

THE LOSS OF CHILDREN BY DROWNING

November 2 1860 **Bilston**

DEATH FROM DROWNING Yesterday forenoon, **James Thacker**, aged eight years, the son of a boatman, living in Wolverhampton, fell into the canal, near Millfields, and was drowned. The boat in which the child's parents were lay near at hand; and the deceased at the time of the accident was engaged, with other children, in picking out of the water fish that had been dragged. Thomas Allmark got the child out as soon as possible, but death took place immediately upon the body being brought upon the bank.

August 16 1861 **Wolverhampton**

A CHILD DROWNED Yesterday an inquest was held on the body of **Abraham Webbler**, a child of five years, whose father is a boatman, living in Oxford Street. Deceased whilst playing on his father's boat, near Norton's Mill, on that day, fell into the water, and was drowned. The accident was unobserved, but the father seeing his child's toy on the boat, searched and found the body in the canal. Verdict, "Accidental death".

August 14 1862

A CHILD DROWNED IN THE CANAL An inquest was held at the Fox and Dog, Princip Street, yesterday afternoon, before Dr Birt Davies, Borough Coroner, on the body of **Thomas Whitehouse**, aged three years and three months, son of **Thomas Whitehouse**, boatman, who was drowned in the old Birmingham Canal, near Doddington Mill, Princip Street, on Monday last. From the evidence of the mother, it appeared that they have their residence on board the boat, Lincolnshire, which plies on the canal. About one o'clock on Monday afternoon, deceased's mother saw him sitting on the cabin top, and at that time gave him something to eat. She went into the cabin, but on coming out a few minutes afterwards she found he had disappeared. Seeing his cap floating on the water, she suspected he had fallen in, and asked some boys who were bathing to dive for him. They did so, but without success. An engineer after dragged for him with no better result; but about half an hour afterwards, his mother found the body lying under an open boat which was moored near to where the Lincolnshire was lying. He was then, of course, quite dead. He was frequently in the habit of sitting on the top of the cabin, and she had never thought that he was in any danger when doing so. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

November 24 1862

DEATH BY DROWNING An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon, at the New Inn, Nechells Park Road, before Dr Birt Davies, the Borough Coroner, touching the death of a little girl, named Hannah Wright, the daughter of **William Wright**, a boatman. It appeared that on Wednesday last the boat of which the deceased's father was captain arrived at the Saltley Wharf, and on Thursday morning, about half past nine, the father went into the boat to breakfast, at which time the little girl left the boat and went upon the towing path. The father missed his child shortly afterwards, and, after searching elsewhere, he dragged the canal, and found the body of the child quite dead. He supposed that she had accidentally fallen into the water. The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death".

May 23 1864 **Walsall**

DEATH BY DROWNING On Friday evening, a child, about 1 year and 8 months old, a son of **Henry Wall**, a boatman living at the Birchills, accidentally fell into the canal, while playing with its sister, and was drowned before assistance could be rendered.

October 12 1868 **Stoke Prior**

DEATH BY DROWNING **Henry Baldwin**, fourteen years of age, the son of a boatman, fell into the lock at Stoke Prior, on Friday morning, while engaged in opening the gates, and was drowned. The body was recovered a quarter of an hour afterwards.

July 8 1869 **Wolverhampton**

GIRL DROWNED **Martha Tilby**, eleven years of age, daughter of a boatman, fell off the boat into the canal, near Coven, on Tuesday afternoon. Her father jumped in after her, but was unable to save her life.

July 15 1869 **Wolverhampton**

A CHILD DROWNED **Caroline Dale**, daughter of a boatman of Wightwick, whilst drawing the "paddle" to fill Spring Lock, near the Stafford Road, slipped, and fell into the canal, and was drawn into the lock. She was taken out dead.

February 13 1871 **Walsall**

FOUND DROWNED On Saturday morning, the lifeless body of **Jacob Twigg**, aged 13, the son of a boatman, living in Birchills Street, was found in the canal by the wharf at the Birchills Furnaces. The poor little fellow was last seen on Friday afternoon, when he took his father's tea to the Birchills Works.