



Sketch map to show the location of the accident.

THE STONEHOUSE RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

I noticed a copper plate on a low stone in Selsley Churchyard which says:

"In Memoriam, Walter James Dangerfield, Foreman Platelayer, who, in the Bloom of his Manhood, was cut off by an untimely Visitation at Stonehouse Station, M.R., on Sunday April 13th, 1913, aged 36 years."

The wording was intriguing and I Wondered how many wheels the Visitation had. Stroud Journal for 18 April 1913 has an account of the Inquest, under Coroner A.J. Morton Ball.

It appears that Mr Dangerfield, who lived at Kings Stanley, had left home at 5.30 for a 6.00 a.m. start. He had set his gang to work relaying track at Stonehouse Station and had then walked down the line to look at some other track. When crossing Beards Viaduct he was struck by the 11.20 Gloucester to Bristol express, driver Arthur Welton, Fireman James Humphries, Guard Avery Wgginston (of Good Ale Street) all from Derby.

The driver said he whistled and applied his brakes but Dangerfield did not seem to notice.

Police Sargeant Townsend, who was walking nearby, heard the noise and climbed the embankment; he said that being a Sunday with the mills not working, their sluices were open and the river was very noisy. [Seems a bit odd to me - the flow would have been much the same if the mills were working, unless they were draining down their ponds.]

The jury (foreman Charles Adler) brought in a verdict of "accidental death with no blame attaching to anyone".

When I look at the map I now realise that the incident took place on the main Gloucester - Bristol line, not the Stonehouse - Nailsworth line. There were two stations at Stonehouse, see map and the accident obviously occurred on the main Midland - Gloucester - Bristol line.

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