

Sat Aug 4th 1888 date of the newspaper The Northampton Mercury
Thursday 26th Aug 1888 date of the death

SAD DROWNING CASE

Mr J. T. Parker, divisional coroner, held an inquest Friday week at the Mason's Arms, St. John's-st on the body of Joseph Painter Moore, aged four years, son of Joseph Painter Moore, shoe finisher, of 47 Havelock St drowned the previous afternoon in a pond in Baregrass Field on the Hardwick-road.

It appears that on Thursday afternoon the deceased and two other lads named Armstrong and Gilbert having a holiday wandered far as Baregrass field and were playing round a pond there when the deceased fell in.

Another lad named Hobbs saw the little ones go into the field, and watched them playing about for some time when he went away, and on returning shortly after he saw Gilbert and Armstrong coming towards him and they told him the deceased had fallen in the water.

They said he was running around the pond when slipped in. He immediately went to the pond, but could not see Moore at first although in a minute or two saw his head come above the water and then sink again. As Hobbs could not swim, and the water was deep he told a man named George Wright Burgess what had occurred. This person, with assistance, eventually got the body of the deceased from the pond, and Burgess said a man named Bland held the body up by the heels but Moore was quite dead. The bank round the pond was stated to be very slippery, and there was no fence round to protect it the pond was six or seven feet deep.—After Dr Thomas had given evidence that death was due drowning. The jury returned a Verdict of Accidental Death.

At the suggestion of the jury the Coroner promised to write the Permanent Allotment Association recommended that the body put fence around the pond.