dr. Crisp, spoke to being called, and said that the deceased man had a lacerated wound three or four inches in diameter, near the back of the skull and a fracture to the left thigh. Death would be due to the injury to the skull and shock from the fracture.

The Coroner was glad that the jury included several practical men who understood the working of the cranes used in quarries, but he did not think there could be any other verdict than that of accidental death.

The jury returned a verdict accordingly.

In reply the coroner as to whether he had any recommendations to make, Mr. Martin said that that would be a matter for the consideration of the authorities to whom he should send his report, but from the evidence he was of that there should be a larger basis for the propping, and he was quite sure Mr. Yockney would favourably entertain any suggestions in that direction.

Mr. Yockney said that was so, but there was an insuperable difficulty in enlarging the base owing to the small space between it and the wheel.

In reply to a juryman, the witness Clark said the upright portion of the crane may be held by pulley ropes to keep it in position till it was fixed.

Mr. Martin said he would make a note of the suggestions offered and forward them to the proper quarter.

1891 Census

Address – Halfway Firs, Pickwick, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Ann	Clarke	Head	Widow	Female	63	1828	
Henry	Clarke	Son	Single	Male	32	1859	Quarryman
Walter	Clarke	Son	Single	Male	30	1861	Quarryman

Frederick	Clarke	Son	Single	Male	25	1866	Quarryman
Annie	Clarke	Daughter	Single	Female	18	1873	
Charles	Clarke	Son	Single	Male	15	1876	Baker

30 April 1900 – Monks Park Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle – 17 May 1900

QUARRY ACCIDENT AT CORSHAM

On Tuesday, at the Guildhall, Mr. B. A. Dyer (City Coroner) held an inquest upon the body of Tom Pearce, aged 17 years, who died at the Royal United Hospital on May 13. Coroner said he only proposed to take sufficient evidence of identification to enable the parents to bury the body. It was necessary that notice should be given to the Inspector of Mines, but there had not been time to do that since the case was reported to him.

George Pearce, residing near Corsham, said that his son was a quarryman, and was working at Monk's Park as a stacker and using a crane. On April 30 he received an injury, and was brought into the hospital on May 9, and died on Saturday at midnight. Mr Wood, of Corsham, had attended him from Friday following upon the accident until he was brought into the hospital. Deceased did not go to work after the Monday, but he got up on the Tuesday.

The Coroner said he proposed to adjourn the hearing of the inquiry until Tuesday afternoon next.

Mr. Braddick, one of the jury, reminded the Coroner, however, that that was one of the race days, and perhaps some of them might like to attend the meeting.

The Coroner upon being reminded of the event altered it to Monday afternoon.

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 24 May 1900

THE QUARRY FATALITY AT CORSHAM

At the Guildhall, bath, on Monday afternoon, Mr. B. A. Dyer (City Coroner) continued the inquiry which opened on the previous Tuesday into the circumstances attending the death of Tom Pearce (17) of Corsham, a stacker, employed in a quarry at Monk's Park, who died at the Royal United Hospital on 13th inst. Mr. Martin, Inspector of Mines, was present.

Ernest Rummings, residing near Corsham, said the deceased was on the opposite platform to him at the quarry, and was turning a handle of a crane. The handle which witness was working struck the slow spindle, the effect of which was that it jerked the deceased's hands off the handle, and he fell back. It happened before dinner, and deceased went on working until the end of the day. He made no remark about it afterwards.

Henry Martin, of Westrip, near Corsham, said he was working at Monk's Park Quarry, being engaged with a travelling crane, and deceased was on the same platform with him. After unloading some stones witness changed the gear, but by some means or other the handle struck the slow spindle, and deceased was jerked and fell.

Frederick Pearce, brother of deceased, having given evidence, Henry May, of Corsham side, said he did the stacking at several quarries for the Bath Stone Firms. He had never heard of any complaints of

the handle touching before, but if one handle was on the quick and the other on the slow he could perfectly understand the jerk occurring. He did not hear of the accident until a week afterwards.

Terisa Pearce, mother of deceased, sad that her son had been working at the quarry for about five years. He went to work on the morning of the accident, but he did not take his tea as usual, and looked ill but did not complain. Early on the following morning he became very ill, but subsequently he got up, and was very sick and in pain. On the Wednesday night witness sent for Dr. Wood, who did not see him until Friday. Eventually he was taken to the Hospital.

Mr. Arthur George Wood, of Corsham, said that a message was brought to him relating to the deceased, and was told that he was suffering from pains in the stomach. He told the messenger that he could not go to see him that day, and sent some powders. He saw the boy on Friday, when he appeared very ill; and suggested to the mother that he should be taken to the Hospital. That course she declined to adopt. He saw deceased on the Sunday following, and he was then in a very bad condition, and continued vomiting. On Monday he seemed a little better, but was taken to the Hospital on the Wednesday.

Mr. C. Forster, house surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, said that when deceased was admitted he was extremely ill, and suffering from general peritonitis. An operation was performed almost at once, which was conducted by Mr. Ransford. He, however, died on the Saturday night. A post mortem examination was made, and he attributed death to exhaustion following peritonitis.

The Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death.”

The jury also suggested that the Bath Stone Firms should be asked to examine the crane, and to see that it was in perfect condition. They were also of the opinion that the parents should have listened to the doctor’s advice, and taken the deceased earlier to the Hospital.

The Coroner said that the Inspector (Mr. Martin) was going to visit the quarry again to examine the crane in question. He had no doubt that anything which required would be carried out by the Stone Firms.

1891 Census

Address – Gastard, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
William	Pearce	Head	Married	Male	54	1837	Quarryman
Mary	Pearce	Married	Married	Female	57	1834	
Frederick	Pearce	Son	Single	Male	21	1870	Quarryman
<i>Thomas</i>	<i>Pearce</i>	<i>Grandson</i>		<i>Male</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1884</i>	<i>Scholar</i>

29 June 1901 – Farley Down Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – *Western Daily Press* – 1 July 1901

SHOCKING DEATH OF A LAD

A dreadful fatality occurred in connection with the Bath stone industry on Saturday. There was a tramway running from the Farleigh Down quarries down the slope to convey the stone to the siding on the Great Western Railway, and on this a wagon, containing about six tons of stone, was descending, when the boy who rides behind in control the course of the truck was jerked off. The loaded truck, unchecked, bounced down the steep gradient, and at the bottom dashed into another wagon which was

standing in the siding. The collision was so violent that from the stationary wagon huge blocks of freestone were thrown off, and one of those crushed upon a youth named Frederick Brown. Death was immediate, as the upper part of his body was completely smashed. He was 16 years of age, and in the employment of Mr. Doel, of Monkton Farleigh, who is a quarry contractor under the Bath Stone Firms, Limited. The deceased's remains were removed to the Northey Arms, Box.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 6 July 1901

FATAL ACCIDENT TO BOY : THE LAST GOODBYE

On Saturday a dreadful fatality occurred to a boy named Fredrick Brown, aged 12, son of Henry Brown, quarryman, of Bathford. From the Farleigh Down Quarries a tramway runs to the Great Western siding near Box Station for the purpose of taking stone from the quarries to the railway trucks, and on Saturday morning as a truck laden with stone was being taken to the siding the lad Brown got on the truck. In rounding a curve the lad in charge was jerked off. The deceased was riding on top of the load of stone, and when it reached the siding the impact with the stationary trucks threw him off. The trolley on which he had been riding rebounded, and returning passed over the lad's body. An inquest was held at the Northey Arms Inn on Monday evening, before Mr. W. E. N. Browne and a jury of whom Mr. Hobbs was foreman. Mr. David, managing director, represented the Bath Stone Firms.

The father of the deceased stated that the boy was employed by Mr. Doel taking off numbers at Farleigh Down quarries. On Saturday Mr. Doel sent him to Ashley siding with a trace horse, and before leaving at eight o'clock the boy wished his mother "Good bye," a thing he had never done before.

Walter Baldwin stated that he was taking a truck from the end of the rope, and the deceased jumped on, and when they passed the idle gate, going round a curve, there was a jerk, and the step on which he was standing having become broken, he was thrown off, and, becoming unconscious, remembered no more. – In reply to questions, he said he did not know that it was against the rules to allow anyone to ride on the trolley. He had heard complaints about the broken step of this truck, but could not say to whom.

Frederick Peacock stated that he saw the boy sitting on the trolley, and that it ran down to the bottom and bumped into another. When he first saw the trolley it was going between five and six miles an hour, and he told Baldwin, who was in charge, to be steady with the load. When he saw the truck again he did not see Baldwin.

Henry Kemery, a foreman at Mr. Doel's yard, stated that boys were not allowed to ride on wagons. He saw the wagon come down, and the deceased was lying flat on top of the stones.

Dr. Martin stated that death must have been instantaneous, and that the trolley after impact passed over the lad's shoulder.

The Coroner stated that Mr. Martin, Inspector of Mines, did not think it was necessary for him to attend the inquest, as it was a case of negligence on the part of the boy. He (Coroner) thought it was a case of purely accidental death.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and recommended that the Bath Stone Firms see that in future the steps of the trolleys are complete, and that notices be put up warning boys against riding on trolleys. They expressed their sympathy with the parents, to whom they handed their fees.

Address – High Street, Bathford, Bath, Somerset.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Henry	Brown	Head	Married	Male	33	1858	Quarryman
Matilda	Brown	Wife	Married	Female	46	1845	
Cicely	Brown	Daughter	-	Female	8	1883	
Alfred	Brown	Son	-	Male	4	1887	
<i>Frederick</i>	<i>Brown</i>	<i>Son</i>	-	<i>Male</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1889</i>	

6 August 1901 – Unnamed Quarry

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 8 August 1901

ACCIDENT TO A QUARRYMAN

Frederik Derrick, of Bathford (27), a quarryman, was Tuesday admitted to the Royal United Hospital, suffering from a broken leg, which he received while at work. He was moving two large stones, when one fell on him, crushing his leg.

30 January 1902 – Sands Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 2 February 1902

On Thursday in last week an accident befell Frederick Townsend, a ganger in the employ of the Corsham Quarrying Company. He was engaged “easing” a stone out of a rock at Sands Quarry when he slipped and fell over an iron bar he was using, falling to the bottom of the “working,” a distance of several feet. He sustained serious injuries including several broken ribs and lies in a critical condition.

15 May 1902 – Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 29 May 1902

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

Mr. Basil A. Dyer (City Coroner) held an inquest at the Guildhall on Friday into the circumstances of the death of Henry Heaven, a quarryman of Corsham, who died at this Hospital on Tuesday, the 20th instant.

Ellen Heaven, of 25 Kingsmead street, said her husband, who lived in Corsham, was employed at the stone quarries there. His age was 52. She did not live with him now, having been separated. She did not see her husband when he was conscious. He died at 2:15 on Tuesday morning. She first saw him between 6 and 7 on Monday evening, after having first enquired at the Hospital if she could see him.

Ellen Pinnions, of Corsham, wife of Walter Edward Pinnions, shunter at Corsham Station, said deceased was her father, and lived with her. He went to work as usual on Thursday week, and was brought home in the evening. He told her in the morning that he did not like the look of the ceiling where he was at work in the quarry, and told her that if he did not come back she was to make inquiries. He told her that they were propping up the ceiling, and in getting out of the way a piece of stone fell on him. The doctor at the top of the shaft told him he was badly pinched and bruised, but that if he took

to his bed for a day or two he would be all right. It was his left hip that had been injured by the stone. She sent for Dr. Crisp between 6 and 7 on Friday, as he father was suffering such agonies. She arranged to have him taken to the Hospital, and he was accordingly taken in on Saturday. She last saw him alive at about 1:30 on Saturday.

Eli Mumford, of Wandswick, Box, No. 6 in the Corsham Down Quarries, where deceased worked, said deceased worked with him, and did his picking. He engaged himself, and he worked in his pay. He had been a picker for a great many years. Witness was under William David, the general manager, who was responsible for that mine. He was with deceased when the accident occurred on Thursday afternoon. They were trying to get down a block of stone from the ceiling. The ceiling was propped before hand till it was clear. Then when the ceiling was clear on large piece of the block fell. They tried to get the remainder of the block down with bars and wedges. The other portion of the stone took then some time to get down. When it did come down a large piece struck Heaven before he could get out of the way, and knocked him on to his side. He got Heaven out and pushed the stone away, and got the doctor to look at him.

William Hancock, of Corsham, said he also worked in the same quarry. He did not see the accident, as he was about 15 yards away. There were no others working in that part of the quarry, but Mumford, heaven, and himself. He was working himself a little distance from the spot where the others were, and had his back turned to them. He heard Heaven cry out for help, and went over and found him on his side. He had himself helped to prop up the ceiling. The second portion of the block took them some time to get down – about two hours. The deceased was reckoned a trusty man, and did his work well. Witness was in partnership with Mumford, and deceased was their picker. If he had to go about the job on his own account he would not do it differently.

Henry Smith, of More Green, near Corsham, foreman said his duty was to see to these ceilings, and to order them to be taken down if they were not safe. All the men working on the ceiling were thoroughly reliable men. He saw the place at about 12:30 on the Tuesday, and found it alright. What he was told about the accident by the men supported what he saw at the place afterwards.

Henry Christopher Taylor, assistant house surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, said deceased was admitted shortly after twelve on Saturday, the 17th. From what the deceased told him he was struck by a large piece of falling stone, while working in the quarry, on the head and left hip. Deceased's left hip showed a large contusion, and was much discoloured. He arranged with Dr. Waterhouse, the resident medical officer, to have chloroform administered. Deceased was quite rational and there was no paralysis. Chloroform was accordingly administered, in the ward, by Dr. Waterhouse, and witness performed the operation, the object of which was to reduce the contusion of the hip. The attempt to reduce the hip was unsuccessful. Though the operation lasted for about fifty minutes. At about seven that evening he was sent for, as the deceased showed signs of a fit. He was told this by the porter, the nurse in charge, Nurse Reve, having sent the message. He found deceased suffering from paralysis of the right side of the face, and of the left arm. He came to the conclusion, therefore, that the deceased had had an apoplectic fit. Death occurred on Tuesday. They made a post mortem examination and found there was a dislocation of the left hip, and extensive haemorrhage of the substance of the right side of the brain. There was also other haemorrhage. It was possible that this haemorrhage might have taken place while the anaesthetic was administered.

After a brief consideration of the facts the jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death.”

Mr. H. M. Walker, H. M. Assistant Inspector of Mines, watched the case on behalf of the Government, and Mr. William David, general manager of the Bath Stone Firms Ltd., on behalf of his Company.

Address – Flernish Buildings, High Street, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Henry	Heaven	Head	Married	Male	41	1850	Quarryman
Ellen	Heaven	Wife	Married	Female	36	1855	-
Alfred G	Heaven	Son	Single	Male	15	1876	Butchers boy
Ellen C	Heaven	Daughter		Female	13	1878	
Eliza M A	Heaven	Daughter		Female	11	1880	
William J	Heaven	Son		Male	8	1883	
Elizabeth	Heaven	Daughter		Female	7	1884	
Josephine M	Heaven	Daughter		Female	3	1888	
Priscilla B	Heaven	Daughter		Female	2	1889	

16 July 1902 – Box Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Telegraph – 19 July 1902

QUARRY ACCIDENT AT BOX

On Thursday morning William Bird, a quarryman, living at Henley, Box, was admitted into the Bath Royal United Hospital suffering from a broken leg and bruised ankle, sustained by a fall of rock in the quarry in which he was at work.

23 November 1902 – Combe Down Quarry, Bath

Source – 29 November 1902 – The Wiltshire Chronicle.

COOMBE DOWN – A QUARRY FATALITY

On Sunday afternoon the body of Albert Ellis, aged 31, a mason, was found in a disused quarry between Entry Hill and Combe Down, now used as a pleasure grounds, by Mr. Spear, of Springfield. The side of the quarry over which Ellis fell is 34 feet high, and he must also have surmounted a stone wall another 3ft. in height. About three years ago a similar fatality occurred in the same place.

14 January 1903 – Corsham Quarry

Source – Somerset Guardian & Radstock Observer – 17 January 1903

ACCIDENT

William King, 39, quarryman, of Corsham, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital on Wednesday, suffering from the results of an accident, sustained when he was working at a quarry at Corsham. The stone he was engaged at work on fell, grazing his head, and striking his shoulders, and the stone fell on his legs, crushing his ankles. He was removed to the Hospital at once, where his injuries were attended to.

January 1904 – Monkton Farleigh Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 14 January 1904

Mr. H. G. Spackman, eldest son and partner of Mr. Henry Spackman, of Terrace Walk, is recovering from a serious accident with which he met in Monkton Farleigh quarry. He was injured in the head by heavy iron shears, which penetrated the skull, and water on the brain developed.

21 October 1904 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 22 October 1904

BOX – ACCIDENT

A sad accident happened on Wednesday at one of Messrs. Marsh and Gibbs's quarries. A stack of stones was being shifted by the workmen, when a stone fell striking a man named Maunder, living at Box Hill, causing severe injuries to his legs and body. He was conveyed as quickly as possible to Bath Hospital, where he was detained.

9 January 1905 – Limpley Stoke Quarries

Source – Wiltshire Times – 14 January 1905

LIMPLEY STOKE – NARROW ESCAPE

On Monday afternoon Chas. Frapnell, carter in the employ of Mr. H. Pickering, had a narrow escape. He had just conveyed a huge stone weighing 4 tons 15 cwt. from the quarries to Messrs. Marsh, Son, and Gibbs' yard adjoining the station and was using the crane to unload it and had just raised it a few feet when it slipped from the shears, falling with tremendous force on to the waggon. The waggon was much damaged, the stone falling to the ground. Fortunately both man and horse escaped unhurt.

28 September 1906 – Potley Lane, Bridge Quarry, Wiltshire (No. 2 Tramway)

Source – Wiltshire Times – 6 October 1906

On Friday last a fatal accident occurred near the Potley Lane Bridge quarry, Mark Fowler, a man of about 65 years of age, who was employed by Messrs. Marsh, Son and Gibbs, meeting a shocking death through falling from a stone trolley. Notices are posted prohibiting persons riding on the stone trolleys, but from all that can be gathered for no one actually saw the accident, the deceased rode on a trolley and by some means fell from it on to the rails, where he was caught by the couplings and dragged some distance. He received terrible injuries to the head and body and death must have been instantaneous. The body was taken to the Station Hotel, where it was seen by Dr. Wood. An inquest was held on Saturday by Mr. R. Balch. The jury, of which Mr. Crosse was foreman, returned a verdict of accidental death and exonerated everybody from any blame on the matter. The funeral took place on Monday at the Parish Church.

7 February 1907 – Sands Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 9 February 1907

Corsham. A man named James Wootten, while employed in the quarries on Thursday, met with a serious accident by being struck with a crane. He was injured internally and also had his arm broken. He was taken to the Bath United Hospital.

6 September 1907 – Hartham No. 2 Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle – 12 September 1907

ACCIDENT IN A CORSHAM QUARRY

The City Coroner (Mr. B. A. Dyer) held an inquest at the Guildhall, on Tuesday, relating to the death of Frank Baker, of Station Hill, Corsham, aged 52, a quarryman who died at the Royal United Hospital on Saturday as the result of injuries received two days previous. Mr. J. P. Martin, H. M. Inspector of Mines for the southern District was present. Ellen Baker of Station Hill, Corsham, widow, said her husband was employed by Messrs. Marsh, Son and Gibbs. He went to work as usual last Thursday morning. He was in good health and had not complained in any way. Up to that time he had been working regularly. About twelve the same day she heard that he had had an injury and she went to the Bath Hospital, where she found him. He was not conscious and he died on Saturday morning.

Nathan Butler, of Whitecourt, Corsham, a quarryman, said he was working with deceased on Thursday morning. He was engaged with a crane moving a waste block of stone and the deceased was standing on a block of stone three feet by three. The deceased, who was directing the work himself, stepped back and fell over the crane. It is an underground quarry where deceased was working. Witness picked him up, and the deceased asked him to go and get his waistcoat and coat. They were about ten yards away. He called to the men at the other crane, and Arthur Wootten and Samuel Oatley came, the latter bringing a trolley. They put deceased on it and brought him to the top as soon as they could. When they got him to the top he complained of his chest. Witness accompanied him to Bath. He was unconscious. The crane handle came on his back.

Samuel Oatley, of 1 Bradford Road, Corsham, a quarryman, deposed in going to the deceased with a trolley. He was not present at the time of the accident.

Mr. Francis Henry Gibbs manager of Messrs Marsh, Son & Gibbs, said he had examined the spot where the deceased was working. The sketch plan (produced) he had made showing the position of the block of stone and the crane. In moving the waste stones they were doing this in the ordinary way. The deceased had worked for the firm for about nine years. He took the work by contract and directed it.

Mr. Arthur de V. Blathwayt, bone surgeon at the Royal United Hospital, said the deceased was admitted on September 12. He was suffering from some injury to the head. He was unconscious and bleeding slightly from the nose. He did not rally and he died on Saturday morning. Witness had made a post mortem examination. There was no sign of external injury. He had a fracture on the left side of the occipital bone, there was a haemorrhage of the right frontal lobe. The heart was slightly enlarged. He died from pressure on the brain.

The Coroner, in summing up, said they had had the advantage of the presence of the Inspector of Mines and Quarries. He had nothing to suggest. There was nothing wrong or any negligence on the part of anybody. It seemed to have been a case of pure misadventure.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death by Misadventure."

Source – Wiltshire Times – 21 September 1907

CORSHAM – FATAL ACCIDENT IN A STONE QUARRY – DEATH BY MISADVENTURE

At the Bath Guildhall on Tuesday afternoon, the City Coroner (Mr. B. A. Dyer) held an inquest on Frank Baker, 52, of Station Hill, Corsham, who was in a quarry accident at Corsham, and died at the Royal United Hospital on Sept. 14.

Mr. J. . Martin, H. M. Inspector of Mines for the Southern District, was present.

Ellen Baker, widow of the deceased, said her husband was a quarryman employed by Messrs. Marsh, Son and Gibbs, Ltd. On Thursday morning last went to work and was in good health, and was working regularly. About 12 noon witness heard that he met with an accident, and she telegraphed for to go to the Royal United Hospital. He died on Sunday.

Nathan Butler, of White Court, Corsham, a quarryman, stated that he working under the deceased in the Hartham Park quarries. On Thursday morning, deceased was standing on a block of stone, when he stepped back too far and fell over the crane, his body striking the handle. Witness went to his assistance and found him in a fainting condition. He asked for his coat and waistcoat, and made request to be moved. A man working a crane some distance away brought a trolley, and Baker was moved to the outside of the quarry in an unconscious condition. There was no one present except witness at the time of the accident. The deceased and witness were moving a useless block of stone to the rubbish heap at the time the former slipped.

Samuel Oatley, of 1, Bradford Road, Corsham, said he helped deceased out of the quarry. He was unconscious.

Francis Henry Gibbs, manager of the firm of Marsh, Son. and Gibbs, produced a plan of the spot where the deceased was working. In moving the waste stone they were doing in quite the ordinary way. The deceased had worked for the firm about nine years, and took work by contract and directed it.

Mr. A. de V. Blathwayt, house surgeon at the Royal United Hospital deposed to seeing the deceased when brought to the hospital. He was suffering from severe injuries the head and was unconscious. He did not rally, and died. Witness had since made a post mortem examination. There were no signs of external injury, but there was a fracture on the left side of the occipital bone. There was haemorrhage on the right side of the brain, and a laceration of the right frontal lobe. Death was due to on the brain.

The Coroner, in summing up, said the Inspector of Mines and Quarries had nothing to suggest. There seemed to have been nothing wrong or any negligence on the part anyone.

The jury returned a verdict of “Death by misadventure.”

1901 Census

Address – Ashyford Cottages, 15, Priory Road, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Frank</i>	<i>Baker</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>1856</i>	<i>Stone quarryman</i>
Ellen	Baker	Wife	Married	Female	38	1863	-
James	Baker	Son	Single	Male	9	1892	-

Frederick	Rose	Boarder	Single	Male	24	1877	Gardener (domestic)
-----------	------	---------	--------	------	----	------	------------------------

2 December 1908 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 26 December 1908

SERIOUS SUBSIDENCE ON MAIN ROAD

The Surveyor reported that on December 2nd, on the main road leading from Rudloe to Tunnel Hill, Box Hill, there was a subsidence in the road four feet in diameter and from 30 to 40 feet deep. The mischief was caused owing to the old quarry workings underneath. He had the road closed to the public and the way was watched and lighted at night. He had also communicated with the stone firms and tried to find out whom the mineral rights belonged. The Chairman stated that one of the Council's workmen was employed on the road at the time. The man, on finding the earth giving way, had the forethought to throw himself into the hedge, and so saved himself from being thrown down the awful chasm.

Mr Lambert stated that he had examined the opening underneath and found there were several feet likely to cave in. It was also stated that there was possible a subsidence might occur.

After the matter had been discussed in committee, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Gane, seconded by Mr. Field, that the clerk call upon the owners of the property to make good the subsidence and that the Council claim the outlay entailed in having the place watched and lighted.

25 August 1909 – Hartham Park Bath Stone Quarries

Source – Somerset Guardian and Radstock Observer – 27 August 1909

FATAL ACCIDENT AT CORSHAM – CHILD CRUSHED TO DEATH

From the falling of the working part of an underground, disused crane at Hartham Park Bath Stone Quarries in Bradford road, Gwendoline Mallard, a little girl about the age of seven, lost her life, and two of her playmates were seriously injured. As far as can be ascertained the deceased, accompanied by several playmates, was playing in the quarries after the labourers had gone home. A little way from the entrance to the quarry stood the crane which had been placed upon a large stone about two feet from the ground, which had not been in use for more than five years.

Children in the village of Pickwick were accustomed to swing on the two iron rods on each side of the crane. Such was the case on Wednesday evening, when the deceased child and others were so amusing themselves. A little girl named Beer saw the heavy crane fall to the ground, crushing the two children under it. The mother of the deceased on hearing cries of the child ran to the quarries, and was shocked to find her little daughter with her head under the crane, the boy Wooton being also pinned beneath the heavy wooden arm. The other boy, Harry Lucas escaped with but little injuries. The father of the deceased in the adjoining field heard the screams and quickly rushed to the spot, and with some assistance of some neighbours succeeded in raising the huge mass of timber from off the children. It was then seen that both were unconscious, and the two unfortunate children were carried home. Dr. Wood, of Corsham, was summoned, and was quickly on the scene, but in arriving found that in the case of Mallard life was extinct.

On making inquiries today it was stated that Wooton was still lying in a critical condition, the boy Lucas was progressing favourably.

Two boards of warning were placed at each side of the entrance to the quarry, but apparently the children were trespassing, otherwise the accident would not have occurred.

Sympathy is expressed with the bereaved parents. The deceased child was of rather a venturesome nature, but was bright and intelligent.

An inquest was held yesterday evening at the house of the parents, before Mr. I. James, deputy coroner for the Liberty of Corsham. Evidence was given bearing out the facts as stated above, and a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned, to which the jury added a rider asking the Bath Stone Firms to erect a fence to keep children away from the quarries.

Source – Wiltshire Telegraph – 28 August 1909

FATAL ACCIDENT AT HARTHAM PARK QUARRIES – CHILD LOOSES HER LIFE

A seven year old girl, named Gwendoline Mallard, lost her life on Wednesday through the falling of the working part of an underground disused crane at the Hartham Park Bath Stone Quarries, and two playmates were seriously injured. It appears that the children were swinging on the two iron rods on each side of the crane when the latter fell and crushed two of them. Deceased had her head under the crane, and a boy named Wooton was pinned beneath the heavy wooden arm. Harry Lucas, the other boy, was fortunate enough to escape with less serious injuries. Deceased's father, with the assistance of neighbours raised a mass of timber from off the children, and it was seen that both were unconscious, but found that in the case of Mallard life was extinct. Wooton remains in a critical condition. The children, it is stated, must have been trespassing.

12 January 1910 – Monk's Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 21 July 1910

A WORKMAN'S INJURIES – CLAIM AGAINST THE BATH STONE FIRMS ATWORTH WIDOW'S UNSUCCESSFUL SUIT

At Chippenham County Court, on Tuesday, before Judge Gwynne James, Mary Heale, widow of George Heale, residing at Atworth, sued the Bath Stone Firms, Limited, for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Mr. G. A. Johnson (instructed by Mr. Earnest J. White, of Trowbridge) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. E. H. C. Wethered (instructed by Messrs. Wansbrough, Robinson, Tayler and Taylor, of Bristol) represented the defendants. The case for the plaintiff, who has three young children, was to the effect that on the 12th January last her husband was engaged as a ganger at Monk's Quarry, Corsham, and it was alleged that while pulling at the handle of a crank, endeavouring to loosen a stone one ton and a quarter in weight, he sprained his back. He walked out of the quarry with his mate. Albert George Gingell, ascended with him the 170 steps to the surface, and also accompanied him a distance of about three miles on his way home, and he never mentioned a word about having sprained himself or feeling unwell. He, however, complained continually all the next day that he had hurt his back the day before. He left his work that evening, and saw Dr. Wood, of Corsham, who certified on one of the respondents' forms that he was suffering from sprains to the muscles of back, and that he was totally disabled from work. He treated him for that until his death, on January 18th. Dr. Wood gave a certificate that the cause of death was heart failure, produced by bronchopneumonia, which arose from lumber muscles having been sprained.

In cross examination, Dr. Wood admitted that he had never known of such a case before.

For the defence, Dr. Frederick Lace, F. R. C. S., practicing at Bath, stated that he had searched the records, and he could find no record in which bronchopneumonia had followed from injury to the lumbar muscles. In cases in which pneumonia had followed injury the pneumonia had always been acute in character. He did not believe that great pain from a sprain of the back, causing general depression of the system, could in itself bring on bronchopneumonia; there must be a local as well as a general loss of resistance to produce bronchopneumonia.

Dr. J. A. Imlay and Dr. Hedley Hill corroborated, the later saying that he was struck with that part of the evidence which it was stated that Heale looked ill, and that his breathing was very short. That, in his opinion, pointed to some lung trouble then.

His Honour, in giving judgement for the respondents, said all the doctors agreed that bronchopneumonia following injury to the lumbar muscles had never been heard of in the medical profession. He found that it had not been proved that Heale's death was due to an accident which arose out of or in course of his employment. He could not help sympathising with the widow, but he could not allow that to influence his judgement on the facts before him.

Source – Wiltshire Times – 23 July 1910

UNSUCCESSFUL CLAIM UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT. ATWORTH WIDOW SUES BATH STONE FIRM

Mrs. Mary Hale, of Atworth, widow of George Hale, a quarryman, brought a claim the Bath Stone Firms to recover compensation for the death of her husband, which it was alleged took place while he was in the employ of the firm and due to a strain sustained while he was at work with a crane in Monks' Quarry. Mr. G. A. Johnstone, by Mr. Earnest J. White. Of Trowbridge, was counsel for the widow and Mr. E. H. Wethered, council instructed by Messrs. Wansborough, Tayler, and Taylor, of Bristol, appeared for the respondents.

Mr. Johnston said the applicants were Mary Hale, widow of George Hale and her three Children Herbert Hale 9, Reginald, 7 and Stanley, 18 months. There were three points raised in connection with the action, (1) that sufficient notice had not been given of the accident, (2) that no accident had in fact occurred, and (3) that in any case death was not caused by an accident. On the 12th of January last George Hale, who a ganger working for the Bath Stone Firms, went to work in his usual health, and took with him a labourer named Gingell. They were endeavouring in the quarry to get out a large stone about one-and-a-quarter tons, Gingell was working at the stone and Hale was at the crane, and the case for the applicants was that Hale while at work sustained a strain to his back, which was the primary cause of his death. About 11:30 Hale left off work and went home, where he made a certain statement to his wife and also to his father. Hale did not work any more that day. The next day he went to work with Gingell, to whom he kept complaining of pains in his back. He returned home from work very much worse and went to see Dr. Wood, who gave him a certificate that he was suffering from a strain of the muscles of the back and was totally disabled from work. Hale the same day verbally informed the foreman that he had sustained an injury. He, Mr. Johnston, should the attention of the judge to the fact that the statements of Hale to his wife and his father were absolutely consistent. The man got worse, pneumonia supervened, and Hale died on January 21st.

Mary Hale, the widow, stated that she had three children whose ages were given. Her late husband had worked all his life for the Bath Stone Firms and at the time of his death was 37 years of age. It was stated that the amount of compensation agreed on should the judge hold that respondents liable, was £150. She added that her husband was quite well when he went to work on the morning of January 13th. He came home the same day about 12 o'clock, sat in a chair and cried out "Oh, my back," and

seemed in great pain. He remained in his chair for the rest of the day and at tea time said he was getting worse. He went to work the next day, though she begged him to remain at home. He came home at 5 o'clock on the 14th much worse and went straight to bed. On the Friday morning he saw Dr. Wood. Her husband got rapidly worse, and died on January 20th.

Cross examined as to whether anyone came to her about her husband's death, she that Mr. Chaffey came on the Saturday morning. It expected that there would be an inquest and Mr. Chaffey said he should like to be there to represent the Bath Stone Firms. She knew that there was a letter written to the firm on the 24th January by Mr. Hale's father, claiming compensation on behalf of herself and children. She was aware that the day her husband came home complaining of being ill it was stock-taking day, and that it customary on such days for him to leave off early. On the day he went to Corsham to see Dr. Wood, who lived three or four miles from her house, it took her husband four hours to do the journey. He husband literally crawled home so bad was his back. He walked both ways in connection with the visit to the doctor and on arriving home went to bed from which he never got up again. Her husband ought never to have taken the journey. On reaching home she caught him in her arms and lifted him to his chair.

Re-examined : She was up at 4 o'clock in the morning when her husband left the house.

William Hale, father of said he saw his son on the 14th January when he called at witness's house. He looked very ill and said "I have hurt my back."

Mr. Wethered objected : Witness could only repeat what were the sensations the man said he felt. Proceeding, witness said his son complained of pains across his loins and could scarcely sit in a chair. His son declined to stay to dinner, saying he could not eat any and about 2 o'clock he; left for home. Witness offered to get a conveyance but his son said that would not answer as he to call at the pay office on the way. Witness saw no more of him till the day son died when he was summoned to his bedside. Cross examined : his son was at his house for nearly 3 hours and sitting down all the time. He was in great pain and looked very ill when he arrived.

Dr. Wood said deceased attended his surgery about 10 o'clock on the morning of January 14th. He examined the man and found that the lumbar muscles of his back were very tender apparently caused by a sprain, and gave him a certificate to that effect on one of the Stone Firm's forms.

Mr. Wethered objected to the doctor stating what told him he had been doing. He could say what the man's symptoms were at the time, but could not repeat what Hale said they were before.

Mr. Johnston : The man under a duty to his employers to tell the doctor.

The Judge : I know another way you can get in the evidence (laughter); call the man he was working with.

Albert John Gingell said that on the 12th of January he got to the quarry about 6 o'clock in the morning. Deceased was there when he arrived. The stone they quarried was tightly held between other blocks. Hale was sometimes at the handle of the crane and sometimes at the bar. It took between two and three hours to get the stone out. They had to lift it about 12 feet, which required much exertion in handling the crane. They both left the quarry at 11:30. He had known Hale three or four years. When he saw him first in the morning the man appeared in his usual health and witness did not notice any difference in him when he left. Hale did not complain of feeling unwell. He met Hale again the next morning the quarry. They were engaged all day in breaking up stone, which was lighter work. Hale kept complaining all day that he had hurt his back the day before and when they left at night said that if he was not any better he should not come to work the next day. On the 14th Hale looked very ill. Hale was not man to stay away from work and he was a sober man.

By the Judge : He did not, speak to any official in reference to Hale before his death.

Cross examined : They were working a quarter of a mile from the bottom of the shaft and Hale on the 12th January walked with witness to the shaft and up 170 steps to the surface. Hale's house was a mile away from the quarry and walked with him three parts of the way.

Dr. Wood was re-called and the judge said he thought it was admissible for the doctor to say that he came to certain conclusions based upon certain facts.

Mr. Wethered objected and the judge made a note of the objection.

Dr. Wood, continuing, said deceased told him that he had been working a crank with his hands in an upright position and that he first noticed he had a pain when he was turning the crank. The man was suffering from a strain to the muscles of the back, and witness gave him a certificate to that effect and treated him accordingly. He examined the man on January 15th. Witness has had considerable experience of this sort of this sort as he had mentioned from residing among quarrymen at Corsham, and was of opinion that a man with a strain as he had mentioned would be able to walk up 170 steps with comparative ease. It would in fact be more painful, suffering from such an injury, for him to go down the steps.

By Mr. Wethered : The immediate cause of death was failure of the heart.

The Judge: It generally is, isn't it? The cause of the heart failure was bronco-pneumonia.

Mr. Wethered : Do you suggest that bronco-pneumonia had anything to do with the to the back?

Yes, it would inflame the lumbar muscles. The pain from the injury would bring on lumbar-pneumonia. The injury to the lumbar muscles would be an exceedingly painful thing and the pain would be felt at the time the injury was done. Asked if he should have expected deceased to call out as if in pain at the time of the injury, witness said he should have expected him to show signs of being in pain.

Mr. Wethered : Would you expect him having injured the muscles of his back to continue to do heavy work with a crane ?

Witness : He would be able to do a certain amount of work but unable to do heavy work.

Mr. Wethered : I submit to you that if he had "ricked" the lumbar muscles of his back it would have been impossible for deceased to have walked six miles?

Witness : I don't believe that at all. Bronco-pneumonia took two or three days to come on and the usual signs of its coming on were pains in the back. It might come on without any strain. It might be caused by a depression of the vital powers and irrespective of the accident. He admitted that after being in practice thirty years he had never known of bronco-pneumonia being caused by an injury to the back. He had known it after an injury to the muscles of the chest.

Re-examined : Witness said he attended Hale throughout the illness and bronco-pneumonia existed for about 21 days. There was none when he first attended the man, who complained of great pain whilst lying in bed.

Walter Sheppard, foreman for the Bath Stone Firms, said he knew nothing about any accident to Hale. Sometimes witness and another foreman named Davis gave out the certificates in regard to accidents. He first heard of Hale's illness the Friday before the man died.

Herbert Provis Chaffey under manager for the Bath Stone Firms, said he first heard of the alleged accident to Hale when the man came to the pay table for his wages. He asked witness for an advance, which witness did not give. Hale told him that he consulted Dr. Wood said he must have sprained the muscles of back whilst working at the crane. The certificate given out was never sent in to the firm.

The judge here observed that so far as the question of notice was concerned he did not think there any prejudice to respondents.

Mr. Wethered submitted that notice of the accident should have been given in writing and if notice was not given till after the man's death, the employer must have been prejudiced.

The Judge : Supposing that Hale had given notice of pain in the back?

Mr. Wethered: We should certainly have had him examined by our medical man.

The Judge : And you say because you did not have an opportunity of examining the man you must have been prejudiced? I don't see that and don't myself see where you are prejudiced in this case. The judge enquired to what sort of weather it was in the month about the time of the accident, and the widow, recalled, said on the day of the accident it was very cold and rained on January 14th and 15th, but there no snow. When her husband went back to work after the accident it was a nice day.

Replying to the judge, Dr. Wood said bronco-pneumonia might be contracted from a chill.

The Judge : Supposing the man had been working underground on a very cold day and got a chill. From what you saw might bronco-pneumonia have originated from a chill

Dr. Wood : There was no temperature when first saw Hale and I should not expect a high temperature if he had met with an accident and was in great pain, but should expect it with a chill.

Mr. Wethered submitted that there was no evidence of an accident.

The Judge observed that the case seemed to be very near the line as to whether the pneumonia arose from the sprain. They had it from the evidence of the man Hale was working with at the time that it very hard work and that Hale felt the pain when working the winch.

Mr. Johnston : I say that the evidence given by the doctor is evidence and admissible as such.

For the defence, Dr. Late, surgeon at the United Hospital, was called, and said with regard to the evidence that bronco-pneumonia was brought on owing to an injury to the lumbar, that was not his views. There were no oases so far ho could find where pneumonia followed upon injury to the lumbar. He went further and said that where pneumonia had followed injuries, that pneumonia was almost always acute in character, and so far as he could find there no case of bronco-pneumonia following such injuries. Witness thought that if the injury to deceased had been anything but trivial it would have been impossible for him to continue work on the day after, or to have gone up 170 steps and walked mile home. Supposing the injury to have been trivial it would not have set up bronco-pneumonia, and witness did not agree with what Dr. Wood had said as to the system being lowered without a local well as a general cause. Witness described the difference between ordinary pneumonia and bronco-pneumonia and said it possible to have patches of pneumonia existing a few days before it could be described by physical science; pains in the back and shortness of breath were very evident symptoms. He believed it would be nothing to take three or four days before it could be diagnosed.

In answer to Mr. Johnston, witness said he should have expected a rise in temperature with pneumonia.

Dr. G. Anston Imlay corroborated the evidence of Dr. Lace.

Dr. Hedley Hill, police divisional surgeon, Bristol, also agreed with the evidence of the two previous adding that what struck him very much was the evidence of the widow, who said her husband looked very ill and breathed very short, which pointed, in witness's opinion, to some lung trouble.

The Judge in summing up the said he had to determine whether the bronco-pneumonia owing to an accident to Hale whilst he in the employ of the respondents. He had admitted certain evidence as not proving the accident, but as showing the value of the diagnosis by the doctor. He thought that looking at the case as a whole the probabilities were that deceased might have strained himself while working at the winch., but the applicants had, to go further and say that the sprain brought about, directly or indirectly, the bronco-pneumonia, which ultimately was the cause of the man's death. On that what was the evidence?

That of Dr. Wood even was to the that he had never known such a case in his experience of such injuries causing bronco-pneumonia. He had also had the evidence of Drs. Lace, Hill, and Imlay, all very eminent men, and they all said that they agreed with Dr. Wood to this extent, that they never heard of such case. How could he (the Judge), say that the injuries caused the bronco-pneumonia, when all the doctors declared that they had never known such a happen. He considered that the medical profession was much cleverer than he was in such matters, therefore he decided with them. He was sure of this that the sympathy of everybody who had heard the case was with the widow, but still he had to decide the case on the evidence before him, and he found that Hale's death was not due to an accident which arose out of, or in the course of his employment. There would therefore be a verdict for respondents, with costs on the B scale.

1901 Census

Address – Paul Street, Corsham, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>George H</i>	<i>Hale</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>1873</i>	<i>Bath freestone quarryman</i>
Mary A	Hale	Wife	Married	Female	28	1873	
Herbert J	Hale	Son	Single	Male	0	1901	

12 September 1911 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath (Extracts)

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 18 May 1912

INJURED BY A QUARRY CRANE – ACTION AT BATH COUNTY COURT COMBE DOWN QUARRYMAN'S COMPENSATION – VERDICT FOR APPLICANT

At Bath Count Court, on Thursday, his Honour Judge Gwynne James had before him an arbitration case for decision, in which Daniel Hillyer, a quarryman, was the applicant and the Bath and Portland Stone Firms, Ltd., the respondents.

Hillyer, aged 62, met with an accident when in the employment of the firms as a quarryman on 12th September last. Applicant appeared to have been working a crane when it got out of hand, and swung back round and struck him a severe blow in the back. One of his ribs was broken and his spine was

also badly injured. Up to the 20th of January the company paid him 50 per cent. Of his wages, which came to 10 s. per week.

Eventually Hillyer was most anxious to get back to work, and he applied on two or three occasions to go back. Applicant, therefore, went there on the 20th of January but when he got to the office he found the following receipt prepared for him :- "Received of the Bath and Portland Stone Firms Ltd., the sum of 10s 6d., making in all, with the weekly payments received by me, the sum of £9 17s. 9d., which I agree to accept in full satisfaction and discharge of all claims due in respect of all injurious results, direct or indirect, that have arisen or may arise from the accident by me on or about 12th September last. This receipt was not read over to him or by him, but he signed it, and having done so it was now said his chance of compensation had gone.

His Honour, in giving judgement, said might he impress upon masters and men the necessity of filing agreements. If the agreement between the employer and the employed had been filed in that court it would have saved all that litigation and expense. Secondly, might he impress upon employers of labour never to put agreements before their employers to sign before the employees had obtained separate advice upon it. The doctors agreed, continued his Honour, that applicant was suffering from neurasthenia, but the question arose whether it was caused by the accident or not. The doctors called for the applicant had given it as their opinion that the neurasthenia was caused by the accident. The doctors agreed that applicant could not do his ordinary work. He might be able to sell papers on the streets, but he could not do what was known as manual work. His Honour's award was 7s. 6d. a week from Feb. 28th to May 2nd and 10s. 6d. a week from May 2nd.

30 August 1912 – Corsham No. 6 Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard – 7 September 1912

CORSHAM QUARRY FATALITY

Mr. W. H. Beasant held an inquest at Corsham on Saturday afternoon relative to the death of Henry Knott, a quarryman, who died from the effects of injuries caused by a portion of the ceiling falling upon him whilst at work at No. 6 new quarry, the property of the Bath and Dorset Quarries Ltd. There were present Mr. D. William David, the manager, and Mr. Johnson, Government Inspector of Mines. From the evidence, it appeared that the ceiling of the working in which the deceased was employed picking was tested on Thursday by Owen Bishop the foreman, and was then found to be perfectly sound. The deceased came to work at nine o'clock in the morning, and two hours afterwards a crash was heard and it was found that a portion of the ceiling, 13 feet 10 inches in length and about a foot thick, had fallen on the deceased. The unfortunate man was extricated, and seen by Dr. Crisp, but death took place half an hour afterwards. The foreman's opinion of the cause of the accident was that owing to the heavy rains the ground had got a little heavy, and twisted. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Source – Wiltshire Times – 7 September 1912

TRAGIC OCCURRENCE IN CORSHAM QUARRY MAN CRUSHED TO DEATH BY FALL OF CEILING REPORT OF INQUEST AND FUNERAL

An inquest was held in the Council Chamber, Corsham, on Saturday before Mr. W. H. Beasant, coroner, touching the death of Henry Knott, who died on Friday from the effects of injuries caused by a portion of the ceiling falling upon him whilst at work at No. 6, New Quarry, belonging to the Bath and Dorset Quarries, Ltd.

The jury comprised – Messrs. A. C. Kinnier, C. H. Gooding, J. Lucas, J. Smith, B. Harris, W. Davies, J. Hurn, J. Aust, A. G. Gale, E. Baker, E. Head, and J. Barnes. Mr. Kinnier was chosen foreman. There were present Mr. Johnson (inspector of mines) and Mr. William David (manager of the Bath and Dorset Quarries Lt.).

The following evidence was taken –

Jonathan Pearce, residing at Bradford Road, said that he tried the ceiling on Tuesday and from his experience he thought it was then all right. On Thursday morning the ceiling was tested by the foreman as well as himself, and the foreman was of the opinion it was all right. At six o'clock the next morning Frederick Shewring and himself worked until nine o'clock when they left for breakfast. The deceased then came and started work. After breakfast everything went all right until shortly after 11 o'clock. Shewring went to file a saw, and on his return he shouted out for "help" as the ceiling had fallen on Knott.

The Government Inspector – What was the width of the working place where the accident happened?

Witness – Eighteen feet.

– And the height?

– From where the man stood up to the ceiling it was close on six feet.

– Not more?

– No sir. I measured it this morning and it was seven feet six inches.

– What work was the deceased doing when the accident happened.

– I could not say because I was chopping. I was not looking that way.

A Juryman The deceased was picking?

– Yes.

The Inspector – You were the ganger?

– Yes.

– Were there any dents, cracks or breaks in the ceiling before the accident happened?

– No.

– You tried the ceiling and tested it. What did you try it with?

– A piece of iron as big as my fist.

– What was the weight of the iron?

– Getting on to 10 or 12 lbs.

– How much of the ceiling came down?

– I cannot tell you.

– Have you been to the place since?

– No sir.

– Can you suggest to the jury what caused the fall?

– No sir, I cannot.

The Foreman – Did you or Shewring work under the ceiling any part of Thursday?

– Yes sir, on Thursday as well as Friday morning.

– Have you formed any opinion as to the cause of the fall?

– Except it being so wet, that is the only reason I can give, it is such a wet place there.

By the Jury – Do you mean to say that the ceiling had entirely broken down out of the solid stone without taking a feathered edge on either side.

I will tell you the truth, it ran something like a plate, thin outside and deep inside.

Mr. Aust – That is what we call bladders, they run up thick in the middle and want careful watching sometimes.

A Juror – More especially when it is wet.

Mr. Aust – Sometimes you cannot see any movement.

The Coroner – You are not asking questions you are making a speech.

The Foreman – Can you roughly tell the dimensions of the fault?

Witness – I was so frightened I could hardly tell.

A Juror – Did you test the ceiling in the exact spot where it broke?

– I cannot tell you where it broke because it came down like a clap of thunder.

A Juror – If he tried the ceiling he must have tried the place where it broke.

A Juror – Did the picker make the ceiling weaker while he was at work?

– Yes, where he was working the piece got thinner. It was likely to come down on Thursday as on Friday morning.

The Coroner – You are not asking questions, you must not worry the witness too much.

A Juror – It was a very thin edge and ran up into a bladder. I have 30 years experience in a quarry and I never remember an accident like this.

Frederick Shewring, of 11, Alexander Terrace, deposed that on Friday morning last the last witness told him to file the saw and just as he got back he saw the ceiling fall down on the man. Half a minute later he could have been under it.

The Government Inspector – Have you been to the place since?

– No, not since we got the man up.

– You helped to get the man up?

– Yes.

– What was the size of the stones that fell?

– I should say about 20 feet, but I was so scared that I did not know where I was.

– The stone was about 13 feet 10 inches in length.

– What was the thickness?

– I should say the thickest part was not more than a foot.

– Was there any joint or bed about it?

– No.

– It fell from the solid?

– Yes.

– At the time the deceased was picking on the left side of the straight, and what he was doing was likely to weaken the ceiling. Only as far as he was exposing a larger area unsupported.

– He was taking away the support?

– I could not see any support at all after it was down.

– What had deceased done that morning had very little effect upon the ceiling?

– No.

– What is your opinion of the cause of the fall?

– It is very wet there, and I reckon the water worked along under the ceiling and forced a piece of it.

– If there is no bad there how can the water come out?

– There is bound to be a list.

– Was there a parting in the ceiling?

– There is bound to be, I just glanced up after I looked at the man.

– Did you try the place yourself?

– It was not my duty.

– Did you see anyone else try it?

– Yes on Tuesday morning.

– Anyone else after that?

– No sir.

– Whose duty was it to try the ceiling?

– I do not know, but I saw Pearce, the man I work for, test it.

Witness – we are all quarrymen here. I saw Pearce hit the ceiling with a heavy iron and the sound was as dead as hitting the pillar itself.

Frank Thomas Fletcher, of Box Hill, stated that on Friday morning he was working in the quarry when he heard a crash of a piece of stone having fallen down and someone shouted “Run, quick,” He hurried round and said to a chap who was there, either Pearce or Shewring, “What is up, anything wrong?” He replied the ceiling had fallen down upon poor old Harry. Witness searched for the man and found him underneath the stone. With difficulty they extracted him, and he assisted in bringing the deceased to the top of the shaft.

The Inspector – Dis you look at the ceiling at all after you got the man out?

– No sir

– Did you form any opinion as to the cause of the fall?

– Well I had a look at the place this morning.

– And did you see anything that could account for it?

– No, sir, I cannot account for it.

– Was there any bed in the rock?

– Well, nobody would call it a bed at all.

A Juror – Were there any more men working in the quarry?

The Coroner’s Officer – It is a new quarry. The next witness will answer that.

Owen Bishop of Pickwick, foreman, deposed that at eight o’clock on Thursday morning he tried the ceiling and was of the opinion that it was of natural depth, a depth of over two feet. He tested it in several places and found the sound nearly all the way round about the same. He did not test it on Friday morning as he had not been down in the quarry that morning. Had he thought there would have been anything moving in the ceiling he should have tried it that morning, but it was quite safe the day before.

He had always found deceased and experienced, capable, and very careful man at work. He thought that owing to so much rain the ground got a little heavy and twisted.

The Inspector – You have examined the place since the accident?

– Yes.

– Was there any bad horizontal joint?

– No, sir,

–There was nothing visible at all?

– No, sir.

– The list was not visible before the accident?

– No, sir.

The Foreman – Would the type of bed you talk about affect the sound of your testing if it were not in the deep part?

– No, sir. It could have not moved up I should have detected it. The thing that moved it was the rain draining down. I think Mr. Aust had a similar experience.

Mr. Gooding – Then you consider your test quite a sufficient one.

– Yes.

– You were satisfied with the state of the roof after your examinations/

– Yes.

– If the roof had been weak what would have been the sound produced?

– It would have been hollow.

– Is there any further test, because it is proved by this accident that the test on this occasion was not sufficient.

– I cannot say that there is.

– If you found a weak places what would you have done?

– We should have got it down.

– And if you had found any weak spots whose duty would it have been to report?

– The ganger would have got them down and we should have paid him for doing it.

– Would the work which the deceased was doing weaken the ceiling?

– Not in the least.

– I suppose in the course of time picking is sure to weaken the ceiling?

– Yes.

– Most of the jury infer that this sort of thing may happen again.

– Cannot any precaution be taken when you have a big opening by pillaring it up?

– It was impossible to prop it.

–If there had been any sign of hollow ceiling we should have got it down. Any sensible man would have done it.

– You test by knocking?

– Yes.

– And if that fails you have to take the risk?

– You are quite right there.

– How big must the space be before you commence to prop?

– It depends upon the ceiling.

– You do not commence to prop until you have a bad ceiling, however big the place may be?

– We are bound to have sufficient room to put in the crane.

Mr. Aust – You pay a man for propping?

– We pay 1s. for each prop, and allow so much a yard for getting the ceiling down.

Mr. Aust – So that a man is under no detriment in that way.

The Coroner – You are making a speech now (laughter).

Witness – What Mr. Aust means to point out is that in the old days they were not paid for carrying out these means of protection that they are now. This was new ground, it was only cleared about a month ago. And was some way some 30 feet from an old heading.

The Coroner – You take every precaution you can for the safety of your men?

– Yes, Sir. I should not like to run any risk for it is just possible one may run into it oneself.

Mr. Gooding – Do you still continue to work that particular part?

– Oh yes, certainly.

– Do I understand that no steps can be taken to prevent this happening under similar circumstances?

– We may not get one again.

– But you may say, and no steps can be taken?

– No, sir.

A Juror – How long was it before the deceased was released?

– Nearly 15 minutes.

– Do you mean to say the ceiling did not get hollow at all before it fell down?

– I cannot say that, I mean to say that it was not the morning before.

– Was Knott there at the time you tested it on Thursday?

– No, he did not come to work.

Mr. Aust – You do not know whether he tested it himself?

– Generally pickers test the ceiling before they start work.

Dr. Crisp stated that he was sent for a few minutes after 11 o'clock on Friday morning to attend to a man who had met with an accident. He went to the quarry immediately and found the deceased lying on some straw in the cage near the shaft. He saw at once that the man was very seriously injured, and on examination he found that his right leg was broken in two places, at the thigh, and about six inches above the ankle. He had a fracture of the pelvis, several ribs were broken, and severe internal injuries. The cause of the death was shock following the injuries. He had made all the necessary arrangements for the removal of the man to Bath Hospital, but he saw that it was no use to send him there, as he was dying. Death took place half an hour afterwards.

This concluded the evidence, and the Coroner recommended the jury to return a verdict of accidental death.

The Foreman said he would like to give his opinion on the matter, and he hoped his fellow jurors would agree with him that the accident was unavoidable. He knew a little about a matter of this kind, for he had an accident about twenty years ago. The ceiling was thoroughly tested in the same way as this one had been and although it was a most unusual thing for a ceiling to fall without giving any warning, he was quite convinced in his own mind that it was a thing that would happen, not very often, but at least once in 15 to 20 years. He had only known two cases of that sort in 35 years. He would suggest to his fellow jurors that they bring in a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and that the accident was quite unavoidable.

Mr. Gooding said that he spoke with a certain amount of diffidence as he knew nothing about quarrying. He understood the ceiling was not tested on the day of the accident. Might they not have a recommendation that the ceiling be tested every day.

The Coroner – You are too late.

Mr. Gooding – It seems to me a serious thing.

Mr. J. Barnes – I should like to say for the benefit of Mr. Gooding that I do not suppose there is a picker who does not test his ceiling every morning.

A Juror – And at night as well. It is generally the last thing he does.

A verdict of “Accidental death” was returned and the Foreman expressed the sympathy of the jury with the widow in the loss she had sustained.

1911 Census

Address – Pickwick Corsham Wiltshire, Corsham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
Henry James	Knott	Head	Married	Male	52	1859	Stone quarryman picker
Elizabeth	Knott	Wife	-	Female	53	1858	
Arthur John	Knott	Son	Single	Male	24	1887	Stone quarryman sawyer
George	Knott	Son	Single	Male	20	1891	
Ernest	Knott	Son	Single	Male	18	1893	Gardener domestic
Fredrick Walter	Knott	Son	Single	Male	15	1896	Errand boy grocer's

26 February 1913 – Vinegar Down Quarry, Combe Down, Bath

Source – Daily Citizen (Manchester) – 27 February 1913

QUARRYMAN CRUSHED TO DEATH

Charles Davidge (38) was killed yesterday morning by a heavy fall of stone at a new freestone quarry which is being opened at Combe Down, Bath. His eldest son had a narrow escape, and the father had just said, “Stand back, this is not safe!” when the stones fell.

Davidge leaves seven young children.

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 1 March 1913

COMBE DOWN FATALITY – QUARRYMAN’S REMARKABLE EVIDENCE INQUEST ADJOURNED TO EXAMINE DEBRIS

In the Avenue Hall, Combe Down, yesterday (Friday) afternoon, Dr. Craddock, coroner, held an inquest upon the body of Frederick Charles Davidge, aged 38, quarryman, of Malthouse Cottage, Combe Down, who met his death on Wednesday morning whilst following his employment at Mr. Herbert Jones’s quarry, under circumstances reported in our issue of that date.

Mr. H. Walker, Inspector of Mines, was present. Mr. F. Glover, jun., represented the widow and family. Mr. Wherrett was chosen foreman of the jury.

Frederick Charles Davidge, 17, said the deceased was his father, and 38 years of age. He was a quarryman employed by Mr. Herbert Jones at Vinegar Down quarry, Combe Down. On the 26th inst.,

witness went to the quarry to see his father, about 8:15 a.m. Deceased was tightening up a wire rope when witness arrived there. On the end of the rope was a chain attached round a prop. The prop was on the left side of the "chamber" looking in. The prop was about two yards from the end of the chamber. After he tightened up the rope he went into the chamber, and chipped a little bit off the rock beneath the bottom of the prop. That was a bit of the rock on which the prop was resting. Deceased came out and slackened the wire rope. He slackened it with a little crane.

The Jury : Crab winch is the proper name.

Witness added that after deceased had slackened the rope, he went into the chamber again, and shifted the chain from the top of the prop to the bottom. Then he came out again and tightened the wire rope afresh. Next he went into the chamber again, and as he was coming out, the roof all fell down upon him. Witness pulled off his overcoat, jacket and waist coat, and tried to shift the stone off him, about half a ton, but could not do so, and then went for assistance. He got William Lewis, Mr. F. Callaway, painter, Mr. George Russell and several others. When they got back, deceased was still alive. It was about an hour and a half before he could be got out, but witness had then gone home. Witness had never been down the quarry before.

The Coroner : This was the first time he had been to the quarry.

The Inspector : Do you know if your father managed to get the prop out? – No, he did not pull the prop out.

The Coroner : The prop had not shifted when you saw him coming out the last time? – No, sir.

The Coroner : Did you see any more props? – Yes about four more supporting the roof.

By Mr. Glover : There was no one working with the deceased at the time of the accident. The chain was round the prop, not the stone.

By the jury : Deceased had worked at the quarry between six and nine months, these being generally one or two men with him.

Herbert Jones, quarry owner, said he had had Binegar quarry since September or October last. It was an old quarry. The deceased had been working for him since he took the quarry, or at any rate for several months. He had been engaged at either Binegar quarry, or witness's other quarry, as occasion demanded. Witness did not give him any specific work to do. Deceased had experience and the men who worked there with him were more leaders of the quarry than witness himself was. Deceased and the other men would consult together how best to arrange the work of getting stone. Witness was last at the quarry on the 21st instant, five days before the accident. At that time, the men were engaged in taking off some stones from the top outside of the quarry. Deceased and Samuel Rogers were the only men engaged at that time, the spot being six or seven yards from the scene of the accident. The chamber where the fatality occurred was used as a tool shed or work shed, and also a mess room. Witness noticed a number of props in it, anything from five to ten in number. They supported the roof of the chamber. Witness had ordered them to be put there four to six weeks ago, because in his judgement, it was safer with them than without. He did not notice any portion of the roof that seemed likely to come down. Witness ordered Charles Francis to put props in. Witness believed the props would be elm branches, but was not certain. Witness corrected himself, and said he fancied the wood would be beech. The props were put up on the same day as witness gave instructions. He did not give orders for any of the props to be removed. There had been talk a fortnight or three weeks before about removing two of the props at a future date, but no orders had been given to that effect. The prop with the chain in, as described by the previous witness, was one of the two which it was suggested might be removed. Witness did not leave it to the deceased and the men working with him to remove props. There was a

difference of opinion between the man Francis, who put the prop there, and the deceased. Francis thought and stated that the props were quite safe, and deceased said there were two stones which ought to come down. It was discussed between witness and the two employees, and finally he (witness) said : “Very well, we will have them down some time, and in the meantime don’t go near it.” Witness swore he never gave orders for the removal of the prop. Witness’s experience was limited to four years.

By the Inspector : The chamber was there when witness took this quarry.

By the Coroner : He could produce evidence that it had been there for 50 years at least.

By the Inspector : There were no props in the chamber when the witness took it over. Since taking the quarry witness’s men had quarried two beds of stone in the chamber underneath the two stones which deceased wanted to have down. Before taking that stone out witness had the props put in. The props were put under to support two stones which were overlying the two bed of stone that were taken out. According to the evidence the chain was on one of the posts.

By Mr. Glover : The deceased was under witness’s direct orders and working in his interests. Presumably he (witness) the was responsible party. There had been work actually going on in the chamber three or four weeks before. Since then there were three men engaged some few yards before the chamber and in the open, getting stone in another position.

By the Coroner : No work had been done in the quarry besides that.

Mr. Glover : Why was that wire rope and chain there? – Witness said he could only imagine that the deceased, as the morning was wet, thought he would go inside and have the posts down. He would then pass the rope and, chain through the lewis which had been used a few weeks ago. He then reinstated his cable with the object of removing the post as they had discussed some weeks before. The wire was not there when witness was present at the quarry on Friday last, although it might have been used since then for the purpose of getting the stone a few yards away from the chamber.

He (witness) had notified the inspector that work was going on there. Witness saw the props put in, and they were satisfactory as far as he could judge. Rodgers who worked with the deceased, was not a full-time man, and came when he liked. Francis was ill, and the remaining man was intercepted by witness's foreman and sent to work at another quarry. Thus, instead of four workmen in the quarry that morning there was only the deceased. No stone had been pulled out of the chamber by means of the lewis since three weeks ago.

Charles Francis, quarryman, employed by Mr. Jones, said he had worked with the deceased at the quarry from time to time. He remembered putting up some props in the chamber by Mr. Jones's orders. He put three props under the particular stone Mr. Jones had described. He fixed the props quite safely under two stones. They were good props, sound and new. One day since then, deceased told witness he thought of having the stone down, which was then propped up. That was three or four days before the accident. Witness told him it was quite safe, and that he himself would not be afraid to work under it for 20 years. He had no idea for a single moment that deceased would remove the prop. He had told Mr. Jones the same as he told the deceased that if this stone were got down, very likely a lot more would follow. He had not been at the quarry with the deceased since that conversation three or four weeks ago.

By the Foreman : There was one spare prop in the quarry in case of an emergency.

The Coroner : One would not be much in coalmine in case of an emergency,

Samuel Rodgers, checker at the quarry, was asked by one of the jury if he could tell them what the rope was attached to in the hole when he left the work last Saturday.

Witness said the rope was through the block attached to chain, and the chain attached to a stone outside the chamber.

Another jurymen: I passed them on Sunday, and saw the chain was inside the chamber, but I did not see what it was fast to.

Rodgers stated that the chain was not fast to anything.

The second juror said he was certain the chain was attached to something.

First jurymen remarked that the witness's reply did not satisfy him,

Witness repeated that the chain was loose inside the chamber.

It was explained that witness was speaking of the Saturday, and the jurymen of Sunday.

The Foreman : The chain had used outside the chamber and you took trouble to lift the weighty chain and throw it into the chamber.

By the Coroner : There was no chain on the prop, whose removal caused the stone to drop; neither on the Saturday, nor the Tuesday evening the 25th inst. The day before the accident.

By Inspector : There was other work besides shifting this prop which deceased might have done. There was work outside marked to be done, and already begun.

Henry John Smith, quarryman, engaged by Mr. Armstrong, said he knew the deceased and worked with him about 12 months. He last saw him a week ago last Sunday. That was at the quarry at Binegar. Witness went inside the, chamber with the deceased, and the deceased asked him what he thought of it. Witness said he didn't think much of it, because he didn't think it was safe, and the sticks were not fit for propping. They were wych elm sticks, green as cut out of the wood. There were above seven of them, and deceased told witness Francis had been in the wood and cut the sticks. Witness told deceased green sticks were not fit for propping. Witness asked deceased what sort of a man Jones was like. He said, "All right only he wants his own way." Witness said "I should want things my way I worked underground." The thing was "all bellying and buckling."

By the Inspector; Deceased said nothing further. Witness could see there had been stone taken out.

There was applause by the people assembled in the hall hereabouts to one of witness's statements. He said " I say there has been some more stone quarried down there since.

Mr. Jones : I have sworn there has been no stone.

Witness : The hole is a lot bigger now than it was when I saw it in company with the deceased.

A juror : Is it not possible for us to have that chain out and see whether it is on a prop or stone? I think it is only right and fair to the widow and to us that the block should be moved off the chain to see what it was on, to see whether they were pulling stone out or he was pulling the prop out.

Witness : I knew the man very well; I do not think he would act in that way.

The Coroner : The evidence of the son is very strong.

Witness : The son doesn't understand it.

The Inspector : He can say what was done before his own eyes.

Mr. Jones : If you care to have it adjourned, I will undertake to engage a team of men to get it out.

The Coroner : If the jury wish to have an adjournment.

A juror : I would suggest someone is there when it is got out.

Mr. Jones : I suggest the policemen go there.

The Foreman said it was his desire that the point raised should be settled. The other jurymen concurred.

The Foreman : Arrangements had better be made how it is to be watched. We must not leave it to one.

The Coroner : I will make proper arrangements for that. Don't you be alarmed. If it is your wish to have the debris removed from above the chain, I am quite willing to do so.

The inquest was then adjourned until Monday, at 3 p.m.

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 8 March 1913

COMBE DOWN FATALITY – ADJOURNED INQUIRY INTO QUARRYMAN S DEATH

KILLED BY A FALL OF ROOF

At the Avenue Hall, Combe Down, on Monday afternoon, Mr. S. Craddock resumed the inquest concerning the death of Frederick Charles Davidge who was killed by a fall of stone at Binegar Down on Wednesday, February 26th.

Mr. Francis Glover, jun., again appeared for the widow, and Mr. H. E. Harris, of Bristol, represented Mr. Herbert Jones, owner of the quarry.

Mr. H. Walker, Inspector of Mines, was present.

The inquest had been adjourned principally to ascertain to what the chain, deceased was tightening when the roof fell, was attached.

John Lambern, of 1, Woodside Cottages, Odd Down, said he had removed the fallen blocks to see to what the chain was attached. He found it was fastened tight round the prop produced.

The prop was a substantial beech wood baulk about eight to nine inches in diameter.

George Sowell helped witness to remove the stone to get at the chain. They shifted four or five tons, and it took them about three hours to do it.

In answer to the Coroner, the witness said there were seven or eight props in all in the chamber. He saw two in position.

The police brought in the second prop which was sturdier than that to which Lamborn said the chain was attached. It was a foot in diameter at the base and about nine inches in diameter at the top.

Lamborn said he helped to extricate the deceased from the fallen stone. He should think there were 19 feet to 20 feet of stone in the big block taken off Davidge. He should say it weighed 30cwt. Witness arrived on the scene about 9.15, running from another quarry; when he got there Davidge was quite dead. He was lying on his face, and blood was issuing from the head and hands. Some part of his legs was lying on the chain, but not his body.

William Lewis, engine driver at Combe Down Waterworks, said he went to the quarry at 8.30 on the morning of the accident at the request of Davidge's son. He heard Davidge under the stone crying out for help and groaning. He cried "take the stone off me." Witness tried to do so, but could not move it, and he ran for further assistance. He got Mr. Pearce. There was a big prop lying by the stone at the entrance to the chamber on the left hand side. They put it up against the ceiling for the purpose of support. Then other men came, including Lamborn. Davidge did not speak after 8.45.

Lewis added that he saw a stone with a chain round it near the mouth of the chamber.

Mr. Jones asked the Coroner if he would be good enough to call one of the jury, who would say he put the chain round the stone. He asked this because it was insinuated that the deceased man was getting stone, but this jurymen would tell them he placed the chain round the stone in order to expedite the extrication of the man.

The Foreman said the first witness arrived on the scene stated that the chain was round the stone; someone who arrived afterwards said he put it round the stone. If the chain was round the stone when the accident, occurred stone had been got recently.

The Coroner : Call any Witness like; don't think wish to suppress anything.

The Foreman : I should like to have the juror who said he put the chain round the stone.

John York, butcher, Combe Down, said hearing from Mrs. Davidge that her husband had met with an accident, he went to the quarry. There a big stone near the mouth of the but it had no chain round it. Witness found a chain about three Yards away, and put it round this stone to move it, which he did.

By a juror : He did not know whether this stone had fallen from the roof.

Mr. Jones said it must have come from there. Francis marked all the stones in the roof by chopping them, and the stone bore such a mark.

The boy Davidge, recalled, said this stone was at the mouth of the chamber when he arrived, before the accident happened.

The Foreman : Did you see a chain round the stone you have just spoken of when you got there?

Witness : Not round that stone. There was a chain round another stone outside.

Lewis, coming back, said Mr. York referred to another chain, not the one he meant.

The Foreman said it seemed impossible to him that Mr. York could have put the chain on the stone; it was very heavy.

The Coroner : He says he had help.

The Foreman: I don't care if he had the help of all the other jurymen. I don't believe they could have done it with their hands.

The Coroner: You are going into matter quite irrelevant to the matter. The question is whether this poor fellow was killed by his own initiative by placing a chain around this particular prop.

Mr. Harris said he desired to call a witness, Mr. Webberley.

Charles Augustus Webberley, assistant surveyor to Messrs. Spackman and Son, Terrace Walk, Bath, said he measured the quarry in November last for the purpose of showing what royalty would be payable by Mr. Jones for stone quarried. He measured the chamber again that morning, and the only difference was that one square yard of stone had been quarried, in the left hand corner of the chamber. He certainly says the stone had not been worked at all.

The Coroner said he should like ask Mr. Jones another question. In his evidence he said; there had been a talk of moving two of the props put up by witness. What did that imply?

Mr. Jones : Just this, that Davidge, when I paid a visit to the quarry on one occasion, asked; me if I thought those two stones which had been propped by Francis were quite safe. I replied I had seen Francis recently, and he said it was safe as London, and he would work under them for 20 years.

The Coroner : You never gave him any instructions about pulling them away?

Witness : No.

A Juror (Mr. William Fisher) : Did you think it safe, Mr. Jones?

Witness : I did on the advice of the life-long propper, Mr. Francis.

Mr. Fisher : I should not like to have worked in it. It is a regular death trap to me,

Dr. C. J. Morris, of Combe Down, said he examined Davidge at the quarry. His breastbone was broken, and there were injuries to the head sufficient to cause death. He had a compound fracture of the left leg. He attributed death to asphyxia caused by the pressure of the stone.

The Coroner, in summing up, expressed the opinion that the verdict was reduced to a comparatively simple issue. They would remember the testimony of the deceased's son, who gave his evidence extremely well. The lad said he saw his father chip the rock on which a prop, rested, that he afterwards moved a chain from the top of the prop to the and then tightened the chain again. Did the jury think Davidge was doing this work simply and entirely upon his own initiative? If he were acting only on his own initiative and absolutely without instructions, it was one of those accidents that would occasionally happen when people did a ridiculous thing. He could hardly imagine any man in his senses doing what this man did absolutely alone. There was no evidence that; Davidge received orders from anyone to remove the props, and Mr. Jones distinctly stated that he gave no such instructions at all; indeed, he said he left the management of the quarry largely to Davidge and Francis, who knew more about the work than he did. But it seemed that Davidge had made up his mind to remove the particular prop absolutely upon his own initiative, and way in which he did so had been most fully explained by the son in his evidence. It was one of those accidents that would happen only from man acting in a fool hardy manner. In coming to their verdict he asked the jury to do so upon what they had heard within those walls and not to be influenced by what they had heard outside.

After a short conference in private the jury returned a verdict that Davidge was killed by injuries to the skull, caused by part of the roof accidentally falling upon him in a cave at Binegar quarry.

Mr. Jones : May suggest all the misstatements made, all the suggestions made, may have emanated from two of the jurors.

'The Coroner : I don't want anything of that

Mr. Jones (continuing) : Who are working in competing quarries.

The Foreman : We don't want anything of that.

The Coroner : The case is finished here.

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 26 April 1913

COMBE DOWN QUARRY FATALITY – WIDOW AND FAMILY COMPENSATION AT BATH COUNTY COURT

At the Bath County Court on Thursday, before his honour Judge Gwynne James, the story of the recent quarry fatality at Combe Down was recalled; when Florence Davidge, the widow of Frederick Charles Davidge, the quarryman who lost his life on that occasion, claimed £182 under the Workman's Compensation Act on behalf of herself and her eight children, against the quarry owner, Mr. Herbert Jones, 4, Southstoke Road.

The line of defence was that the fatal injury was not sustained an accident arising out of, and in the course of, the man's employment. The defence further alleged that at the time of the accident, the deceased was not engaged in his duties as quarryman; and that his earnings were 19s. 1d., and not £1 3s. 4d. per week as alleged in the statement of claim.

Mr. B. R. Vachell, (instructed by Messrs. Francis Glover and Son), appeared for the claimant, and for the defence, Mr. William Shakespeare, London, had been instructed by Messrs. Edward Gerrish and Co., Bristol.

Mr. Vachell stated that the fatal accident occurred on the morning of February 26th at Binegar quarry, in consequence of a fall of stone. The deceased man had left as dependents, a widow and, eight children, who were almost totally dependent. The eldest three children earned a few shillings a week, but the rest of the children and the widow were totally dependent. The youngest child was five months of age. The deceased was under a contract of service under Mr. Jones.

Mr. Shakespeare said he did not dispute any question of dependents.

Mr. Vachell stated that at the time the application was filed, they thought the man's wages were £1 3s. 4d., and it now turned out that they were only 19s. 6d. The result of that would be, if his Honour made an award, that the minimum sum of £150 would be awarded. The deceased was 38 years of age, and was an experienced quarryman. He had been a life long abstainer, and was a thoroughly good and capable workman. This quarry was in Combe Down on the right of some high land, before the descent into Monkton Combe. It was an old quarry, which was reopened by Mr. Jones in the month of October last Mr. Jones, as he had stated before the Coroner, did not profess to be an experienced quarry master. He had been engaged in working quarries only in the last four or five years, prior to which time he was engaged as contractor. Mr. Jones said before the Coroner was "The men in the quarries were more experienced than myself, they would talk it over how the quarry could best be worked. An elderly man

named Francis, who was employed at the quarry, had not, been at the quarry for some three weeks at the date of the accident, being absent through illness.

Mr. Jones, the respondent, had not been at the quarry for five days or a week before the accident. This quarry was an open one, with a cavern or chamber in one corner, and it was in the cavern that the unfortunate man met his death. The chamber was used by the men for keeping their tools and eating their meals. It was a shelter for them. One or two layers of stone had been taken out of the cavern, but at the time of the accident there was no work proceeding there. The roof of the chamber was supported by seven or ten props, which had been put there by Mr. Jones's orders, or under the superintendence of the two quarrymen. In the roof there were two stones which had been undoubtedly the subject of conversation between deceased and Francis. The deceased thought the stones should be removed; but on the other hand Francis thought the stones should remain and were quite safe, There was some reference on the subject to Mr. Jones. On the morning of the accident, Davidge was the only quarryman there, and he no doubt made up his mind to take down one of the props which came against the threatening stones, probably to allow the stones to fall so that they should no longer constitute a danger. He was evidently proceeding to take the prop down using for that purpose a crab winch and a wire rope and chain. He passed the wire rope round the prop, and went in and out of the cavern, alternately, adjusting and tightening the rope. He removed the wire rope from the top of the prop to the bottom of the prop, and he did some chipping on the stone of the floor of the chamber so as probably to make a way for the prop to come away at the foot. Then, on the evidence, of the deceased's own son, who witnessed the accident, the man told the son, to get out of the way, and he himself was going outside turn the winch when the accident happened, and a considerable fall of stone and debris occurred, including the stones referred to. He thought that the chipping away of the floor brought away the foot of the prop unexpectedly. The man was buried the fall. He was not killed instantaneously, but he sustained certain injuries and a double fracture, and he died from asphyxiation through the pressure upon him, and was dead before he was taken out. Mr. Vachell went on to argue that the accident did arise "out of" his employment. Mr. Shakespeare would seek to bring the case under a decision where there had been something in the nature of misconduct on the part of the deceased workman.

The Judge said misconduct was no defence.

Mr. Vachell said the deceased was a skilled workman in charge there. He was doing nothing for his own benefit; but he was getting the stone down when he thought it was necessary. He contended therefore there was really no defence against the claim.

Mrs. Davidge, the widow, gave formal evidence.

Frederick Charles Davidge, 17 years of age, eldest son of the deceased, related briefly what occurred immediately before the accident.

Mr.. Shakespeare intimated that he did not question the facts.

Witness, In examination, said his father was trying to get two stones out or the roof, and he pointed them out to him. He was tightening and altering the rope when the accident occurred, and father was buried.

Mr. F. Glover, jun., solicitor, gave evidence of what Mr. Jones, the said before the Coroner. Mr. Jones said : "Davidge had experience, and he and the men who worked with him were more leaders than myself. In conjunction with others they would talk it over as to how the quarry could best be worked." Mr. Jones also said that he gave Davidge no specific work, or instructions.

Counsel agreed that it common ground that the props were put up as a prudent measure in view of the possibility of stone falling from the roof

The witness went on to state that Mr. Jones at the Company's request, said : "Deceased thought some stones should be altered. I said : "We will have them down some time, but in the meantime don't go near it." I gave no orders as to removal of a prop I swear it." Mr. Jones was recalled at the adjourned inquest, and said, "I have seen Francis recently, and said it was as safe as London." Mr. Jones went on to say, "I said, 'You had better keep clear.'"

Mr. Shakespeare said he thought that upon the evidence, Honour could not come to the conclusion that it was part of man's duty to do what he was doing at the time of the accident, after Mr. Jones had told him to keep clear. He contended that Mr. Jones's instruction was obviously a prohibition by the master against the man taking the prop down.

His Honour said the whole question was whether it was dangerous, and he was convinced that the deceased came to the conclusion that the stones should be taken altered because he thought they were dangerous.

Mr. Shakespeare during his argument seemed disturbed by the noises in the precincts of the. court, said "I am sorry, Sir, but your Court is a horrible one."

His Honour : Go on, go on.

Mr. Shakespeare : Well, perhaps you don't notice it as I do.

Later someone stirred in the Court, and Mr. Shakespeare remarked : Oh. those creaky boots.

Mr. Shakespeare argued that in this case there was no emergency prior to the accident.

His Honour : Except that the man had general discretion to work the quarry. This man had a right to use the cavern. If there was a danger, had the man a right to remove the danger ?

After the luncheon adjournment Mr. Shakespeare said he had thought the matter over, and could not carry the matter further.

His Honour asked if there was any means of ascertaining the date of a conversation between Mr. Jones and the deceased, and eventually Mr. Shakespeare vouchsafed the information that it was fortnight or three weeks before the accident.

His Honour then gave his award. He pointed out various other constructions which Mr. Jones's instruction to the deceased might bear besides the one put upon it Mr. Shakespeare. For instance it might not have meant a total prohibition against Davidge touching the prop, but it might only have meant that he should defer doing it to a time when other work was slack. Davedge was a practical man, and had more experience than his master, and he was entrusted, together with Francis, with the general management of the quarry. Mr. Jones admitted that the danger existed, it was plainly an increasing danger, and three weeks had elapsed since Jones spoke about it to the deceased. He came to the conclusion on all grounds that the accident arose out of and in the course of the man's employment. The award would be £150, with costs on scale B. A sum of £8 10s. was ordered to be paid out to the widow, and the balance banked and paid out at the rate of 10s. a week.

1911 Census

Address – Malt House Cottage Combe Down, Monkton Combe, Somerset.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>Charles</i>	<i>Davidge</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>1875</i>	<i>Quarryman</i>
Florence	Davidge	Wife	Married	Female	36	1875	-
Frederick	Davidge	Son	Single	Male	15	1896	Errand boy
Alice	Davidge	Daughter	-	Female	14	1897	School
John	Davidge	Son	-	Male	12	1899	School
William	Davidge	Son	-	Male	9	1902	School
George	Davidge	Son	-	Male	8	1903	School
Florry	Davidge	Daughter	-	Female	6	1905	School
Clara	Davidge	Daughter	-	Female	2	1909	School
Charles	Mitchell	Visitor	Single	Male	65	1846	Tinworker

July 1913 – Pockeridge Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Somerset Standard – 25 July 1913

LOST IN SOMERSET CAVES – UNDERGROUND EXPLORERS' EXPERIENCE

A party of visitors who set out to explore the caverns of Pockeridge Quarry at Corsham, near Bath, lost their way in the underground passages from which the Bath stone is worked.

Their candles and matches were soon exhausted, and for hours they remained in darkness and afraid to move. Late at night they were rescued through the instrumentality of friends, who became anxious at their prolonged absence and caused a search to be made.

13 May 1914 – Biddestone Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 16 May 1914

QUARRY ACCIDENT

An engine driver named George Savage, of Ford, employed by the Bath and Dorset Quarry Company was admitted to the Bath Royal United Hospital on Wednesday afternoon suffering from a crushed arm. It appears that the man was working underground in the freestone quarry Biddestone, when a block of stone, about a ton in weight, fell from a crane. and caught his arm. He was attended by Dr. Hicks, of Castle Combe. and was brought into Bath by one his fellow workmen. He received further treatment at the hands of Mr. Popham, the house surgeon, and was detained.

17 January 1916 – Odd Down Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 22 January 1916

SERIOUS MISHAP TO AN ODD DOWN MAN

William Norris, a widower, 62 years of age, of Odd Cottages; was taken, to the Royal United Hospital on Monday suffering from a compound fracture of the leg below the knee. Employed as a labourer by Mr. Love at the stone quarry he was driving with a load of stone, and in reaching over the side he

slipped, with the result that a wheel passed over his leg. He was taken to the hospital by Private Lambert, of 5th Dragoon Guards.

8 April 1916 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 8 April 1916 (Extract)

Ralph Allen no doubt made provision for the welfare of the men in his service, and it is somewhat strange that no medical officer was stationed on the Down. Accidents in the underground quarries were, it is admitted of infrequent occurrence and in instance a surgeon to attend the sufferer had to fetched from Bath. It was not till 1786 that a remedy was found. In that year the Casualty Hospital was established on the Lower Borough Walls, and subsequently joined to the Dispensary in Kingsmead Street, formed what is known as the United Hospital. To the first named institution the maimed quarrymen were for years promptly taken. Although ambulances were then unknown a fairly good substitute was found for them. The injured man was laid on a blanket covered hurdle a sheet thrown over him. The hurdle was then raised to the shoulders of four quarrymen, who with quick and measured tread bore their comrade to the Hospital.

31 July 1919 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle & Weekly Gazette – 2 August 1919

ACCIDENT AT CORSHAM.

While Ernest Dyke, age 38, a stone sawyer, employed by Mr. G. Head, of Corsham, was working in a quarry about 4 o'clock on Thursday afternoon a stone fell on his right leg, and badly injured it. Dyke, who lives at Yew Tree Cottage, Priory Street Corsham, was brought into the Royal United Hospital by the Corsham Red Cross ambulance at 6:15, and it was then discovered that he was suffering from a broken leg, necessitating his detention.

8 May 1920 – Limpley Stoke Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 5 May 1919

PLUCKY YOUTH REWARDED

At a meeting the Wiltshire branch of the R.S.P.C.A. at Devizes. on Tuesday, John Linsey Franklin Thomas, aged 15 years, of Batheaston, was presented with the Society's Silver Medal (which is the Society's highest award), for courage displayed in attempting to rescue, on April 14th, an Airedale terrier from a well 70ft. deep in an underground quarry at Limpley Stoke. In spite of his very plucky efforts Thomas was unable to raise the dog out of the water, and I. was with difficulty that he himself was raised from the well.

1 November 1920 – No. 6 Quarry, Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser – 6 November 1920

ACCIDENT

A young man named George North had his toes badly crushed in No. 6 Quarry on Monday morning. He was conveyed from his home, where Dr. A. G. Wood attended to his injuries.

19 December 1920 – Ridge Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 25 December 1920

FROST CAUSES DEATH - BROKEN TROLLEY COUPLING AT CORSHAM

SHOCKING FATALITY AT BATH AND PORTLAND STONE QUARRY

At Corsham on Friday of last week, Dr. Wood held an inquest on the body of William Broad Wootten, who died on Monday from injuries received at the Ridge Quarry. Mr. T. S. Cotterell, of Bath, represented the Ministry of Munitions; Mr. A. Taylor the Bath and Portland Stone Company; and Mr. P. J. Gane the widow.

The evidence adducted went to show that the Ministry of Munitions had control the quarry in conjunction with the Bath and Portland Stone Co. On Monday morning a number of men were at work there loading up munitions, and Wootten and a man named Lodge had loaded up four wagons or trolleys. They removed one load and were removing another preparatory to it being pulled up to the surface when suddenly a trolley which was being lowered came at a furious pace down the rails and smashed into the second load. Lodge was knocked aside and jammed, being injured, but Wootten, who was pushing the truck from behind with Lodge, was literally smashed to pieces; his spine was fractured, as were his thigh and shoulder bone, while his right hand was almost torn off, death being instantaneous.

Evidence of the men engaged on top proved conclusively that there was no jerk in allowing the trolley to descend the cable was not slack, and the regulations as to the as to giving by means of a bell were carried out. A large iron coupling by which the trolley was attached to the cable snapped, so causing the trolley to descend swiftly, but witnesses who examined the coupling were unable to find any flaw in it; it was described in perfect condition. The only reason that the witness could give for the coupling breaking was the frost on Sunday night, and it was contended that this had affected it, though it was admitted that it was uncommon occurrence.

The Coroner said the whole of the regulations seemed to have been carried and the, accident was due to some unfortunate circumstance which would happen now and again. There appeared to be no blame attaching to anybody. His verdict would be that death was due to fracture of the spine, caused by a trolley getting out of control owing to a coupling breaking.

Mr. Cotterell said there was some truth in the theory that frost was largely responsible for affecting the iron of that sort. He expressed sympathy with the relatives, and added that the deceased was very much liked, a perfect workman, and they lost one of best employees they could possibly have.

Mr. Taylor, also expressing sympathy, said deceased had been employed by his company for 20 years. during which time he had been a faithful and conscientious workman.

1911 Census

Address – Pickwick Corsham Wiltshire, Corsham, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head	Marital status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation
<i>William</i>	<i>Wootten</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>1856</i>	<i>Bath stone quarryman ganger</i>
Catherine	Wootten	Wife	Married	Female	52	1859	
William	Wootten	Son	Single	Male	29	1882	Invalid
Henry	Wootten	Son	Single	Male	23	1888	Hairdresser
Frederick	Wootten	Son	Single	Male	21	1890	Bath stone quarryman general
Bessie	Wootten	Daughter		Female	13	1898	
Mabel	Wootten	Daughter		Female	13	1898	School
Elsie	Wootten	Daughter		Female	12	1899	School
Kathleen	Wootten	Daughter		Female	8	1903	

1920's – Kingsdown Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Bath Stone Quarries by Derek Hawkins (2011)*

The wooden stone crane crushed by a major roof fall in Kingsdown quarry, believed to have occurred in the 1920's. The single slab of stone that has fallen from the roof probably weighs about seven tons. Folk legend tells that a quarryman, seriously injured by the fall, was carried to the entrance in a wheelbarrow and, in the absence of an ambulance, was transported to hospital in Bath on the back of a horse drawn stone cart.





Photographs of the crane taken on 13 October 2024 – Alan Gray

[Dimensions of block – Length 4.8m, Width 3.25m, Depth 0.65m. Looking underneath the block, about one metre from the top is a square cut hole, about 20cm square and 15 cm deep, so it shows that the crane was operating in this location when the collapse occurred.]

I visited this area of the mine in February 2025 and accurately measured the fallen rock –

Surface area – 24 sq. metres

Volume – 13.68 cu metres

1 cu m = 35.3 cu ft

13.68 cum = 482.9 cu ft

1 ton = 20 cu ft

Thus the block weighed $482 / 20 = 24$ tons

2 September 1921 – Unnamed Quarry, Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 3 September 1921

ACCIDENT

A young man named F. Barnett had a narrow escape from being killed on Friday, whilst engaged as a “picker” in the quarry near the Harp and Crown, at Gastard, and only the promptness of his fellow workmen saved him from a big fall of the ceiling. One piece badly bruised him, cutting his arm, which

necessitated having some stitches being put in by Dr. A. G. Wood. He was afterwards taken to his home and is going on as well as can be expected.

20 July 1922 – Odd Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 22 July 1922

QUARRYMAN'S INJURIES.

Albert Norris, 22, a quarryman of 25, Magdalen Avenue, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital for injuries to his back and arm by fall of stones Odd Down quarries soon after midday on Thursday. He was not detained.

20 December 1922 – Combe Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 23 December 1922

COMBE DOWN QUARRY MISHAP

MAN INJURED IN CRANE ACCIDENT.

An elderly Combe Down quarryman, William Cease, aged 69, was admitted to the Royal United Hospital suffering on Wednesday, from a scalp wound which he sustained course of his work.

Cease is employed by the Horsecombe Quarry Company at the quarry near the water tank. This morning, about 12 o'clock, he was moving a piece stone with the of crane when one of the guys (as the iron supports which. hold crane upright are called) gave way. As if it caught Cease, who was standing near the crane, on the back the head causing a serious scalp wound.

A motor van. belonging to Messrs. Deverald and Sons of Walcot Street happened to be in the neighbourhood and the driver at once volunteered to take the injured Royal Hospital, where he was detained after being examined. At three o'clock Cease underwent an operation.

28 June 1924 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser – 5 July 1924

BOX – THE LEAP OF DEATH. STORY OF NIGHT JUMP FROM WINDOW.

A verdict of " Death while insane was returned at an inquest held at Cliff Cottage, Box Hill, Box, on Monday by Mr. A. L. Forrester (Coroner for North-West Wilts) on the body of William Victor Barnett, of 2, Tyning Row, Box Hill, Box, who leapt down disused shaft on Saturday afternoon.

6 February 1925 – South Wraxall Quarry (Norbin Quarry), Wiltshire

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 14 February 1925

HEADLONG TO DEATH
INQUEST ON BOX QUARRYMAN WHO FELL DOWN A SHAFT
SEVENTY FEET TO THE BOTTOM

The low roofed sitting room at Norbin Barton Farm, South Wraxall, between Box and Bradford, was the scene on Monday afternoon of the inquest on Herbert Charles Toghill, a quarryman of Lower Wadswick, Box, who met a terrible accident when working at Wraxall Quarry on Friday at midday.

The decessed, aged 48, who leaves a widow and nine children, was working on a staging at the mouth of the shaft, helping to lower a pumping apparatus to the bottom some sixty feet below, when suddenly the structure collapsed and the man slipped headlong into the black chasm. He was engulfed by ten feet or so of water below, and the debris piled upon him.

The inquest was conducted by Mr. A. L. Forrester (Coroner for North and West Wilts.) and a jury was empanelled, Mr. Lionel Rudman being chosen foreman. Mr. A. C. Hillier represented Elm Park and Corsham Down, Bath Stone Company Ltd., by whom the deceased was employed, and Mr. A. W. Shepherd, of Bath, the manager – director of the company was also present. Mr. E. J. White appeared in the interests of the relatives and Mr. H. L. V. Evans, an inspector of Mines, was given a seat next to the Coroner.

The farm at which the inquiry was held is within fifty yards of the quarry where the fatality occurred. It is a lonely spot and exposed to the weather.

Lilly Edith Toghill, widow of the deceased, said that her husband left home at nine o'clock on Friday morning, and she never saw him alive again. He was in the best of health.

Dr. Henry C. Taylor, of Bradford-on-Avon, gave evidence of being summoned to the quarry on the evening of the fatality and examined the dead body of the man. The only signs of external injury were a bruise over the right eye and a graze on the right cheek. He was of the opinion that death was due to drowning.

Mr. Hillier : Was he conscious or unconscious when he reached the bottom? – Witness : It is quite probable that he was unconscious. From the size of the bruise it must have been a severe blow.

Norman Lovel Sheppard, quarry manager for the Elm Park Company, who lives at Stanley House, Manvers Street, Bath, was next called and gave an eyewitness account of the tragedy. He said he was superintending the erection of a pulsometer steam pump at the quarry, and in order to carry out the work it was necessary to have a staging placed across the mouth of the shaft. The staging consisted of two rails, each thirty feet long, laid across the shaft, with "sleepers" placed transversely on the rails to form a platform. The pump was being lowered by a steam crane through an opening in the platform, and it was necessary for a man to stand on the platform and guide the pump through the opening and thence into the shaft. While the pump was being lowered down the shaft the man was also required to fix the up-cast delivery pipe and the steam pipe.

"We had got to the exact moment," said witness, "when the pump was in the course of being lowered through the opening, and Toghill went on to the staging. He had barely got on to the staging, and was about to get the suction pipe through the opening, when the rail farthest from the crane snapped with a loud crack, and Toghill disappeared down the shaft. Immediately I and two others went down ladders as far as we could possibly go, but we could see no sign of him. There was approximately ten to twelve feet of water at the bottom, and the poor chap was pinned under the wreckage."

Witness went on to say that the police were immediately informed, and the body was recovered the same evening, about 6:30.

Can you tell me where the fracture occurred? - The rail broke about eight feet from one end, or six feet from the bearing. Toghill was standing four or five feet further away.

In reply to questions by the Inspector of Mines witness said that the accident occurred at five minutes to twelve, and the deceased fell a distance of roughly sixty feet to the water.

Mr. Hillier : Was the fracture clean – no rust? – Perfectly clean metal.

Walter James Coward, an engineer, of Kingston Road, Bath, who was called in the capacity of an expert, said he had seen one end of the fractured steel rail, and so far as he could see the only solution was that crystallisation had set in, which would make the metal very brittle and liable to break. It was a fracture which could have not been foreseen. He remarked that crystallisation either set in with age or generally with use. Personally, he would have thought the two rails were strong enough for the job, and he did not think the weight they had to bear excessive.

Joseph Bird, of Wadswick, a quarryman, gave evidence of being lowered down the shaft by the crane and recovering the body of the deceased at ten minutes to six by means of grappling irons. He and Toghill had worked together as boys.

After a brief retirement the Jury returned a verdict of “Accidental Death.”

Mr. W. A. Shepard said he wished to express, on behalf of the company, himself, and his son, his sincere sympathy with the relatives.

Source – Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser – 14 February 1925 (Extract)

The Coroner : What is the width of the shaft? – Twenty six feet, span of rail, giving a bearing of two feet each side.

How far apart were the rails? – Approximately four feet.

How many sleepers? – Three each side of the opening. Each ten inches wide and five inches thick. There was a two feet overhang of the sleepers on each side of the rails.

Witness added that the staging was erected about three weeks or a month ago. Another pump had been lowered through this staging previously.

Where did these rails come from? – I believe we took them from another company about four years ago. They were 45lbs. to the yard rails.

Had they been used by you before? – Yes, for the same purpose, several times before.

They had not been used for trolley running in your time? – No.

How old do you think they were? – I couldn't say. They were lowered into position by the crane.

Did anybody make any calculations of the weight they were supposed to carry? – No. But in my opinion the weight on both rails would be about 5 cwt. Without the sleepers, or seven cwt. Altogether, including the weight of the man.

Where was Toghill standing when the rail broke? – I should say between the two rails.

How many men have you ever had on the platform? – There have been five at one time. At one time we have had the pump itself, weighing 5¼ cwt., the suction pipe, weighing nearly 2 cwt., and four men on the staging together.

The Coroner : A total weight of about 14 cwt.? – Yes.

Witness added that they had erected this staging across this shaft six or seven times successfully.

How far was that from where Toghill was standing? – four or five feet, nearer the centre of the shaft.

By the Inspector : The man fell about 60 feet to the water. The rails may have been used for some time before his company took them over. He had no knowledge of the rails having been straightened Before they were used were they subject to any kind of examination? – No.

Do you agree it might have been well if they had? – We were acting on past experience.

The up cast pipe was suspended from one sleeper, and would weigh about 4 cwt.
The Inspector suggested that each sleeper would weigh about 1½ cwt.

Didn't it occur to you that it was a long span for these rails? – Yes, but we had done this six or seven times before with the same rails and sleepers.

Presuming the rails to be the only means of support for the staging, did it not occur to you that you might have used more than two rails? – It did not occur to me.

Were you in your own mind satisfied that the staging was safe and sufficient? – Yes.

Did you go on it yourself? – Yes, frequently.

By Mr. Hillier : He was present when one of the broken ends of the rail was brought to the surface that day, and handed to Mr. Coward for inspection. He saw no rust at all, but the fracture was clean metal. These rails were bigger than were used in quarry tramways. Two men had been on the staging at one time on the morning of the accident. There was no warning whatever of the break.

Mr. White: Was there any sagging of the platform after it was erected? – There was, slight.

Did it sway? – Not noticeably.

Witness added that the rails were on stone on one side, and at the other end bedded in clay.

Source – Western Daily Press – 18 July 1925

Bath Widow's Compensation

In February of this year a workman at the Kingsdown Quarries, named Herbert Taghill, met with a fatal accident by falling through some staging, which collapsed, to the bottom of the quarry.

There was a sequel to this sad accident this week at the Bath County Court, when, on behalf of the widow, who has nine children (several of whom are attending school). an application was made to his Honour Judge Gwynne. James by Mr. E. J. White to apportion £600 paid by the Elm Park and Corsham Down Stone Company, Ltd. The application was granted, and the sum apportioned.

Source – "Tanky " Elms Bath Stone Quarryman

I remember in the early twenties the quarry was full of water, nearly to the top of the shaft. Mr. Sheppard decided to try and pump the water out, by lying rafters across the top of the shaft and fixing a pump on it. A man who was employed on the job was a Mr. Herbert Toghill, tragically killed during the operation. Apparently the stage collapsed throwing him into the water resulting in him drowning. He left a wife and eleven children. I believe he received under £300 compensation – the good old days!

1921 Census

Address – Wadswick Box, Box, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head	Sex	Birth year	Age in years	Occupation
<i>Herbert C #</i>	<i>Toghill</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>1876</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>Engine Driver Stone Cutting</i>
Lily E	Toghill	Wife	Female	1883	37	House Wife
Herbert C	Toghill	Son	Male	1910	11	
Lily E	Toghill	Daughter	Female	1908	12	
Edward G	Toghill	Son	Male	1913	8	
Ernest J	Toghill	Son	Male	1915	6	
Albert J	Toghill	Son	Male	1916	4	
Arthur W	Toghill	Son	Male	1918	3	
Evelyn M	Toghill	Daughter	Female	1920	1	
Violet B	Toghill	Daughter	Female	1920	1	

Employer – Shepherd & Company Free Stone Quarries

23 July 1925 – Wraxhall Quarry, Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser – 25 July 1925

While standing on a stack of stone at Wraxhall Quarry, Corsham., on Thursday morning, Herbert Barnett, of West Wells, Corsham, sustained a fractured collar bone through the stack slipping, and some of the stones falling on him. He was taken to the Royal United Hospital, Bath, but after treatment was able to return home.

19 June 1926 – Odd Down Quarries, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 26 June 1926

Some time on Saturday a cat fell into a disused well, 65 feet deep, at Odd Down. Its cries attracted attention, but rescue seemed to those who became aware of the animal's predicament, to be impracticable, and sympathetic people lowered food in a basket. On Monday morning Mr. H. Norris, who lives at 42, The Oval, Englishcombe Park, and works at Mr. Hallett's quarries at Odd Down, learned of the happening on arriving to begin work, and volunteered to descend the well. He was let down by means of a rope, and duly effected the rescue. In the well was about eight feet of water, but the cat had found a lodgment on a ledge just above the surface.

8 June 1927 – Moor Park Quarry, Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 11 June 1927

On Wednesday Charles Pinnock, of Westwells, who worked at “Kinnicks” complained of not feeling well, and a workmate urged him to go home. He was about to do so when he collapsed and expired almost immediately. All the men left work when it became known that Pinnock was dead.

Source – Some Notable Wiltshire Quarrymen – Free Troglophile Association

Charles (Charley) Pinnock (1866-1927) was a general quarry-man who worked at Moor Park. He collapsed and died at the top of the slope shaft of Moor Park on 8th June 1927. His home was near his work, for he lived at No.8 Westwells, where Herbert Barnett, who married his daughter, now lives.

5 July 1927 – Horescombe Quarries, Combe Down, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 9 July 1927

INJURED AT A QUARRY

Through a stone falling on his hand at Horsecombe Combe Down, on Tuesday afternoon, Frank Franmis sustained crushed fingers. He was taken to the Royal United Hospital by a fellow workman, and his injuries were attended to.

6 July 1927 – Sumsion’s Quarry, Corsham, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser – 9 July 1927

ACCIDENT

Early on Wednesday morning, an alder employee of the Bath and Portland Stone Firms, named Ephraim Chandler, of Atworth, met with a rather serious accident, falling some distance in the workings of Mr. Sumsion’s Quarry, Monks Lane, bruising himself badly and fracturing his left collar bone.

Mr. P. J. Gane, who happened to be at Monks Park at the time, was able to give the necessary first aid, and drive the named man to Dr. Horsfall’s surgery, Corsham, to be treated, previous to taking him home.

3 April 1928 – Elm Park Quarry, Box, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times & Trowbridge Advertiser – 7 April 1928

BOX – ACCIDENT

John Butler (41), a married man of Box Hill, sustained a fractured ankle through being struck by the jib of the crane while working at, Elm Park Quarry, Gastard.

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 7 April 1928

A QUARRYMAN INJURED

While working at the Elm Park Quarry, Corsham, on Tuesday, John Butler, of Box Hill, Box, a married man, aged about 41 years, sustained a fractured leg through the jib of a crane falling on him. Butler, with others, was engaged in working the crane when a rope "jumped," wrenching the handle out of the hands of the men who were working with him, and the jib slipped and fell on him. He received first aid treatment, and was conveyed to the Royal United Hospital in the Corsham Red Cross Ambulance, and was detained.

8 July 1930 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 12 July 1930

HAND IN MACHINERY – LABOURER'S MISHAP IN CORSHAM QUARRIES.

Alfred Archer, 30, a labourer, of Corsham, was working in the Corsham, quarries early on Tuesday, when he caught his hand in some machinery. He was taken to the Bath Royal United Hospital in the Fire Brigade ambulance, but was found to be not badly injured.

30 August 1930 – Box Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Herald – 30 August 1930

LIFETIME IN QUARRIES

CORSHAM RESIDENT RETIRES AFTER 59 YEARS.

How he started work at 6 a.m. and worked all day in a quarry underground for one shilling a week, was related to me by Mr. James Aust, of Priory Street, Corsham, who has just retired after 59 years underground, writes a representative of this paper.

"I was 10 years old when I started work," he said. "We lived at Pool Green, Neston, and had to walk to the Box Hill quarries every morning with my father, who was a quarryman. We worked 11 hours a day underground, and I got a shilling a week, out of which I had to buy my own clothes!"

"Of course, when I got older, my money was 15s. to a week; why, was married before I was 20. Fellows nowadays don't know what work really is. Of course, I should not like to see the old times back again, when youngsters had to go in the quarries. That was scandalous, and about the only thing of any good trade unions ever did was to put a stop to that."

When I asked Mr. Aust if he had ever come across anything interesting during his work he answered me at once.

"I was picking the stone," he told me, "when I noticed a black object embedded in the rock. I managed to get it out, and it proved to be a nut. The shell was crumbly, but the kernel, which was petrified, was perfect. Some experts who examined the nut were amazed at the perfect state of preservation of the kernel, which must have been thousands of years old."

It is a proud boast of Mr. Aust, whose duties included making dangerous spots safe, that He has never met with an accident and has never been responsible for one. He relates, however, the story of a miraculous escape of one of the quarrymen, who was in the habit of staying late at his work. One night,

he decided to get home earlier, and strange to say, that very night a block of stone 28 feet long, 15 feet wide and 5 feet deep, crashed down on to the spot where he would have been working.

Despite his three score years and nine, Mr. Aust is very active, and right up to the day of his retirement he daily walked to the Bath Stone Firm's quarries at Box Hill and back again in the evening.

He is an active member of the Corsham Conservative Association, and a familiar figure at the Parish Church, where he has been a sidesman for over 25 years. He has also been closely associated with the Church Sunday School for 48 years in the capacity of teacher and superintendent.

Their many friends in Corsham and, district will unite in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Aust health and happiness in their new found leisure.

3 March 1932 – Hill's Quarry, Combe Down, Bath

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 5 March 1932

FELL ON HIS HEAD – MISHAP TO BATH QUARRYMAN

A Bath quarryman, while working at Hill Quarry, Combe Down, on Thursday slipped and fell on his head. He is Frederick Morris, aged 31, of 15, Belle, Vue Terrace, Oolite Cottages, Odd Down, and he was found to be suffering from concussion. He was removed in the Fire Brigade Ambulance to the Royal United Hospital, and was detained for observation, although he has recovered consciousness.

27 August 1934 – Spring Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Gloucester Citizen – 28 August 1934

FATAL QUARRY ACCIDENT

Thomas Clark [*Carter*] (50, of Atworth was killed almost instantaneously at Corsham in No. 6 Quarry. Clark was employed as a "picker" by the Bath and Portland Stone Firms Ltd., his job being to "pick a breach" to enable the freestone to be pulled out in blocks.

A block from the ceiling weighing nearly three quarters of a ton fell upon him, while engaged in this work, and as stated he was killed almost instantaneously.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 1 September 1934

ATWORTH QUARRYMAN KILLED AT CORSHAM INSTANT DEATH FROM ROOF FALL FIRST SERIOUS ACCIDENT FOR 32 YEARS

What was described as the first serious accident for over 32 years occurred in the Westwells Quarry at Corsham on Monday, when Thomas Carter, an experience quarryman of Atworth, was instantaneously killed by a fall of stone from the roof of the quarry.

The circumstances of the accident were the subject of an enquiry by Mr. Philip Johnson of Devises (Deputy Coroner) on Wednesday afternoon. The enquiry was held in Mr. A. Dyke's house at Greenhill, Corsham, where 19 adults were crowded together in a small room.

The Coroner was assisted by a jury of seven, of whom Captain H. H. Druitt was chosen as foreman, and among those present were Mr. F. N. Siddall of Bath, one of H. M. Inspectors of Mines, and Mr. H. P. Chaffey, the Works Manager for the Bath and Portland Stone Firms, Ltd., the deceased's employers, who was present in the unavoidable absence of Mr. A. N. Pictor, Manager. Sergeant Perry of Corsham and P. C. Gingell acted as Coroner's officers.

The first witness was Bernard Charles Haines, a quarryman, of Church Street Atworth, who said the deceased, Thomas Carter, was aged 52 and resided at Tetbury Buildings, Atworkth. Deceased had been in the employ of the Bath and Portland Stone Firms for over 40 years. He was what was called a "picker," or "pecker," and his job was to "pick" the breach or joints to enable the blocks of stone to be pulled out. Witness had been apprenticed to Carter, but had not worked under him for about six months. Carter was a careful workman and a fully qualified picker of stone. He had never met with a serious accident before.

Dr. Terry E. Creswell of Corsham, said about 1:45 p.m. on Monday he was called by telephone to the Westwells Quarry and on arrival found the body of a man which had been brought to the surface out of the quarry. He examined the body, but from external appearances it was not easy to ascertain the cause of death, as external marks were not definite. There was an abrasion on the cranium but the cranium was intact. The spine was fractured in the lower region, which would not in itself have caused death. Blood was coming from the nose and mouth, and this lead him to believe that there was a fracture of the base of the skull. Death was instantaneous. In his opinion the cause of death should be : First, coma; second, infra cranial injuries; third, a complicated fracture of the skull. The complicated fracture of the skull caused the infra cranial injuries.

The Foreman : Do you think the block of stone fell definitely upon the man's head or on the back of the neck?

Dr. Cresswell said there was no evidence that the stone fell directly upon the head, or this would have been crushed. There was an abrasion of the skull caused by a scrape. There were no other marks on the head or the neck, but there was a fracture of the spine, which suggested that the man was in a stooping position and subjected to an unusual force on the skull and upper part of the neck, which caused the fracture of the base of the skull by falling a great height on to one's feet. The shock of the fall would fracture the skull, which might not actually be struck externally. In other words the fracture was caused by indirect pressure from above.

At the request of the Coroner the medical witness further explained the nature of the injuries and said coma was a state of complete unconsciousness which immediately proceeded death.

Alfred Charles May, Priory Street, Corsham, said he was a ganger [*the foreman of a gang of labourers*] quarryman in the employ of the Bath and Portland Stone Firm Ltd., at Westwells quarry. He had been so employed for 32 years and for 20 years he had been a ganger. On Monday, August 27, Carter was cleaning a piece of stone 7 feet by 6 feet. He was pecking in as far as he could reach with his pecking iron over the top of the piece of stone and underneath the roof of the quarry. Witness was in charge of the work Carter was doing and was working in another bed of rock about six yards away when at about 12:30 mid-day he heard a "thud" and running across saw Carter under the block of stone Carter was "picking." The stone, which was across Carter's head weighed about 25 cwt. Carter was dead. Witness looked up into the roof and saw the hole from which the stone had fallen. Witness had inspected the roof and place before the job was started, and then there were no faults visible in the roof leading him to suspect it was anything but just an ordinary job. There had been no suspicion of the roof stone moving, and in his opinion, after 32 years in the quarry, the accident was inevitable.

Replying to the Mines Inspector, the witness said if there had been any suspicion of the roof not being safe they would have got this block of stone down by the wedge and chips before any of the loose stone had been picked out.

The Coroner : During the 32 years you have been there has there been a fatal accident in that quarry? – Not in that quarry, and in fact there had not been any serious accidents there at all.

Mr. Siddall (H. M. Inspector) asked the witness how many times he had inspected the particular place.

Witness said he had examined the place at 8 o'clock in the morning before any work was started and again at 10:15 just as he came back from lunch and at 11 o'clock Carter said himself that everything was all right.

Although you are a ganger, Carter himself was responsible for his own safety, and being an experienced man he would know from his own sounding if the roof was safe? – Yes sir, If a picker doesn't know when the roof is safe no one else does. A ganger has to rely upon the picker to know the roof is safe.

In the particular part of the quarry the roof is considered pretty good, and it was not necessary to set any timber to it? – No, sir.

And in that part of the quarry you do not use the wood wedge? – No; it is not necessary to use any timber.

If there had been any necessity to use timber props, you had an ample supply I suppose? – You were not short of props at all? – No; we could always get plenty of sticks if we wanted them.

When you came to look at the back of the stone which had fallen you found a brown rent or crack? – That is so; but it could not be seen until the stone had fallen. The witness added that the stone did not give any warning before it fell. It came out and forced the man into a crouching position, but there was hardly any weight upon him.

The Inspector : In your opinion the invisible rent was the cause of the stone falling? – Undoubtedly.

In reply to the foreman the witness said it was the rule for a picker to test the roof with his iron first thing in the morning before he started work, and again occasionally during the day. Every good picker did that, and he saw Carter sound the roof at the very spot where the stone eventually fell.

The Foreman : I take it there has been no need to use props in this particular gallery. Would it be possible to erect a canopy over the picker? Would this make it safe?

Witness said the picker would not have room to work and one could not put up a canopy. If the picker had found the roof unsafe or he had any suspicions of it being unsafe they would have put in the wedge and chips and brought the stone down.

The Coroner : Are there any sections of the quarries where you do use props? – Oh yes; where we consider it unsafe, but this particular section is supposed to have a very sound roof without the necessity of props.

The Coroner asked the Inspector if he was satisfied with the way the work was carried on in the quarry and if the quarry was carefully watched with regard to the safety of the workmen.

The Inspector said during the seven years he had been connected with the company there had not been a single accident in any of the quarries of the same company and every precaution was taken. It was

very interesting how the men sounded the roofs and tested them as to safety, and it was uncanny how they could discover any suspicion of unsafeness. He knew of two men who were stone deaf and yet by their sounding irons they could tell immediately if there was any trouble with the roof.

In his summing up, the Deputy Coroner said the jury had heard all the evidence in that unfortunate and very rare accident in that district. They had heard the evidence of the doctor, and of the witness May, who had 32 years' experience of work in the quarry, and they had had the great benefit of Mr. Siddall's experience and his plans and sketches. It was the duty of the jury to say whether the accident was unavoidable or if there had been negligence on anyone's part. If they thought so, it was their duty to say so, but gross negligence was a very serious matter, and the jury would have to give the question very serious consideration before they could give any finding of gross negligence. It must be criminal negligence, and he could see nothing which would lead him to think there had been any negligence of any kind. To him it appeared one of those unfortunate accidents which they sometimes met with despite all the good management and the fact that everything had been done for the safety of the workers. It appeared that there was a fault in the piece of stone which could not be seen. It was like having a fault in a piece of wood which could not be seen until there was a fracture, and then it led to a terrible tragedy.

The Foreman of the jury were satisfied this was a pure accident, with no blame attaching to anybody. The jury would like to express their sympathy with the widow and other relatives and also with the Management of the Bath and Portland Stone Company and the other men in the gang who worked with the deceased. They would also like to give their fee to his widow.

The Deputy Coroner added his sympathy and Mr. Chaffey, on behalf of his firm, asked to be associated with the message of sympathy.

The Coroner then returned a verdict of accidental death.

1921 Census

Address – Tetbury Bdgs, Atworth, Wiltshire.

First name(s)	Last name	Relationship to head	Sex	Birth year	Age in years	Employer
<i>Tom</i>	<i>Carter</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>1882</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>Bath And Portland Stone Co Ltd</i>
Elizabeth	Carter	Wife	Female	1882	39	-
Thomas	Carter	Father	Male	1853	68	H Webb Farmer
William G	Carter	Son	Male	1913	8	-
Edward John	Carter	Son	Male	1916	4	-

September 1934 – Wraxall Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – *Western Daily Press* – 17 September 1934

CORSHAM – QUARRY ACCIDENT.

Thomas S. Lodge a quarry worker, at Kingsdown, and living in the Council Houses, Corsham, was seriously injured when a pin broke and allowed a crane to fall. Some difficulty was experienced in

getting the injured man out as he had to be hoisted up two ladders by means of ropes. He was conveyed to the hospital.

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 22 September 1934

CRANE FELL ON HIM – CORSHAM MAN INJURED IN WRAXALL QUARRY

Thomas Sidney Lodge (25), Council Houses, Corsham, was seriously hurt when a crane fell upon him while he was working in the Wraxall Quarry, between Kingsdown and South Wraxall belonging to the Bath and Portland Stone Firms, Ltd. Ropes had to be used to get him up the shaft. His collar bone was broken, his shoulder damaged and there were other injuries.

25 May 1935 – Hampton Rocks Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 25 May 1935

300 – HAMPTON DOWN

In reply to "Bathonian," stone was quarried up to about 50 years ago at Hampton Down. At the time when the trade there was diminishing, it was understood that the stone was too full of fossils. The quarries extended back from Bathwick Hill and the neighbourhood of Sham Castle. A tramroad ran down the side of the hill to Dry Arch on the Warminster Road to convey the stone to the Kennet and Avon Canal for transport. The arch was constructed for this purpose.

June 1935 – South Wraxall Quarry (Norbin Quarry), Wiltshire

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle & Herald – 29 June 1935

THRILLING ESCAPE FROM FLOODED WILTS QUARRY SHAFT THOUSANDS OF TONS OF WATER POUR DOWN ON ELEVEN WORKMEN

Eleven men employed in the Bath and Portland Stone Firms quarry at South Wraxall had a thrilling experience in escaping from the workings 90 ft. deep when the quarry was flooded in the great storm. Thousands of tons of water, forming a stream 10 ft. wide, poured down upon them, and before they realised what was happening they stood knee deep in the water. Then they commenced a perilous climb to the surface, and when the last one - a man of 66 - reached the top he was almost up to his neck in water.

The force of the inrush of water was so great that it made a huge crack in the solid rock.

The men who belonged to three gangs, are:-

Chas Sheppard (ganger), Cecil and Victor Sheppard, Kingsdown; Herbert T Caaney (ganger), Jack Caaney and Frank Hilton, South Wraxall, Tom Taylor, Monkton Farleigh; Roger Lodge (ganger) Ernest and William Lodge, Neston and Leslie Poolman, South Wraxall. Taylor and Poolman were attached to two gangs as pickers. The three gangers are the fathers of the other men of the same name.

The quarry which lies between the South Wraxall and Kingsdown Golf Course, contains the only straight shaft in the district. The workings are reached by descending four ladders, each with a platform between them. A steam crane is used to hoist the stone to the surface, and, for use in emergency, a hand

worked crane containing a large wooden box that can be lowered to the bottom of the shaft to bring up the workers if anything goes wrong with the ladders, is also provided. The afternoon shift, starting at two o'clock, had been in progress about an hour, and the men, who were working 100 yards from the shaft bottom, heard nothing of the great storm raging over-head, because of the noise created by their own labour. The only intimation of anything unusual to reach them was the falling of water down the shaft, which led Victor Sheppard to remark to his brother, "I'll bet it's raining on top" Sheppard walked to the shaft to see what was happening and shouted back to his comrades that the water was "rushing down the underground trolley road like a river".

A few minutes later, Mr Sheppard, senior, advised the men to go up to the surface. The first to obey that direction was Cecil Sheppard, and what befell him and subsequently, his fellow workers, is best described in Sheppard's own words.

"When I reached the bottom of the shaft", he told a representative of this paper, "water was pouring down at the rate of thousands of gallons per minute. It was like a miniature Niagara".

"Thinking it might cease and not knowing what had happened above, we waited for almost half an hour, but it gradually got worse."

"Although the water had a clear run downhill, 10 ft. wide, it rose to a depth above our knees in less than 15 minutes."

"That was what alarmed us and caused us to make tracks for the ladders and resolve to chance our luck at getting to the surface, although it seemed an impossible feat."

"I told my brother that if it was at all possible, I was going to make a bold bid to get up". "I climbed step by step to the middle landing with great difficulty, and had to stop there for a 'breather' I then tackled the other half of the shaft. By this time the force of the water was so great that time after time, it nearly swilled me off the ladder. I could see nothing at all, and had the greatest difficulty even to breathe."

Sheppard managed to reach the top, but when he saw torrents of water pouring down the shaft "like a mill race" he thought it would be absolutely impossible for the older men to follow. By tremendous efforts, however, they succeeded, though Mr Sheppard senior who is 70, was twice nearly forced to surrender his grip on the ladder, his only hope of reaching the safety zone.

Another elderly employee, Mr R Lodge who is 66 was last to leave the quarry. It was proposed to lower the emergency crane and assist him, but, owing to the noise, news of the intention did not reach them before he had made the perilous climb, during which he was in extreme danger from the large stones that the water was hurling down the shaft. When Mr Lodge finally left the quarry, the water was almost up to his neck and very soon after the entire workings were flooded. An idea of the force of the water may be gained by the fact that it was strong enough to create a hole a foot deep in a slab of solid rock jutting out from the side of the shaft, which is used as a platform halfway down. "It was a terrifying experience" Cecil Sheppard declared, adding that if he thought he had to go through it again, he would never descend the quarry. Except for shock and slight injury to Mr Lodge's leg where a piece of stone struck him, the men are none the worse for the adventure, and were engaged in various kinds of surface work when our representative called at the quarry. Not until the water has subsided underground will it be possible for them to resume their normal work.

14 April 1936 – Horsecombe Quarries, Odd Down, Bath

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 18 April 1936

QUARRY ACCIDENT

One of the cranes at Horsecombe Quarries, Odd Down, broke on Tuesday, and a falling guy caught one of the employee's, Charles Nowell, aged 30, on the back, throwing him to the ground.

He was taken to the Royal United Hospital where it was found that he had sustained injuries to his shoulder.

Mr. Sowell lives at 21, Roundhill Grove Southdown.

4 May 1936 – Hudswell Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 9 May 1936

CRANE ACCIDENT

A number of men had a narrow escape on Monday at Hudswell Quarry, where stone is being pulled (for the first time, we believe, since before the War), and travelling crane recently erected and weighing altogether over 30 tons, fell over on its side. Fortunately it fell clear of the workmen.

31 May 1936 – Monkton Farleigh Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror – 1 June 1936

MASTER AND SCHOOLBOYS LOST IN QUARRY SEARCH PARTY FINDS THEM IN WORKINGS

Four boys and a master of Kingswood Junior School, near Bath, were rescued early yesterday from some old quarry workings in which they had become lost at Monkton Farleigh, Wiltshire.

When their one electric torch burned out they lit a fire and waited for daybreak.

They set out by car on Sunday afternoon and a search of the district began when they had not returned by midnight.

The discovery of their car near the entrance to the quarry and smoke from one of the workings guided the searchers to the party, who were very hungry.

21 December 1936 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 24 December 1936

FELL DOWN MANHOLE

WIDCOMBE MAN INJURED AT CORSHAM

While working at Corsham quarries on Monday H. Ashcroft; of 9, Waterloo Buildings, Widcombe, Bath, fell down a manhole, sustaining injuries which will necessitate his spending Christmas in hospital. He was extricated with considerable difficulty, and when he had been brought to the surface it was discovered that an arm and a leg were fractured.

He was removed to the Royal United Hospital at Bath in the Chippenham ambulance, and detained.

25 December 1936 – Hartham Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 26 December 1936

An accident occurred at the Hartham Park Stone Company's Quarry on Friday, when a workman Mr. C. Bond of Priory Street, fractured his wrist. First aid was rendered by his colleagues and Mr. Bond is progressing favourably.

3 February 1938 – Ridge Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 5 February 1938

CORSHAM WORKER'S FATAL SLIP CRUSHED BY CAGE AT FOOT OF SHAFT

The first fatality since Government work started in the R.E. depot at the Corsham quarries occurred on Thursday afternoon, when a local young married man was crushed by a cage the Ridge Quarry.

The victim of the accident was William Reed, of 10, Pickwick, formerly a farm worker. who left agricultural employment some 18 months ago for a new job at the quarries.

It is understood he was standing at the foot of the shaft at Ridge Quarry on Thursday afternoon, when a cage was descending some 80 or 90 feet. He saw it coming but as he stepped back to get out of its way his feet slid from under him and he fell on his back beneath it. He was terribly crushed and realising his condition he asked his mates to send for his relatives. This was done and he passed away soon afterwards.

The body was taken to the mortuary which is only a few yards from the residence of his father, mother and sister. He leaves a wife but no family.

Reed served in the R.F.A. in Palestine. He was a member of the local branch of the British Legion, and served on its committee for several years, giving up at the last annual election owing to his work.

The inquest will be held at 12.30 today at Corsham, probably by the Wilts Coroner (Mr. Harold Dale).

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 12 February 1938

CORSHAM WORKS FATALITIES INQUEST STORY OF BELL THAT WAS NOT HEARD MEN CRUSHED TO DEATH

The cause of death of two men who received terrible injuries in accident on successive days at the Government works at Corsham was investigated by the Wiltshire Coroner (Mr. Harold Dale) at Corsham Town Hall on Saturday.

It was a tragic coincidence that in each case the victims received fatal injuries through being crushed.

The dead men were –

Isaac William George Reed (36). Pickwick, Corsham, whose death took place on Thursday afternoon; and Frederick Cornish (45), Velly Hill, Corsham, a native of Wells, who died on Friday.

H.M. Inspector of Mines. Mr. Siddall, sat next to the Coroner. Mr. Frank Quick J.P., district organiser of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers was also present, Mr. W. F Long. Bath, represented the War Office. and Mr. C. R. P. Gilshenan, Bath, appeared for the relatives.

In the first inquest it was revealed that Reed was crushed by a cage at the bottom of a shaft and questions were asked about a bell, which did not ring.

Isaac George Henry Reed. Spring Gardens, Corsham. father of the first named victim. said that his son was a married man with no children and had been employed at the quarries about 18 months. His health was "practically all right," and he was strong with good eyes and hearing.

Captain Harold Percy Dray son, Royal Engineers, Ridge Quarry, Corsham, produced a plan of the workings there. He said the workings were 80ft. below the surface of the ground.

At the time of the accident there was a load of cement coming down a shaft. The deceased was a member of a concrete pump gang and one of his duties was to inspect the concrete pipe line during "blowing out" operations.

The floor of the quarry was composed of Bath stone debris, which was wet in the neighbourhood of the shaft

Reed was walking down the passage tapping the concrete pipes.

Mr. Siddall : The works are entirely under the jurisdiction of the War Office and therefore no civilian law really applies to it?

Witness : I cannot answer that.

Mr. Siddall : You cannot know that the Mines Department have refused to take any responsibility and that, although we have been asked for advice, we have no legal standing in the quarry.

In answer to Mr. Gilshenan, Captain Drayson said the surface of the shaft was one on which it was easy to slip

Ernest Harold Lambert, Pickwick Road, Corsham, a foreman at the quarry, said Reed had been working under him since November, doing the same work all the time.

There was a bell at the top of the shaft which was rung when the cage was about to descend, and which should have been answered by another bell at the bottom to say it was all clear. This time the bell did not ring and he saw Reed slip.

He did not see the shaft cage come down. There was no warning that it was coming down and there was no noise until it reached the bottom.

The Coroner : Neither you nor Reed would walk along the bottom of the shaft?

Witness : It's suicide, sir!

Witness continued that when Reed slipped he fell on his right side and the cage came down on his left shoulder, crushing him.

Two men at the bottom of the shaft shouted up to stop the cage going any further, but it was too late, it was right at the bottom.

Reed was conscious but did not say what had happened to him. He said he could not breathe and complained that his legs hurt.

Witness added that this was the first day Reed had worked in this particular shaft.

In answer to Mr. Long, he said that Reed knew the shaft quite well, in spite of this.

Mr. Quick : Do you know why the bell did not ring on this occasion?

Witness : No, sir. It was nothing to do with me.

Mr. Long : Those bells are not meant to be a general warning to the quarry? – No sir

John James, Snow Hill, Bath, a quarry shaft "on-setter," said he saw Reed coming at the back of the shaft and saw him slipping, but he did not see the cage come down until he heard other men shouting.

Frank Henry Kilminster, Albany Road, Twerton, Bath, who was also employed at the bottom of the shaft, said that when a shaft [*cage*] came down a bell would be rung and they would wait for a reply.

On Thursday there were two skips at the bottom of the shaft. He put one in the cage, rang the bell, and while it was on its way up he had orders to stand away owing to pipe clearing operation's.

The noise of the pipe clearing would probably have drowned the noise of the warning bell.

Colonel Michael White, medical officer at the Royal Engineer's Works at Corsham said Reed had a fracture of the spine, a fracture of the right collar bone ' and some bruises in the back. These were the chief causes of death

The Coroner said 'it was a coincidence that the "blowing off" and the cage moving should, have been going on at the same time.

After retiring, the returned a verdict of "Accidental death." expressing sympathy with the widow.

Mr. Siddall then addressed the jury, stating that although the quarry had no legal obligation to do so, they had consulted his department and the quarry was meticulously carried on.

Mr. Gilshenan said it was realised that it was an unfortunate accident in spite of every precaution, and Mr. Quick said the Unions were very satisfied with the way the quarries were carried on.

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 12 February 1938

QUARRY FATALITIES – CORSHAM ACCIDENTS INVESTIGATED BY THE CORONER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DESCRIBED

Two fatal accidents in the War Department's quarries at Corsham on successive days were investigated by the Wiltshire Coroner (Mr. H. Dale) at inquests held in the Corsham Town Hall on Saturday. The safety precautions taken in the quarries were described, and it was stated that the two accidents were the first that had happened in the quarries since the War Department took over.

The death of the first, man, Isaac William Reed, who was crushed by a descending cage on Thursday, was said to have occurred in a set of circumstances that might never occur again ; while that of the other man, Frederick Cornish, who was crushed against a pillar by his Diesel Locomotive, happened

when he was asked to move his engine a few yards, and instead of getting on his engine to do so he manipulated the levers by walking alongside.

The War Department was represented by Mr. W. F. Long, and Mr. F. N. Siddall, H.M. Inspector of Mines, sat by the Coroner. Mr. C. L. P. Gilshenan represented the relatives of Reed, whilst the proceedings were watched by Messrs. Frank Quick, J.P., and James G. Tucker, district organisers of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers. Col. Minnis, Commanding Officer, Royal Engineers, at Corsham, was also present.

Both fatalities happened at Eastleys Quarry.

Evidence of identification in the first inquest, that on Isaac William Reed, was given by his father, Isaac George Henry Reed, of Spring Gardens, Corsham, who said his son was 36 years of age, married with no children, and lived at 10, Pickwick. He had been employed at the quarries for about 18 months, and his eyesight and hearing were good.

A description of the workings was given by Capt. H. P. Grayson, of the Royal Engineers, who, by means of plans, showed how the shaft in Eastleys Quarry ran vertically from the surface to the workings, which were 80 ft. down. There were two cages in the shaft, which was used for evacuating stone and taking down material, and as one cage ascended the other descended. At the bottom there were tram-rails into the cages. No workman was allowed to walk under the shaft, but had to walk round through a passage. There were two "onsetters" responsible for filling the cages, and the workmen were warned to keep clear.

At the time of the accident there was a concrete pump being used for pumping concrete through pipes, and it was Reed's duty, as pump driver, to go round to knock the pipes when they were being "blown through" with compressed air to remove all the concrete. At the time the pipes were being blown through all the other workmen were warned to keep clear because of the danger of the pipe moving on bends. Reed had been employed at the quarries since September, 1936, being transferred to Eastleys Quarry on October 25, 1937.

Describing the conditions at the bottom of the shaft, Capt. Grayson said the floor of the workings was comprised of compacted Bath stone debris, but, because of the draining in of surface-water down the shaft, the neighbourhood of the shaft was wet. In the normal course of his duties in clearing the pipe, Reed would walk round the bottom of the shaft through the passage, which was 4 ft. wide. There was a slight well, about 6 ins. deep, at the bottom of the shaft to enable the cage rails to be flush with the other rails.

Mr. Siddall : You are a captain of the Royal Engineers and these works are entirely under the jurisdiction of the War Office? – Yes.

So no civilian law really applies to it? – I am not in a position to say that.

You know that the Mines Department have refused to take any responsibility. That, although we have been asked, and do, give advice, we have no legal standing in your quarry? – I believe that is the case.

Mr. Long : You have not been served with any of the Statutory Notices to display in your offices or in the quarries? – No.

Answering Mr. Gilshenan, witness said it would not, be inaccurate to describe it as a treacherous surface in the neighbourhood of the shaft.

Answering the foreman of the jury, he said Reed was wearing rubber boots, which would be more liable to slip than ordinary boots. The gates at the bottom of the shaft were not closed on that occasion, and one had been removed because of work in the neighbourhood.

The Foreman : Had the gate been shut would it have prevented him from crossing? – It should have, but he might have slipped under the gates.

Answering a further question by Mr. Gilshenan, witness said the cages moved very slowly, taking from 10 to 15 seconds to descend the 80 ft. shaft.

Ernest Harold Lambert, of 59, Pickwick Road, deputy foreman on the cement machine and piping, said Reed was a machine operator, and had been under him since November last. On that Thursday warning was given to everyone in the vicinity of the concrete pipe to keep clear, as it was being blown through. They had just disconnected the farthest end of the pipe, and Reed was walking back to the machine. The last, witness saw of him was when he was walking round the shaft. Witness did not know the cages were working. They had been working all morning, but at the time they blew out the pipe he did not know they were still working.

Explaining the working of the cages, Lambert said there was a bell at the top of the shaft and one at the bottom. The man at the top rang his bell before a cage was sent down, and the man at the bottom rang his to show all was clear. The man at the bottom had, on this occasion, been cleared away because of the blowing through of the concrete pipes.

The Coroner : Did you hear the bell at all ? – No ; the bells did not ring.

Lambert continued : I saw him slip when he went round the corner. I was about 10 or 20 yards behind him, but I did not see the shaft lift come down.

The Coroner : Did you hear the noise of it at all? – Not till it reached the bottom.

Neither you nor Reed would walk under the shaft? – It would be suicide.

When he got up to the shaft Reed was under the cage, and he was lying partly on his side and partly on his back. His left side was under the cage, and it appeared to witness as though he had tried to keep his balance and gone right over. There were then two men at the bottom of the shaft and they shouted up to stop the cage going any further to see if they could stop it going right to the bottom, but was too late. The winch-driver pulled the cage up, and they got Reed out. He was conscious, but did not say what had happened. He simply said he could not, breathe, and he complained his legs hurt him. It was the first time Reed had worked in that particular spot.

Mr. Long : He knew this shaft quite well, through being in and out of the quarry? – Admitted.

The quarry was well lit? – Yes.

Mr. Gilshenan : If it was the first time he had worked in that particular spot he would not know the lie of the land very well? – No.

Mr. Gilshenan : He was carrying on his job in the ordinary way? – He was a good man.

Replying to Mr. Quick, witness said he did not hear the cage descending, and the bell was not rung. He did not know why the bell was not rung ; it was nothing to do with him.

Answering the Foreman, witness said the gate on the side where Reed fell had been removed.

By Mr. Long : The bells were not rung as a warning, but simply for the convenience of the men working the cages.

John James, of Bath, quarry on-setter, said his job was the bottom of the shaft, sending the skips up. On that Thursday he was given a warning that the concrete pipes were being blown through, and he went back to the rail points. He saw Reed coming down by the back of the shaft and saw him slip. He saw nothing more of him. He (witness) was behind a skip, and he did not hear any bell rung before the cage came down.

How he would have been standing in the position where Reed slipped had it not been that he had to clear out because of the blowing through of the concrete pipes, was described by Frank Henry Kilminster, of Twerton, Bath, who said he was employed at the bottom of the shaft. His job was to put the full skips in the cage and ring the bell. On the Thursday he had put in a skip and rung the bell. and was then given warning to keep clear because of the concrete pipes. The cages had started to move, and he went about 20 yards away round the corner. Where Reed slipped was muddy, and had not the warning been given witness would have been standing there himself.

Answering H.M. Inspector of Mines, Kilminster said the blowing out of the pipes made a noise, and it would have hidden the sound of the bell. When he rung the bell at the bottom the man at the top did not necessarily move the cage straight away ; he could move it in, say, five minutes.

In answer to the Foreman, witness said that on this occasion it was about five minutes before the cages were moved.

Col. Michael White, medical officer in charge of the R. E. Works, Corsham, said Reed was brought into the medical reception station at about 1.30 p.m. on Thursday. He was then dead. His injuries included a fractured spine, and there was also a fractured collar- bone and bruises on the back.

Summing-up. the Coroner said Kilminster had told them that before the gang was cleared away because of the blowing through of the concrete pipes, he had rung the bell to raise the skips. Then the blowing through of the pipes would probably have drowned any sound of the bell at the top. It was a coincidence that the blowing through and the moving of the cage should have happened just at the same time. If it had not happened Kilminster would have been at the bottom of the shaft. They had heard that Reed was the only man allowed to be there, and the jury would probably find that he accidentally slipped in the shaft under the cage which came down, causing injuries from which he died. It was one of those coincidences which would probably never happen again, and whatever precautions were taken there must always be such occasions, though probably the organisation might be perfected so as not to allow the same thing to happen again.

In returning their verdict of “Accidental death,” the jury expressed sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.

Mr. Siddall said he would like to explain that, although the Mines Department had no authority and there was no legal responsibility on Colonel Minnis, the advice and assistance of the Department had been sought by Colonel Minnis in order that any regulations which were made for the safety and well-being of miners should be carried out in the Corsham quarries. He (Mr. Siddall) could say he had found on his inspections that those regulations were being rigidly observed in the provision of appliances and in the general working of the quarries. He could say from his own observance that the working in the quarries was meticulously carried out so far as the regulations which applied to mines were concerned.

Mr. Long, on behalf of Col. Minnis, expressed sincerest sympathy with the widow, and the Coroner said it was satisfactory to know the Mines Department took an interest, and those in charge were carrying out the regulations, though they were not bound to do so.

Appreciation of the expressions of sympathy was voiced by Mr. Gilshenan on behalf of the relatives, and Mr. Quick said he was satisfied the management had tried to do every-thing possible to avoid such accidents. He also expressed sympathy with the widow.

The Coroner then conducted the second inquest, into the death of Frederick Cornish, who was crushed the previous day by his locomotive.

Alfred Cornish, of Wookey Hole, Somerset, identified the deceased, who was his brother, aged 43, of Cotesley, near Wells, was married, and came to work at Corsham in June last year.

Thomas Shroll, of Bath, a winch driver at Eastleys Quarry, said that at 8.30 a.m. on Friday Cornish's engine was practically opposite his winch, and he asked him to move the locomotive so that he could pull up a couple of skips. Cornish stood at the side of his loco and just got hold of the gears and moved it a couple of yards, walking by the side of it. Witness walked across and had just turned round when he saw Cornish pinned against a pillar. Witness thought he must have let the loco go a little too far and got pinned there with the back of the skip.

By Mr. Long : It was the practice of a driver to get on his loco before he started it.

By Mr. Quick : There was no clearance between the loco and skip and the pillar.

By the Inspector of Mines: There was plenty of room the other side.

Denis Edward Loney, quarry foreman, of Bath, told how he ran to the Diesel engine and applied the brake, which was then only half on. The loco was " just creeping," very, very slowly, and witness jumped on and put it in reverse to release Cornish. As soon as he was released Cornish collapsed. It was possible to move the loco from the side without getting on. Cornish had been on the loco for some months.

Col. Michael White said that when he saw Cornish at 9.50 a.m. he was dead. The cause of death was shock following internal injuries.

The Coroner, summing up, said that Cornish, when asked by the winch man to move the engine on, probably took the line of least resistance and started it off by walking by the side of it.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

Expressing sympathy with the relatives of Cornish. Mr. Quick said they had known him as a member of the Union for a long time. and he had been one of their secretaries.

Mr. Long expressed Col. Minnis's sincerest sympathy.

Mr. E. A. Cornish, thanking those who had expressed sympathy, said his brother had always spoken very highly indeed of his superiors.

Speaking as head of the Welfare Committee, Col. Minnis explained there was a fund derived from the profits of the canteen, which the men managed themselves, and from that fund they would do all that was possible to help the two widows. He would also like to say, and Capt. Grayson had asked him to say, they were particularly sorry about the two men, as they were two of their best workmen.

4 February 1938 – East Leaze Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Western Daily Press – 5 February 1938

ANOTHER FATAL ACCIDENT AT CORSHAM STONE QUARRY ENGINE DRIVER CRUSHED TO DEATH AGAINST STONE PILLAR SECOND TRAGEDY IN TWO DAYS

Yesterday morning Mr. Fred Cornish (40), who lodged at Gastard, Corsham, and was employed as the driver of one of the engines running under ground at Eastley's Ridge Quarry, Corsham, met with fatal accident.

It stated that he had dismounted from his engine where it went round a curve in the line. At this spot there is very little room between the engine and the stone pillars which hold the roof up, and he is believed to have been caught between the engine and a pillar, and crushed to death.

Cornish married man with a 17-year-old daughter, and his home was at Coxley. He served during the Great War. While at Corsham he had taken an active part in trade union affairs.

The quarry has immune from serious accident for nearly two years.

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 5 February 1938

The inquest on Frederick Cornish whom the Coroner described as a locomotive driver at the East Leaze quarry, was taken next.

Esmond Alfred Cornish, Wookey Hole, Somerset, said deceased was his brother. He was a married man, 43 years of age. He came to work at Corsham in June, his home being at, Wells.

Thomas Shroll, Snow Hill, Bath, said he was a winch driver. He asked deceased to pull the locomotive to draw up couple of skips. Deceased stood at the side of the locomotive and moved it a couple of yards, walking along by the side of it.

Deceased must have let the locomotive go a bit too far and got pinned in the skip attached to the locomotive and a pillar. Witness shouted and held deceased while someone released the locomotive.

Dennis Lowey, Prospect Buildings, Bath, quarry superintendent, said he ran up, braked the locomotive, and released Cornish. There was no room between the skip and the locomotive but plenty on the other side. The gears could be worked by walking by the side. Cornish had been working on the locomotive several months in East Leaze quarry. The controls were in the front.

Dr Michael White, medical officer at the War Department works, Corsham said he examined Cornish at 9.50 p.m. on Friday. There was bruising of the left wall of the chest and various abrasions. The cause of death was shock following internal injuries.

Without retiring, the jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental death.'

Expressing the sympathy of the War Department Corsham, with the relatives. Mr. W F. Long said it was very hard that after having done so much without injury there should have been those two dreadful fatalities on successive days.

Mr. Quick added the sympathy of his organisation, who, he said, were particularly sorry to lose Cornish. He had been a valuable member for many years, and also a branch secretary.

Col Minnis, Commanding Officer R.E., Corsham, said the men were two of the best they had. and they were deeply sorry about it. He mentioned that there was a fund derived from the profits and he promised that the very best would be done to help the widows out of that fund.

19 April 1938 – Horsecombe Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 23 April 1938

BATH MANHURT FALL WHILE WORKING AT HORSECOMBE QUARRIES

While working at Horsecombe Quarries, Odd Down, Bath, on Tuesday Mr. J. Roberts, of 4, Belle Vue Buildings, Lansdown Road, Bath, fell and dislocated an ankle, and it is feared he also broke a bone in the foot.

He was removed in the ambulance to the Royal United Hospital.

1 June 1938 – Horsecombe Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath & Wilts Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 3 June 1938

QUARRYMAN HURT BATH MAN CUTS HEAD AT COMBE DOWN

Mr. Frank A. Niel, of 23, Avon Park, Bath, a quarryman working at Horsecombe Quarries and Stone Works, Ltd., Combe Down. was oiling some elevator machinery on Wednesday afternoon, when he slipped on a pile of stones and cut the side of his head slightly. He was taken by the ambulance to the Royal United Hospital to have some stitches put in.

8 October 1938 – Eastleys Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 15 October 1938

CORSHAM QUARRY TRAGEDY TWO MEN KILLED BY FALL OF STONE JURY'S RECOMMENDATION AT INQUEST

At the inquest on Tuesday on the two men who were killed by a fall of stone at Eastleys Quarry, Corsham, early on Saturday morning experts expressed the opinion that the fall was due to the development of a "feathered edge" in the stone, and the jury added to their verdict of "Accidental death" a recommendation that the Government should employ quarrymen experienced in Bath Stone to examine the ceilings in quarries taken over by the War Department.

The victims of the tragedy were Herbert Floyd Smith (aged 34), of Albion Road, Bath, and John Lee (aged 33), of Drewitts Mill, Box. The inquest was conducted by the Wiltshire Coroner (Mr. Harold Dale), and Mr. F. G. Lord was foreman of the jury. The War Department was represented by Mr. J. B. Taylor, and at the inquiry were Col. Minnis, Mr. F. N. Siddall (Factory Inspector), Mr. Frank Quick, J.P., and Mr. James G. Tuck, District Organiser of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers.

Evidence of identification was given by fellow workers at the quarry, Charles Henry George Nowell, of Lymore Lane, Bath, identifying Smith, and Arthur Thomas Gaisford, of Tutton Hill, Colerne, identifying Lee.

Dr. A. R. Wheeler, of Corsham, said he was called to the reception station at the works at 5 a.m. on Saturday, and there saw Smith, who was bleeding profusely from the left ear, nose and mouth. There were signs that he was suffering from a fracture of the base of the skull, and he had a scalp wound. He was taken by ambulance to the Royal United Hospital, Bath, but died just before he reached there, the cause of death being a fractured base of the skull. Lee was brought into the reception station about 5.30, Dr. Wheeler said, and he was dead. He was much more severely injured, death being due to a fractured skull and broken neck.

William Joseph Groom, Woolley Park Cottages, Bradford-on-Avon, said he was employed at Eastleys Quarry, and was at work on Friday night excavating a hole from the time he started until "food time" (2 a.m.), when Lee took his place and Smith took the place of a man named Howse. It was a square pit about 10 feet deep with a staging half way down. Lee was at the bottom throwing the earth up on to the staging, where Smith was. Answering the Coroner, he said that when he was working there was no sign that the roof was dangerous in any way.

Describing the accident, Groom said that when it happened, he was standing at the top of the pit to one side. "We did not hear anything at all," he said. "We were so near that we felt the draught of the fall and got the dust, in our faces. Then it was all over. There was no warning at all. A lot of it fell on the side, some huge pieces, and a lot of it fell straight down the pit. One big bit fell on the stage and was pinning Smith by the head and shoulders to the side. I picked up an iron bar and tried to lift it. I could not lift it, but eased it, and then another man came, and we got it up and stood it on edge. Three or four got hold of Smith and took up the best way they could."

Answering the Coroner, he said that Smith was then unconscious, and made no movement. Lee was completely covered, and he was taken from the pit afterwards.

Jesse James Coombes, of River Street, Bath. stated that he was a certificated foreman roof tester. He and the men working under him tested everywhere that, men were working in the quarry. Tests were made during each shift. He was on duty from 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday, and he tested the roof above the excavation at 12.30 p.m. that day. It was then quite sound, but when he returned to work on the following day he found the roof had broken down, the stone coming from a feathered edge. The stone that had fallen was about nine inches thick in the middle, with a feather edge all round.

Answering the Coroner, witness said he had done similar work in collieries since 1911, and was examined in the work every five years. He came to Corsham to work about 17 months ago.

In reply to Mr. Siddall, he said the stone in the quarry was of a different nature to where he had had his previous experience. Where the excavation was taking place was a wide road, timbered with props. It was part of his duty to indicate where the props should be placed in position. He had seen similar falls in collieries, but not in these quarries. A peculiarity of the stone in these quarries was that, it was liable to run to a feathered edge, which was quite invisible. He added that he made his examination of the roof with a testing rod about eight feet in length.

Replying to the foreman of the jury, he said there was no blasting going on in the vicinity. The excavation was being carried out by means of jack hammers, which bored into the stone and burst it by compressed air. The stone might have been absolutely solid, and was by his testing, and gave way later.

George Dean, St. Anne's Place, New King Street, Bath, a tester working under Coombes, said he tested the roof above the excavation at 2.30 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday and there was then no sign of any danger at all. If there had been a feathered edge when he tested, he would have found it.

William Hathaway, New Road, High Littleton, roof tester and timber, said had been employed at quarry putting up props for about 18 months, and had done similar work in collieries for about 30 years.

Answering the foreman of the jury, he said it was a very wide road, about 30 feet. across, where the excavation was taking place. The excavation was made for a supporting pillar to be erected.

Col. Minnis interposed to say that he did not think the jury realised that these quarries were taken over by the War Department as they driven. It was driven 30 feet Wide 50 years ago.

Herbert Prosser Chaffey, Prior Park Road, Bath, supervisor for the Bath and Portland Stone Firms, said that for many years before the quarry taken over he had had the supervisor of it. He had visited the scene of the accident on Monday, and he was satisfied in his own mind that proper steps had been taken to secure the safety of the men working there. He came to the conclusion, however, that in erecting the upright props and driving in the head pieces at the top of the props, owing to thin nature of the ragged bit, the driving in of the head pieces had caused the ceiling bit to be fractured. The nature of the stone was of a rotten character, and in his opinion the driving caused the fracture.

Answering the Coroner, he said the method of testing employed was quite correct with ceilings of that height. In reply to Mr. Siddall, he said he considered the feathered edge was there all the time, and it should have been found in testing. " Unfortunately, if I may say so, there is a difference between our Bath stone mines and collieries. Testing should have shown the feathered edge."

He added that the Bath Stone Company had provided gangs of men for testing in other but, not in this particular one. They would have found the men for it if they been asked.

The Coroner told the jury that he did not think it necessary to address them at length, as most of them understood the stone and the work in the quarry. He suggested that they should consider whether they wished to make any recommendation in regard to the work.

After a short, retirement, the jury returned a verdict of " Accidental death," the foreman adding they considered no blame attached to anybody, but the War Department should use experienced quarrymen to examine the ceilings occasionally.

The Coroner : You mean Bath stone quarry men? – Yes.

On behalf of the War Department, Mr. Taylor expressed sympathy with the relatives of the two men, and Mr. Quick made a similar expression on behalf of the Union.

22 May 1939 – Eastleys Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 27 May 1939

TRAGEDY AT QUARRY WORKMAN CRUSHED BY SKIP

How a workman employed at the War Department Works at Eastleys Quarry, Corsham, lost his life when apparently going to the assistance of a workmate who was pushing a heavy skip up an incline, was described at the inquest on Monday afternoon on Frederick Henry Fry (aged 45), of 26 Holloway,

Bath. Fry, a married man with four children, had been employed at Corsham since November, 1936, and was a leading hand in charge of a gang of four men.

The inquest was held at Corsham Town Hall by the Wiltshire Coroner (Mr. Harold Dale) sitting with a jury of which Mr. W. B. Wood was the foreman. The War Department was represented by Mr. W. F. Long, and also present at the inquiry were Col. A. Minnis and Mr. E. Clarke (Inspector of Factories).

Evidence of identification was given by Henry George Fry, of Northampton Street, Bath, a son of the dead man.

Col. M. White, Medical Officer at the Works, said he saw Fry in the ambulance at the Reception Station at the Quarry about 10.15 a.m. on Friday, and he was then dead. He had sustained multiple fractures to the right side of the face, a scalp wound three inches long above the right ear, and another wound by the left ear. There were also signs of a fracture of the skull. Death was due to shock and haemorrhage following multiple injuries to the head.

Reginald Allen, of Old Ferry Road, Bath, who was working with Fry, said his (witness's) job was to push the skips (trucks) under the hopper, and open the hopper to fill the skips, which then ran back on their own. The lines leading to the hopper were on an incline and went round a sharp bend. There were two lines, carrying skips to a sand hopper and a stone hopper, and the skips were not fitted with brakes.

Witness said he had been working with Fry all the morning, and about 9.30 a.m. he was pushing a skip up the incline to the stone hopper. Fry was at the sand hopper. Before pushing the skip under the hopper he saw Fry levelling of the sand skip, then he (witness) bent down to push and his head was below the level of the skip. He pushed until he felt something stopping him, and then he looked up, and as he did so he saw Fry fall.

Answering the Coroner, witness said Fry was five yards away when he first looked up, but he thought that when he bent down to push the skip Fry probably came across from the sand skip to help him with the stone skip. Fry fell from a stooping position, the centre of the front of the skip apparently struck him. He was bleeding about the face, his head having apparently been caught against the front of the hopper. There was about two inches clearance between the skip and the hopper.

Herbert Baseley, 1 West View, Rushill, Bath, deputy foreman, said he was walking towards the spot where the accident occurred, and just as he got there he saw a man fall. He fell on the other side of the hopper, with his feet in the tram lines, dead in front of the skip. When witness reached him he was bleeding from the mouth and ears. He was still alive, but died within two or three minutes. He did not make any sound.

Answering the Coroner, he said Fry was accustomed to the work he was doing. There were some couplings at the spot, and he might have slipped on them. There were finger marks inside the skip which indicated that he had gripped the front of it, and there was a mark where his head had hit the hopper.

Addressing the jury, the Coroner said Fry was a leading hand and they had been told he had been doing this work for some time. They would never know exactly how he came to meet with this unfortunate accident, as nobody actually saw what happened. They only knew his head was crushed between the skip and the hopper.

The jury returned a verdict of "accidental death." Mr. Long expressed sympathy with the relatives of the dead man on behalf of the War Department, who, he said, had lost a valuable servant.

20 July 1940 – Francis Quarry, Bathford

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 27 July 1940

A worker at Francis Quarry Kingsdown Hill, Bathford, was injured by a loaded skip while working at the quarry on Thursday. He was Mr. Anthony Vest, and he was taken to the Royal United Hospital suffering from injuries to the left hand and the left leg.

15 August 1940 – Horsecombe Quarry, Bath

Source – Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette – 17 August 1940

SLIPPED ON PLANK ODD DOWN MAN'S MISHAP IN QUARRY

While working at Horsecome Quarry, Odd Down, Bath, on Thursday, Mr. W. F. Reynolds, of 2 Tracey Terrace, Bloomfield Road, Bath, slipped on a wooden plank, injured his right ankle. He was taken to the Royal United Hospital.

11 March 1941 – Ridge Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Secret Underground Cities by N. J. McCamley (1998)

Turnover of bombs at Ridge Quarry increased dramatically and a two shift system was introduced in an effort to increase the daily rate to 400 tons. Unfortunately the hectic work schedule was accompanied by a slackening of discipline resulting, on 11 March, in an accident that claimed the life of Mr. Fall, a civilian labourer working underground. A Coroner's Inquest heard that a train of three trucks containing twelve 500lb bombs was pushed into the slope shaft before being properly attached to the haulage rope. The wagons hurtled down the shaft, derailed at the bottom and crashed into a pillar, widely dispersing their bomb load. Mr. Fall was struck by the flying debris and fatally injured. The inquest concluded that he died while trying to warn his workmates, and the death was recorded as accidental.

21 November 1953 – Corsham Quarries, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Times and Trowbridge Advertiser – 21 November 1953

TONS OF "AMMO" UNDERGROUND MARVELS OF CORSHAM C.A.D. HOW OLD STONE QUARRIES WERE ADAPTED

Interesting details concerning the Central Ammunition Depot at Corsham, the Army's largest ammunition store, and only one in the country to situated underground, were revealed on Friday, when a party of newspaper representatives was conducted round this extensive establishment.

Spread over 39 square miles of country it consists of a headquarters, three sub-depots and a marshalling yard, covering 750 acres on the surface, and 110 acres underground. In addition to storage of ammunition there are repair workshops where ammunition is put back into service. Some idea of the extent of activities carried on can be gathered from the fact that more than 700 types of ammunition,

ranging in weight from half an ounce to half a ton, are dealt with as a matter of routine, together with intricate fuses and other accessories .

The Depot Commandant, Colonel J. Sheffield, R.A.O.C., former Olympic hurdler, first related something of the history of the Depot, and its functions. He said that was the first major Press visit, although there had been in, individuals who had been shown round. and the place had been described various ways, from "Aladdin's Cave" to "The Larder of Death."

In the early 1930's the War Office decided to make a reconnaissance of the country for a suitable area for underground storage with a view to security from aerial attack. As result, three stone quarries in the Corsham area were selected. What was normally understood by a quarry was a rather large hole in the ground, but at Corsham quarrying was done by a different method, a tunnel being made from the surface and the stone then pulled out from below ground. As a result. they got large mole like workings underground, with a sort of cave structure about 60 to 100 feet below ground. Stone had been worked in the area for hundreds of years, and these particular workings came to light when Box Tunnel was cut about 1838.

War Office activity began in 1936, and the work was scheduled to take about five years. With the onset of rearmament, things had to be hastened, and the first ammunition was received in the middle of 1938, a good deal ahead of the programme. Two sub depots. at Eastlays and Monkton Farleigh, were started in 1939 and 1940, but these were not really complete until 1943 and 1945.

The problems of construction were very great. The caves below ground were full of rubble left from the workings. and hundreds of thousand of tons of this rubble had to be removed. Very large quantities were turned into concrete, which was used to strengthen pillars and supports left behind by the quarrymen. to hold up the roof. While all this was going on the machinery that was required was being received under war-time conditions, and in the early days conditions were "pretty chaotic."

One great advantage of these stone quarries was that in its natural state stone is completely saturated, so they did not get any large quantity of dust. The difficult conditions of the early days still had their repercussions today in that there was prejudice against working in what was known locally as The Dump. and they did find it difficult to get labour to come there. They did their best to fight against that by providing conditions for the workmen which really were very good, although everybody did not like working under ground.

The three depots were Tunnel, with a capacity of 100,000 tons or ammunition; Eastlays, with 50,000 tons. and Monkton Farleigh with 100,000 tons. So that the total capacity of the Depot was a quarter of a million tons. They had their own marshalling yard at Thingley Junction, which was constructed from rubble from Tunnel. All three sub-depots brought ammunition by road to Thingley Junction, and at Tunnel (just below Corsham railway station) they had a spur off the main railway line. where they could load and unload trains underground.

During the war sidings were constructed within easy reach of Eastlays and Monkton Farleigh, but in accordance with War Office policy these were closed in peacetime. although in the event of war they would be essential. Tunnel comprised an area underground of some 30 acres, with an actual storage area of 25 acres. It was divided into districts by concrete walls, which were hollow, and were used as airways, down the centre of each district. Each had a conveyor belt which linked up with the main belt running along the full length to the loading platform for the railway spur. Each area was divided into small bays of higgledy-piggledy shape according to the pillars supporting the roof. These parallel districts all fed down to the main conveyor belt. The old type of movement. an endless rope with "skips," was still in existence. but was not now used. There were also conveyor belts coming up to the surface to a loading or unloading platform for motor lorries. Lifts were installed. but these were not used for the movement of ammunition.

There was an underground barrack area, completely self-contained, with accommodation for about 300 men. This was used during the war, but was not allowed to be used in peacetime. From the barrack area 206 steps led to the surface. About 20,000 tons a month of ammunition was being handled at the moment, their capacity being regarded as about 2,000 tons a day. They reached a maximum of over 3,000 tons a day in the early days of the invasion of Normandy. Their function was the issue and receipt of ammunition, and until recently they had been sending a good deal to the Far East. They also were handling quantities of ammunition in transit for N.A.T.O. In addition to movement in and out, they were responsible for the maintenance of their stocks, which to a large extent were mobilisation reserves. On top of that they had a very substantial repair programme, for which the R.A.O.C. was responsible. Their establishment was some 1,850 comprising R.A.O.C., Royal Pioneer Corps a very efficient Army Fire Service unit, 120 War Department Constabulary – responsible for security – and about 700 civilians. Their system of documentation, under which every item was recorded, was now used world wide. It was extraordinarily accurate.

Underground storage had its peculiar problems. One advantage was strong security against aerial attack, certainly of the conventional type. They also had a constant temperature which was of fundamental importance in the storage of ammunition. Against that they had a constant fight against ammunition's worst enemy – humidity. Another great disadvantage was they had to disregard safety another of the fundamentals of ammunition storage on the surface. They had crammed into this small area underground ammunition which on the surface would be spread over an area of 250 square miles, and that brought in its train a lot of problems of security and safety. In the early days little attention was paid to humidity, with the result that large quantities of ammunition became unserviceable, particularly 25-pounders, which were issued to the Middle East with primers which failed to fire. So air conditioning was resorted to in a big way.

In Tunnel there were two methods of air conditioning. By one, air was drawn from old workings by means of fans through steam-heated batteries and circulated throughout the area. In the second, air was drawn from the surface, heated and circulated. The cost was substantial, but it was well worth it. A temperature of 60 degrees was maintained all the year round. Humidity and the question of safety distances meant some restriction on the type of ammunition that could be stored. They were not permitted to store their phosphorus-filled ammunition, or ammunition with a very large explosive content compared with the thickness of the walls. Such as antitank mines. They were also not allowed to do any repair work underground, so that all faulty ammunition had to be hauled to the surface to the repair workshops, and taken back again, constituting a big handling problem.

Another problem was the question of contraband, and drastic steps were taken by the War Department Constabulary to see that no fire-making material went underground. There was also a very great responsibility to guard against sabotage. Movement was another big problem, and was controlled by the rate at which the conveyor belts moved – about two miles an hour – and the number of holes in the ground at which these belts eventually arrived. Their responsibilities were to get to the user the right ammunition he required in the right condition, and the maintenance of the Army's reserves of ammunition for war. Value of their stocks was about £100,000,000. They were also responsible for the maintenance of the establishment, which had cost, according to modern values, something between £15,000,000 and £20,000,000.

Answering questions. Col. Sheffield said that normally electricity was taken from the public supply, but an adequate emergency plant was installed. They had, in fact, been able to help the grid on occasions. In the Tunnel Depot alone there were four miles of belting and two miles of conveyors. The effect of atom bombing on an establishment of this kind could only be surmised. It was believed that its effect underground would be on the lines of an earthquake.

A brief tour of that part of the Depot on the surface showed that no effort is spared to make the Army of to-day attractive, and conditions as congenial as possible. The Basil Hill Barracks are an eye-opener as to what barrack life can be, while the Minnis sports field, named after the first Commanding Officer of the Depot, was much admired.

A large notice – “Have you searched yourself?” – which the Commandant had earlier explained had no spiritual significance, was the first indication that we were approaching the nether regions. We had earlier been warned regarding possession of matches and cigarettes, and the large notices indicated that snuff was also included in contraband. We were also relieved of our penknives, as implements which might cause a spark. As later one saw the nonchalant way in which boxes of ammunition were almost thrown around, these precautions seemed to lose some of their significance – and to raise a momentary query in the mind. Emerging from the danger area it was a shock, while still underground, to observe a workman enjoying his pipe, and he laughingly pointed out the notice indicating that the limit had been left behind. Some of the party wondered how he got his smoking materials there.

There was much of interest to be seen “down below.” First impression was of a very comfortable atmosphere and temperature, which is maintained at 60 degrees all the year round, and our guide informed us that often in the winter men asked to work underground. It was fascinating to see the endless belts moving away into distance, and the gradient of those going to the surface seemed surprisingly steep. Generally speaking, the galleries, irregular in shape and varying in size, are essentially as the quarryman left them after extracting the stone, with, of course, all the rubbish removed, the floors concreted, the pillars supporting the roof encased in concrete and strengthened. With round pillars added in some to replace the original ones or lend additional support. The artificial light was kind to the eye; one had an impression of absolute cleanliness, and no sensation of being 100 feet underground. There are three fan intakes, with ten more to circulate the air throughout the districts. Behind the large grid in front of the fan there are picked up in the summer large quantities of insects of all kinds, leaves, etc., drawn in from above ground. One interesting point which emerged is that in view of the humidity of the air, stuff brought in from outside is allowed to sweat for three days before being finally stacked. The filing system is such that the exact whereabouts of every consignment, every box of ammunition, and the date when it came in, can be ascertained in a matter of seconds.

A commodious underground canteen is provided for the workers, and another facility provided is a drying room, where clothes made wet in a journey to work in the rain are dried by the time the man leaves work. The underground barracks, including the kitchens with all electrical equipment, are maintained in such a condition that they can be brought into instant use if desired.

Another interesting point which emerged was that sporting trophies, valuable paintings and other historic objects were stored here for safety during the war. Perhaps one of the most interesting was the aeroplane in which the Wright Brothers made the first heavier-than-air flight, which was stored in crates in one of the galleries. At a distance prescribed for safety, work continues as it has for hundreds of years past in getting out stone for building purposes. To return to the surface our party climbed 206 steps – we had been taken down in a lift – which is the way the workers normally ascend and descend.

All repair work to ammunition is done in workshops on the surface, for safety reasons. The taxpayer may take some small compensation in the fact that we saw shells which had been stacked in roadside dumps during the invasion of Europe, and which were covered with rust and dirt, reconditioned and brought back into service for the Army's reserves. A spectacular activity was the burning of surplus cordite taken from shells. These workshops where, as underground, soldiers and civilians work happily alongside one another, are highly mechanised, and no opportunity is lost of putting in machinery to do the work necessary. Such visits throw an instructive light on one of the Army's establishments which has come in for its share of criticism.

March 1958 – Hartham Quarry, Wiltshire

Source – Wiltshire Gazette & Herald – 6 March 1958

CRUSHED BY CRANE

A 58 year old quarry worker was crushed when a crane used for raising blocks of stone toppled over at Hartham Quarry, Corsham. Mr. Ernest Hancock and another man were pulling a crane jib up to a hole in the roof of an underground quarry when it fell over and crushed Mr. Hancock who was pinned to the floor. His son-in-law Mr. Herbert Jacobs of 39 Bargates said that Mr. Hancock had worked in the quarries for many years. A representative of the Bath and Portland Stone Firms deplored the loss of a man who had served them well and faithfully for so long and they were exonerated of responsibility for the accidental death.

Conkwell Cave No. 1 (near Bradford on Avon) - 22 August 1973

Source – Bath Evening Chronicle – 23 August 1973

TRAPPED CAVERS ORDEAL

A Winsley youth was saved in a dramatic underground rescue at Conkwell Woods, near Bath, last night.

Antony Comer, 17, of 42 Dane Rise, was trapped for about two hours when a ton of rock fell from the roof of a disused quarry shaft. He was in the shaft with John Gibbs, 16, soldier, of 22 St. Nicholas Close, Winsley. Antony was taken to the Royal United Hospital, Bath, suffering from injuries to his right ankle, and today he is said to be comfortable.

He went into the tunnels last night looking for calcite samples which he had promised to get for a school teacher friend. He is an experienced caver and was dressed in helmet, heavy boots and clothing.

Before entering the shaft he told local people where he was going.

He caught a glimpse of the stone as it started to fall and tried to dodge out of the way. But he was trapped by the side of his boot, and as he fell he sprained his ankle. John, who was some way away, squeezed his way out and raised alarm.

Firemen from Bath and police from Wiltshire and Somerset went to the scene, just off Conkwell Lane. Leading Fireman Dennis Perolls was the first to enter the quarry.

It was realised immediately that a tricky operation had to be mounted. A message to the surface for specialised equipment and for Dr. Roger Snook, Bath's accident officer, to be called in

Station - Officer Glyn Jones, who went into the quarry, said there was difficulty getting down the shaft. The rescuers then had to go 50 yards underground to where Antony was trapped. Portable lighting was set, up.

"We managed to raise the rock with hydraulic equipment and Dr Snook gave medical treatment," said Mr. Jones.

Antony was conscious all the time.

The rescuers, who worked in a confined space, had a tricky problem getting Antony to the surface.

They had to manhandle him through small crevices to get him out of the 50-foot shaft.

Then they had to get him up a 30 foot steep climb to the roadway.

Antony, a pupil at Fitzmaurice School, Avon, is the younger son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan Comer a naval officer with the Ministry of Defence at Bath.

Mr. Comer said today "Antony has been caving for about five years. I was one of the first into the caves and I sat with him while the rescue services were coming and then releasing him.

"I was going to use my car jack to lift the rock off his boot but the firemen said they would use their own equipment. When we got out we were astonished to see all the people outside. Everybody was supremely kind."

Antony, who hopes to take up a teacher training course after leaving school, is a member of the Admiralty Rifle Club at Bath and also belongs to a rowing club.

Conkwell Quarry is on private land. Mr. Ronald Wigglesworth, Bath Rural Council's public health inspector and cleansing officer, said there had been a problem with the dumping of rubbish in the past and precautions had been taken by land owners to prevent it.

The quarry was not a public dumping ground. Anyone found dumping rubbish would be prosecuted, said Mr. Wigglesworth.

Source – Bristol Evening Post – 23 August 1973

PUPIL TRAPPED FOR TWO HOURS UNDER ROCK

A West schoolboy was recovering today from a two hour ordeal in a disused quarry trapped beneath a huge rock the size of a wardrobe.

Anthony Comer, (18), of Dane Rise, Winsley, near Bradford-on Avon, had to be freed by firemen from a shaft in the disused Conkwell quarry at Winsley.

He was attended by Bath casualty officer Dr. Roger Snook and taken to the Royal United Hospital, Bath for observation on a sprained ankle. He was allowed home today.

The incident happened last night as Anthony, an experienced caver, and his friend John Gibbs (17) of St. Nicholas Close, Winsley, decided to explore the old shafts.

The two boys clambered through the maze of tunnels separately. As Anthony went to search for a rock for a schoolmaster friend he was trapped by a rockfall.

His father Mr. Allan Comer said today: "He was properly dressed and they alerted people outside the quarry that they were going in.

"The two boys were separated in case anything happened.

"A large piece of stone came out of the roof, but Anthony was aware of it and jumped out of the way.

"But it trapped his boot and he fell over, spraining his ankle.

The rock was too big to move, so John, a young soldier home on leave from the Army, went to get help from people living nearby. Mr. Comer was alerted.

He went into the cave to talk to his son. They were planning to lever the rock away when police and firemen arrived.

After a long battle, Anthony was freed by firemen using hydraulic jacks and levers.

Anthony a sixth former at Fitzmaurice Grammar School, Bradford-on-Avon has been caving for four years.

But Mr. Comer today warned inexperienced people against exploring the old quarry, which supplied the limestone for the Limpley Stoke viaduct over the River Avon.

“Anyone venturing into any quarry who is not experienced should only go in with experienced people,” he said.

Source – Wiltshire Times – 24 August 1973

YOUTH TRAPPED IN OLD QUARRY

Emergency services from Bradford on Avon, Melksham and Bath fought for more than an hour on Wednesday night to free a 17-year-old youth, Anthony Comer, of 42 Danes Rise, Winsley, whose leg was trapped by a boulder in a disused quarry at Conkwell, Winsley.

Firemen and police officers from both Wiltshire and Somerset struggled to move the stone, estimated to weigh more than a ton, which had fallen on the leg of the caver.

At the same time medical attention was given by Dr. Snook of the emergency service at the Royal United Hospital, Bath.

The drama started at about 8.30 pm when Anthony and a 16-year-old friend, John Gibbs, of 22 Nicholas Close, Winsley, went into the quarry; now used as a rubbish tip.

They were only about 25 to 30 yards from the entrance when part of the roof collapsed. Anthony was caught under the boulder and was unable to move, but his companion was able to throw himself clear of the falling debris.

John Gibbs tried to roll the stone away, but it was too heavy and there was the added danger of a further roof fall.

He was able to squeeze past the fallen stones and debris and ran to the nearest houses, from which the alarm was given.

Rescuers, using hydraulic equipment, took nearly one and a half hours to free the trapped youth.

He was taken by ambulance to the Royal United Hospital suffering from a suspected 'fractured ankle.

Source – Bath Evening Chronicle – 24 August 1973

QUARRY KEEP OUT PLEA

People who go into the underground quarries at Conkwell Woods, near Bath are trespassing.

Bill Dorrington, branch manager of Tilhill Forestry Ltd, company that manages the woodlands, said today that in view of dangerous condition of the underground workings it was irresponsible on the part of parents or boys, no matter how well equipped, to go into them.

He said the woods were private property and were fenced off.

He said workmen had, now closed up the gap through which two youths got into the woodlands on Wednesday in order look for calcite samples.

One of the boys, Antony Comer, 17, of 42 Dane Rise, Winsley, was trapped for two hours when a ton of rock fell from the roof of a disused shaft.

Dave Miles, 24, manager of Foremost Tyre Services of Walcot Street, Bath, who lives at, Conkwell, and his neighbour, Mr. Steve Bassett, were the first go to Antony's rescue.

They were- alerted by Antony's friend, John Gibbs, and went armed with crowbars. When they saw the dangerous conditions, said Mr. Miles today Mr. Bassett stayed with the boy while he returned to telephone the fire brigade.

All the villagers gave the firemen a hand with the equipment, said Miles.

2000's

20 September 2006 – Stoke Hill Quarry, Limpley Stoke

Source – Bath Chronicle web site

ACCIDENT AT BATH STONE MINE

On Wednesday 20 September 2006, a miner (Steven Cosh) was killed when a large stone weighing about 1 tonne fell from the roof of Stoke Hill stone mine in Limpley Stoke. He was operating an electrically powered stone saw at this underground Bath stone quarry.

The mine has an exemplary safety record and although it closed for a couple of days after the accident as a mark of respect for the miner and his family, it has been authorised to continue working by the Health and Safety Executive.

The dropping of blocks from the roof of stone mines is a major problem in the Bath area. When the older mines were working small wooden spraggs would be set at an angle near the top of pillars against the roof.

Although not strong enough to support the roof, it is thought they slightly tilted the roof blocks off their vertical axis, wedging them against the neighbouring block, preventing them from dropping.

A major in filling operation at Combe Down stone mines has been underway for several years to safeguard houses in the Combe Down area from “void migration” as roof blocks collapse into old workings.

Centred around the North Road area some sections of this huge labyrinth of stone workings (parts are believed to date back to the 17th Century) are only a metre or so from the surface.

Source - Details of Work-Related Deaths in the County of Avon since April 2001 web site

Steven died at Stoke Hill Mine in Limpley Stoke, after being pinned under a one-and-a-half ton lump of limestone that fell from the mine roof. Steven had been working alone beyond the furthest line of roof bolts used to secure the ceiling. He had been using a mechanical saw to cut into limestone when the boulder crashed down on him.

Workmates tried to save Steven's life, moving the boulder with a fork-lift truck and then taking him to the mine entrance in the bucket of a digger. But despite their desperate efforts, he was dead on arrival at hospital. A post-mortem examination revealed his death was caused by multiple injuries.

The inquest held at Avon Coroner's Court in Bristol opened on 15 October 2007. The jury returned a verdict of 'Accidental Death'.

Working procedures at the Bath Stone Group mine have been changed since Steven's death, and workers are now prohibited from working in areas without either permanent roof bolts or temporary supports on the mine's ceiling, the inquest heard.

Deputy Avon Coroner Brian Whitehouse said he would write to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) recommending a review of the support systems in other mines where Bath stone was excavated, and to look at the circumstances in which men are allowed to work alone at a rock face.

Steven's family, including his widow Sarah Anne, delivered a statement after the hearing through their solicitor, Mick Antoniw.

It said, 'Steven died because he was working under unsupported ground. It is the family's belief, on the evidence they have heard, that this tragic event could have been avoided by ensuring that no miner worked under unsupported ground. We are comforted to know that the mine has now taken steps to ensure that such an accident cannot happen again. Our hope, and wish, now, is that miners in other Bath Stone mines will benefit from the lessons learned and will implement similar safety measures to ensure no other family has to suffer what we have.'

The family also thanked all the workers in the mine who helped trying to rescue Steven.

Mr Antoniw confirmed that papers would be served soon in the civil court against Bath Stone Group

Mines inspector Tony Foster said the HSE would take the coroner's comments into consideration.

Source – Thompsons Solicitors web site – 25 September 2012

DEAD MINER'S FAMILY COMPENSATED AFTER ROOF COLLAPSE

The family of a miner crushed to death by a giant boulder has received compensation after his trade union and its lawyers refused to accept a coroners' decision that his death was accidental.

After a lengthy legal battle they were able to prove his employers' failure to follow health and safety rules caused the accident.

Steve Cosh from Bath was 37 when he died in September 2006 after the roof of a mine he was working in as part of his job at Stoke Hill Mine, owned by Bath Stone Group collapsed.

He was pinned under a one and a half ton lump of limestone and found by a colleague returning from lunch. Despite efforts from his workmates to move the boulder using a fork lift truck, he was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

The stepdad of three and granddad to one had been working alone beyond the furthest line of roof bolts used to secure the ceiling.

An inquest into his death recorded accidental death but investigations by Steve's trade union, the lawyers to the National Union of Miners' Thompsons Solicitors found that reports to the inquest were inaccurate

Evidence from experts hired by Thompsons was ultimately backed up by the mine owners experts showing that a number of health and safety breaches caused or contributed to the roof's collapse.

The failures by the mine owners included the lack of a written inspection report to assess the safety of the area Steve was working in, a failure to ensure ground control measures were in place to keep the mine secure and failing to follow its own set of 'managers support rules' which would have identified abnormal ground conditions.

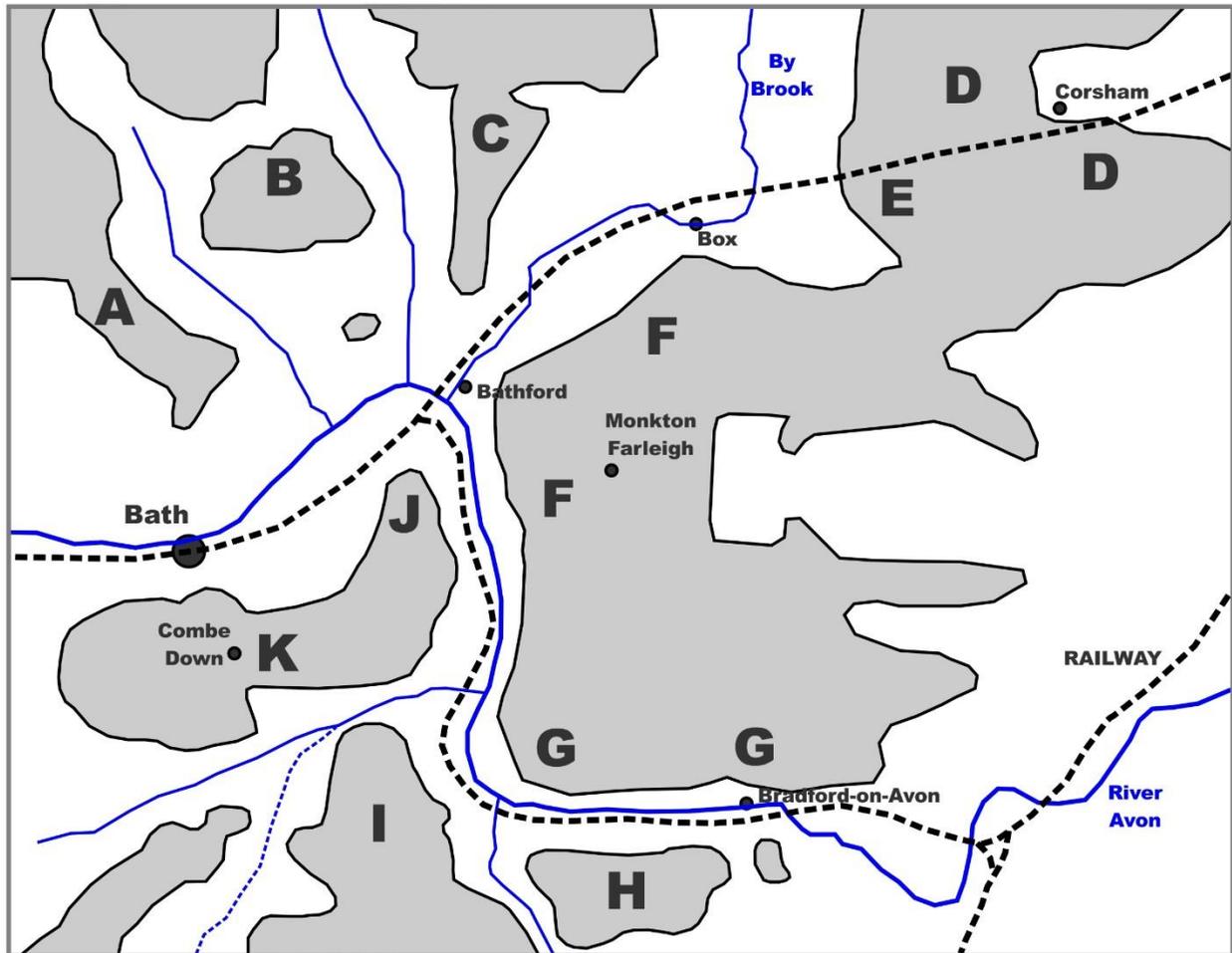
Almost six years after the accident Bath Stone Group settled the claim out of court for an undisclosed sum.

Steve's wife, Sarah, said: "It is a huge relief that this matter has finally been resolved. The entire family can now attempt to move on from the horror of Steve's accident. He enjoyed his work and was a great family man. He is missed terribly by everyone who knew him. This money can never replace him but is some recognition of the fact he died needlessly.

"We are grateful to the NUM and Thompsons for not giving up and investigating further into his death to uncover what really caused his death."

QUARRY LOCATIONS

Source – Derek Hawkins web site – <http://www.choghole.co.uk/>



The above map shows the area from which Bath Stone comes from, this area is approx. 10 miles across. Bath Stone is only found in this area, Cotswold Stone begins to the north and to the south there is Chilmark in Wiltshire and Doultling in Somerset. The hills that the quarries lie in are shown in grey. The hills around Bath all have evidence of quarrying and most have underground workings.

Below is a list of some of the quarries within the above area. The names used are the ones that the quarry is known by today, and the names of the operators of the quarry are from around 1900. As different people owned the lands above a quarry more than one company may be working the stone below, if the quarries broke into each other at a later date then the list will tell you which joined together to form the extensive workings found today.

A. Lansdown

Open quarries are found on the southern edge and these could date back to Roman times, one was in use around 1800, rumour tells of an underground working near the Ministry of Defence site. Beckford also used a quarry to build a grotto in between his house and his tower.

B. Charmydown

Open quarries can be found all around the edge of the hill, underground workings are rumoured but none are known.

C. Bannerdown and Colerne

- At Bannerdown there are large old open workings and a trial heading can be seen.
- On the south edge there is a working but the entrance is well blocked.
- The Rocks, A small working consisting of one passage about 200 metres in length, this is an unusual quarry as the passage suddenly slopes up to another level. Stone most likely used to build the house nearby. Also there is a small passage under the house but is blocked by a fall.
- Doncombe/Lucknam Quarry, three small workings with a very dangerous roof.

Other open workings exist and again rumour has it that there is an underground working on the airfield although no sign of it has come to light.

D. Corsham and area

Corsham was the major quarrying area for over 100 years and evidence of workings can be found all around the area.

- Along the Bybrook Valley there are lots of small workings, mainly rubble stone.
- At Biddestone there are a couple of slope shafts now blocked.
- At least seven open workings can be found, mostly for rubble stone.

Near the A4

- Brewers Yard, only major quarry on two levels. Named after Mr. Brewer, who worked on Box Tunnel

Most of the quarries below were connected to Corsham Station by Tramway.

- Copenacre, (joins to Pickwick Quarry), used as a Naval stores depot, now closed and sealed.
- Hartham, (joins above and below), operated by Marsh Son and Gibbs then Yockney and then Hartham Park Stone Co. Ltd.
- Pickwick, (quarry was known as Traveller's Rest, Hartham), was once the Bath Stone Quarry Museum, now reopened for stone production.

The above Quarries in 1895 were called Hartham No.1, operated by Marsh Son and Gibbs with seven workers, then Hartham No 2, operated by Marsh Son and Gibbs with 41 workers.

Around Hawthorn

- Tunnel Quarry, was known as Corsham Down, operated by Yockney and Co. with 86 workers, taken over for ammunition storage as part of Central Ammunitions Depot (C.A.D.), Corsham, now disused. A unique quarry as it contains an underground main line railway connection with two full length platforms and a siding.
- Seven Shaft, operated by Randell and Saunders, joins above.
- Corsham No. 6., operated by Pictor and Sons Ltd. With 96 workers, then Stone Bros. Ltd. With seven workers, then Bath Stone Firms Ltd, joins above.
- Hudswell, operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd., joins above.

- Spring Quarry, one of the largest single quarries, used as a factory during the war and later divided in half, one side was used as a naval stores depot now closed, the other half was used for different purposes, Spring use to connect with Tunnel Quarry. Quarrying ceased in 1939 when the quarrymen downed tools and left. Operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd. With 12 workers.
- Groundstone / Brewers, small quarry between Tunnel and Cliff / Clift, joins Tunnel and Box.
- Brown's, connected to Tunnel, small quarry used during the war now under Ministry control.
- Sands, connected to Spring, still contains lots of blocks of stone. Operated by Lucas and Allard with 21 workers then Corsham Quarrying Co.
- Moorpark, now sealed, one of the few quarries producing stone after the war. Operated by Sheppards.
- Westwells, name used for Moor Park and eastern end of Spring.
- Waterhole, refers to eastern end of Spring that tended to flood, a culvert to remove water was built from Spring into Box Tunnel and then to the brook at Box .

Neston

- Clubhouse, small quarry used during the war to store foreign bank notes.
- Hollybush, old small workings.
- Wansdyke, (was known as Brockleaze, Goblin's Pit) used as a secure storage facility.
- Park Lane, tended to flood, flood marks can be seen at ceiling height, operated by Randell and Saunders with 56 workers then Bath Stone Firms Ltd.
- Between Wadswick and Atworth there use to be some very large open workings but have now all been filled in probably rubble stone.

The Ridge and Gastard

- Ridge, (was known as Old Ridge, New Ridge, Monk's West), operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd., Lucas and Allard with 23 workers, Corsham Quarrying Co., used during the war for ammunition storage.
- Eastley's, was known as Pictor's Monks, Eastern Monks Park, used as ammunition storage during the war, part of C.A.D. Corsham, now a storage facility.
- Monks Park was known as Sumsion's Monks, part was used as a naval storage depot until 1996, now a commercial storage facility.
- Monks Park, was known as Sumsion's Monks, joins above, still quarrying stone, was operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd. with 101 workers.
- Elm Park, small working, possibly opening up for quarrying, used during the war by the R.A.F., was known as Sheppards.
- Good's/ Goode's Hill, very small working, floods.

E. Box Hill

All around the Box Hill there are quarries of great age, most at some time connected underground. Box Stone has been quarried for 2000 years and according to the history books most houses before 1700 were built from stone that came from Hazlebury Quarry, this is probably a general term for the workings found around the hill. On his travels Aubrey (1626- 97) noticed lots of large blocks of stone from the quarries in the area when passing through Corsham.

- Cliff or Clift, closed in 1968, contains cranes and other equipment, dangerous roof in places. Connected to Box by tramway that ran alongside of the A4 to Box. Was operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd. with 43 workers.
- Box No.6., operated by Stone Bros. Ltd. with eight workers then Bath Stone Firms Ltd., joins above.

- Cathedral Quarry, unusual quarry that was worked by hand from a vertical shaft as the surrounding quarry owners would not allow access to the stone via their workings. Most of the stone beneath the shaft and area was removed leaving a chamber approx. 40 feet wide, 200 feet long and 80-90 feet high, joins above.
- Front Hill Series, various entrances connect to these workings, very large and unstable in places. The houses on the hill are nearly all quarrymen's cottages, also try the Quarryman's the local pub as it contains a selection of the tools that were used, joins above.
- Tynning, was operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd. with four workers, joins above.
- Brown's No 4. or No.4 Box. Was operated by Pictor and Sons then Randell and Saunders then S.R. Stone then Marsh and Co. with six workers then Bath Stone Firms Ltd., joins above.
- Lower Hill, was operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd. with 17 workers, joins above.
- Hazelbury, open working, was used to remove the pillars from the quarry underneath.
- Strong's Quarry, entrance now totally filled in, joins above.
- Noble's Quarry, entrance filled in the sixties, joins above.

F. Kingsdown and Farleigh

- Longsplatt Quarry, sealed.
- A traveller from London mentions quarrying at Longsplatt, Kingsdown and Farleigh in 1793.
- Kingsdown Quarry, known as Swan Mine, contains artefacts, these should be left in situ and the crane not touched. Also around this entrance there are a few workings that can be seen, most are small and in places dangerous. The Swan Inn used to be the quarry owners house. Operated by G Butt with five workers then Marsh Son and Gibbs with three workers then Bath Stone Firms Ltd with four workers.
- Norbin Barton, was known as Wraxall, once had a very wide vertical shaft now filled in, operated by Sheppards, tended to flood.
- The Golf Course at Kingsdown shows evidence of extensive open workings although now greatly filled in.
- Other open workings and some small underground workings are to be found around the Kingsdown area.
- Between Kingsdown and Farleigh there is an open working that is said to be at least Saxon in age, also there are some very small and unusual workings just feet under the edge of the hill. Two inclines can be traced, one joining the railway at Ashley and the other to the old stone wharf at Bathford.
- Farleigh Down Quarry. A priory was built here in the thirteenth century from Farleigh stone, Elias De Turri, Prior in 1206. The first mention of quarries is in 1439.
- Today it is one of the largest quarries, made up from independent quarries that joined together.

In 1752 James Woodward, William Battersby and Samuel Isaac had rights to quarry stone at a yearly rent of £2 5s. John Dyer, William Weston, and James Hiscox also had quarries in the eighteenth century. Samuel Watson, John Watson, James Carter, George Yeeles and John Wiltshire Snr. and Jnr. had rights in 1829. Henry Spackman, George Fluester (1839), Rogers and Rawlings, Pictor and Sons, Randell and Saunders, S.R. Noble and H. Stone and Sons had quarries in the nineteenth century. A slope shaft was sunk in 1828, has a date of 1839 on sawn face. In 1881, 20 quarrymen lived in Monkton Farleigh and 10 quarries were being worked, quarrymen in 1882 earned about 15 shillings a week. Part of the workings were taken over during the Second World War to become the largest ammunition storage depot possibly in the world, was run by us as a museum between 84-90, now run as a secure storage facility, operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd with 89 workers..

- Longs Quarry, operated by William Long, joins above. Reputed that stone from here was used in the original facade of Buckingham Palace.
- Drum Quarry, operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd. with 29 workers, joins above.
- Sheep Drove Quarry, a vertical shaft quarry that became part of the above.

- Dapstone Quarry, sealed. Was known as South Farleigh Quarry, operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd. with 15 workers.
- Numerous faces and underground workings are to be found all along the hill edge to the A363. One place of note is Sally's Rift, a natural Gull cave over 345 metres in length, other smaller rift caves can also be found. Near this location four coins have been found from around 270 AD, also the remains of a Roman villa were found in the seventeenth century.
- Conkwell Quarries, one underground working and open workings. 1830 James Byfield, a stone merchant from Bath gained rights to the stone at Conkwell for seven years at £20 per annum. Linked by incline to the canal. In 1868 coins from AD. 142-52 were found at the base of an outcrop at Conkwell.

G. Winsley and Bradford on Avon

- Open quarries at Murhill and two small underground workings, linked to canal by incline.
- There are other workings between Murhill and Bradford, such as at Wine Street, Tory, Budbury and Mason's Lane, most are small and others are known but entrances are all sealed.
- Bradford on Avon, there are underground workings at the top of Bradford but most are small such as at Woolley Street, White Hill and Hall's Quarry.
- Kingsfield, large for Bradford, goes round in a loop.
- Poulton, a smallish quarry with beds running at nearly 45 degrees, also used as an air raid shelter during the war, operated by J Taylor with two workers then J Jones.
- At least two other quarries are known between the river and canal but entrances are sealed.

H. Bradford and Westwood

- Woodside, disused open workings off Jones Hill.
- Grip Hill / Jones Hill Quarry, small working south of the river, operated by L Jones.
- Bethel, used during the war as a naval store, now used as a mushroom farm.
- Along the hill edge small workings used for lime can still be found, these are only a couple of feet below ground.
- Westwood Quarry West, used by the British Museum during the war and also by Royal Enfield until the late sixties as a factory, now used as a secure storage and for quarrying, linked to the railway and canal by incline, operated by Bath Stone Firms Ltd.
- Westwood Quarry East, operated by W Goodwin with 13 workers, joins above.
- Other small workings are known between Westwood and Freshford.

I. Limpley Stoke

- Hayes Wood Quarry or Limpley Stoke Mine, quarried by the Bath Stone Co.
- Stoke Hill Quarry, joins with the above, operated by J. W. Soanne and Co. with 13 workers then Bath Stone Firms Ltd.
- Other underground workings are known, nearly all sealed.
- Along the hill edge above Limpley Stoke there are open workings.

J. Bathampton Down

- Large open workings can be found around the edge of the golf course.
- Devil's Cave, a small working under the golf course.
- Singleway Quarry, about 300 metres long running under the golf course.
- Seven Sister's Quarry, entrances blown up in the sixties, can be found in the largest open workings, reputed to be quite large, linked to the canal by incline.
- Other small workings can be found but none go very far.

- During the building of the reservoir some workings were broken into, no record or evidence exists.
- Opencast workings can be found at the top of Widcombe Hill, now built in. evidence of an early tramway can be found down the hill towards Widcombe.

K. Claverton Down to Odd Down

This hill has evidence of quarrying everywhere, major quarrying has been going on at least since the sixteenth century and the village of Combe Down was built mainly for the quarrymen.

Claverton Down

- Rumour has it that there is an underground working at the top of Brassknocker Hill.
- Other open workings around the area.

Combe Down

Quarrying on Combe Down has taken place since the Roman era. John Leland travelling to Bath in 1540 noted quarries south of the city of Bath, and a larger quarry on his second visit a while later. Oluf Borch in 1663 mentions underground workings near Bath, both most likely at Combe Down. Lots of the open workings have now been filled and built over. Most of the quarries seem to have various names, the most popular are given below.

- St. Winifreds, large open workings with small underground section.
- Shaft Road, quite large quarry, towards the hill edge passages run very shallow only feet below the surface.
- Mount. Pleasant, 2 quarries open and Underground, small.
- Hancock's/ Upper Lawn, open workings still used.
- Rainbow Woods and Quarry Tea Gardens, remains of open workings.
- Prior Park Quarry, now filled used to connect underground.
- Firs, largish workings quite shallow, in the news at the moment, might be filled or saved.
- Byfield and Cox's, open and underground, connects to Firs, contains earliest known date on sawn face of 1821.
- Jackdaw, blocked.
- William Smith Quarry, small underground workings next to open quarry.
- Cox's vertical shaft quarry, small workings , sealed.
- Combe Down has lots of small quarries, this is a list of some although most have now been filled.
 - Davidge's Bottom.
 - Hill's Quarry.
 - Wilk's Quarry.
 - Stennard's Quarry.
 - Church Quarry.
 - Love's Quarry.
 - Plantation Quarry.
 - Cruikshank's Quarry.
 - Beechwood Quarry.
 - De Montalt Quarry.
 - Allotments Quarry.
 - Turnpike Quarry.
 - Stonehouse Quarry (2).
 - Stone's Quarry.
 - Vinegar Down Quarry.

Entry Hill and Odd Down

- Entry Hill and Springfield, open workings with quite large areas underground.
- Crossway Quarry.
- Other open workings exist between Entry Hill and South Stoke.
- Beehive Quarry operated by Shellard and Son.
- Union Quarry.
- Horsecombe Quarry.
- Hallet's Quarry.
- Love's Quarry.
- Other workings exist and evidence of underground workings is known, all entrances are blocked.

BATHSTONE QUARRYING COMPANIES

Source – Digging Bath Stone by David Pollard (2021)

Name	Duration	Quarry
George Myers and Sons	1858 to 1866	Kingsdown Quarry
The Bath Stone Co. Ltd. *	1865 to 1887	Box, Corsham, Farleigh, Combe Down
Pictor & Sons *	1842 to 1887	Box, Tynning, Spring, Farleigh, Freshford, Winsley, Monks Park
Bath Stone Firms	1887 to 1911	
Bath & Portland Stone Firms Ltd.	1911 to c. 1960	
Henry Stone & Sons Stone Brothers Ltd *	1851 to 1868 1868 to 1887	Hampton Down, Box, Combe Down
Randell & Saunders Co. Ltd. *	1849 to 1887	Corsham Down, Tump
Isaac Sumsion *	1790 to 1887	Combe Down, Hampton Down, Dapstone, Monks Park
Gardiner & Marsh R. J. Marsh & Co. Ltd. *	1871 to 1887	Corsham, Box, Farleigh
Samuel Rowe Noble *	1871 to 1887	

* Firms amalgamated to form Bath Stone Firms

WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION ACT

Source – Out of the Rock by Norman Bezzant (1980). Published by Bath & Portland Group.

Accident Insurance – When in May 1888 a block of stone fell on William Mumford, killing him at No. 6 Quarry, Corsham, his widow was awarded £5, to be paid at the rate of 3s. per week. Fortunately there were few such accidents, but in January 1900 Frederick Wooton, one of the sinkers, fell out of the lifting box down No. 3 Shaft at Corsham, after being partially overcome by fumes of powder during blasting. It was therefore resolved in September of 1900 to insure the Company's workmen against accidents in the Bath district with the Commercial Union Insurance Company; the rate was 7s. 6d. per quarryman, 5s. for masons and 2s. per wages of the staff.

The **Workmen's Compensation Act 1897** was a British law in operation from 1897 to 1946. Joseph Chamberlain, leader of the Liberal Unionist party and in coalition with the Conservatives, designed a plan that was enacted under the Salisbury government in 1897. The Act was a key domestic achievement. It served its social purpose at no cost to the government, since employers were required to cover medical costs of injuries on the job. It replaced the Employers' Liability Act 1880, which gave the injured worker the right to sue the employer but put the burden of proof on the employee. After 1897, injured employees had only to show that they had been injured on the job.

The Act was replaced by an expanded scheme under the Workmen's Compensation Act 1906, whereby insurance became mandatory on the part of the employers, thus introducing the first social insurance scheme into the British case.

The 1897 Act only covered blue-collar, industrial workers. As pointed out by Brodie, "Until 1906 there was no general coverage in Britain. The British working population was only fully covered under employer liability after the passage of the 1906 act

The **Workmen's Compensation Act 1906** was an Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which deals with the right of working people for compensation for personal injury. The Act expanded the scheme created by the Workmen's Compensation Act 1897.

It fixes the compensation that a workman may recover from an employer in case of accident giving to a workman, except in certain cases of "serious and wilful misconduct", a right against his employer to a certain compensation on the mere occurrence of an accident where the common law gives the right only for negligence of the employer.

A 'workman' was defined as:

any person who enters into or works under a contract of service or apprenticeship with an employer, whether by way of manual labour, clerical work or otherwise, and whether the contract is expressed or implied, is oral or in writing.

ANALYSIS OF ACCIDENTS

Analysis of the accidents and fatalities in Bath Stone mines is an almost impossible task due to several factors –

- Accidents were rarely reported in the press.
- Fatalities were usually reported and an inquest sometimes held
- It is not known how many miners were working in each mine –

When certain improvements were made the accident rate would have fallen –

- The Mines Act 1874 – Mr. Lionel Brough, Inspector of Mines, has made tour amongst the underground Bath stone quarries at Box, Coombe Down, Farley Down, Bradford, Corsham and Limpley Stoke, with a view of including them for Government inspection under the new Mines Act. A schedule of the quarries has been completed, and Mr. Brough has supplied to each quarry master a list of instructions. One of the most important of these prevents boys under 13 years of age labouring in underground quarries. The quarry owners in the district affected have just discharged the boys employed on their works. Upwards of 200 have been thus discharged, causing some inconvenience to the gangers, or sub-contractors who are responsible for the actual work.
- Lighting – candles until 1870's; oil lamps until 1900's, Carbide lamps until 1960's and in the 1950's in several quarries electric lighting was installed.)

However the article below shows the importance of the commercial aspect of stone mining and an almost disregard of the welfare of the miners.

Source – The Builder – August 30, 1862 [Article on Bath Stone]

Accidents to life and limb are almost unknown throughout the works: a few casualties have occurred since they were first opened ; but these are unimportant in comparison with the large quantity of material which is got out yearly in safety.

In all cases, in this book, where an inquest verdict is given the conclusion reached by the jury is “Accidental Death.” With the exception of one case in 2012.

1750's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)
Combe Down	4	4
TOTALS	4	4

1760's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fractured Skull (Fall)
Bradford-on-Avon	1	1	
Entry Hill	2	2	
Un-named	1		1
TOTALS	4	3	1

1770's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)
Bradford-on-Avon		1	
Combe Down		3	1
Entry Hill		1	
TOTALS	6	5	1

1780's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS		Injury
		Fatality (Rock Fall)	
Entry Hill		1	
Un-named			1
TOTALS	2	1	1

1790's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	INCIDENTS		
		Fatality (Rock Fall)	Severe Injury (Fall)	Severe Injury (Rock Fall)
Box		1		
Bradford-on-Avon		1		
Combe Down		1		3
Entry Hill		1		1
Farleigh Down		1		
Lansdown Crescent		1		
Un-named		1		3
TOTALS	14	7		7

1800's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Lost	Severe Injury (Fall)
Claverton Down						1
Combe Down		2	1	1	1	
Conkwell		1				
Kingsdown		1				
Spring		1				
TOTALS	9	5	1	1	1	1

1810's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality unconfirmed	Severe Injury	Injury
Bradford-on-Avon			1			
Castle Coombe		2				
Coombe Down					1	2
Kingsdown					1	
Turley				1		
TOTALS	8	2	1	1	2	2

1820's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Unconfirmed)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury
Bath					2	
Bathford			1			
Box		1	1	1		
Bradford-on-Avon		1				
Combe Down		3	3			
Farley Down				1		1
Freshford				1		
Rudlow					1	1
Winsley		1				1
TOTALS	20	6	5	3	3	3

1830's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury
Box		2	1	1	1
Combe Down					1
Conkwell		1			
Dodwell		1			
Murhill		1			
Odd Down					1
TOTALS	10	5	1	1	3

1840's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury
Box			1	1	1
Bradford-on-Avon		1			
Claverton Down			1		
Combe Down		1	1		6
Corsham				1	1
Monkton Combe		1			
Farleigh Down					1
Monkton Farley				1	1
Un-named		1			
TOTALS	19	4	3	3	10

1850's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury	Injury
Box		1		1	4	1
Bradford-on-Avon			1			
Clift		1				
Combe Down				2	2	
Corsham		3		1		
Farleigh Down		1				
TOTALS	18	6	1	4	6	1

1860's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Fatality (Foul Air)	Severe Injury	Injury
Bethel						1	
Box		4	1	4			
Bradford-on-Avon		2		1			1
Clift		1				1	
Combe Down			1			3	
Corsham		2			1	3	1
Monkton Farley				1			
Potley Bridge				1			
Poulton		1					2
Winsley						1	
TOTALS	33	10	2	7	1	9	4

1870's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Fatality (Foul Air)	Fatality (Unconfirmed)	Severe Injury	Injury
Box		4	1	2	2	1	3	3
Clift				1				
Combe Down				2				3
Corsham		2		1			3	2
Farleigh							1	
Freshford		2						
Hudswell			1					
Kingsdown							1	
Lansdown							1	
Monkton Farleigh							1	
Mount Pleasant		1						
Odd Down							1	
Ridge						1		
Spring			1	1				
Stoke Hill		1						
Tump						1		
Un-named								2
Yockney								1
TOTALS	47	10	3	7	2	3	11	11

1880's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury	Injury
Bathford				1	1	
Box		2	1	2	2	
Bradford-on-Avon		1			1	
Clift				1	1	
Combe Down			1		1	
Corsham					10	1
Drum		1		1		
Farleigh		2			1	
Monks				1		
Monkton Farleigh		1			1	
Ridge		1			1	
Spring		1				
Tump		1				
Un-named					3	4
Winsley				2	1	
TOTALS	48	10	2	8	23	5

1890's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury	Injury
Barn				1		
Bethel					1	
Box				1	1	
Bradford-on-Avon					1	
Colerne						1
Combe Down			2			
Farleigh					2	
Hartham			2			
Hills		1				
Monks					1	
Monkton Farleigh					1	
Odd Down		1				
Ridge					1	
Rudloe						1
Spring		1				2
Stoke		1				
Westwells					2	
Westwood				1		
TOTALS	25	4	4	3	10	4

1900's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS						
		Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Fatality (Foul Air)	Severe Injury	Injury
Box						1	1
Bridge				1			
Combe Down			1				
Corsham				1	1	1	
Farley Down				1			
Hartham				2		1	
Monks Park				1			
Monkton Farleigh						1	
Sands						2	
Spring		1					
Un-named							1
TOTALS	17	1	1	6	1	6	2

1910's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS			
		Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury
Biddestone				1
Combe Down		1		1
Corsham		1		1
Monks			1	
Odd Down				1
TOTALS	7	2	1	4

1920's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury	Injury
Box				1	
Combe Down					2
Corsham					3
Odd Down				1	
Ridge			1		
South Wraxall		1			
Un-named					2
TOTALS	11	1	1	2	7

1930's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)	Fatality (Mechanical)	Severe Injury	Injury
Combe Down				1	
Corsham				1	1
East Leaze		2	2		
Hartham				1	
Odd Down					3
Ridge			1		
Spring		1			
Wraxall					1
TOTALS	14	3	3	3	5

1940's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Mechanical)	Injury
Bathford			1
Odd Down			1
Ridge		1	
TOTALS	3	1	2

1950's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Mechanical)
Hartham		1
TOTALS	1	1

2000's

Mine/ Quarry	INCIDENTS	Fatality (Rock Fall)
Stoke Hill		1
TOTALS	1	1

FATALITIES

	Rock Fall	Fall	Mechanical
1750	4		
1760	3		
1770	5	1	
1780	1		
1790	7		
1800	5	1	1
1810	2	1	
1820	6	5	3
1830	5	1	1
1840	4	3	3
1850	6	1	4
1860	10	2	7
1870	10	3	7
1880	10	2	8
1890	4	4	3
1900	1	1	6
1910	2		1
1920		1	1
1930	3	3	
1940			1
1950			1
	88	29	47

Number of workers in Bath Stone Mines

(Corsham, Bath and Bradford-on-Avon)

From Census Records

1851	387
1861	495
1871	693
1881	747
1891	870
1901	1351
1911	718
1921	419
1939	649

SUMMARY OF BATH STONE MINE ACCIDENTS

Date	Name	Location	Accident	Injury
30 Oct 1384	John	Grip Hill Quarry	Fall of Stone	Fatal
21 Aug 1751	Allen	Claverton Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
31 Jan 1755	Edward Hale	Combe Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
16 Mar 1755	Thomas Stacy	Combe Down Quarry	Fall	Fatal
24 Jun 1755	William Gowing	Odd Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
Jan 1760	John Coles	Bradford-on-Avon Quarry	Fall	Fatal
4 June 1765	Morris Walsh	Entry Hill Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
5 Oct 1768	Richard Marsh	Entry Hill Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
May 1769	William Thomas	Quarries	Fall	Fractured skull
3 July 1770	Francis Chambury	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Crushed, fatal
12 Aug 1771	George Beaumont	Bradford-on-Avon Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
22 Jan 1772	Lacey	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
30 May 1776	James Clapp	Entry Hill Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
6 July 1777	No name	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Fatal
2 Mar 1782	Alexander Teague	Entry Hill Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
Aug 1783	Lacey	Unnamed Quarry		Lost thumb
29 Jan 1790	William Vincent	Entry Hill Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
Aug 1790	John Smith	Farleigh Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
Jan 1791	John Drake	Unnamed Quarry Bath	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
4 Feb 1791	John Gibbons	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
June 1791	Isaac Mullins	Unnamed Quarry	Fall	Severe injuries
July 1791	Benjamin Little	Unnamed Quarry	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
Oct 1791	Thomas Davies	Unnamed Quarry	Fall	Severe injuries
30 July 1792	Richard Whittle	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
30 July 1792	Henry Brooks	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fractured legs
30 July 1792	Issac Pearce	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Head wound
Aug 1792	Richard Allwood	Entry Hill Quarries		Severe Injuries
7 May 1792	James Truebury	Lansdown Crescent Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
Aug 1794	James Shell	Bradford-on-Avon Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
30 Dec 1794	John Sweet	Combe Down Quarries		Fractured skull
27 May 1801	John Simonds	Conkwell Quarry, Winsley	Fall of stone	Fatal
20 Aug 1801	James Morris	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Fatal
23 May 1802	No name	Combe Down Quarries	Lost	Fatigued
14 Mar 1804	No name	Claverton Down Road Quarry	Fall	Severe injuries
June 1805	Levi Willcox	Kingsdown Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
11 Oct 1805	David Fisher	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Fatal
7 Oct 1807	Pitman	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
July 1807	William Helps	Spring Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
18 Sep 1809	Charles Lacey	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
Nov 1810	William Robins	Turley Stone Quarry, Winsley		Fatal

Date	Name	Location	Accident	Injury
17 Jan 1811	Samuel Latham	Castle Combe Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
17 Jan 1811	William White	Castle Combe Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
May 1816	Thomas Stiles	Bradford-on-Avon Quarries	Fall	Fatal
12 Feb 1818	No name	Combe Down Quarries, Bath	Fall of stone	Fatal
12 Feb 1818	No name	Combe Down Quarries, Bath	Fall of stone	Fractured leg
20 Dec 1818	George Salmon	Kingsdown Quarries, Bathford	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
29 Aug 1819	No name	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fractured thigh
29 Aug 1819	No name	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Leg amputated
Feb 1820	Job Jadd	Freshford Quarry		Fatal
Dec 1820	George Chambury	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
15 Dec 1820	Bennett	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Fatal
12 Aug 1822	Robert Huntley	Bradford-on-Avon Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
9 Feb 1824	Matthew Norris	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
30 Aug 1824	Joseph Holmes	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
1825	William White	Bath	Wagon	Fatal
18 Mar 1825	William White	Farley Down Quarryford	Crushed	Fatal
22 May 1825	David Jefferies	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Fatal
22 July 1825	Jones	Bathford Quarry	Fall	Fatal
22 Aug 1825	No name	Rudlow Quarry	Piece of iron fell	Fractured skull
8 Oct 1825	George Bath	Rudloe Quarry	Fall	Severe injuries
23 Aug 1826	Silas Godwin	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
20 Jul 1827	John Brewer	Bath	Wagon	Fatal
25 Aug 1828	William Wilmot	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Fatal
23 May 1828	No name	Winsley Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
23 May 1828	No name	Winsley Quarries	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
11 Nov 1828	Aust	Box Quarries	Fall	Fatal
5 Sep 1829	Ezekial Hudd	Box Quarries		Fatal
4 Dec 1829	Thomas Read	Farley Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Leg amputated
28 May 1830	G. Manshan	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
20 July 1833	Thomas Bendall	Murhill Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
19 Dec 1836	John Hudd	Mr. Hudd's Quarry, Box	Fall of stone	Fatal
31 Dec 1836	Robert Rose	Conkwell Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
3 Jan 1837	Thomas Davies	Box Quarries	Fall of pin	Injuries
3 Jan 1837	Robert Davies	Box Quarries	Fall of skip	Fatal
5 Sep 1838	No name	Odd Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Broken thigh
22 Sep 1838	Daniel Thomas	Box Quarries	Fall	Fatal
24 Sep 1838	Hancock	Dodwell's Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
27 Nov 1838	Isaac Archer	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
7 July 1840	Thomas Painter	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
22 Oct 1840	Thomas Lacy	Combe Down Quarries		Severe injuries
April 1842	Henry Gardner	Jones Quarry	Crane	Fatal
10 Sep 1842	Philip Tiley	Claverton Down Quarries	Fall	Fatal
9 Feb 1843	Charles Tiley	Unnamed Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal

Date	Name	Location	Accident	Injury
9 Dec 1844	Isaac Sumsion	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Severe injuries
18 Dec 1844	Edwards	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Fatal
6 Feb 1845	Hewlings	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Severe bruising
11 Aug 1846	Jacob Morris	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Fractured leg
23 Nov 1846	Samuel Neate	Farleigh Down	Fall of Stone	Crushed foot
30 Mar 1847	No name	Box Quarries	Crane	Torn thumb
7 Aug 1847	George Little	Corsham Quarries	Crane	Fatal
7 Aug 1847	John Fido	Corsham Quarries	Crane	Severe bruising
Aug 1847	Job Jones	Bradford-on-Avon Quarries, Wilt	Fall of stone	Fatal
6 Sep 1847	George Buck	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Severe head wound
June 1848	Stephen Gale	Box Quarries	Crane	Fatal
5 July 1848	Silas Tucker	Monkton Farleigh Quarries	Crane	Severe head wound
28 Sep 1848	Samuel Nowells	Vineyard Down Quarry, Monkton Combe	Fall of stone	Fatal
30 Oct 1848	George Yeeles	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Fractured leg
Aug 1849	John Betteridge	Box Field Quarry	Fell down shaft	Fatal
14 Sep 1850	George Bartlett	Box Quarries	Machine	Bruised
16 Sep 1850	No name	Box Quarries	Machine	Severe hand injury
10 Oct 1850	William Aust	Box Quarries	Wagon	Fatal
15 Feb 1851	James Hart	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Fractured limb
26 May 1851	James Hardiman	Box Quarries	Crane	Fractured skull
7 Mar 1853	James Davidge	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Fatal
12 May 1853	James Bowles	Corsham Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
12 May 1853	Thomas Holborn	Corsham Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
12 May 1853	Arthur Mizen	Corsham Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
24 May 1853	Robert Acland	Box Quarries	Crane	Fractured skull
9 July 1853	Joseph Day	Corsham Quarries	Wagon	Fatal
Oct 1853	William Parker	Bradford-on-Avon Quarries	Fell down shaft	Fatal
28 Nov 1853	Joseph Rogers	Farleigh Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
May 1854	William Angel	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
28 Nov 1854	No name	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Broken thigh
12 Aug 1857	George Hancock	Box Quarries	Fall	Fractured leg
25 July 1859	Davidge	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Severe injuries
8 Sep 1859	John Hayward	Clift Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
23 Apr 1860	Mizen	Bradford-on-Avon	Fall of stone	Ankle injury
23 Apr 1860	Moses Joyce	Corsham Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Leg fractures
28 Aug 1860	Charles Cowley	Corsham Quarries	Foul air	Fatal
9 May 1861	Wilkins	Bradford-on-Avon Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
27 May 1861	George Slade	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Fractured leg
21 July 1862	John Dickenson	Combe Down Quarries	Crane injury	Fractured thigh
20 Aug 1862	Anthony Bigwood	Corsham Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
11 Feb 1863	John Strugnell	Winsley Quarry	Fall	Smashed leg

Date	Name	Location	Accident	Injury
24 Sep 1863	George Davis	Bethell Quarries, Bradford-on-Avon	Wagon	Fatal
1 Apr 1864	John Lucas	Box Quarry No. 4	Fall of stone	Fatal
13 Jul 1864	James Slade	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Fatal
11 Jul 1864	Wootton	Corsham Quarries	Fall	Fractured arm
10 Aug 1864	Walter Mizen	Monkton Farleigh Quarries	Wagon	Fatal
23 Aug 1864	William Smart	Potley Bridge	Upset Cart	Fatal
21 Sep 1864	Thomas Maslen	Box Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
Nov 1864	No name	Box Quarries	In well	Fatal
22 Mar 1865	Bryant	Bethel Quarries	Fall of stone	Leg injury
23 Aug 1865	William Smart	Box Quarries	Wagon	Fatal
30 Oct 1865	Banks	Poulton Quarry	Fall of stone	Wounded
30 Oct 1865	Chapman	Poulton Quarry	Fall of stone	Bruised
26 May 1866	George Sergeant	Poulton Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
5 Sep 1866	No name	Box Quarries	Crane	Fatal
6 Sep 1866	No name	Box Quarries	Crane	Fatal
11 Sep 1866	Isaac Dainton	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
15 Sep 1867	Fido	Corsham Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
25 Sep 1867	James Arlett	Box Quarry	Crane	Fatal
15 Oct 1867	George Jenkins	Box No. 4 Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
8 July 1868	Solomon Watson	Corsham Quarries	Fall of stone	Badly bruised
14 Aug 1868	John Fishlock	Clift Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
14 Aug 1868	Mark Pinic	Clift Quarry	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
Dec 1868	Job Townsend	Bradford-on Avon Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
6 Mar 1869	George Gingell	Corsham Quarries		Fractured leg
5 May 1869	William Pocock	Combe Down Quarry	Crane	Severe injuries
20 Jan 1870	Spaulding	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
20 Jan 1870	Strange	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
July 1870	Allen	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fingers amputated
22 July 1870	George Norris	Box	Fall of stone	Fatal
11 Nov 1870	Charles Jones	Box	Foul air	Fatal
19 May 1871	Henry Lambert	Box Quarry	Fall of stone	Crushed finger
20 May 1871	Charles Wicks	Box Quarry	Bar fell	Severe injury
6 July 1871	Henry Rose	Clift Quarry, Box	Wagon	Fatal
18 Sep 1871	William Williams	Mount Pleasant Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
Nov 1871	Henry Franklin	Corsham	Fall of stone	Fatal
29 Oct 1872	William Mullins	Box Hill Quarries	Crane	Fatal
6 Feb 1873	George Summer	Box Hill Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
24 Oct 1873	Robbins	Freshford Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
1 Nov 1873	William Gingell	Box Quarries		Fatal
16 Nov 1873	John Franklin	Box Quarries	Fall	Fatal
13 Mar 1875	Thomas Wheeler	Hudswell Quarry, Corsham	Fall down shaft	Fatal
10 Sep 1875	Albert Gale	Ridge Quarry, Corsham		Fatal
10 Sep 1875	James Hillyer	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Fatal
28 Jan 1876	John Goodhind	Stoke Hill Quarry, Freshford	Fall of stone	Fatal

Date	Name	Location	Accident	Injury
24 May 1876	George Sheppard	Spring Quarry	Wagon	Fatal
2 Aug 1876	Richard Cousens	Box No. 4 Quarry	Wagon	Fatal
26 Sep 1876	William Sawyer	Mr. Yockney's Quarry	Wagon	Collar bone
29 Sep 1876	J. Aust	Unnamed Quarry	Fall	Injury to side
8 Jan 1877	Thomas Hale	Corsham Down No. 6 Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
27 Jan 1877	Edward Phelps	Corsham Down No. 6 Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
13 Feb 1877	John Doel	Farleigh Wick Quarry	Fall of stone	Crushed legs
15 Feb 1877	Webb	Box No. 6 Quarry	Fall	Bruised
20 July 1877	George Sheppard	Corsham Quarries	Foul air	Fatal
21 July 1877	Edward Fido	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Fatal
21 July 1877	Frederick Dulton	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Leg injuries
Sep 1877	Nathaniel Fidoe	Combe Down Quarries	Fall of Stone	Bruising
4 Oct 1877	Samuel Budd	Odd Down Quarry	Fall of Stone	Fractured thigh
22 Oct 1877	Henry Goddridge	Lansdown Quarries	Fall	Head injuries
1 Dec 1877	Samuel Beaven	The Tump Quarry		Fatal
22 Feb 1878	George Bailey	Monkton Farleigh		Fractured leg
25 June 1878	Charles Elms	Corsham Quarries	Crane	Fatal
25 July 1878	Eli West	Corsham Quarries	Fall of stone	Fractured leg
10 Dec 1878	Thomas Medden	Stoke Hill Quarry, Limpley Stoke	Fall of stone	Fatal
10 Jan 1879	Elijah Fidoe	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Bruised foot
19 Feb 1879	Alfred Allen	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
6 Oct 1879	Henry Hancock	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Concussion
16 Oct 1879	Roland Lodge	Spring Quarry	Fall into well	Fatal
2 Nov 1879	William Sheppard	Corsham Quarries	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
17 Nov 1879	George Baldwin	Kingsdown Quarry	Fall	Head injuries
22 Nov 1879	Thomas Vinall	Corsham Quarries	Crane	Arm injury
Jan 1880	Eli West	Underground Quarry	Fall	Injured knee
Jan 1880	George Poplar	Underground Quarry	Fall	Bruised hand
Jan 1880	Jacob Knott	Underground Quarry	Fall	Injured foot
6 June 1880	Jacob Targett	The Tump Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
11 June 1880	Samuel Button	Combe Down Quarries	Fall	Head injuries
31 Aug 1880	John Gale	Monkton Farleigh Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
27 Oct 1880	Isaac Bird	Box Quarry		Fractured legs
19 Nov 1880	William Burchall	No location	Fall of stone	Fractured thigh
Jan 1881	No name	Underground Quarry		Fingers injured
3 Mar 1881	George Hale	Monks Quarry	Wagon	Fatal
9 Mar 1881	Daniel Sawyer	Farleigh New Quarry	Fall of stone	Fractured leg
21 June 1881	Joseph Webb	Corsham Quarry		Bruised foot
7 Sep 1881	John Baldwin	No location	Fall of stone	Head wounds
29 Sep 1881	Frank Davies	Corsham Quarries	Tool	Head wounds
21 Dec 1881	Alfred Gaisford	Box Quarry	Fall	Fatal
20 Mar 1882	Edwin Fielding	Drum Quarry, Monkton Farleigh	Crane	Fatal
6 Apr 1882	James Baldwin	Unnamed Quarries	Fall	Internal injuries

Date	Name	Location	Accident	Injury
17 July 1882	John Knott	Unnamed Quarries, Corsham	Fall	Head wounds
23 Aug 1882	John Hancock	Ridge Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
23 Nov 1882	William Gullis	Farleigh Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
17 Feb 1883	Thomas Howell	Monkton Farleigh Quarry	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
18 June 1883	William Wilkins	Corsham Quarries	Crane	
16 Oct 1883	William Gibbs	Bathford Quarry		Severe injuries
29 Oct 1883	James Brinkworth	Corsham Quarries	Fall of stone	Fractured leg
22 Nov 1883	Edward Cettett	Corsham Quarries	Fall of stone	Crushed foot
29 Nov 1883	Edward Barrett	Corsham Quarry		Crushed foot
19 Jan 1884	George Gerrish	Winsley Quarries	Tool	Fractured leg
7 Feb 1884	Isaac Bright	Corsham Quarries		Fractured leg
19 May 1884	William Tison	Corsham Quarries		Fractured leg
30 Oct 1884	Alfred Davies	Corsham Quarry		
15 Nov 1884	William Hulbert	Bradford-on-Avon Quarries		
18 Mar 1885	George Elms	Spring Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
17 Nov 1885	George Freeth	Box Hill Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
Jun 1886	Edward Hancock	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fatal
25 Aug 1886	John Barton	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Fractured arm
15 Oct 1886	George Bailey	Bathford Quarries	Crane	Fatal
27 Nov 1886	Noah Alford	Ridge Quarry	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
13 Jan 1887	William Garton	Grip Hill Quarry, Bradford-on-Avon	Fall of stone	Fatal
1 Feb 1887	Albert West	Drum & Pit Quarry, Monkton Farleigh	Fall of stone	Fatal
15 July 1887	Albert Dagger	Pictor's Quarry, Winsley	Crane	Fatal
Aug 1887	Albert Wait	Corsham Quarry	Wagon	Severe leg injury
31 Aug 1887	John Stokes	Pictor's Quarry, Winsley	Crane	Fatal
3 Oct 1887	Irura Bradfield	Clift Quarry	Crane	Fractured arm and leg
14 Dec 1887	Thomas James	Box Clift Quarry	Wagon	Fatal
9 Apr 1888	William Jones	Combe Down Quarry	Fall	Fatal
17 May 1888	William Mumford	Box	Crane	Fatal
9 June 1888	Frank Bradfield	Box Wharf	Wagon	Fatal
6 Oct 1888	Edward Hudd	Spring Quarry		Suicide
16 Mar 1889	Charles Baldwin	Farleigh Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
Aug 1889	Gertrude Berry	Old Down Quarry	Fall	Fatal
1 Mar 1890	Charles Tylee	Rudloe Quarry	Wagon	Crushed foot
30 June 1890	William Coles	Monkton Farleigh Quarry	Fall of stone	Fractured leg
8 July 1890	Henry Eyles	Hartham No. 1 Quarry	Fall	Fatal
Nov 1890	Frederick Pinnock	Farley Quarry	Fall of stone	Broken leg
Nov 1890	James Harford	Farley Quarry	Fall of stone	Fractured thigh
15 Apr 1891	James Cottle	Westwood Quarry	Wagon	Fatal
7 July 1893	William Painter	Odd Down Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
24 Sep 1893	Charles Osborne	Combe Down Quarry	Fall	Fatal
Dec 1893	Edward Williams	Combe Down Quarry	Fall	Fatal

Date	Name	Location	Accident	Injury
27 Oct 1894	William Nash	Stoke Quarry, Freshford	Fall of stone	Fatal
18 Mar 1895	James Rose	Ridge Quarry	Fall	Head injuries
23 Aug 1895	John Baker	Colerne Quarry	Fall of stone	Leg injuries
10 Sep 1895	George Hale	Hudswell Quarry	Trolley	Uninjured
20 July 1896	George Smith	Barn Quarry	Crane	Fatal
19 Oct 1896	William Sawyer	Spring Quarry	Fall of stone	Leg injuries
27 Apr 1898	William Hancock	Claverton Down Quarries		Suicide
18 Aug 1898	Henry A [?]	Box Quarries	Crane	Fractured leg
17 Mar 1899	William Clothier	West Wells Quarry	Explosion	Face burns
17 Mar 1899	John Savin	West Wells Quarry	Explosion	Face burns
17 Apr 1899	Joseph Banks	Bethel Quarry, Bradford-on-Avon	Fall	Severe injuries
28 June 1899	Thomas Lawrence	Monks Park Quarries	Fall of stone	Fractured leg
5 July 1899	Theodore Parsons	Box Quarries	Wagon	Fatal
21 Sep 1899	Henry John Franklin	No. 6 Spring Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
18 Oct 1899	George Derrick	South Wraxall Quarries, Bradford-on-Avon	Crane	Crushed
14 Dec 1899	Thomas Jones	Hills Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
10 Jan 1900	Fredrick Wootten	Corsham Court Quarry	Foul air	Fatal
18 Jan 1900	Henry Clarke	Corsham Down Quarry	Crane	Fatal
30 Apr 1900	Tom Pearce	Monks Park Quarry	Crane	Fatal
6 Aug 1901	Frederik Derrick	Unnamed Quarry	Fall of stone	Leg injuries
29 June 1901	Frederick Brown	Farley Down Quarries	Waggon	Fatal
30 Jan 1902	Frederick Townsend	Sands Quarries	Fall	Severe injuries
15 May 1902	Henry Heaven	Spring Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
16 Jul 1902	William Bird	Box Quarry	Fall of stone	Broken leg
23 Nov 1902	Albert Ellis	Coombe Down Quarry	Fall	Fatal
14 Jan 1903	William King	Corsham Quarry	Fall of stone	Crushed ankles
Jan 1904	H. G. Spackman	Monkton Farleigh Quarry	Crane	Fractured skull
21 Oct 1904	Maunder	Box Quarries	Fall of stone	Leg injuries
9 Jan 1905	Charles Frapnell	Limpley Stoke	Wagon	Unhurt
28 Sep 1906	Mark Fowler	Potley Lane, Bridge Quarry	Wagon	Fatal
7 Feb 1907	James Wootten	Sands Quarries	Crane	Severe injuries
6 Sep 1907	Frank Baker	Hartham No. 2 Quarry	Crane	Fatal
25 Aug 1909	Gwendoline Mallard	Hartham Park	Crane	Fatal
25 Aug 1909	Harry Lucas	Hartham Park	Crane	Severe injuries
12 Jan 1910	George Heale	Monk's Quarry	Crane	Fatal
12 Sep 1911	Daniel Hillyer	Combe Down Quarries	Crane	Severe injuries
30 Aug 1912	Henry Knott	Corsham No. 6 Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
26 Feb 1913	Charles Davidge	Vinegar Down Quarry, Combe Down	Fall of stone	Fatal
July 1913	Unnamed	Pockeridge Quarry	Lost	Unhurt
13 May 1914	George Savage	Biddestone Quarry	Fall of stone	Crushed arm
17 Jan 1916	William Norris	Odd Down Quarry	Wagon injury	Fractured leg
31 July 1919	Ernest Dyke	Corsham Quarries	Fall of stone	Fractured leg
14 Apr 1920	John Thomas	Limpley Stoke Quarry	Fall	Dog rescue
1 Nov 1920	George North	No. 6 Quarry, Corsham		Crushed toes

Date	Name	Location	Accident	Injury
19 Dec 1920	William Wootten	Ridge Quarry	Wagon	Fatal
2 Sep 1921	F. Barnett	Unnamed quarry	Fall of stone	Cuts & bruises
20 July 1922	Albert Norris	Odd Down Quarries	Fall of stone	Severe injuries
20 Dec 1922	William Cease	Combe Down Quarries	Crane injury	Scalp wound
28 June 1924	William Victor	Box Quarries	Fall	Suicide
6 Feb 1925	Herbert Toghill	South Wraxall Quarry	Fall	Fatal
23 July 1925	Herbert Barnett	Wraxhall Quarry, Corsham	Fall of stone	Fractured collar bone
8 June 1927	Charles Pinnock	Moor Park Quarry	Not specified	Fatal
5 July 1927	Frank Franmis	Horescombe Quarries, Combe Down	Fall of stone	Crushed fingers
6 July 1927	Ephraim Chandler	Sumsion's Quarry, Corsham	Fall of stone	Fractured collar bone
3 Apr 1928	John Butler	Elm Park Quarry, Box	Fall of stone	Fractured ankle
8 July 1930	Alfred Archer	Corsham Quarries	Machinery	Hand injuries
3 Mar 1932	Frederick Morris	Hill's Quarry, Combe Down	Fall	Head injury
27 Aug 1934	Thomas Carter	Spring Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
Sep 1934	Thomas Lodge	Wraxall Quarry	Crane	Fractured collar bone
14 Apr 1936	Charles Nowell	Horsecombe Quarries, Odd Down	Crane	Shoulder injury
31 May 1936	several	Monkton Farley Quarry	Lost	Hungry
21 Dec 1936	H. Ashcroft	Corsham Quarries	Fall	Fractured leg
25 Dec 1936	C. Bond	Hartham Quarry		Fractured wrist
3 Feb 1938	William Reed	Ridge Quarry	Cage	Fatal
4 Feb 1938	Frederick Cornish	East Leaze Quarry	Locomotive	Fatal
19 Apr 1938	J. Roberts	Horsecombe Quarry	Fall	Injured foot
1 June 1938	Frank Niel	Horsecombe Quarry	Fall	Cut head
8 Oct 1938	Herbert Smith	Eastleys Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
8 Oct 1938	John Lee	Eastleys Quarry	Fall of stone	Fatal
22 May 1939	Frederick Fry	Eastleys Quarry	Skip	Fatal
20 July 1940	Anthony Vest	Francis Quarry Bathford	Skip	Leg injuries
15 Aug 1940	W. Reynolds	Horsecombe Quarry	Fall	Injured ankle
11 Mar 1941	Mr. Fall	Ridge Quarry	Wagon	Fatal
Mar 1958	Ernest Hancock	Hartham Quarry	Crane	Fatal
22 Aug 1973	Anthony Comer	Conkwell Cave No. 1	Fall of stone	Ankle injury
20 Sep 2006	Steven Cosh	Stoke Hill Quarry, Limpley Stoke	Fall of stone	Fatal

Accidents and Fatalities not located in Literature but listed in Appendix 1 of Digging Bath Stone – A Quarry and Transport History by David Pollard.

Date	Name	Age	Quarry	Remarks
Jan 1760	John Coles		Bradford	Fell into a quarry pit
12 Aug 1771	George Beaumont		Bradford	By fall of a very large stone
Aug 1790	John Smith		Farleigh Down	Killed by falling in of a stone quarry
Aug 1794	James Shell		Bradford	Digging in quarry when part fell in
June 1805	Levi Wilcox		Kingsdown Hill	Large portion of quarry falling in
July 1807	William Helps		Kingsdown Old Hill	Part fell in and killed him
Nov 1810	William Robins		Turley Stone Quarry	
May 1816	Thomas Stiles	29	Bradford	By falling in of a quarry
18 Mar 1825	William White		Farleigh Down	Stone rolled of truck
23 Aug 1826	Silas Godwin		Combe Down	Undermining rubble
23 Aug 1864	William Smart	25	Potley Bridge	Upsetting of Cart
Nov 1864			Box	In a well
15 Sep 1867	Fido		Pickwick	Stone falling on him
Nov 1871	Henry Franklin	16	Corsham	Broke Leg
Dec 1871	Job Townsend	78	Limpley Stoke	Broke Leg
28 Jun 1886	Edward Hancock	37	Box Hill	Crushed by wrist stone
5 Jul 1896	H. Eyles	55	Hartham No. 1	Fell off Ledge