

KILLED ON THE RAILWAY

TRAGIC AFFAIR AT SHRIVENHAM

An enquiry was held by Mr W. C. Jotcham (county coroner) in the waiting room at shrivenham station on friday touching the death of Robert Reason a ganger on the GWR who met his death by being knocked down by an express train.

Mary Reason stated that her husband was a ganger in the employ of the G.W.R. and lived at Shrivenham. He was 41 years old.

She last ^{SAW} him alive just after 6 oclock the previous morning **WHEN** **HE** went to work. His health eyesight and hearing were good and he was a sober and steady man. He had lived in the district for 18 or 20 years.

Frank Saunders a permanent way foreman desposed that deceaed was under him and he saw him about once a week. He had known deceased for 20 years and could speak of him very highly. Deceased was a ganger over over a length of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles between Shrivenham and Uffington stations. Witness was with deceased from about 930 to 12 50 and walked the whole length with him and he was in his usual ^L health and spirits. Just before they parted they were walking together on the down line towards Uffington and witness went on to catch a train. Deceased then moved onto the up line and commenced walking towards Shrivenham. Witness remembered that an up and down express passed at about that same time. He had no fear of deceased as he was most careful both of his men and himself and was an example to others. After the passing of the train witness crossed from outside of up line to the down line to continue his examination of the permanent way. There was an element of fog but nothing much. Attracted by the whistle of the down train witness looked in the direction of knighton crossing and saw that the express had stopped. He looked for deceased but could not see him, he then noticed the body of a man lying between the up and down main lines about 250 yds away. He at once went to the body, and found it was that of deceased. Deceased must have stepped out of the way of one train into way of another. Witness was astonished at this in the view of the ability and knowledge of deceased.

Thomas Spackman of 131 wakeman road Kensal Green, stated that he was an engine driver with 42 years experience, he was driving the 11 30 passenger express from paddington to Cardiff on thursday and just after he had passed the distance signal for Knighton crossing he noticed about two lengths of the engine away, a man walking on his road with his back to the engine. He could not see him earlier owing to the steam of the 12 noon ex bristol express obscuring his view. when witness did see the man he whistled. The man heard him and made every effort to get into the six foot way

but there was ~~not~~ enough time. The extreme end of the buffer plate caught deceased and knocked him upwards and he must have fallen on his back. Witness stopped the express, ~~Knigh~~ crossing and informed the signalman.

The jury of which Mr John Phillips was foreman, returned a verdict that deceased was accidentally struck and instantly killed by the engine of an express train of the Great Western Railway.

THE FUNERAL

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon the Vicar the Rev ER HILL officiating. The coffin was borne to its ~~LAST RESTING~~ place by the following members of the deceased's own gang of platelayers .. messrs Baldwin, Bailey, Margots, and Richens. The mourners were as follows Ms R Reason (widow) and four of her children (Annie Jesse Ivy and Muriel). Mr E Jefferies, (Father in law) Mr and Ms Haggett. Messrs James and John Haggett, Mr and Mrs H Jefferies. Mr and Mrs A Jefferies. Mr and Mrs C Jefferies. Mr and Mrs J Pusey. Messrs and W Jefferies, Miss E. Jefferies, and Mr W Jefferies. jun.

The following officials and employers of G W R were also present Mr A White (station master) Mr Saunders (permanent way inspector) messrs Orpin, Barnett, Joyce, French, Thomas, T Warren, T Moss, E Moss (signalman) and messrs Boulter, Warren, Brown, Curtis, Mildenhall, Mattingley, and Iles. (platelayers). The Foresters Court (vale of white Horse) was represented by Bros W.D, Skinner, G Groves, C Mortimer, J Hewer, R Pacey, W George, J Baxter. (scr) F Knap (s w) J Judd, and ~~and~~ messrs F and L KNAPP represented the Shrivenham Parish Council of which the deceased was a member until the time of his death. Floral tributes were sent by the following, The widow and children, Mr and Mrs Mattingly, Mr R Pacey and the Amalgamated Society of railway Workers (Uffington Branch.) The funeral arrangements were satisfactorily carried out by Mr J. Knapp.

Mrs Reason and family wish to thank all friends for the kind sympathy in their recent bereavement ..

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ROBERT REASON
Died NOVEMBER 18 1915 41 YEARS OLD