

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 4th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 3.

Inquests.

Before C.S.B. Busby Esq., Coroner.

Coal Pit Accident.

On the Monday the 27th. ult. an inquest was held at the Peacock Inn, Barlow, on the body of John Handley of Chesterfield, coalminer, aged 21 years, who was killed by a fall of bind on Friday the 24th. ult. at the Nesfield Colliery, Barlow. There were three beds of coal worked at the same time and deceased was holing in the dirt between the middle band and the bottom when a quantity of coal and dirt fell and caught deceased on the head, knocked him down and he fell on a lump on the floor which bulged in his forehead killing him instantly. Deceased had set a sprag and had knocked it to try whether it was safe. The underviewer was in the pit at the time of the accident and examined the place. He said that it was properly timbered, it was the wall and not the roof that fell. The weight of the stuff broke over the wood. He did not consider that anyone was to blame. Verdict: - Accidental Death.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 4th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 3.

Leaving Service.

Joseph Spencer, Samuel Sellors and Robert Bullen, colliers, were charged by Henry Green, contractor, with leaving the service of William Jackson and others at their works at Morton on the 20th. inst. In answer to the charge, Spencer said he was not a collier, that he and Sellors had given a months notice of their intention to leave. As it appeared that Spencer had signed the usual colliery rules, that he and Sellors had both left a week before their notice had expired, they were ordered to return to work and to pay 10/10d. costs each. Bullen was also ordered to pay 10/10d. costs and return to work.

Removing Tokens.

Benjamin Mills, a boy, was charged by William Parker with removing tokens from a coalpit in Clay Cross. It appeared that by charging the tokens, the accused, but for his being detected, would have got more money than he was actually entitled to, and as it was suspected that the accused committed the offense at the instigation of someone or other, the case was dismissed, his father paying 17/6d. costs.

Assault.

Michael Hemesley, was charged by John Diskin, with assaulting him at Clay Cross on the 11th. inst. Both persons are colliers and had been working together but in the long run the former told the latter that, as he was going to get his brother to work with him, a separation would have to take place between them and he would have to leave the pit. This not pleasing complainant he went to Mr. Robinson, the master, and told him what had taken place between him and the defendant. The result being that Mr. Robinson told him to return to his work and remain at it. ???????? returned to the pit and defendant kicked and struck him several times. Defendant denied the charge. Witnesses were called and as their evidence was of a contradictory nature the case was dismissed.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 4th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 4.

Railway Offense.

John Cowlshaw, collier, of Pye Bridge, was brought in custody of P.C. Harrison, charged by John Gee with turning the points on Mr. Oakes's railway at Pye Bridge with the intention of throwing an engine off the rails. Committed for trial at the Assizes.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 4th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 5.

Wages Case.

Peter Robinson, colliery agent to the Clay Cross Company at the Number 4 Main Pit, was summoned by Thomas White of Tupton, collier, for non-payment of 4/0d. wages. Defendant, who admitted owing the amount, said that he had delivered complainants time into the pay office and he nothing to do with the payment thereof. Complainant could have his money by calling at the office of the cashier during business hours. Complainant said that he was employed by the Defendant and was at work in a stall for which he received 5/0d. per day. On the 16th. January last Defendant fetched him out of the stall and set him to work to putt. He was at it for one day for which he wanted payment. He asked Defendant for it several times and he told him to call at the office. He did so but they told him they knew nothing about it. He saw Defendant on Saturday last and when he again told him to call at the office for it. On Monday he went there and there was no money for him. He had a witness present who heard Robinson set him to putt and who was with him at the time he called at the office for the money. The Bench made an order for the amount with costs 19/0d. or on default 14 days imprisonment. Defendant said "the money is in the office for him". Mr. Maynard said "he cannot be running up and down for it. He has already called several times. The money must be paid or go to jail". The Defendant was removed in custody.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 4th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 5.

The Walton Road Nuisance Case.

This case, a complaint against Thomas Carrington Esq. of Chesterfield, one of the Wingerworth Iron Company's proprietors, by Mr. John Gratton, Surveyor of the Highways for the township of Walton, for an encroachment by them on the Langer Lane Road (Heard at the Petty Sessions on the 11th. inst.) on which occasion the Bench decided to convict when, at the request of Mr. Busby (advocate for the Defendant), judgement was deferred until today in order to allow him time to consider whether he should appeal from the decision of the bench and ask for a case. A fine of £1/5/0d and 11/0d. costs was inflicted which was paid.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 11th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 2.

Wilfully turning the Points of a Railway

A youth of 13 was found guilty of turning the points of a railway running from the works of James Oakes Esq. to the junction with the Midland Railway at Pye Bridge on the 9th. February. The diabolical act was done from motives of revenge because the prisoner had been chastised by one of the workmen. The Judge, Mr. Baron Martin, said he should consult Mr. Justice Willes before he passed sentence and on Wednesday the prisoner was sentenced to nine months with hard labour.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 11th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 3.

Stealing Horse Corn at Hasland.

James Hancock, was indicted for stealing on the 13th. February at Hasland a half quartern of corn, the property of the Staveley Coal and Iron Co. Mr. Markham was council for the prosecution and Mr. Bristowe for the prisoner. John Turton, said he was the overman at Boyer's Pit in Hasland and James Hancock was horse-keeper up to the 13th. of February. The Company sent once a fortnight the provender for the horses and when it was delivered to the prisoner who had the horses. The week before the 13th. of February in consequence of information he looked for the prisoners dinner tin and found it near the place where he took his dinner. On the 18th. of February he found the tin buried in the bottom of the corn chest. There was some mixed corn and chopped beans in the tin. That very day the chest had been replenished with beans and oats. ?????????? Before witnesses at the top of the pit when the prisoner came up with the dinner tin under his arm. He told him that he wanted to look in his dinner tin. Prisoner asked his reason and witness then looked in and that it contained beans and corn. He said it was the first time that he had done it, he had brought it to feed Fowles donkey with and he hoped that nothing would be said about it. Aaron Gascoigne, a deputy overman at the pit, confirmed the evidence of the last witness as to finding the prisoners tin at the bottom of the corn bin. He watched the chest shortly and half an hour afterwards he saw the prisoner go and take out the can. The remainder of this witnesses evidence was totally inaudible. Mr. Bristowe characterised this as a most trumpery case to be brought by the Staveley Iron and Colliery Co. (laughter) for stealing a little stuff which he had used to feed a poor old man's donkey. There was nothing whatever to show that this man took the stuff intending to steal it. Several witnesses gave the prisoner a good character for honesty. The judge said the real question in the case was whether the prisoner took the stuff with a thievish mind not whether it was small or great value. Not Guilty of Stealing. His Lordship said he agreed with the Jury and no doubt they agreed with him that he had done an indiscreet thing in thus dealing with his employers property but looking at the small amount of property, the circumstances of the case and the character the man had received he did not think that he could be held as taking away the property with a thievish mind. He did not, however, agree with the learned council for the defense that the witnesses, Turton and Gascoigne, had been guilty of a over zeal. They had acted properly.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 18th. March 1865.

Page 2 Column 5.

Advertisement.

Tapton Colliery, Coke and Iron Co. Ltd. beg to inform the inhabitants of Chesterfield that they have appointed R. Mountney agent for the sale of coal and coke to whom all orders should be given and monies paid either at his shop, Market Place, or the office, Cavendish Street, Chesterfield.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 18th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 3.

Letter.

Clay Cross.

Sir,

?????? some of your numerous readers inform me, or rather the inhabitants of Clay Cross, the nearest public road to Clay Cross Station without having to go round by North Wingfield or Tupton. The road which has been used at the Station since the railway opened is now decorated by some four or five boards having on them "No Public Road". I think the vast amount of mineral traffic which the railway conveys from Clay Cross Colliery ought to entitle the inhabitants of Clay Cross to a road fit to go on and one that is safe, without having to go either by Tupton or North Wingfield. Hoping someone more able than myself will soon take the matter up, I remain,

Yours, Sir, Your Obedient Servant
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Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 18th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 4.

Wages Case.

James Young, overman, of Springwell Colliery, Staveley was summoned by Michael Fallon of Whittington, collier, for non-payment of 6/-d. wages due to him at the rate of 3/-d. per day. Mr. Busby appeared on behalf of the Company. Complainant said he was employed in the roads in the Springwell Pit and at the last pay-day 6/-d. was stopped from his wages at the office. On enquiring the reason he was informed that on the pay of the 18th. of February he had drawn the money (£1-11-0d.) belonging to the man called Michael Fadden instead of his own of 14/8d. Complainant said he did not receive the £1-11-0d. He had worked for the Company for 16 years and had not kept any of the pay- tickets by him. Josiah Belley, night overman, said he had called over the names and a person named Holmes gave out the tickets.

Fallon: Question: You were not there when I got my ticket and I have a witness to prove that?

John Berresford, pay-clerk, said that on the day named after paying the men, a ticket for Michael Fallon remained. There were no tickets for Fadden. James Young, overman, said that 14/6d. was Fallons wages after deducting his club of 6d. for five days work. The Bench dismissed the case, the complainant to pay the costs of 3/6d.

Wages Case.

John Wragg of New Whittington, contractor, was summoned by the above complainant, Fallon, for non-payment of 11/-d. wages due to him. Complainant said he was employed by defendant in a stall at 4/-d. per day but on the pay-day 11/-d. was stopped from him by defendant. Wragg said that he stopped 11/-d. from Fallon by order of Mr. Young the deputy. Mr. Busby said that it was in consequence of Fallon having received £1/11/-d. instead of 14/8d. that the money was stopped to recompense the Company. The Bench said "Wragg has no power to stop the money" and they would make an order for him for the amount. Mr. Busby said that the Company would repay Wragg. Ordered to pay the amount claimed, the costs were disallowed.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 18th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 4.

Wages Case.

Charles Bloore, of Pilsley, Deputy Overman at No. 4 Main Pit, Clay Cross Co. was summoned by Herbert Limb of Tupton, collier, for non-payment of 3/-d. wages. Complainant said that he had 4/-d. per day in the pit and he was taken out of the stall by Bloore for 4 days to putt and on applying for his money had received only 4/4d. for 4 days work. He saw Bloore in the pit on Monday and spoke about it when he said Bloore informed him that he would do nothing with it until he saw Brown the overman. On Tuesday he informed him, the complainant, that Brown would not give him any more. Mr. Busby said that complainant got the normal allowance of 1/4d. per score and 38% additional or 4d. per more than was allowed ordinary putters, beside Bloore was the wrong man to summons. Complainant: "I did not get much more than half a days wages ???????? putting in what I got in the stall if I had got to putt a ?????? up and if I stop ???????? me up". Mr. Busby: "The Rules specify that a man must do some work he may be put to". The Bench: "It is not right to make him work for a less sum than he may at his ordinary work, say 4/-d, ???????????????? less wages". The Bench advised Limb to take the 5/-d. in preference to taking out another summons.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 18th. March 1865.

Page 4 Column 3.

Summons for Neglect of Work.

William Taylor, Colliery Engine Tenter, was charged by Mr. James Webster, Coal Proprietor, of Killamarsh, with neglecting his work on Monday February 27th. whereby the work at the pit had to be suspended on the day following in consequence of a large quantity of water having accumulated in the pit. It appeared that the defendant and his brother were engine tenters at Mr. Webster's pit and it was his duty to attend at 6 o'clock at night to relieve the man who had been on duty during the day but on the present occasion, according to his own admission, he did not attend before 11 o'clock and the consequence was an accumulation of water. Mr. Webster produced the rules of the Colliery which clearly showed the defendant had made himself amenable to law. Defendant endeavoured to justify himself by saying that he had made arrangements with the other engineman to stop at work until he came, while so doing he thought that he was not blameable. Mr. Webster did not wish to press the case. Ordered to pay the costs.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 18th. March 1865.

Page 4 Column 6.

Colliery Accident at Mosborough.

On Friday evening about 5 o'clock an accident occurred at Plumbley New Colliery, Mr. John Rhodes of Beighton, proprietor. Plumbley New Colliery is unlike most pits it being situated on the side of a hill and the shaft, instead of being perpendicular, is horizontal. The coal is therefore conveyed to the pit mouth by rail. A large truck constructed to hold 10 corves brings the coal up an incline to the engine-house. At the time mentioned the men had given over work and it is usual for them to ride on the truck to the pit mouth. On this occasion 8 persons were on the truck when about 200 yards from its destination one of the axle-trees broke in the nave. The truck turned on its side pitching its occupants with violence on the ground. All escaped without material injury except for three namely Matthew Savage of Mosborough, aged 18, who took nine men to extricate him from under the truck, has suffered fractures of the collar-bone, severely cut in the face and the back and internally injured in the abdomen, Frederick Brockley, aged 11, thigh-bone broken and William Bartholomew, aged 15, bruised in the arm, back and head. They were all conveyed home and surgically treated by Mr. Jones and his assistant of Eckington and are progressing as favourably as can be expected.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 25th. March 1865.

Page 2 Column 7.

Death of M. Seymour.

On Saturday morning last Mr. Martin Seymour, the resident viewer of the Staveley Coal and Iron Co., died in his residence at Barrow Hill after a comparatively short illness. The deceased gentleman was an especial favourite with the late Mr. Barrow, and in recognition of his services Seymour Colliery was called after his name. He possessed a considerable ability in the practical management of collieries and his death will be regretted by numerous workmen and more especially by his bereaved widow and a large family.

Derbyshire Times and Chesterfield Herald.

Saturday 25th. March 1865.

Page 3 Column 1.

Wages Case.

Steven Sayer of Brampton, colliery owner, was summoned by William Bradley of the same place, engine tender, for non-payment of wages due to him at the rate of 2/-d. per day. The defendant admitted the claim but said that he stopped the amount to reimburse himself for the damage done to the pump through the defendants negligence in going to sleep. He had started the pump when frozen which caused the beam to break. Defendant denied the above statement and alleged that he took the situation that the beam was in an unsound state. Defendant called a man who gave the name of Joseph Buekley in order to show that it was complainants neglect in consequence of going to sleep that the beam was broken. On being sworn he could give no particulars as to that and he asked the questions as to the soundness of the beam when complainant took to the place he gave very evasive answers. The Bench dismissed the case telling complainant to sue in the County Court, defendants to pay the fees 8/6d.