

## **JOHN BARKER 1838 - 1902**

Born in the Droitwich area about 1838. Died at Stoke Works Tuesday 4th April 1902, aged 64.

The 1891 Census found John Living at 137 Shaw Lane Stoke Prior with his wife Jane and 2 adult children

An article in the Worcestershire Chronicle from 1902 shows him in the employ of the salt union at Stoke Works. While engaged in greasing the wheel boxes of some railway trucks he was crushed to death in a shunting accident. The inquest jury returned a verdict of Accidental death.



### **WORCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE - 8TH APRIL 1902**

#### **FATAL SHUNTING OPERATIONS AT STOKE WORKS.**

Mr. G. F. S. Brown (Deputy Coroner) conducted an inquiry, on Thursday, at the Bowling Green Inn Stoke Works, touching the death of John Barker (64), labourer, in the employ of the Salt Union, who was killed on the railway on Tuesday Morning. No one actually saw the accident happen but it appeared that Barker had been placing grease in the wheel-boxes of some trucks and he was them in the six foot. A train was shunting at the time. One of the trucks was seen to jump off the line, and deceased was afterwards found lying under it, dead. There was nothing to show how the accident occurred, but Barker was described as a very careful man, and it was also stated that the space between the lines was sufficient to allow shunting operations being carried on safely.

Dr. Coaker, of Bromsgrove, said the bones of deceased's right arm were broken and six or seven ribs were broken, and penetrated the lungs and probably the liver, and there were other injuries.

The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death" and exonerated the salt Union and the railway companies from all blame.

