

# Accidents and injury on the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway line



“...An inquest was taken before the coroner at the Crown and Anchor, Market Place, Mansfield, regarding the death of William Webster. It appears that the deceased, who is about eight years old, went with a companion about the same age, named Goodhall, upon the Mansfield and Pinxton railway.

A man named Samuel Henson was driving a wagon and asked the lads to accompany him. After having gone some little distance, the man got in the wagon, while the lads were walking by his side. Henson soon perceived something to be wrong, and on getting out, found that the deceased boy, Webster, had fallen down and that the wheels had gone over him. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.”

**Nottingham Review 20/4/1832**

“A child named George Mathers, about six years of age, whilst playing on the Pinxton Railway, near Mansfield was knocked down and run over by a coal wagon and was so much injured as to cause his death in about three hours.”

**Derbyshire Courier 18/4/1846**

“Fatal Accident - On Thursday week, an accident occurred to a man named Dean, in the employ of the Butterley Company; he was walking along the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway, and some wagons passing, he endeavoured to get up, when, missing his step, he fell and the wheels passed over his body. The poor fellow lingered in extreme agony until Tuesday, when death ended his sufferings.”

**Derbyshire Courier 17/10/1846**

“In August 1848, while working for John Holland, one of his workmen met with a fatal accident on the railway working through Hucknall Torkard. At the inquest Thomas Herons, foreman, of Kirkby Forest gave evidence to how the accident had occurred. The deceased had recently been employed drawing and tipping wagons (emptying wagons of earth to form the track bed or an embankment).

...“as he was going to tip a third, I saw him pass me at the usual running pace, and when he got about 50 yards from the place where he intended to tip the wagon, he stumbled and fell to the ground, and whilst falling he must have touched the spring and set the horse at Liberty. The horse went forward to the usual place, and then turned off the road... the wagon passed over his body and the wagon was thrown off the rails...”

**Verdict:** “Accidentally killed by being run over by a wagon of earth on the Nottingham and Mansfield railway.”

**Nottingham Review 18/8/1848**

\*Accounts have been amended slightly for educational purposes.

# Accidents and injury on the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway line



“A few days since some evil-disposed persons started several wagons from The Summit towards Pinxton, at the same time some other wagons were coming up the steep descent, laden, we believe, with coal. The collision was terrific, and the consequence might have been, under some circumstances, of an appalling character. As it was, a valuable horse was so injured as to place its life in great danger.”

**Verdict:** “Accidentally killed by being run over by a wagon of earth on the Nottingham and Mansfield railway.”

**Nottingham Journal 24/8/1849**

“Fatal Accident on the Railway near Mansfield – On Tuesday last, an inquest was held...upon the body of John Cooper, a labourer on the Mansfield line, aged 29 years. About nine on Friday morning, deceased was on the line near the bridges at Kings Mill...The driver of the engine sounded the whistle when they were rounding the curve. They were not going above eight or nine miles an hour...he took no notice whatever of the engine, which passed over him before it could be stopped, although the driver made every exertion.”

**Verdict:** Accidental death

**Nottingham Guardian 5/10/1849**

“An accident of a serious kind occurred to a man named Ward who was employed to look after the Company’s horses at Kirkby. It appears that Ward, in the temporary absence of the regular driver, was proceeding along the line with a “lorrey”, containing a rail-vice (used to straighten the iron rails) and on hearing an engine whistle approaching, turned aside to prevent the screw handle coming in contact therewith, when the horse took fright, and the unfortunate man running to stop it, was knocked down and the wheels of the “lorrey” passed over his leg and took it off. The man was immediately conveyed to the General Hospital, Nottingham, and is progressing favourably.”

**Nottingham Review 12/10/1849**

“On Wednesday morning a flock of 33 sheep, belonging to Mr. Clarke (late of the Blackmires Farm), Sutton-in-Ashfield, tread upon the Mansfield and Nottingham Railway, and were run over by a train of coal wagons. The field in which Mr. Clarke’s sheep were pasturing has a bridle road through it, the gate of which, it is conjectured, had been left open, and the sheep had wandered out into the adjoining lane, from thence through one of the company’s gateways (the gate of which had not been hung), passed the luggage warehouse onto the line, and were not discovered until the accident occurred.”

**Nottinghamshire Guardian 24/10/1850**

# Accidents and injury on the Mansfield and Pinxton Railway Line



In 1899 the Midland Railway erected warning signs which stated:

“... That if any person shall be or travel or pass upon foot upon the Midland Railway without the license and consent of the Midland Railway Company, every person so offending shall forfeit and pay any sum not exceeding ten pounds for every such offence. Notice is hereby given that all persons found trespassing upon this railway or the works thereof will be prosecuted.”



After reading these reports you might consider these questions:

- Whose fault is it that the accidents occurred?
- In the report at the bottom of page one, the collision is referred to as ‘terrific’ – what does the word mean in this instance?
- What precautions did the Midland Railway take to prevent accidents on the line?

