

Somerset and Dorset Coroner's Rolls 1314-1321

HUNDRED OF CANNINGTON

Somerset County Court — 2 August 1316

1. *Wick tithing*. On 5 August, Geoffrey le Schetere of Burton found William Cole of Kilton dead. Inquest held 10 August.

Jurors: William Nichol, William de Edyston, William Stretche, John de Tettehulle, Vincent de Stoke, William (the) Smith of Stringston, Robert Tettehulle, John Durl yng, Thomas de Culverstrete, Henry atte Hethfelde, Thomas Broun and the tithings of Wick, Stringston, Shurton and Adescombe.

Verdict: William Cole had been ill for the last half year. Coming towards Randolph Grym's house, he reached some land belonging to Fairfield and there because of weakness he died a sudden death.

Somerset County Court — 13 March 1318

2. *Asholt tithing*. On 5 April, Nicholas Persoun found Robert de Coleford dead at Postridge. Inquest held 8 April.

Jurors: Roher Pym, John le Bole, Henry [Bosc—], John Loynte, Thomas de Doddeshame, Walter Mayn, Gilbert atte Clyve, Roger atte Crosste, Hugh Mody, John atte Churcheye and the tithings of Aisholt, Currypool, Fiddington and Chilton.

Verdict: Robert de Colesford took fire from Sir Hugh Popham's house and carried it to his oxhouse. He gave fodder to his bullocks. Fire caught the straw and both Robert and the oxhouse were burned by misadventure.

Somerset County Court — 12 March 1319

3. *Enmore tithing*. On 15 March, Roger Trot found Richard Scalere dead in the house of the priest of Bladwyn Malet. Inquest held 18 March.

Jurors: William de Bereford, William de Almanesheye, Walter Payn, Reginald atte Watere, Thomas de Grobbehame, Walter de Rokesworth, Adam de Enemore, Walter Moldestone, Walter le Gardynere, Walter Enmore, Lexworthy, Blaxhold and Pignes.

Verdict: Richard fell from a ladder in the priest's house at Enmore and broke his neck. He died by misadventure. The ladder is worth 1d for which Enmore tithing will answer.

Somerset County Court — 23 October 1319

4. *Plainsfield tithing*. On 9 November, Elias de Wodecrofte found William de Odebroke dead at Stonyngford. Inquest held 13 November.

Jurors: Roger Pym, Walter de Gilhuttone, Roger de Hakcheforde, John le Bole, John Ka, John Loynte, John Fychet of Cannington, Adam Chandos Jr., John Gorney, Walter Payne, John Robyn, Henry Hambrig and the tithings of Plainfield, Aisholt and Fiddington.

Verdict. On 8 Nov. illness overcame William de Odebroke at Stonyngford. He died by misadventure.

Somerset County Court — 22 Oct. 1319

5. *Gothelney tithing*. On 16 Nov. John Blay of Charlinch found Robert le Toukere of Spaxton dead near Gothelney; pledges John atte Yete junior and senior.

Jurors: Roger Pym, Roger de Hacheforde, Richard Pruet, John de Gornay, John Fichet, John Stenyng, John atte Yoe, Henry Hulacre, Roger Parsheye, Walter Payn, Thomas de Grobbehame and the tithings of Chilton, Currypool and Spaxton.

Verdict: Robert came into Gothelney begging and he had had the falling sickness for the past eight years. He fell into the water and died by misadventure.

HUNDRED OF MILVERTON

Somerset County Court — 24 Nov. 1315

6. *Hagley tithing*. On 14 Dec. William Miller of Stawley found Robert son of John le Toukere dead; pledges John le Toukere of Hagley and William atte Worthegehe.

Jurors: John de Reigny, John Sencler, Richard Payn, Reginald de Cottheeye, John Frankleyn, John atte Doune, John Pore, Walter Chuket, Walter Geffray and the tithings of Hagley, Stawley, Bathealton and Greenham.

Verdict: On 13 Dec. Robert came close to the River Tone. He wished to lop with a sickle some branches from the alders alongside the river for firewood. A branch broke so that Robert fell into the water and was drowned by misadventure. The sickle is worth 1d for which Hagley tithing will answer.

Somerset County Court — 10 May 1316

7. *Runnington tithing*. On 14 May, Simon Pope of Runnington found William Consail of Preston Priors and John, son of Walter atte Brugge of Pixton dead in Illondesmede; pledges Henry le Bonde and John le Bonde. Inquest held 16 May.

Jurors: John Frankleyn, John atte Dounelonde, Richard atte Hulle, William de Cotteheye, Adam de Cotteheye, Laurence Lanecock, William (the) Smith of Sampford, John Catheman, Adam de Burcombe and the tithings of Runnington, Langford, Wellisford and Sampford Arundel.

Verdict: William Consail and John, son of Walter atte Brugge, together were coming from Wellington market on 13 May. At Broadbridge they wanted to ride across the Tone on one mare, but because of the height of the water they were drowned by misadventure. The horse is worth 6s for which Runnington tithing will answer.

Somerset County Court — 4 May 1321

8. *Greenham tithing*. On 1 May, Ralph (the) Smith wanted to knock down the chimney of his forge with one of his blacksmith's hammers in order to repair it. He hammered at his chimney until it leaned over, but as he went out of the door of his smithy the chimney fell on his head, injuring him fatally. He died on 1 May, but before that he had the last rites of the church. Inquest held 7 May.

Jurors: John Sencler, Richard de Applerleghe, Richard de Uppehulle, Roger de Cotteheye, Laurence de Thorne, William de Northcote, John de Halse, Richard atte forde, John Totebere and the tithings of Greenham, Kittisford, Welliford. Verdict as above, The chimney and hammer are worth 3d for which Greenham tithing will answer.

HUNDRED OF WELLINGTON

Somerset County Court — 22 Nov. 1316

9. *Perry tithing*. On 10 Dec. Richard atte Purie found William Horny dead at Thornheye; pledges William Budde and Richard de Werdesforde. Inquest held 17 Dec.

Jurors: William de Harcombe, Jordan le Coke, John le Wytekneyt, Richard de Horweye, Richard atte Mulle, John Richer, Geoffrey atte Benche, John Dounelonde, John Planz and the tithings of Perry, Woodford, and Westford.

Verdict: On 9 Dec. William Horny, coming from the market at Wellington, reached Thornheye and there from hunger and weakness he fell to the ground and died by misadventure.

Somerset County Court — 21 Nov. 1317

10. *Church tithing*. On 23 Nov. John Bampton found John de Tottenas of Devon dead in the Church tithing of Wellington; pledges Richard Coulyng and Thomas Thewan. Inquest held 29 Nov.

Jurors: William de Harcombe, John le Coke, Nicholas de Ponte, John Dounelond, Geoffrey atte Bouche, Philip atte Leye, Walter Wolf, John Richer and the tithings of Church of Wellington, Ford, Buckland and Westford.

Verdict John de Tottenas was coming along the highway from Wellington begging and the wind blew and broke a branch of an elm whereby a part fell on his head and struck him so that he died at once by misadventure, The elm is worth 2d for which Church tithing will answer.

HUNDRED OF LANGFORD

Somerset County Court — 20 Dec. 1316

11. *Langford tithing*. On 1 Jan. 1317. William Corvyn of Langford found Henry le Schephurde of Bridport dead; pledges Stacy and Richard le Youngere. Inquest held 31 Jan.

Jurors: William de Condenham, Ralph de Condenham, Robert atte Hulle, Thomas de Bosco, Ralph de Bosco, Philip atte Leye, William de Harcombe, Richard de Spycer, William Wolfe, John atte Yete and the tithing of Langford.

Verdict Henry le Schephurde was in the service of William de Condenham. On 31

Dec. 1316 he wanted to demolish a wall of an old house there with a pickaxe, but it fell on him and crushed him so that he died immediately by misadventure. The pickaxe is worth 2d for which Langford tithing will answer.

HUNDRED OF WHITLEY

Somerset County Court — 4 July 1317

12. *Middlezoy tithing.* On 12 July, John Frend of Middlezoy found Richard Tok of Moorlinch dead; pledges Nicholas Seman and Nicholas Richeman. Inquest held 19 July.

Jurors: John atte Halle, William de Sowy, Richard Fychet, William de Cristechurch, Walter le Clerk, John le Leche, William Michel, Philip (the) Cook, Simon atte Slo, Benedict de Thorngaye, John Uppehulle, Walter le Crese and the tithings of Middlezoy, Westonzoyland and Moorlinch.

Verdict: Richard Tok was killed by an unknown stranger in the field at Othery and was removed by him to smalemoredych in Middlezoy tithing. The unknown stranger immediately fled and nothing has been discovered of his name or his chattels. The sheriff is ordered to make a more thorough investigation at his tourn.

Somerset County Court — 4 July 1317

13. *Dunster borough.* On 5 March, Thomas Syant atte Merssh found Simon Adam of Marsh dead in a conduit in the port of Dunstre; pledges Adam Tole and Walter le Chepman. Inquest held 6 March.

Jurors: Robert Red; Robert Hamelyn, Adam le Masound, Thomas atte Merssh and William Everard. [*The rest of this document has been badly damaged by moisture. The verdict appears to be that Simon was using a hammer and when it was raised the hammer broke and part fell upon him. As he was found in a conduit he have been stunned and then drowned. He died immediately by misadventure. The hammer was worth 1d.*]

HUNDRED OF NORTH PETHERTON

Somerset County Court — 4 July 1317

14. *Shearston tithing.* On 18 July, John atte Wode found Robert de Cornwale dead at Haddeleghe; pledges Gilbert and John Syloke. Inquest held 21 July.

Jurors: Hugh de Reigny, Adam Beche, Thomas Claville, Reginald de Fractino, John Galiot, John le Bole, John Bal, John le Porter, Henry Wylyng, William Fundyng and the tithings of Shearston, Thurloxton, Newton and Petherton.

Verdict: Robert de Cornwale went to Haddeleghe in Shearston tithing on 15 July where, because of hunger and destitution he fell to the ground and died by misadventure.

BOROUGH OF BRIDGWATER

Somerset County Court — 9 Feb. 1321

15. *Bridgwater*. On 27 Feb. John, son of Thomas de Burgoyne of Bridgwater, went berserk in his father's house during the night. In his madness he wanted to kill his brothers and sisters and, alarmed by their cries, their father left his bed and tried to stop him. However John attacked his father with his own knife and gave him a mortal wound from which he died on 12 March, though before this he received the last rites of the church. Inquest held 13 March.

Jurors: John Boye, Richard Maydoune, Walter de Estone, Richard Lonegar, Robert le Spycer, Eustace Toper, John Benet, Richard Wrench, William de Cantole, Peter Roper.

Verdict as above.

FREE MANORS

Somerset County Court — 29 Sept. 1315

16. *Preston Priors tithing*. On 16 Oct. Habraham atte Forde of Preston Priors found a strange man dead in a lane between Prestone Priors and Milverton. His pledges were William Kybbel and William Hayne senior. Inquest held 19 Oct.

Jurors: Roger Torel, Henry de Stanforde. Robert de Stanforde, Thomas atte Putte, John Barbican, Walter Godryche, Laurence de Bosco, Walter Garalaund, Nicholas Ley, John de Beyndon, Philip Bolt, Preston Torel, and Brompton Ralph.

Verdict: On 16 Oct. the dead man with three others, strangers and unknown came to the house of Gilbert le Fisshere where they had breakfast and, at breakfast, they agreed to go to Brampton Fair. After breakfast they set out on their way, in an agreement and peaceably, until they came to the lane called Gorrenhende and there it happened that two of them cut the throat of the deceased, so that he died at once, and the fourth man they struck on the head because he refused to help them. The two unknown felons immediately ran way. Nothing has been discovered about their names and chattels. Therefore the sheriff of Somerset, John le Erleghe, is ordered to make a more thorough investigation at his tourn.

Somerset County Court, held by Matthew de Furneaus, sheriff of Somerset, 20 May 1316

17. *Winsford tithing*. On 20 May, Ralph and Henry de Prestcote of Cutcombe tithing came to Stetfold Rocks in Almsworthy tithing and there they feloniously attacked Richard, son of Walter de Herdecombe. They struck him on his head and shoulder whereby he died on 21 May, having first received the last rites of the church. Inquest held 23 May.

Jurors: Richard de Bradley, Richard de Knapelok, John de Herdcombe, Roger

Crydel, William de Stoddone and the tithings of Winsford, Dulverton, Brompton Regis and Exton.

Verdict: The felons Ralph and Henry de Prestcote and William de Wythecome fled at once. The chattels of Ralph and Henry de Prestcote are 4 bullocks worth 13s 4d, 1 cow 3s, 3 calves 6s, 4 heifers 6s 8d, 1 mare 3s, 1 pig 12d, 1 weak milch cow 12d, 5 wethers 5s, 3 ewes in lamb 3s, a total of 42s, for which the tithing of Cutcombe will answer. The baliff of the Free Manors is ordered to seize the felons Ralph, Henry and William and to pay to send them to Somerton gaol.

[*Presumably, the baliff was given the authority to spend what was necessary to send them to Somerton under escort*]

Somerset County Court, held by John de Kyngstone, sheriff of Somerset, 5 July 1316

18. *Brompton Regis tithing*. On 5 July, Adam atte Thorne of Upton found Walter atte Hegheu of Upton dead; pledges William Godman and William Grafton. Inquest held 7 July.

Jurors: John de Hortonscombe, Robert de Lyncombe, Robert Cridel, William Comynm, William Henry, William atte Wode, William de Greenslade, William de Hachelyn, Walter atte Wytheghe, Randolph atte Buri, William Neal, Nicholas Cogge and the tithings of Brompton Regis, Huish Champflower, Skilgate and Clatworthy.

Verdict: Walter atte Heghue had had the falling down sickness for six years. At Haddecombe, near St. George's well in Brompton Regis tithing, because of his illness, he fell down and died at once by misadventure.

Somerset County Court, 17 Jan. 1317

19. *Nettlecombe tithing*. On 30 Jan. William de Wodeforde found Cristina de Combeflori at Rowdon in Bromparke; pledges Walter Dolecok and William le Hethene. Inquest held 1 Feb.

Jurors: Richard de la Roche, William de Combe, William Carvyle, Nicholas Carvyle, John Carvyle, Thomas de Cloudesham, John atte Yerde, Richard da Babboke, John Bourgrom, John de Coteford, Walter Olyver and the tithings of Nettlecombe, Sampford Brett, and Monksilver.

Verdict: Cristina, a poor child, was at Rowdon seeking alms on 29 Jan. She was abandoned in Bromparke in Nettlecombe tithing. They do not know by whom, because she was without a father and mother, and she was aged a year or more. She died at once from weakness and the cold. John de Kyngstone, the sheriff of Somerset, is ordered to make a more thorough investigation.

Somerset County Court — 24 Nov. 1315

20. *Cleeve tithing*. On 23 March, Nicholas, son of Elena la Brewstore of Taunton, entered the conventual church of Cleeve Abbey and remained there until 7 April. On that day she confessed to Ralph fitz Urse, coroner, and a jury of twelve free men that he had stolen two maplewood cups worth 9s and a tunic worth 3s.

Jurors: Robert de Sandhulle, Randulph de Leghe, Roger Clerk of Cleeve, Roger atte Torre, John de Lavandare, Adam Langeham, William de Holeweye, Thomas le Hopere, John Bogheweeye, Robert le Lange, Adam de Feronacre, Walter Engelond, and the tithings of Cleeve, Monksilver, Nettlecombe and Lodhuish.

Verdict: On that day, he abjured the realm and was given two days in which to make his way to the port of Lyme.

Somerset County Court — 9 May 1317

21. *Williton tithing*. On 15 May. Walter Selemere of Williton found Beatrice, daughter of Ralph Alford of Williton, dead at La Yoldeya; pledges Ralph and Walter Alford. Inquest held 19 May.

Jurors: Nicholas de Waltone, Thomas de Cloudeham, Richard de Curlynch, William Carvyle, John Broun, John atte Ya, John le Gryndere, Gervaise Arnold, William Frankeleyn, Robert le Yonge, Richard Dodde and the tithings of Williton, Nettlecombe, Monksilver and Stogumber.

Verdict: Beatrice went to pasture a cow next to the water at Yoldeya in Williton tithing. She wanted to cross the stream, but fell into it and was drowned by misadventure.