

CORONERS' INQUESTS HELD IN THE MANOR OF PRESCOT, 1746-89.

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A VELLUM-BOUND BOOK, containing records of Coroners' Inquests held in the period 1746-89, has been preserved at Prescott, being now in the possession of Mr. W. A. Cross, Deputy Steward and Coroner of the Manor. It contains copies not only of Jurors' verdicts (which as a rule commence with a review of the case, derived from witnesses' evidence) but also the depositions of witnesses, and model forms of various oaths and orders (see Appendix A).

The privilege by which Prescott possesses its own Coroner exists by virtue of an Act of Parliament¹ passed on 16 March, 1445/6, in favour of King's College, Cambridge, to whom the lordship of Prescott manor has belonged since 1448.² The earliest record of the actual appointment of a Coroner for the manor occurs in 1575; from this year on, the Coroner is regularly included in the annual court roll as one of the officers appointed at the Court Leet. The court rolls do not, as a rule, include records of the Coroners' activities; nevertheless, an original Coroner's Inquest, indented and in Latin, with sixteen conventional seals, is filed with the roll of 1602, and less formal references to Inquests occur in the rolls of 1618 and 1629.

¹ An account of this Act, and a translation of the "Prescot Charter" based upon it, are to be published in a volume by the Record Society of Lancs. and Cheshire, entitled *Prescot Court Leet and Other Records, 1447-1600* (in the press).

² The lordship of the manor was appurtenant to the Rectory, which was appropriated by King's College in 1448.

In the period covered by the above-mentioned volume, the Coroners were, first, John Chorley, to 1754, secondly, Henry Wright, to 1781, and last, William Wright Ducker. The entries terminate abruptly, leaving nearly half the volume unused, and several Inquests on loose papers remain unentered; apparently, therefore, the practice of entering up these records was discontinued.

The subject-matter of the Inquests may appear, to the political historian, very trivial. To the social and economic historian, its trivial nature may lend it a particular value as evidence of the conditions of life in an industrial community of the eighteenth century.

The town of Prescott had at this time a population of 2,000 to 3,000,¹ inhabiting an area of only about 270 statute acres.² The principal industries were coal-mining, earthenware manufacture, watch-making, weaving and tanning. Other occupations are also mentioned (see Appendix B).

During the period of 43 years, 60 inquests were held. In three cases, in the years 1746, 1749 and 1751, the causes of death are not given in detail, a bare verdict of "by chance" or "by accident" being recorded. The remaining 57 cases, grouped under appropriate headings, may be briefly summarised as follows.

MURDER.

1747/8 (Jan.). A weaver "maliciously killed" his wife by throwing at her "a pair of tongs." Afterwards he "fled for it. And at the time of his flight he was possessed of several goods and chattles" ³ mentioned in an

¹ At the census of 1801, the population of Prescott township was 3,465.

² More than half this area, however, was demesne land (Prescot Hall Estate), which, furthermore, was in dispute between the townships of Prescott and Whiston. Not until 1843 was the question finally settled, by arbitration, in favour of Prescott. (Records relating to this arbitration are in the possession of Mr. W. A. Cross of Prescott.)

³ In cases of felony, the Coroner was expected to enquire into the value of forfeited goods. Forfeiture of goods for felony was abolished in 1870.

inventory hereunto annexed." No copy of the inventory was entered.

1767. John Harrison "killed or murdered" John Leech. The quarrel arose out of trifling matters. Harrison stood outside Leech's house in Hillock Street "stript into his buff," challenging the other (in vain) to come out. Later, Leech chanced to meet his foe in the street, and asked him "why he abused his family, to which Harrison answered he had not abused them, but that John Leech's children had thrown stones at his (Harrison's) children, to which John Leech told John Harrison that that was a damn'd lye, or in words to that effect. Whereupon John Leech said 'Let us even have it out and end the dispute.' To which John Harrison readibly answered, 'With all his heart,' and thereupon they both strip, and John Leech asking John Harrison if he was ready, and being answered that he was, they both fell to fighting as hard as they could, and John Harrison gave John Leech three falls to the ground. Upon John Leech offering to get up after his last fall, and being got up upon one of his knees and upon one or both of his hands, John Harrison then said that he would have a rising blow, and accordingly he stept forward, and with his left fist gave him the said John Leech a blow under or about the right ear, and then said, 'There, I have done for thee,' or in words to that effect, after which blow the said John Leech got up and immediately turned round and so fell down, and never spake word more."

A surgeon was summoned, and found the dying man "lying upon a squab [couch] . . . in an apoplective state He bled the said John Leech but to no purpose." Harrison, "after he had so stricken the said John Leech, and before he was actually dead, fled for it, or otherwise endeavoured to make his escape from the Constables. . . . And at the time of his flight he was not possessed of more goods than sufficient to pay one years rent."

1784. A woman with an illegitimate child, "not having the fear of God before her eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil, did make an assault upon the said infant and . . . did feloniously, voluntarily and of her malice forethought strangle and suffocate the said infant with her hand."

MANSLAUGHTER.

1789. The family of a bricklayer were "sat down to dinner between the hours of twelve and one," when one boy, John, having told his brother William, aged 11, that "he was wrong in keeping his hat on at dinner, he pulled his hat off." William then gave John "several kicks upon his thigh," and John responded with "a kick or blow upon the left side just inside the breast," which proved fatal. This is the only case in which an autopsy was ordered. The two surgeons who examined the body reported that a blood-vessel had been broken, as the result (in their opinion) of a blow.

SUICIDE.

1756. A young woman who "has from her infancy been of a weak mind and memory, and more so of late . . . by means of a disappointment in love, so that for two months last past or more she has appeared in a melancholy way," entered an apothecary's shop and "asked for a half penny worth of Mercury to kill the rats," and having received the "white arsenick otherwise called Mercury," she soon after poisoned herself "by licking it with her tongue."

1763. A young woman "disordered in her senses" had been sent to live at the house of a surgeon "in order (if possible) to have been cured." Five weeks later, when the surgeon was "out of town," she took from his shop a bottle of "powder or corrosive sublimate" (mercuric chloride) and poisoned herself.

1787. A husbandman who "for some time past hath been in a state of lunacy, and not of sound mind, memory and understanding," hanged himself in a stable by means of "an hempen halter."

THE VISITATION OF GOD.

1765. Two colliers were at work at a pit in the Rye Hey, in separate "drifts" ten yards apart. One man, aged 72, came to the other and "complained of having a pain at his heart such as he was not used to have." At about 11 a.m. the men ceased work and were "drawn up to the brow" one at a time. Shortly after, the old man was found dead by a pit in a neighbouring close called the Hough. The Jury found that he "died of the visitation of God and not otherwise."

The remaining cases are all of accidental death, and are here grouped with respect to the type of accident.

FALLS INTO COAL-PITS.

1778. A man was killed by falling into a coal-pit in Prescot Wood during the night.

1779. A boy of 7 fell into a pit in a close called Clay Hey. Two colliers working there heard the noise and thought at first that it was due to the fall of a "coal basket."

1787. A boy of 11, while playing with others in a part of Prescot Hall estate called the Carrs, "in attempting to leap over a certain coal pit," fell in "head foremost."

COLLIERY ACCIDENTS.

(1) *Accidents in Descending the Shafts.*

1758 (Dec.). Two boys, aged 16 and 11 respectively, arrived at a pit "near the new fire engine"¹ at 7 a.m. "with an intent to be let down . . . in order to draw coals." The older lad "fastened himself in a rope," and

¹ i.e., a Newcomen steam engine, used for pumping up water from the pit.

the other "got upon his lap, thighs or knees (as is usual)." They were let down by a woman aged 41, the wife of a husbandman living in Eccleston, who stated that "after three or four turns or laps about the turn," when the lads had descended "may be about three or four yards . . . the rope brake." The pit was nearly 50 yards deep, and the elder boy was killed.

1772 (Sept.). A boy aged 15, at about 6 a.m., "being in a bucket and letting down into a certain coal pitt called the Scowring Pit within a close of land called the Acre . . . fell out . . ." A woman aged 21 was at work in the pit when the accident occurred.

1784 (March). A girl aged 12, at about 7 a.m., "in being lett down a certain coal pit situate in Prescott Wood . . . called the Flaggy Delf . . . by some means or other the rope . . . was thrown out of a pully which is affixed over the said coal pit," and the child, "being upon the lap or knee of her sister," lost her hold and fell. "The Jury after some time found a deodand,¹ which deodand was the pully, and a value fixed thereon of sixpence."

(2) *Deaths due to the Fall of Material above Workings.*

1748. A collier, whose home was in Prescott, "came to his death by fall of a stone in a coal work ['pit' cancelled] or coal delf in Whiston."

¹ "By this is meant whatever personal chattel is the immediate occasion of the death of any reasonable creature: which is forfeited to the king, to be applied to pious uses. . . . They are for the most part granted out to the lords of manors, or other liberties, to the perversion of their original design. . . . Where a thing, not in motion, is the occasion of a man's death, that part only which is the immediate cause is forfeited . . . but, wherever the thing is in motion, not only that part which immediately gives the wound (as the wheel which runs over his body) but all things which move with it and help to make the wound more dangerous (as the cart and loading, which increase the pressure of the wheel) are forfeited. . . . But juries have of late very frequently taken upon themselves to mitigate these forfeitures, by finding only some trifling thing, or part of an entire thing. . . . And in such cases . . . the court of king's bench hath generally refused to interfere on behalf of the lord of the franchise" (Blackstone, 1765). Deodand was abolished in 1846.

1752. A collier, also living in Prescott, "came to his death by an accidental fall of a large quantity of stone and coal in a coal mine or coal work in Whiston."

1763. A collier in a pit in the Hough "was gathering up stones or other stuff . . . when all on a sudden the roof or top of the said coal pit, commonly called the chitter, fell upon the deceased and killed him outright."

1784. A husbandman aged 60, "being in a certain coal pit called the Rye Pit," was killed "by the fall of chitters lying between the Hard Delf and Flaggy Delf, lighting on his head and other parts of his body."

(3) *Deaths due to Fire-Damp and Choke-Damp.*

1750. A collier "came to his death by accident, being burnt by the fire-damp in the coal works."

1763 (Dec.). A collier, at between 1 and 2 a.m., was let down into a pit called the Hovel Pit in the Furthest High Field, by a husbandman aged 72, and was later found "suffocated by the damp or sulphureous vapours."

1770 (Aug.). A collier aged 23, at between 4 and 5 a.m., was "let down into a certain pit in Whiston . . . in the coal works of James Gildart Esq., called the Earthy Delf, in which there was then sulphurous vapours or fire-damp that usually arise in mines of coal, and as he . . . was attempting to let off the said sulphurous vapours or fire-damp, the fire accidentally and instantly caught hold of his body and cloaths."¹

1781. A boy aged 10 was found "supposed to be suffocated by means of a damp" at about noon on a Sunday "in a coal pit within a garden at the corner of a piece of land . . . called Prescott Wood."

¹ The practice of sending a man down to explode the damp, when too far away to be reached by a flame lowered down the shaft, was apparently not uncommon in this period. The man, wrapped in wet rags, crawled towards the gas with a long pole having a lighted candle at the end. In some places, the light was (more sensibly) moved up to the gas by means of wires. (T. S. Ashton and J. Sykes, *The Coal Industry of the Eighteenth Century*, 1929, p. 44.)

(4) *Deaths due to Flooding.*

1779. Three boys aged 16, 16 and 11 respectively, in a pit in Prescott Wood, were drawing coal hewn by three colliers (one of whom was the father of one of the boys) "when all on a sudden a great noise of the running of water was heard under ground . . . (coming, as it now appears, from an old coal pit at about 50 yards distant) and which instantly broke into the same pit, carrying along with it a large piece of coal." The three men managed to save themselves, but the boys were all killed.

(5) *Death caused by a Horse Gin.*¹

1759. A girl aged 13 was standing by a pit called Sir Joan when "she was hitt about the hip with the swingle tree belonging to the said gin, which knocked her down headlong into the said pitt, about 48 yards deep." The "gin horse" was being driven by a boy aged 10, the only eye-witness. The gin "was at that time in use in drawing coals out of the pitt." The father of the victim was at work in the pit. The body was brought up in a "coal basket." The Jurors found a deodand, namely, "a certain piece of wood (of the value of two pence) called a swingle tree."²

¹ This was a device for raising coal or water from the pit. A rope was wound on a large horizontal circular revolving drum placed at about 8 or 9 feet from the ground. A stout perpendicular wooden axle-bar was attached to the lower side of the drum. A horizontal beam was attached to the axle-bar, and to this beam (here called the "swingle tree") a horse was harnessed. As the horse moved round and round, it revolved the overhead drum, thus winding or unwinding the rope, which passed over pulleys erected on frames over the pit shaft. A horse gin in operation is represented in an engraving of Prescott by William Winstanley, dated 1743.

² This case had a rather curious sequel. A copy of the inquest was sent to King's College, Cambridge, as evidence to refute the claims of Whiston upon Prescott Hall Estate (see p. 22 n). The College bursar, however, took exception to the finding respecting deodand, asserting, correctly enough, that "upon such accidents *omnia qua ad mortem movent* are forfeited" (see p. 26 n), and claiming the whole gin, together with the horse. He also asked why such deodands had not been paid to the College, and was informed that they were paid to Peter Bold, Esq., of Bold Hall, the lessee of the Rectory. The bursar

In this case the body was buried without an inquest, so that an order for exhumation was made (see Appendix A).

The above cases of colliery accidents are rather notable in view of the fact that inquests were not as a rule held into fatalities in coal-mines in the north of England before the nineteenth century.¹

ACCIDENTS IN MALT, CORN AND POTTERY MILLS.

1770. A boy aged 8 was killed in a malt mill. The maltster stated that he "saw the deceased happening to come into his malt house or mill walk unknown, and whilst . . . resting upon a sack with malt in, and having his back towards the malt mill, perceived the horse or gelding, then drawing the wheel about and grinding of malt, to stop all on a sudden. He . . . turning himself about, there saw the deceased with his head fastned between a cross piece of wood in the cog wheel and a piece of wood fixed to the summer or beam of the mill house." The boy had apparently got "upon the stern tree." The Jury found as deodand "that the two pieces of wood above mentioned are of the value of 6d. and no more."

1774. A boy aged 14 was killed at "a wind corn mill which was then a going and in motion" situated near "the Mughouse Field."² The miller stated that when he had dined, at about 1 p.m., he told the lad, his servant, to go to his dinner. The boy went out on to "the

declared, however, that the deodand ought to be paid direct to the College, by virtue of a special grant from the Crown, deodand not being an ordinary manorial incident. The Coroner then explained in effect that the Jurors had had no business to find a deodand at all, since no deodands had been known in Prescot since he could remember, nor did the records mention them. (From MSS. at King's College.)

¹ "No inquest was held on pitmen killed in the mine in the north of England before 1814, and as late as 1842 the office of coroner did not exist in Scotland" (Ashton and Sykes, *op. cit.*, p. 42).

² Now called Pottery Fields. The mill in question was erected probably not many years before the date of the accident, and was destroyed by fire in 1908. This was *not* the ancient manorial windmill.

scaffold " which ran round the mill at a height of about 10 feet, and immediately afterwards the accident occurred. A claypotter at work some distance away heard a noise and, turning to look, saw the boy lying on the ground " within one yard of the mill steps." One of the boy's ears was cut in two. The potter thought that one of the sails of the mill had struck him on the side of the head, but the miller, perhaps apprehensive as to deodand, suggested that death was due to " falling from of the scaffold."

1776. A boy aged 7, " being in a mill house belonging to Mr. Richard Hill of Prescott aforesaid at his Mug Works there, was by some means or other caught in a cog wheel between two cogs, as the wheel was then going about, and thereby killed, which wheel was drawn about by a horse or gelding . . . and the cogs or pieces of wood above mentioned are of the value of sixpence and no more." Apparently no one was present besides the boy. We are not told whether the boy was employed in driving the horse.

DROWNING.

1756. A drunken man fell into a " draw well " in an alehouse yard. The circumstances are given in considerable detail, but are of no particular interest. Mention is made of " a pennyworth or jill of ale."

1758. A boy aged 9, " being sent to fetch a little water in a pitcher from a certain open well in Prescott called Lady Well,"¹ fell in. The well was " upwards of two yards deep."

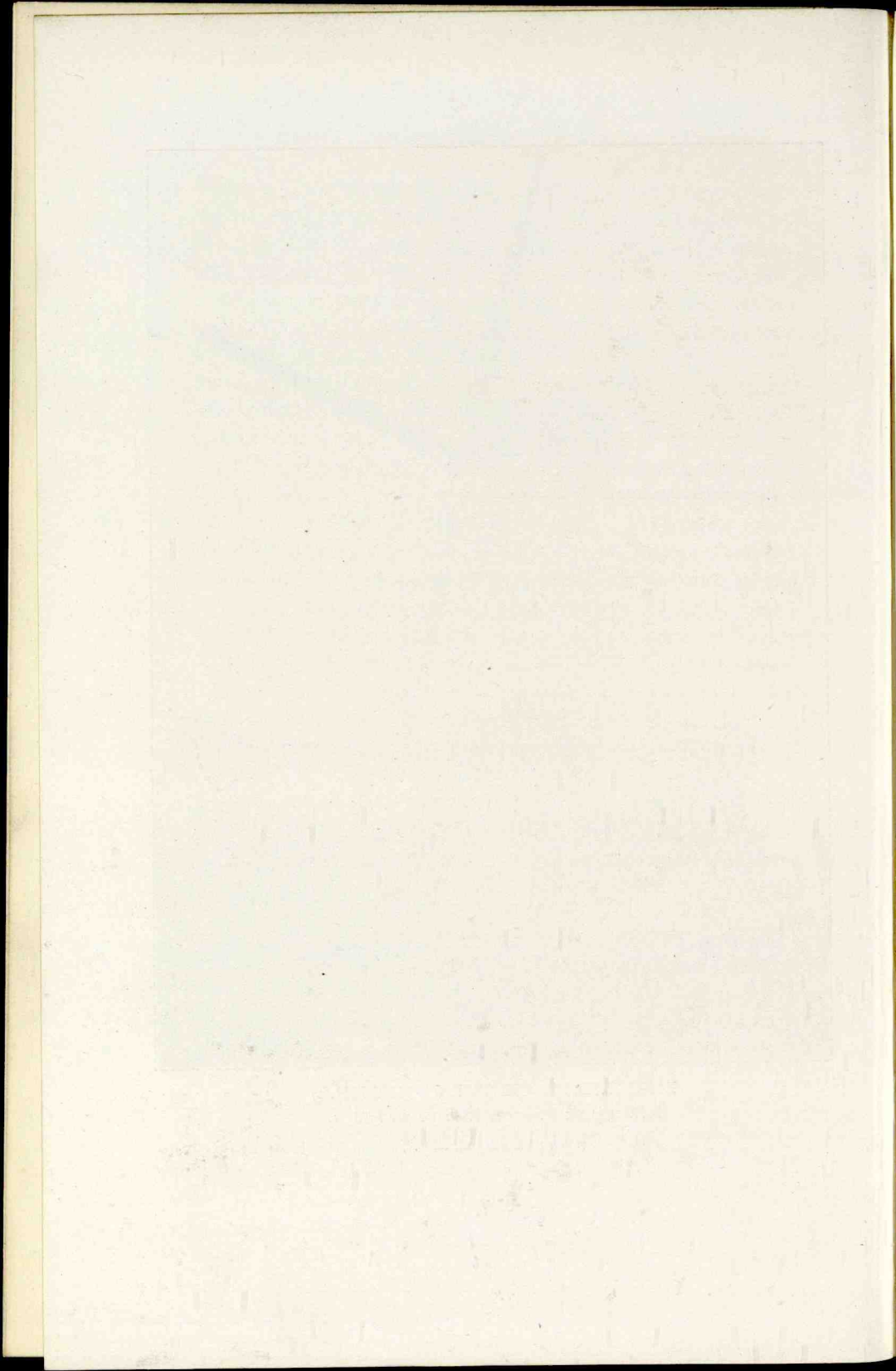
1761. Two boys who had gone out to play were found drowned " in a pond or reservoir of water " near " the new fire engine."

¹ An ancient well, free of access to all the townspeople, situated to the south of the churchyard. No trace of it remains to-day. It had the form of a pool, fed by a spring, and enclosed by ashlar.



EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WINDMILL,
formerly at Prescott. See p. 29 and n.

(Photo: "Waite Collection.")



1772. A labourer, late at night, fell into a "draw well" at the back of the house where he lodged.

1774. The wife of a claypotter, "not having for some time past been of a sound composed mind, but inclined to lunacy," was found "lying dead upon her face in a small pond, pit or lodge of water, very shallow, and scarce sufficient to cover her over." A garter was round her neck. The Jurors declared themselves unable to ascertain "by what means she . . . got into the water, whether by accident, by force of other or others, or otherwise," but nevertheless found a verdict of "death by accident."

SCALDING.

1770. A child aged 4 fell upon a pan of hot water taken from the fire and placed on the floor.

1781. A girl aged 7 while playing with others "in a tan house yard . . . in which is a fire engine, to which belongs an engine pan or hot well into which runs hot water through a water pipe . . . accidentally fell into the said engine pan or hot well and was thereby scalden or bruised against the water pipe."

BURNS.

There are five cases, in 1780 and 1782-4, the victims being all children aged 3-4, whose clothes took fire when left alone in the house.

STREET AND ROAD ACCIDENTS.

1747. A woman aged 88 was knocked down by a horse on which rode a man unknown, "dressed in a blew gray coat, a brown peruke and blood shot eyes." A man answering to this description had called that day on Alice Knowles, spinster, in Prescott, "and wanted to know if she had any command to Robert Knowles her brothers son who lives in Liverpool at Mr. Trimfords in Water Street."

1754. A child aged 3 was run over by a "cart laden with coals passing through the streets."

1763. An infant aged 16 months was run over by a cart loaded with bricks and drawn by two horses, driven by a boy aged 9. The cart had passed through the turnpike gate¹ "on the east side or end of the township" and was proceeding along Hillock Street towards the market-place. The boy was "on the left side of the cart," and did not notice the occurrence. The child lay "upon the cart causeway . . . where the right side wheel usually goes when they go towards Liverpool."

1771. A youth employed by Jonathan Case, Esq., of "Red Hassles," Huyton, was thrown when conducting two of his master's horses to water. The Jurors found a deodand, namely, "a curb bridle of the value of two shillings and sixpence."

1773. A boy aged 11 was assisting in transporting stones "laid in rooks" [heaps] in a field in Scotts Lane to a barn near by called Scotts Barn.² As he conducted a cart with two horses from the field, he was (it was thought) "beaten down . . . by the point of one of the thills [shafts] of the cart . . . either against the gate post or some stone or other thing near thereto."

1780. A child aged 4 was run over in Hillock Street by "a cart laden with coals and one horse or mare therein."

¹ A toll-gate was erected here by authority of the Turnpike Act of 1753, and removed, as a result of local agitation, by the Act of 1768. Hillock Street (now Kemble Street) formed part of the main highway between London and Liverpool.

² A local tradition ascribes this name to the confinement here of Scots prisoners taken during the '45. A letter, written at Prescot on 14 Dec. 1745 "at six o'clock in the morning," relates that "last Tuesday [i.e., 10 Dec.] a great number of our townsmen, joined by above 100 farmers and other persons, went arm'd with scythes, forks, guns and rusty swords, to pick up what stragglers they could find of the Rebel Army, and have since return'd with above 40 of them, who are in a bad condition, being lame and almost dead with fatigue. They were yesterday [i.e., Friday] sent to different gaols for safety" (*Bath Journal*, 23 Dec. 1745). The prisoners may well have been confined here from the Tuesday to Friday. One prisoner is said to have hanged himself, and to have been buried outside the barn, which was demolished a few years ago.

1781. A lad aged 16 was thrown out of a cart in Prescott Wood, "the wheel of the cart falling into a rut or broken place in the road," and run over.

1789. An infant aged 20 months was killed by a piece of timber reared up by the hind wheel of a chaise, belonging to Mrs. Brown of Prescott, which was being turned in the street. The following note is added: "The high hind wheel of the chaise [we] find in one shilling as a deodand."

MISCELLANEOUS.

1760. A husbandman fell into "one of the lyme pits" in "the tan house yard of John Chorley of Prescott gent." When rescued, he "appeared to be in a fit," and died later "by the lyme water he then and there received or took into his body."

1767. A boy aged 8 was killed in a stable near the Moss. Another boy, aged 12, stated that while giving the horses hay, he "heard a sort of thunging noise, and coming down from the horses cratch [manger]," found him lying apparently dead "by a blow of some one of the horses, but which of them he cannot tell."

1770. A shoemaker aged 29 was found at between 7 and 8 a.m. in January "lying down in the lane near to the eight milestone¹ from Liverpool Exchange," by two men who at first "thought him to be drunk." They carried him to a stable, but finding it locked, left him lying outside. Eventually he was taken to his mother's house, and died in the evening. The Jurors found that he "starved to death, or that he came to his death by lying outdoors."

1775. "A poor aged man, a stranger whose name is unknown," was found at about 4 a.m. lying dead "in a weent [alley]" off Hillock Street, "without any manner of cloathing upon him and . . . no appearance of violence."

¹ This stood in Fall Lane (now Derby Street).

The Jurors found that he died "by poverty and sickness or other natural death."

1787. A labourer coming from Liverpool with a cart-load of iron "on his return home to the Folds in Windle, . . . a bar of iron . . . about nine score weight, fell out, and his cart going forward, the deceased turned back for the bar of iron." Refusing an offer of help, he raised the iron on his right shoulder, "but before he had got eight yards he fell against the wall of a house . . . which threw him upon his back with the load upon him, when he instantly expired." An additional note states that "The Jurors find a deodand of one shilling."

1787. An infant aged 4 months was "overlain by its mother," a "singlewoman" who found it dead when she woke at 4 a.m. We are told that "the mother, being a labouring woman, never woke from the time of her going to bed till the time above related."

By Act of Parliament passed in 1752, the fees due upon coroners' inquests were made chargeable to the county rates. Accordingly, from time to time, copies of orders by Quarter Sessions for the payment of fees to the Coroner of Prescott are entered up. The first, in 1768, runs as follows :

"At the General Quarter Session of the Peace held by adjournment at Wigan in and for the County Palatine of Lancaster, the eighteenth day of January in the eight year of King George the Third's reign. This Court doth order William Butterfield of Lancaster in the said county Gentleman, Treasurer of the County Stock, forthwith to pay unto Henry Wright Gentleman, His Majesty's Coroner of the Manor and Liberty of Prescott in the said County, the sum of three pounds, for taking three inquisitions since the last Sessions, for doing which this shall be the said Treasurer's Warrant. Bradley."

APPENDIX A.

SPECIMEN FORMS OF ORDERS, SUMMONSES AND OATHS.

Order for the Summoning of a Jury.

" Prescott in County of Lancaster.

These are to will and require you, And in the Name of Our Sovereign Lord the King to charge and command you, that you cause to come before me, the Coroner of this Township, at the House of John Hill, between the Hours of one and two of the Clock in the afternoon of this present 28th day of April, Twenty four good and Lawful men of the said Township, then and there to Enquire upon the View of the Body of James Dinsdale, Now lying Dead, how and in what manner he came to his Death. Fail not herein as you will Answer the contrary. Given under my hand and Seal this 28th day of April, 1750.

To Thomas Parr & Dav^d Bell, JOHN CHORLEY Coroner.
Constables of Prescott."

Summons of a Witness.

" Manor and Liberty of Prescott in the County of Lancaster, to wit.

You are hereby required, all excuses set apart, to be and personally appear before me, Coroner of the Manor and Liberty of Prescott aforesaid, at the house of Katherine Orrett, known by the name of the Coffee House, within the said Manor and Liberty, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of this present 3^d day of April, then and there to answer to such matters and things whereunto you shall be examined touching the death of Elizabeth Standistreet. Fail not herein as you will answer the contrary. Given under my hand this 3^d day of April 1756.

(Signed) HEN. WRIGHT.

Coroner of the Manor and Liberty
of Prescott aforesaid."

Oath of a Foreman of Jury.

" You as Foreman of this Enquest, together with your Fellows, shall Diligently Enquire and true Presentm^t make

how Jas Dinsdale late of this Town and now lying Dead before you came by his Death. So help you God."

Oath of Jurors.

"The same Oath that your Foreman hath taken on his part, you and each of you shall well and truly keep and Observe on your Several and respective parts. So help you God."

Oath of a Witness.

"The Evidence that you Shall give upon this Enquest touching the Death of James Dinsdale now lying here Dead before you Shall be the Truth, the Whole Truth and nothing but the Truth. So help you God."

Order for an Exhumation.

"Manor and Liberty of Prescott in the County of Lancaster.

Whereas complaint hath been made unto me *That* on the 28th day of this instant August, the body of one Ellen Arnett (daughter of Thomas Arnett of Prescott aforesaid, collier) was buried at the Parish Church of Prescott aforesaid; And that the said Ellen Arnett died not a natural but violent or accidental death, And no Inquisition having been taken on view of the body of the said Ellen Arnett before her interment, as by the law of this land ought to have been done. *These are therefore* (by virtue of my office) to charge and command you in his Majesty's name, that upon sight hereof, you immediately cause the body of the said Ellen Arnett to be taken up, that I with my Inquest may have a view thereof, and proceed therein according to law. Herein fail not, as you will answer the contrary at your peril, and for your so doing this shall be your sufficient warrant. *Given* under my hand and seal this thirtieth day of August, one thousand seven hundred and fifty nine.

(signed) HEN. WRIGHT.

To the Constables and Church	Coroner of the Manor and
Wardens of the Township of	Liberty of Prescott
Prescott abovesaid.	abovesaid."

APPENDIX B.

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS NAMED IN THE INQUESTS.

(Ages, where given, are shown in parenthesis.)

Apothecaries. Thomas Gill (surgeon and —) (40) 1767, Thomas Gill jun. (surgeon and —) (20) 1783, David Houghton (surgeon and —) (25) 1770, James Houghton 1747, Zachariah Leaf (surgeon and —) (40) 1763, Richard Plumb apprentice 1747, Thomas Tetlow (46) 1763, Thomas Webster apprentice 1756.

Blacksmiths. Thomas Lea (19) 1770, Edward Standistreet 1756.

Bricklayers. Thomas Much 1784, William Parr 1789.

Brickmaker. John Fillingham 1781.

Bricksetter. William Forber (40) 1770.

Claypotters or "Muggers." John Barrow 1754, John Heaps 1776, Richard Hill owner of "Mug Works" 1776, James Kenyon (20) 1774, Jonathan Redmayn 1776, Thomas Spencer of Knowsley 1774.

Colliers. Thomas Arnett (42) 1759, Benjamin Bellion dec. 1748, William Berry 1779, George Bromillow 1763, Henry Byram dec. 1763, Richard Calderbank (30) 1759, Christopher Dingsdale dec. (16) 1779, James Dingsdale dec. 1750, Robert Ducker dec. 1752, Anthony Fillingham of Whiston 1758, George Fillingham dec. (11) 1758, Jonathan Glover (52) 1763, John Greenall 1779, Samuel Greenall 1779, John Hardman 1779, Benjamin Hughes 1763, John Jackson jun. (26) 1763, Peter Lealand (41) 1763, James Leech dec. (16) 1768, John Leech (40) 1758, John Lyon dec. (23) 1770, Robert Lyon (23) 1763, George Marsh 1770, James Marsh of Whiston 1779, Joseph Marsh dec. (16) 1779, William Marsh dec. (11) 1779, Joseph Molyneux (50) 1759, William Much jun. (25) 1763, William Much sen. (70) 1761, Richard Porter (37) 1765, Thomas Porter dec. (72) 1765, Mathias Seddon (23) 1761, William Tattersall (30) 1765, William Tickle of Whiston (50) 1758, Thomas Wain 1784, William Wilson 1779, Humphrey Wright 1779, James Yates 1781.

Curriers. James Flitcroft 1780, William Smith 1780.

38 *Coroners' Inquests held in the Manor of Prescott.*

Engineers. James Worrall (20) 1770, John Worrall (29) 1761.

Gardeners. John Brown of Whiston 1770, Arthur Hornby (47) 1767.

Gunsmith. John Green 1754.

Husbandmen. Samuel Ball of Eccleston 1763, John Birchall of Kirkby 1771, Charles Bradbury 1770, Edmund Dagnall 1781, George Dingsdale jun. 1763, Peter Hall dec. (52) 1787, John Hardman (60) 1784, Edward Hillock of Eccleston 1784, Robert Lyon 1778, Thomas Lyon 1779, John Man 1767, William Manchester 1781, George Marsh (25) 1772, William Much (72) 1763, Henry Pendleton (21) 1773, John Pendleton 1770, Joseph Phythian (47) 1761, Thomas Rainford of Whiston (36) 1765, Samuel Smith (58) 1770, William Stanley dec. 1760, James Stott 1758, Thomas Stott 1758, James Travers 1767.

Innkeepers. Richard Barrow (53) 1767, Edward Halsall 1756, William Shaw (38) 1773.

Joiner. John Sedgewick 1789.

Labourers. William Birchall 1787, James Cooper dec. (40) 1772, Anthony Fillingham 1789, Michael Kelly dec. (15) 1772, John Winstanley dec. of Windle (44) 1787.

Maltster. Thomas Woods (38) 1770.

Miller. James Standish (29) 1774.

Schoolmaster. John Ainsworth 1747.

Shoemakers. William Much 1782, James Reynolds dec. (29) 1770.

Spinsters. Margaret Forber 1758, Alice Knowles 1747, Jane Rimner (21) 1763.

Staymakers. William Glover (17) 1763, Henry Killshaw dec. 1770.

Surgeons. William John Formby 1789, Nevill Johnson 1789, Thomas Olier (sic) 1789. See also under *Apothecaries.*

Tanners. Henry Atherton (26) 1760, Thomas Bailey (25) 1760, John Chorley, owner of the Tan House 1760, John Leech dec. (50) 1767.

Victualler. Thomas Coppock 1756.

Watchmakers. John Atherton 1780, Christopher Dingsdale 1779.

Watch Tool Maker. Finch Copple (43) 1763.

Weavers. William Colefax 1772, John Harrison 1767, John Hart "canvis weaver" (23) 1770, William Martin 1770, William Meadows "poldavie weaver" 1747, John Orrell 1772, William Rigby (64) 1767, Thomas Smith 1758.

Wheelwright. Ralph Jackson 1783.
