

Report On Walter Grinter. 1859 –1908.

Report Taken From The Western Gazette.
Dated November 20th 1908.

Sad Fatality On Ham Hill.

Quarryman Crushed To Death.

A sad accident, resulting in the death of a Quarryman, named Walter Grinter, of Paradise, Stoke, occurred on Ham Hill on Thursday afternoon. Several of the workers at Messrs. Bishop & Co.'s quarry were engaged in sawing a piece of stone from a large block, six ft long and four ft wide, when the severed piece, weighing about four hundred weight, fell, and Grinter was crushed between the two pieces, and received injuries which resulted in his death about two hours afterwards.

An inquest on the body was held at the institution on the Friday afternoon by the Coroner for the district, Mr E. Q. Louch.- Mr William Brooks was chosen foreman of the jury.

George Bishop, manager at the quarry, said that at about 3pm. On Thursday, whilst engaged in his work on the Hill, he ordered the deceased and others to get a large piece of stone ready to send away. The deceased called witness's attention to a clay bed in the stone, what they called a "vent" and the deceased got it out. For this to be accomplished they proceeded to cut off a small piece of stone, and when they knocked off this portion from the larger stone it did not seem to effect the larger portion, which remained standing. Subsequently the deceased and himself were stooping down, putting a chain round the smaller piece so as to remove it out of the way, and while engaged in this the larger block fell, and the deceased was pinned between the two stones. He called out immediately for help, the deceased was got out, he should think, within a minute of the accident. Witness did not see the block falling until he felt the blow on his shoulder, and he heard the deceased crying out at the same time. He could not in any way account for the larger piece falling. It had been standing in the same place for nearly a week. He thought, however, that the knocking off the smaller piece must have disturbed the balance, There was no danger in the work that they were doing, and he had never had an accident of this kind. It was altogether a mystery, the stone having been standing on its smooth side. When they got the deceased out they carried him to the Drawing office, covered him over with some jackets, and sent for the Doctor. The deceased was at this time conscious. He was caught by the hips, and he should think more crushed than struck by a blow.

Walter Glover, a stone sawyer, gave corroborative evidence.

Dr.R.Hensleigh Walter, of Stoke, said that on Thursday he was called to Ham Hill, and found the deceased lying as comfortable as possible in the office. He was perfectly conscious, and seemed to have little pain except when he moved. He directed the deceased's removal on a stretcher to his home, and he subsequently attended the deceased with Dr. Clark. The condition of the deceased was very grave, and despite all medical attention he died about six pm. on Thursday. He attributed the cause of death to shock consequent upon severe internal injuries.

The jury returned a verdict "That the deceased died from shock resulting from injuries caused by being crushed beneath a block of stone which accidentally fell on him."