

HENRY PARRY (Timekeeper) 1826 - 1847

Research on Henry Parry was undertaken following contact from a visitor to lickeyrailgroup.org

Henry's parents George Parry and Sarah Wall were married at Hanbury 14th October 1819.

Henry was their 6th child. He was baptised 1 October 1827 at Hanbury, Worcestershire.



By Hanbury Church by Philip Halling, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=140161124> (edited)

The 1841 census finds George 45 Farmer & Sarah 40, at Lower Westfields Farm, Hanbury with 12 Children - George 20, Charles 20, William 15, Frederick 15, John 15, Henry 14, Jane 12, Thomas 11, Ann 9, Mary 6, Dennis 3, & Edward 9 months. Also at the property are Henry Webb 20 Labourer, James Hartles 15 Labourer, John Langstone 15 Labourer, Elizabeth Rogers 10 servant.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=16.2&lat=52.26745&lon=-2.11742&layers=168&b=1>

Henry Died on 2nd July 1847. He was knocked down by a tip wagon and died of his injuries. Press reports indicate he was working on the Oxford, Worcester, & Wolverhampton Railway. His death certificate indicates he died within the parish of Hanbury. Those facts, coupled with the use of Tip Wagons, suggest Henry was working on construction of the line running north from Droitwich to connect with the Gloucester Birmingham line at Stoke Prior Junction. The parish boundary then lay just beyond that railway line. The OWR opened in stages 1852-53.

<https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=14.1&lat=52.28016&lon=-2.12144&layers=168&b=1&marker=52.275227,-2.122189>

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ow&wr.png#/media/File:Ow&wr.png>

Henry was buried 7th July 1847 at St Mary's, Hanbury. His splendid headstone stands in the church yard there.



*Sacred to the memory of Henry Parry
Son of George & Sarah Parry
Of Lower Westfield Farm in this Parish
Who departed this life 2nd July 1847
In the 21st year of his life.*

*Our life hangs by a single thread
It soon is cut and we are dead
Then boast not reader of thy might
Alive at noon and dead at night
Like as a flower I was cut down
And left my parents dear to mourn
Ah twenty-one years was but young
They soon passed by and I was gone
The morning sun on me arose
At night I too my last repose
Let my quick fate a warning be
To all who come my grave to see*

PRESS REPORTS:-

WORCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE - WEDNESDAY 07 JULY 1847

DROITWICH.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH.-Mr. Hughes held an inquest on Saturday last, at the Railway Tavern, Hanbury, on the body of Henry Parry. The deceased was employed on the works of the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, as time keeper, and on the previous day (Friday) was Knocked down across the rails by a waggon laden with soil which went over him, and injured him so seriously that he died in less than an hour after. Verdict—" Accidental death."

WORCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE - WEDNESDAY 07 JULY 1847

July 2, suddenly, by accident, whilst engaged on the Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton Railway, at Hampton Hill, in his 21st year, Henry Parry, the sixth and beloved son of George Parry, of Lower Westfield Farm, Hanbury.

WORCESTER JOURNAL THURSDAY 08 JULY 1847

FATAL ACCIDENT AT THE OXFORD, WORCESTER, AND WOLVERHAMPTON RAILWAY WORKS.

A shocking and fatal accident happened on the works of this line of railway on Friday morning last, at Hanbury, in this county. About half-past five o'clock that morning, a train of waggons laden with soil came to the " turn out," and it was the duty of the "tipmen" — men who discharge the earth from the waggons-to make a certain catch, upon which the load is discharged. Henry Parry, a timekeeper on the line, was at this time assisting the tipman, Henry Wootton, and on the train coming up, Wootton called out to Parry " look out, Henry, it's a right-hand catch," the catch being placed sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other. Parry, who at that moment was sitting by the fire, having been at work all night, jumped up, and in attempting to cross over, either slipped and fell under the waggon, or it knocked him down, but so sudden was the accident that no one could see exactly how it happened. However, the loaded waggon passed over him, and crushed him in a dreadful manner, so that he died in about three-quarters of an hour after. Mr. Jacques, surgeon, of Droitwich, was sent for, and arrived at the spot before the poor fellow died, but so severe were the injuries he had sustained, that he was past human aid when he arrived. Mr. Hughes, coroner, held an inquest on the body on Saturday last, at the Railway Tavern, Hanbury, when the above facts having been sworn to by the tipman Wootton, and two other witnesses, who were at work on the railway as the time, the jury returned a verdict of • Accidental death."

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WOLVERHAMPTON CHRONICLE AND STAFFORDSHIRE ADVERTISER 14-7-1847

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