FATAL ACCIDENT AT COAL PIT

SATURDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 1871.

On Monday last an inquest was held at Mr Barker’s The Dog and Partridge, Charnock Richard, before M. Myers esq, the coroner, touching the death of a lad named John Winstanley, which happened under the following circumstances.

Alice Winstanley, of Charnock Richard, said the deceased was her brother, and was 13 years of age. He was employed at Hic Bibi coal pit.

Thomas Caterall, of Chorley. “On Saturday morning last between five and six o’clock, I was on the bank, and I was there to watch the colliers go down. Three persons were in the cage intending to go down. I gave the signal and the engines started. As soon as the cage moved, the deceased tried to get into it, when he was caught by the top side of the cage. He was thrown on the top of it, and was down the pit about half a yard, when the engine was stopped and the deceased was got off. He appeared to be hurt in the back and one leg. The three men were going to the top mine, or little delf, and the others to the bottom.”

Thomas Makinson, of Coppull, said, “I work at the Hic Bibi pit and was there on the Saturday morning when the deceased was caught. I heard the fireman give the signal to let the cage down. He said “Lower” which is the only word used. The cage would have gone to the bottom if we had not called to the engineman to stop. When the deceased had got loose I went to take him home, but he died before we got there. He bled a great deal.”

The Jury returned a verdict of “Accidental Death”.