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An Inquisition taken this 2nd day of February 1897 at The Assembly Rooms, Whitecroft in the township of West Dean on view of the body of Ann Webb aged 75 years: Wife of William Webb: Formerly at Collier:

The following Jury were Sworn:

Henry Martin
Thomas Morgan
Arthur Kear
George Morgan
James Smith Charley
Samuel Lee
William Davis
Charles Wilden
Isaac Ruck
Herbert Walters
Fred Durcell
William Craddock

Witnesses:

Ruth Webb: Whitecroft: Daughter of deceased
John Vaughan of Whitecroft

Verdict:

Date of Death: 31st January 1897
Place: Whitecroft, West Dean
Cause: Shock to the system, the result of burns of the head and arms her apron having caught fire whilst she was straining potatoes

Payments:

Jurors	12
Witnesses	1.9 John Vaughan
Use of Room	2.6 C Lawrence

Total	16.3

Addendum to Inquest No 473 Ann Webb: Newspaper Article:

FATAL RESULT OF A BURNING ACCIDENT AT WHITECROFT:

Mr M F Carter, Coroner held an inquest at The Assembly Rooms, Whitecroft on Tuesday afternoon touching the death of Ann Webb. Ruth Webb deposed she was the daughter of the deceased who was the wife of William Webb, Collier. Deceased was 75 years of age. For some time past witness had looked after her parents-------- her father suffered from old age and weakness of intellect. About 1.30 pm on the 24th January witness went to visit some friends at Bream and on her return she found deceased suffering from severe burns on the head and arms. She was attended by Dr Halpin, who said that consequent upon deceased weak state and old age she had no constitution to bear up against the injuries and therefore it was unlikely that she would get over it and she died on the 31st inst.
Miss B Simms deposed she lived at The Post Office at Whitecroft. About 12.30 on the 24th inst witness saw deceased on the Severn and Wye Railway Line near her home. She was screaming and in flames. Witness ran to her assistance. A blanket was obtained and thrown over the deceased, and the fire put out. Deceased was afterwards taken home. Deceased told witness that she was straining potatoes near the kitchen fire when her apron caught fire.
The Coroner in summing up said there were other witnesses whom P C Haggett had warned to attend the inquest, but as far as the Coroner could see their evidence was only an amplification of that given by Miss Sims, and he did not think it was necessary to call them. It was evident that the fire was put out as Miss Sims had told them. As the cause of death was obvious, he saw no occasion to summon the medical man to give evidence on that part. The facts were very simple and plain, the cause of death was that the deceased being an old woman died from shock to the system, the result of burns upon her head and arms, caused by her apron taking fire whilst she was straining potatoes at the kitchen grate. The verdict of the Jury was in terms which the Coroner outlined.