

# Backtrack Masthead

**This month we have a fascinating insight upon life in Victorian Brown Edge which has been taken from the archives of my Sherratt relations, Wendy Hogan from Canada**

## Death of David Sherratt

Newspaper accounts transcribed by Wendy Sherratt Hogan, provided by Joan Curwen.

**Manslaughter** -- The hearing of the unfortunate affair at Brown Edge, in which the man Sherratt met with his death, was proceeded with at Hanely, on Monday last before T.B. Rose, Esq., when Thomas Shelton and Thomas Steele, brought up on bail, on a remand from Monday Last, were charged with having feloniously killed [David Sherratt](#).

Mr. Challinor prosecuted; Mr. Heaton appeared for the prisoner Shelton, and Mr. Mason for Steele.

The first witness called was a lad named Sampson Sherratt, step-son to the deceased. He repeated the evidence given at the time of the remand saying that on the night of the 12th, he was at the Holly Bush public-house, at Brown Edge, in company with the deceased and two other men who were drinking together.

They remained there, he said, until about twelve o'clock, when they clubbed money for 9s. worth of gin, and a gallon of ale, which on leaving, they took with them into an adjoining field and there drank all the gin and part of the ale.

He said, he remembered seeing a man named Adam Simcock, knock the deceased's hat off, on which the deceased fought with him, and while he and Simcock were fighting, the prisoner Shelton took it up and then the deceased and Shelton fought together; and while they were engaged, he saw the other prisoner, Thomas Steele, hit the deceased under the left ear. The deceased then picked his jacket up, and said he would not fight any more, but would go home and he saw him get over a stone wall, about a yard high, and two or three yards distance, which separates the field from the road.

He remembered seeing the prisoners follow him in two or three minutes. He saw the deceased, about ten minutes afterwards, lying under the wall, at a distance of a hundred yards, and he was then dead.

In cross-examination, he said, they had all been on friendly terms together. The deceased and Steele had been drinking out of the same glass. Had had been at

the Red Lion, before going to the Holly Bush, but was not drunk.

[Henry Sherratt](#) was then called and said he was brother to the deceased. He confirmed the evidence of the previous witness; and taking up his deposition at the point to which that of the lad extended, he stated that he saw the deceased after getting over the wall, sitting on a bench on the other side, and the prisoner Shelton striking him about the head.

The witness went to push Shelton away from deceased, but was prevented he said, by the man Simcock, who struck at him, but he warded off the blow by a jug which he had in his hand, and then ran in the direction of home, for the purpose of fetching another brother, named [Elijah Sherratt](#).

On returning, they met the prisoner Steele coming away; and after passing him about fifty yards they saw the deceased lying in the road; and on picking him up, they found he was dead.

The prisoner Shelton he said, was standing near, who said the deceased had fallen down the slope and put his neck out.

Cross-examined: It was at the top of a bank that I saw the deceased when Shelton had been down. I saw last witness in the field, and I am sure he was not drunk. I first saw Adam Simcock fighting with the deceased. I was not far away -- about five or six yards. We were all good friends before.

Joseph Oldcroft was then called. He said he lived at Sandy Lane. He was at Holly Bush public-house on the night of the 12th inst., in company with the deceased, the prisoners, and others. He left the house with them, and they all went into a field. He went on to corroborate the foregoing evidence, and further stated, that he saw the deceased, a few minutes after he went over the wall, lying at some distance against a heap of sand and stones, and a woman was putting his hat on.

Cross-examined by Mr. Heaton: Did not know if there were stones under the deceased's head. There were stones lying about near to him. He looked as if he had tumbled down, but did not see him fall.

[Henry Sherratt](#) at the Holly Bush -- he seemed sober.

Sarah Pickford was next called. She said: About one o'clock on Sunday morning, the 13th inst., she saw deceased lying in the road by a heap of stones, and breathing or snoring heavily. She told him he had better go home, and he said he would. She then gave him his cap and jacket, and he went on a short distance, and then fell and rolled into a dry ditch.

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She screamed, and on his being picked up, he was found to be dead.

Mary Davis was next called. She said: Early on Sunday morning, the 12th inst., she went down to Bullock's field to fetch home her husband. She remembered hearing a great noise in the field, and thought the men were fighting. She saw the deceased in the road, with his jacket over his arm, and remembered seeing him fall into the ditch.

Cross-examined by Mr. Heaton: Shelton was very drunk. Saw [Henry Sherratt](#) there - they were all drunk. By Mr. Mason: There was not a sober man among them. Mr. Challinor, who was the attorney for the prosecution, cross-examined this witness about her latter answer at some length.

Mrs. Bullock, landlady of the Holly Bush public-house, being sworn said: She remembered a party of colliers drinking at their house on the night of the 12th inst. She thought they were fresh. She remembered seeing [Henry Sherratt](#) amongst them, and [Simeon Sherratt](#), and others. She did not know what they were doing.

Thomas Head, surgeon, was then called, and deposed as follows: He had, at the request of the police, made a post mortem examination of the body of the deceased, and remarked the following external appearances: A slight abrasion of the skin near the left cheek, level with the left eye, a slighter abrasion of the same cheek upon the jaw bone. A slight discoloration below the right cheek bone, a slight wound on the side of the upper lip, a lacerated wound short, a quarter of an inch in length, on the right side of the face below the bottom part of the ear. A discoloration, also on the lower part of the right side of the neck, about the middle of the collar-bone. There was a slight effusion of blood on the left eye, but no other external marks of injury on other parts of the body.

The appearance of the brain was as follows: the veins of the brain were in general, turgid and distended. There was a slight effusion of blood on the upper surface of the brain, under the dur mater, at the lower part of the left side of the brain, corresponding to the discoloration of the skin on the same side. This blood was ascertained to have been poured out of the left lateral sinus, or large vein of the brain, which was lacerated about an inch before it terminated in the internal jugular vein.

A string of coagulated blood about an inch in length was found lying upon the membrane which separates the greater from the lesser brain, at base of the skull. The coagulum extended through the opening in the sinus and was proved to have been the result of the haemorrhage. A severe blow with the fist, over the jugular vein, in the neck, below the ear is capable of

causing and rupture of the blood vessel within the skull.

In my opinion, he continued, the laceration of the sinus was caused in that manner. After such laceration, a person might be able to walk some distance, before fatal apoplexy would be produced by the haemorrhage.

Such injury was not likely to be produced by deceased's falling on a level surface. Loud breathing would be indicative of haemorrhage going on within the head, when a person had received such injury to the large vein in the head, which connects with the jugular vein.

Cross-examined by Heaton. Did not think that falling on a stone would have caused such injury. By Mr. Mason: Had the rough stone walls in vicinity of Norton, but not think that a fall thereon would produce the result in this particular case. By Mr. Challinor: If he had fallen on a stone, there would have been an external abrasion of the skin. This completed the evidence. The prisoners were committed for trial on the charge of manslaughter.

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dade	teaching baby to walk by sup	OED dade
deck	to stop deck it	
delf rags	Pit clothes	
dinged	bruised apple or car bodywo	ME dinger
dinnering	official dinner	
doffer	a bet type or dare challenge	arl doffer t
donny	Childs hand	
drop on	to find something by chance	
drumble hole	wooded valley between fields	