

A literature review of fatalities
attributed to
the adder (*Vipera berus*)
in Great Britain

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Introduction

Human casualties due to adder bite are relatively uncommon in Great Britain. Around 100 bites per year are reported, mostly men who have picked up the snake. Full recovery is usual, with fatalities being exceptionally rare. Amongst herpetologists the figure of twelve fatalities in the last 100 years is often quoted, and rarely questioned. The number of fatalities is sufficiently small that many with knowledge of the field have a passing familiarity with most of these cases.

Whilst researching adder observations in historical literature, in order to populate past range for the adder, I started to notice occasional references to fatal encounters, and to my surprise, some of these incidents were new to me. After cross-checking the usual sources, it appears that many fatal adder bites may have escaped compilation in past reviews. I cannot claim this paper to be comprehensive, but to the best of my knowledge it is the most complete to date.

I should of course start with possibly the most famous death from adder in British history, however, due to lack of contemporary corroboration and the antiquity of the source data, I feel unable to include it into the main research:

According to the Old Norse saga “Ragnarssona þáttur”, the Viking Ragnar Lodbrok was defeated by the Northumbrian Anglo-Saxons under king Ælle and was executed by being thrown into a pit of adders in about 865 AD.

Ragnar’s “death by adders” is not corroborated by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, but the latter document does mention the rebellious barons using dungeons filled with adders (and other creeping things) as a means for torture, extortion and execution during the ‘Anarchy’ of the 12th Century.

With those examples out of the way, we move swiftly onto the firmer ground of the 18th and 19th centuries to the present.

Approach

Rather than generate a simple table listing fatal incidents with references that the reader has then to source for themselves, wherever possible I have copied the relevant source text into this document, as for myself, I enjoy reading the historical text, detail and even the written style of the accounts.

The main part of this paper is a summary table, which provides the overview of the 55 attributed fatalities discovered to date, followed by a transcription of the contemporary accounts. On occasion I have included multiple accounts of the same incident, where additional detail or a differing perspective is informative.

An ‘honourable mention’ is included at the end of the paper, which infers a further, yet to be discovered fatal encounter, together with a selection of leads too vague to have yet followed.

Insights

Certain observations are apparent from this research:

- Fatal bites seem to fall into three broad categories:
 - **Envenomation of a healthy individual.** Where death occurs, this is often in excess of two days from the bite but less than 10 days.
 - **Envenomation of a compromised individual.** E.g. weak, young, old, intoxicated etc. Typically these victims survive not more than 24 to 48 hours.
 - **Death due to secondary effects**, such as anaphylaxis, blood poisoning or suffocation due to swelling. Anaphylaxis can cause a sudden death within minutes, however blood poisoning can take up to two weeks before death.
 - All but one death occurred within 14 days from the bite.
- Fatal bites to parts of the body are:
 - **Hands**, where there has been deliberate interaction with the snake, or there was another primary activity and the snake was un-noticed.
 - **Lower leg**, where the undetected snake was either trodden on, or footfall was close to the reptile.
 - **Arm or wrist**, where the snake has been caught.
 - **Head**, where extreme risks were taken with a captive snake, or a freak accident occurred.
 - Surprisingly there were no fatal bites to the **feet**, presumably as most people bitten wore footwear of sufficient toughness to prevent envenomation.
 - There is only one reported case of a bite to the **torso**, during a botched attempt to kill the snake with a rake.
- Fatalities appear to be most reported within Cornwall, Shropshire, South Wales and the Trussachs. Perhaps the rural nature of these areas precluded immediate medical attendance.
- 75% of fatalities were male. More than a quarter of victims chose to interact with the snake that bit them, all of these were male.
- Half of the fatalities occurred within 36 hours of the bite.
- Highest risk age groups are under 10 and over 50 years of age.

Basic analysis

Gender

Male	Female	Unknown	Total
41 (75%)	11 (20%)	3 (5%)	55

Ages

Adults spread evenly between 31 to 60 (16)
Young man/woman assumed to be 21-30
Boy/girl assumed to be 11-20
Young boy/girl/baby/infant assumed to be 0-10

0-10	11-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	Unknown	Total
22 (40%)	3 (5%)	5 (9%)	6 (11%)	5 (9%)	11 (20%)	1 (2%)	1 (2%)	55

Body part bitten

Head	Torso	Arm	Hand	Leg	Unknown	Foot	Total
6 (11%)	1 (2%)	3 (5%)	17 (31%)	13 (24%)	15 (27%)	0	55

Engagement with the snake

Deliberate	Accidental	Unknown	Total
15 (27%)	30 (55%)	10 (18%)	55

Duration from bite to death

Under 1 day	1 to 2 days	3 to 7 days	8 to 14 days	Over 15 days	Unknown	Total
23 (42%)	11 (20%)	6 (11%)	4 (7%)	1 (2%)	10 (18%)	55

Reducing risk

- Being mindful of likely adder presence, and respecting the animal by not deliberately engaging with a snake would reduce fatalities to almost all incidents, except where the victim is too young to know better
- The best physical protection would be boots that cover beyond the ankle (such as Wellington boots), followed by gloves (which may be less practical)
- Venomous snakes and intoxication are a dangerous mix
- Having a plan should snake bite occur:
 - Be aware of first aid treatment
 - Note the location of nearest medical facilities
 - Plan a means contacting medical aid, or for getting to medical facilities should a bite occur

NHS advice following an adder bite

Immediately after being bitten by a snake you should:

- remain calm and don't panic – snake bites, particularly those that occur in the UK, usually aren't serious and are only very rarely deadly
- try to remember the shape, size and colour of the snake
- keep the part of your body that's been bitten as still as possible to prevent the venom spreading around your body
- remove jewellery and watches from the bitten limb as they could cut into your skin if the limb swells
- do not attempt to remove any clothing, but loosen clothing if possible
- seek immediate medical attention

If you or someone you're with is bitten by a snake, you should NOT:

- try to suck the venom out of the bite
- try to cut the venom out of the bite or make it bleed
- rub anything into the wound or apply ice, heat or chemicals
- leave someone who's been bitten on their own
- put anything around the bitten limb to stop the spread of venom (such as a tight pressure band, tourniquet or ligature) as it won't help, and can cause swelling or make it worse; it could also damage the limb, leading to the need for amputation
- try to catch or kill the snake

Dial 999 immediately after being bitten by a snake to ask for an ambulance, or go straight to your nearest accident and emergency (A&E) department.

You should give healthcare professionals a description of the snake to help identify it.

You may be admitted to hospital so the bite can be assessed and your condition closely monitored.

Verification

Wherever possible, genealogical sources have been used to verify the source of the reports. This could be a reference to a recorded death or burial which ties up with a reported victim, or could be a census return to precisely locate the incident or to identify an un-named victim. Birth and baptism records have been used to estimate or check the age of the victim.

A chapter at the back of this paper shows the verification research. Where it has not been possible to verify a report, that entry is labelled as 'false' under the verification field.

In general, the great majority of reported sources have turned out to be factually correct. It has been more difficult to verify 18th century sources due to the journalistic style of fewer details being reported, and the paucity of standardised recording of genealogical events in that period.

Minor corrections and additions to the source text are enclosed within square brackets.

Research is ongoing, and updates of this paper are likely.

Summary of Recorded Fatalities

18 th Century					
#	Date of bite	Victim	Gender	Age	Location
1.	23 August 1722	Un-named baby		4m	Bagshot, Surrey
2.	14 April 1733	Un-named man	Male	Adult	Clare Market, London
3.	15 July 1734	Un-named man	Male	Adult	Bedminster, Bristol, Somerset
4.	16 October 1735	Un-named man	Male	Adult	Paddington, London
5.	18 June 1784	Un-named man	Male	Adult	Hull, Yorkshire
6.	15 July 1749	Un-named man	Male	Adult	Barnet
7.	20 September 1767	Mr Parsley	Male	Adult	Shirehampton, Gloucestershire
8.	5 August 1790	Mr Newell	Male	Boy	Lockerley, Hampshire
9.	22 September 1790	Mr Watson	Male	Adult	Hanham, Somerset
10.	8 August 1791	Un-named man	Male	Young man	Sydenham Wells, London
11.	5 September 1792	Thomas Forster	Male	21	Camden, Gloucestershire
12.	5 May 1794	Mr Kettle	Male	Adult	Lower St Columb, Cornwall
13.	22 May 1794	Lawrence Kerswill	Male	Adult	Newlyn, Cornwall
14.	28 June 1794	Un-named soldier	Male	Adult	Southampton, Hampshire

19 th Century					
#	Date of bite	Victim	Gender	Age	Location
15.	19 September 1804	Un-named woman	Female	Woman	Beeding, Sussex
16.	20 September 1809	Un-named child		6	Gartmore,
17.	21 July 1829	William Meadowcroft	Male	16 months	Epping Forest, London
18.	1835	John McAllan	Male	Adult	Buchlyvie, Scotland
19.	13 April 1835	William Turner	Male	66	Cowfold, Sussex
20.	21 May 1835	Maria Sewell	Female	6	Bedford New-town, London
21.	21 August 1840	John Minter	Male	Adult	Folkestone, Kent
22.	1842-1862	Un-named boy	Male	7	Moreton Hampstead, Devon
23.	10 July 1843	Mary Angove	Female	4	Red Gate, St Cleer, Cornwall
24.	30 May 1857	George Beviss	Male	1y 2m	Thorncombe, Devon
25.	24 May 1862	Mr Wilkins	Male	Boy	Burgess Hill, Sussex
26.	2 July 1865	Mrs Siddon	Female	Adult	Epping Forest, London
27.	12 September 1867 [†]	Ms Hurst	Female	9	Handsworth Wood, Birmingham
28.	2 June 1868	Stephen Witt	Male	59	Ringwood, Hampshire
29.	13 July 1870	Randolph William Adams	Male	3½	Ashdown Forest, Sussex
30.	3 June 1874	Eliza Agnes McEwen	Female	4	Loth, Sutherlandshire
31.	27 July 1876	George Thompson	Male	Young man	Leith Hill, Surrey
32.	27 September 1878	Mr Mortimer	Male	Young man	Amberley, Sussex
33.	20 September 1888	Hugh McPherson (& Son)	Male	Adult	Pennyghael, Mull
34.	3 June 1893	Rees Evans	Male	11½	Pontrhonda, Rhondda Cynon Taf
35.	23 September 1891	Pte Arthur Judge	Male	20	Strensall Camp, Yorkshire

20th Century

#	Date of bite	Victim	Gender	Age	Location
36.	14 June 1901	Joseph Albert Hartley	Male	4½	Ravenglass, Cumberland
37.	6 August 1903	David Manuel	Male	10	Henllan, Denbighshire
38.	26 September 1903	Constance Maud Victoria Harding	Female	6	Whitcliffe, Ludlow, Shropshire
39.	19 November 1903	William Davie	Male	57	Menabilly, Cornwall
40.	26 May 1906	Un-named school boy	Male	Boy	Folkestone, Kent
41.	1906				Bournemouth?
42.	23 June 1906	William Sobey	Male	52	Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire
43.	22 July 1906	Joseph Millard	Male	35	Aldershot, Hampshire
44.	1909	John McAllan	Male	Adult	Ramsley, Derbyshire
45.	12 June 1913	George Edward Box	Male	52	Wanstead, London
46.	25 May 1920	Alfred Archibald Howells	Male	2	Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire
47.	15 July 1932	Frasier Wm Harris	Male	51	Malvern Hills, Worcestershire
48.	5 May 1934	Dorothy Margaret Horne	Female	3	Edgefield, Norfolk
49.	1934	Un-named girl	Female	6	Whitecilff Hill, Shropshire
50.	15 June 1941	Glyn Hughes	Male	2	Tuddnffynon, Caernarvonshire
51.	10 July 1941	Gavin Bruce Mackay	Male	2y 3m	Budleigh Salterton, Devon
52.	11 May 1957	Michael John Smith	Male	14	Wareham, Dorsetshire
53.	22 May 1961	Hilary Brown	Female	12	Priddy Pool, Somerset
54.	20 July 1963	Sylvia Hughes	Female	57	Whitecliffe, Ludlow, Shropshire
55.	29 June 1975	Raymond Leitch	Male	5	Trussachs, Perthshire

Grey text indicates uncertainty.

† Possible hoax.

Table 1: Summary of fatalities attributed to the adder in Great Britain

Sources and Content

1. Bagshot, Surrey – 1722

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	4 months
Date of bite	18 August 1722
Geographic location	Bagshot Town, Surrey, England
Grid reference	SU 903 629
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Unknown
Time until death	2 hours?
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Stamford Mercury (23 August 1722)

Some days ago a woman near Bagshot Town in Surrey, having 2 nurse children, going out a little way upon some occasion, an adder in her absence got into the cradle where one of the children, about 4 months old lay, and sucked out its blood. The nurse returning soon after, found the child dead, and the adder near it, which being cut to pieces voided near a quart of blood.

2. Clare Market, London – 1733

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Adult
Date of bite	5 April 1733
Geographic location	Clare Market, London, England
Grid reference	TQ 308 811
Precision	100 m
Anatomical location	Hand?
Time until death	Unknown
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Ipswich Journal (14 April 1733)

On Sunday last a Butcher of Clare-Market was bit by an Adder at Copenhagen-House; he immediately sucked the Wound, and the Venom had such an Effect upon him, that, he swelled prodigiously in a short Time, and is since dead.

3. Bedminster, Bristol, Somerset – 1734

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Adult
Date of bite	15 July 1734
Geographic location	Bedminster, Bristol, Somerset, England
Grid reference	ST 570 717
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand
Time until death	4 days
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Ipswich Journal (20 July 1734)

Bristol 20 July, One day last week a carpenter sitting down in a field near Bedminster to rest himself, out of the hedge and bit him by the hand; the venom mortified all down the side he was bit on, before any relief could be applied by the surgeons, and he died after four days languishing in a very miserable condition: his corpse was obliged to be burnt without ceremony, the stench was so offensive.

4. Paddington, London – 1735

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Adult
Date of bite	9 October 1735
Geographic location	Paddington, London
Grid reference	TQ 267 812
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand
Time until death	12 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Intoxication (likely)

Derby Mercury (16 October 1735)

On Sunday Morning a Man at Paddington having catch'd a Viper, came with it to an Alehouse in that Neighbourhood, and threw it in a Joke at a Person fitting there, who thinking to take it up to throw it back again, it bit his Hand, which soon after swell'd to such a Degree, that on Sunday his Life was despaired of.

5. Hull, Yorkshire – 1784

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Adult
Date of bite	19 June 1784
Geographic location	Hull Yorkshire, England
Grid reference	TA 097 288
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Head (mouth)
Time until death	2 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Secondary effects: Swelling of the glottis (likely)

Reading Mercury (19 July 1784)

The following circumstance serve to shew the folly of sporting with certain danger, especially when it can answer no other purpose but that gratifying emulation: A person at Hull, who used to catch Adders, and boast of his power of taking away their poison, on the 18th ult. caught one and the next day, being in a public house in company, he curled up the adder, put the greatest part of into his mouth, and took it out again unhurt; after this put its head into his mouth, when it bit him, and his neck immediately swelled to an amazing thickness, his tongue hanging out of his mouth a shocking spectacle, He lived two hours, and died the greatest agonies.

6. Barnet, London – 1749

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Adult
Date of bite	15 July 1749
Geographic location	Barnet, London
Grid reference	TQ 281 950
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand (finger)
Time until death	3 weeks
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

The Scots Magazine (04 August 1749)

About the middle of July, a Gentleman riding towards Barnet, saw a viper and lashed it with his whip till it seemed to be dead. Then alighting, he wrapped it in some grass, and carried it home tied in his handkerchief. At home a neighbour looking at, and turning it over, it bit him in the finger. The wound bled a little; the man sucked it, and went home dreading no ill consequences. But next day his arm was swoln as his middle, and he a violent fever, and was delirious. By a physician's advice, the medicines usual in cases were applied; but without effect; for the man died in about three weeks, in strong convulsions.

Derby Mercury (18 August 1749)

Not long since a Gentleman, who lives near Hatton-Garden, taking a ride towards Barnet and North-Hall, in his Ride spied a Viper, which, with' his Whip, he lashed till it seemed lifeless, when lighting from his Horse, he folded it up in a little Grass, tied Grass and all in his Handkerchief, and putting it thus in his Pocket, he carried it home; when there, a Persun in his Neighbourhood (a little in Liquor it is supposed) coming to his House, he sent his Maid up Stairs for the Handkerchief out of his. Pocket, (for by this Time he had undressed) which, when she had brought down, he untied, and produced the Viper; upon which his Neighbour playing with it, the Viper not proving to be dead, bit him by the Finger: the Wound bled a little, the Man sucked his Finger, and went home without any further Notice; but by next Morning his Arm was swelled as thick as his Middle, and the Man in a violent Fever, and delirious; upon which a Physician was sent for, who applied what is usual in such Cafes to take down the Swelling, but no Medicine could remove the Fever; so that the Man continued near three Weeks in this State, and died about five Days ago, in a strong Convulsion Fit.

7. Shirehampton, Bristol, Gloucestershire – 1767

Victim's name	Mr Parsley
Age	
Date of bite	October 1767
Geographic location	Shirehampton, Bristol, Gloucestershire, England
Grid reference	
Precision	
Anatomical location	
Time until death	
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette (02 October 1767)

Deaths. Mrs. King, at Cathay. - Mr. Robert Carr, linen diaper and hair-merchant, of this city. - Mr. Parsley, of Shirehampton: His death was occasioned by the bite of a viper.

8. Lockerley, Hampshire – 1790

Victim's name	John Newell
Age	8
Date of bite	5 August 1790
Geographic location	Lockerley, Hampshire, England
Grid reference	SU 289 270
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand (likely)
Time until death	48 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette (12 August 1790)

A few days as [ago] a poor boy of the name of Newell, son of a besom-maker [broom-maker], at Lockerly, Hants, was gathering whortleberries [bilberries], in Lockerly woods, he was bitten by an adder, in consequence of which his body swelled very much, and he died in two days; a surgeon was sent for, but too late to save the boy's life.

9. Hanham, Somerset – 1790

Victim's name	Robert Watson
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	22 September 1790
Geographic location	Hanham, Somerset, England
Grid reference	ST 641 718
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Head, face
Time until death	Few days
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Northampton Mercury (25 September 1790)

Last week one Watson, who had been reaping a field at Hanham, being much fatigued, lay down and fell asleep under a hedge, when a viper or some other venomous creature bit him under one of his eyes, which caused his head to swell in a very extraordinary manner, and of which he died in few days after, notwithstanding the best medical advice.

10. Sydenham Wells, London – 1791

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	8 August 1791
Geographic location	Sydenham-Wells, London, England
Grid reference	TQ 344 717
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Unknown
Time until death	Few hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Derby Mercury (18 August 1791)

Monday last a young gentleman was stung in a dreadful manner by an adder, in a field near Sydenham Wells. A surgeon was immediately procured, but his assistance proved ineffectual—he expired in a few hours after in the greatest agonies.

11. Camden, Gloucester – 1792

Victim's name	Thomas Forster
Age	21
Date of bite	5 September 1792
Geographic location	Mickleton, Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire, England
Grid reference	SP 159 434
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Midriff, stomach
Time until death	6 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette (13 September 1792)

The following melancholy accident happened at Mickleton, a village near Camden, Gloucestershire, on Wednesday se'nnight: Thomas Forster, a young man, son of an eminent gardener, walking in the garden, espied an adder under a brick wall (at that time rendered very hot by the heat of the sun), upon which he laid hold of a garden-rake, and struck it, but not of force sufficient to hurt it, upon which the adder, with a sudden spring, fastened round his left arm, and instantly bit him exactly upon the stomach, and then dropped off. The place bitten began to swell immediately, with an uncommon degree of pain, which baffled every effort of an experienced surgeon for the space of six hours, when the young man died in the most excruciating and tormenting pain.

12. Lower St. Columb, Cornwall – 1794

Victim's name	Kettle
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	5 May 1794
Geographic location	Lower St. Columb, Cornwall, England
Grid reference	SW 836 625
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Head, neck
Time until death	hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Caledonian Mercury (12 May 1794)

A few days since a man of the name of Kettle, at Lower St. Columb, Devon [Cornwall], incautiously sleeping in a garden, was bitten by an adder in the neck; he made speedy application to a surgeon, who administered the usual remedies, but without effect. He died soon after in convulsions.

Note: Suspiciously similar to the next case, and this case may have reporting errors regarding the location.

13. Newlyn, Cornwall – 1794

Victim's name	Lawrence Kerswill
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	22 May 1794
Geographic location	Newlyn, Mitchell, Cornwall, England
Grid reference	SW 870 546
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Head, (under ear)
Time until death	20 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Derby Mercury (22 May 1794)

Singular instance of fatality from the bite of an adder - One Lawrence Kerswill, a labouring man, of Newlyn, near Mitchell, Cornwall, a few days ago, reclining himself on a grassy hedge in the sun, felt something about his neck remarkably cold, whereupon he hastily put up his hand, and threw off 1 an adder, which at that instant stung him under the ear. He immediately killed the reptile, and carried it home, which was not far distant. On seeing his wife he exclaimed, "I have killed an adder, and I believe the adder has killed me."

He then shewed her where the creature had stung him. On which he, taking up a pair of scissors, and with her finger and thumb pinching up the skin, and so much of the flesh as adhered thereto, cut off the surface of the part affected, and then ripping up the adder, took out its fat, and rubbed it on the wound, then bound it up, and applied to a surgeon, but to no purpose. The poison being injected into the jugular vein, and the whole mass of blood thereby infected, notwithstanding the utmost efforts of two able surgeons, the next morning terminated his life; he was a horrid spectacle. He has left a wife and three children.

14. Southampton, Hampshire – 1794

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	28 June 1794
Geographic location	Southampton, Hampshire, England
Grid reference	SU 492 106
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Unknown
Time until death	hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Hampshire Chronicle (30 June 1794)

SOUTHAMPTON, SATURDAY June 28 – Last week, previous to the breaking up of the [Bursledon/Netley?] camp, one of the soldiers was bit by an adder and died in a few hours.

The New British Traveller – James Dungale - 1819

BURSLEDON — At the village of Bursledon, 4½ miles E.S.E. from Southampton, several fine vessels have, at different times, been built for the British navy. On the waste, eastward from this village, the troops, which the Earl Of Moira conducted to Ostend, in 1794, assembled and encamped.

The Southampton Guide - 1847

In 1794, the army was encamped on Netley Common which embarked from this port, and proceeded with the Earl of Moira to Ostend.

15. (Upper) Beeding, Sussex – 1804

Victim's name	Elizabeth Saunders (nee Taylor)?
Age	23?
Date of bite	19 September 1804
Geographic location	Upper Beeding, Sussex, England
Grid reference	
Precision	
Anatomical location	Lower leg (ankle)
Time until death	2 days
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

London Courier and Evening Gazette (19 September 1804)

Vipers have been found unusually, numerous the Corn Fields of Sussex, during the present harvest; A few days since a young woman received a bite on the ankle from one of these reptiles, while labouring in the Barley Fields at Beeding, and, notwithstanding chirurgical assistance was, obtained for her as soon as possible, she died in consequence of the wound, on the second day afterwards.

16. Gartmore, Trussachs, Scotland – 1809

Victim's name	
Age	6 years
Date of bite	17 August 1809
Geographic location	Gartmore, Trussachs, Scotland
Grid reference	
Precision	
Anatomical location	
Time until death	2 days
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Hereford Journal – (20 September 1809)

A child, six years of age, was lately stung by adder at Gastmore [Gartmore], and notwithstanding medical aid died two days after in great agonies.

Perthshire Courier – (11 September 1809)

Thursday the 17th ult. a child about six years of age was stung by an adder, at Gartmore [Gartmore], and notwithstanding medical aid, the child died on the Saturday following.

17. Epping Forest, London, England – 1829

Victim's name	William Meadowcroft
Age	1 year 4 months
Date of bite	21 July 1829
Geographic location	Epping Forest, London, England
Grid reference	TQ 478 933
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Lower leg
Time until death	24 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Essex Herald – (28 July 1829)

On the same day, an inquest was held before the same Coroner, the May Pole, Chigwell Row, on the body of infant of about fifteen months old, named Meadowcroft, who had died on the preceding Wednesday, from the bite or sting of an adder, which had been inflicted on its leg about the middle of the day before, whilst under the care of its sister (about 14 years old) walking in the Forest. The evidence was such to leave no doubt of this being the cause of the child's death, the Jury, therefore, returned a verdict accordingly; and the Coroner, at the suggestion of the medical gentleman, charged the constable to use his best endeavours to find and destroy the noxious animal, which, from its being in the vicinity of a populous neighbourhood, might otherwise cause the destruction of more lives.

18. Buchlyvie, Trossachs, Scotland – 1835

Victim's name	
Age	
Date of bite	May? 1835
Geographic location	Bucklyvie, Scotland
Grid reference	
Precision	
Anatomical location	
Time until death	10 days
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

South Eastern Gazette – (05 June 1849)

The adder, though justly an object of aversion and dread, by no means so noxious a creature as is commonly believed. It never makes an unprovoked attack; but is induced to bite only when suddenly molested, or when obliged to act in self-defence. The chief danger to any person walking in its vicinity consists in coming close upon it, and appearing to intend it damage, while it is unobserved. Its bite, too, though quite painful and venomous enough to be matter of serious apprehension, is exceedingly far from being necessarily fatal; and probably may, in every instance, with due regard of care, be somewhat easily cured.

In a moss in the neighbourhood of Bucklyvie, in Scotland, a farm servant, while engaged in cutting peats, a few years ago, was stung by an adder, and died in consequence of the wound in about ten days.

Caledonian Mercury (22 June 1835)

In a moss, in the neighbourhood of Bucklyvie, a farm servant, while engaged in cutting peats, a few weeks ago was stung by an adder, and died in consequence of the wound, in about ten days.

Perthshire Courier (25 June 1835)

METHVEN - As some people were casting peats in the Moss of Ashvore, Monedie parish, last week, they were startled by the appearance of two adders, one of which was about two feet and a half in length. The latter made a spring at the nearest person, which frightened the whole party so much that they made the best of their way out of the moss. This part of the country has been noted as a haunt for adders for long time.

19. Cowfold, Sussex – 1835

Victim's name	William Turner
Age	66
Date of bite	13 April 1835
Geographic location	Cowfold, Sussex, England
Grid reference	TQ 213 226
Precision	10 km
Anatomical location	Arm
Time until death	5 days
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Brighton Gazette (23 April 1835)

On Monday se'nnight [13th April], as an aged man named Turner, living in the parish of Cowfold, was engaged in pulling some weeds growing round a hedge in his garden, a reptile, which he supposed to be an adder, stung him in the arm. He thought little of it till next day, when the arm began to swell in a dreadful manner; medical assistance had, but it was too late. The poor fellow lingered in great agony till Saturday last [18th April], when he expired.

20. Bedford New-town, London – 1835

Victim's name	Maria Sewell
Age	
Date of bite	21 May 1835
Geographic location	Bedford New-town, London, England
Grid reference	
Precision	
Anatomical location	Head, lip
Time until death	24 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Hampshire Advertiser (6 September 1862) – oddly, this is 30 years after the incident!

DEATH FROM THE BITE OF AN ADDER - On Wednesday afternoon Dr. Lankester, coroner for Middlesex, received information of the death of a girl, named Maria Sewell, the daughter of a laundress, residing in Bedford New-town [Camden Town], St. Pancras, which was occasioned by the bite of an adder on the previous day.

It appears that the girl's brother had procured the reptile about a week ago, and kept it in a box, and she was proceeding to feed it, as she had been in the habit of doing for some days, when the adder suddenly darted out and bit her on the inside of the upper lip. She was immediately seized with extreme pain, and in about twenty minutes began swelling about the head and neck to such an extent that not a feature was recognisable. Medical assistance was procured and antidotes applied, but the whole system had become so violently affected that the poor girl expired before she could be removed to the North London Hospital.

Hertford Mercury and Reformer (9 June 1835)

Fatal Bite of an Adder - On Thursday morning, 21st Inst. between ten and eleven o'clock, girl named Maria Sewell, living with her mother, a laundress, on Walworth common, was most severely bitten by adder, under the following circumstances:

Her brother had procured a young adder about a week ago, and kept it in a box : the girl was in the habit of feeding it, and yesterday morning was proceeding to do so as usual, when the reptile suddenly darted out, and most severely bit the girl on the inside of the upper lip. The girl was immediately seized with extreme pain, and in about twenty minutes began swelling about the head and neck in most extraordinary manner— not a feature was recognizable.

She was directly carried to Guy's Hospital, where the usual antidotes were promptly applied, but without producing any beneficial effect; the whole system had become so violently affected, that no hope is entertained her surviving.

21. Folkestone, Kent – 1840

Victim's name	John Minter
Age	76
Date of bite	21 August 1840
Geographic location	Park Farm, Folkestone, Kent
Grid reference	TR 223 371
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand (forefinger of right hand)
Time until death	1 hour
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age (plus likely anaphylaxis)

The Watchman (2 September 1840)

On Friday week, as a poor labouring man, named John Minter, who had been mowing barley in a field belonging to Mr. Major, of Park Farm, Folkestone, was crossing another field on his way to help his wife, who was reaping, he saw a large adder, nearly three feet long, which he stamped upon with his foot. When proceeding to pick it up, the reptile stung him on the fore finger of the right hand. In less than five minutes he began to swell all over in an amazing degree, and foamed at the mouth terrifically.

Messrs. Jeffery, Kelsey, and Minter, surgeons, were quickly in attendance, but, melancholy to relate, notwithstanding every exertion that could be used, the sufferer expired in the most dreadful agony in less than an hour after he was bitten by the adder. On Tuesday, the members of the Friendly Club followed him in melancholy procession to the churchyard. The incision made by the reptile was not larger than the prick of a needle. - *Kentish Mercury*

Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate & Cheriton Herald (15 July 1903) – Note: published before the 1906 incident.

The end of it all was that I myself recorded the only case of death of which the proof was satisfactory; I had the details from Dr. Bateman, and the circumstance happened at Folkestone. And the viper there was only partially guilty.

22. Moreton Hampstead, Devon – 1841 to 1862

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	7
Date of bite	1842-1862
Geographic location	Moreton Hampstead, Devon, England
Grid reference	
Precision	
Anatomical location	Hand, thumb
Time until death	14 days
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Westmorland Gazette (24 May 1862)

THE BITE OF AN ADDER. The following letter appears in the Times : Sir In the Times of yesterday, the 16th, appears a paragraph, headed above, copied from the Sussex Express, and, with your kind permission, I beg to offer few remarks upon it. The common adder the only poisonous snake British Isles, and May is the month when it is most active.

During a long professional career of twenty years, with one exception, I have never known it kill a human being. This took place in boy seven years old, who laid hold of an adder when it was crawling up a bank. The poor fellow was bitten in the thumb, and, being highly nervous, he succumbed in about a fortnight.

In country districts it is common thing see dogs bitten by adder, generally about the head. Swelling to a considerable extent soon follows, and the animal appears to suffer greatly, but escapes death.

Great constitutional disturbance follows the bite in the human subject, oftentimes leading to suppuration and gangrene of the part affected, unless proper means are used to check it. It has been proved by experiment over and over again, that poisons of this character are harmless when applied to mucous surface, and quantities have been swallowed without producing any ill-effect. The bite, nine times out of ten, is, in some part of the hand, and immediately it is felt the wounded part should be well sucked by the mouth, and a piece of string tied tight round the finger or the wrist (according to the seat of the bite) to prevent the poison from being absorbed into the system. If this simple plan was generally known and acted upon, deaths or injury from the bite of an adder would be rare indeed. Your obedient servant, Edwin Bishop, M.D. Moreton Hampstead, Devon, May 17.

23. Red Gate, St Cleer, Cornwall – 1843

Victim's name	Mary Angove
Age	4
Date of bite	10 July 1843
Geographic location	Red Gate, St. Cleer, Liskeard, Cornwall, England
Grid reference	SX 240 693
Precision	100 m
Anatomical location	Hand
Time until death	24 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

The Patriot (31st July 1843)

Mortal Bite of an Adder. On Monday se'nnight [week ago], as a little girl [Mary], aged four years, daughter of James Angrove [Angove], a labourer at Common Moor, near Red Gate, in the parish of St. Cleer, [Liskeard, Cornwall] was at play a short distance from her residence, she was bit twice on the hand by an adder, and the poor little sufferer died on the following day. – West Briton.

24. Thorncombe, Devon – 1857

Victim's name	George Beviss
Age	1yr 2m
Date of bite	30 May 1857
Geographic location	Coppice House, Forde Abby, Thorncombe, Chard, Somerset, England
Grid reference	ST 371 050
Precision	100 m
Anatomical location	Arm
Time until death	36 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Sussex Advertiser (9th June 1857)

Death from the Bite of an Adder - On Saturday week, an adder entered the house of Charles Beviss [23yrs of Wellhouse Lane, Thorncombe], gamekeeper to G.F.W. Miles Esq. of Ford Abbey, near Chard, when his child [George?], about fourteen months old, seeing it, attempted, as is supposed, to take it as a plaything; but the mother's [Sarah Beviss] attention was speedily attracted to her offspring by its screams, when she saw the adder secrete itself, and found her child's hand and arm bitten in two places, and rapidly swelling. She sent for her husband, who destroyed the reptile, and they brought the child into the town to a surgeon, but so venomous were the bites, and great the delay, that the poor little sufferer, after enduring indescribable agonies, died on the following Monday morning.

Bridport News (23 May 1857)

Child Killed by the Bite a Viper - We have frequently read thrilling accounts of shocking deaths and hair-breadth escapes in tropical climes from the poisonous bites of reptiles, of persons in bed and in their residences—but it is very seldom that we hear of individuals being fatally bitten in their own homes in our “highly favoured” country. One such remarkably case, however, did occur in the parish of Thorncombe, near Ford Abbey, on Saturday last, when a child named Beavis, was bitten by a viper, and died in consequence on the following day. The viper was found shortly afterwards and killed.

Bridport News (30 May 1857)

Death from the Bite of a Viper - Last week we gave an account of the death of a child from this cause. It appears that the child was about fourteen months old, and is supposed to have attempted to play with the reptile, when the mother's attention was called to it by its screams; she saw the viper hide itself, and found her child's hand and arm bitten in two places, and rapidly swelling. She sent for her husband, who destroyed the reptile and they took the child to Chard to surgeon, but so venomous were the bites, that the poor little sufferer, after enduring indescribable agonies, died on Monday morning. The father's name is Charles Beviss, he is gamekeeper to G. F. W. Miles, Esq., of Ford Abbey. No less than five vipers were found in a wall adjoining the house.

25. Burgess Hill, Sussex – 1862

Victim's name	Wilkins
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	24 May 1862
Geographic location	Burgess Hill, Sussex, England
Grid reference	
Precision	
Anatomical location	Hand
Time until death	48 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Norfolk Chronicler (24 May 1862)

Death from the Bite of an Adder. — As a little boy, named Wilkins of Burgess-hill, was returning from school one evening week, he clambered up a bank to examine a bird's nest, and with his hand among the moss, he felt, as he supposed, sharp prick from a thorn, but which afterwards turned out to be a bite from an adder. As the real cause of the wound was not suspected, the swelling of the hand and arm was not properly attended

to until the virus of the reptile had spread into the system, when he was taken to a surgeon, but it was too late, and the poor little fellow died under it on the second day.

Alnwick Mercury (2 June 1862)

Death from the Bite of an Adder - The Sussex Express has the following: - As a little boy, named Wilkins, of Burgess-hill, was returning from school, one evening last week, he clambered up a bank to examine a bird's nest, and groping with his hand among the moss, he felt, as he supposed, a sharp prick from a thorn, but which afterwards turned out to a bite from an adder.

As the real cause of the wound was not suspected, the swelling of the hand and arm was not properly attended to until the virus of the reptile had spread into the system, when he was taken to a surgeon, but was too late, and the poor little fellow died under it on the second day.

The same paper records another case - On Tuesday last, little boy named Newland, about nine years of age, residing with his parents at Sayers Common, Hurstpierpoint, on his way home from school, about five the afternoon, crossed some fields, lying between Hurst and Sayers Common, and amused himself birds-nesting.

Upon discovering the nest of a grey bird, he thrust his left hand into it, and though he never saw the adder, was immediately bitten on the back of the forefinger. The boy's cries brought his assistance a man named Standing, who drew what he believed be an adder's tooth from the finger, and conveyed the boy to his home, where-be was shortly afterwards attended to by Dr. Holman. A search was made the same evening for the adder, but without success. On Saturday last, Mr. Press succeeded killing female adder, about two feet in length, near the spot where the boy was bitten, and which believed to the reptile that bit the boy, as it has a tooth missing.

Much sympathy is shown for the poor little fellow, and although he has suffered greatly, we believe his case is not considered hopeless.

26. Epping Forest, London – 1865

Victim's name	Siddon
Age	Adult
Date of bite	2 July 1865
Geographic location	Epping Forest, London, England
Grid reference	TQ 404 951
Precision	10 km
Anatomical location	Upper leg (likely)
Time until death	24 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Berkshire Chronicle (8 July 1865)

Death from the Bite of an Adder - On Sunday Mrs. Siddon, wife of Mr. Siddon, undertaker, Compton-street, went with a party of friends for an excursion to Epping-forest, and whilst sitting on the grass partaking of a picnic, she was stung an adder, which was killed by one of the gentlemen. Shortly afterwards Mrs. Siddon's body began to swell, and despite all efforts of medical aid, so rapidly did the reptile's venom impregnate the system that she expired on Monday.

Suffolk and Essex Free Press (6 July 1865)

On Sunday Mrs, Siddon the wife of an undertaker, whilst silting the grass picnic in Epping Forest was bitten on the lower part of her person and died on Monday morning.

27. Handsworth Wood, Birmingham – 1867

Victim's name	Hurst
Age	9
Date of bite	12 September 1867
Geographic location	Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, England
Grid reference	SP 051 911
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Lower leg
Time until death	Within 24 hours
Verified	False – Possible hoax
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Western Daily Press (14 September 1867)

A Child Bitten by a Viper - Two little children, aged respectively nine and eleven, were looking for blackberries in Handsworth Wood, on Thursday, when the younger (a little girl) was suddenly bitten in the leg by snake (supposed to be a viper.) The elder (a boy) screamed for assistance, but, being frightened at the reptile, ran to his home in a lane adjoining the wood. His mother was at home and came to the assistance of the little girl (her niece). But the poor little thing was in her last agony. She looked piteously in her aunt's face and died without saying a word. The child's mother (Mrs Hurst) was soon informed of the most distressing event. She at once fell into a fit and it was two hours before she recovered. Her grief was heartrending; she wept and tore her hair and showed every sign of the deepest woe. She is a widow, and the little girl who has expired under such painful circumstances was her only surviving child. The inquest will take place to-day (Saturday.)

Birmingham Daily Post (14 September 1867)

A CHILD BITTEN BY A VIPTER IN HANDSWORTH WOOD - To the EDITOR of the DAILY POST. Sir, a paragraph, headed as above, appearing in this day's Post, in which I am reported as receiving donations for the mother of the child (a widow), so astonished me that I have given myself no little trouble in making enquiries. I find that there is no "body lying at the Grove Tavern, awaiting a Coroner's inquest," nor can I ascertain that any child was "bitten and died" as stated, I have enquired of several inhabitants residing around this wood, and they all state that they have not heard the least intimation of this occurrence except from the paragraph in your paper. I have also questioned the oldest residents, who have resided near this wood all their lives - several upwards of eighty years old - and they all declared that they never heard of any snakes or vipers being reported as seen or discovered.

As this appears a most cruel hoax (if it can be called one) and might cause considerable alarm to nervous persons residing in that locality, I think it requires the strongest denial as a condemnation of the author. I may add that I resided for twelve years on the borders of Cannock Chase (notorious for various snakes, vipers, Sic,) and have attended professionally a good many cases of bites from these reptiles, but saving the great alarm and suffering for some hours I cannot record a single fatal case, I am your obedient servant. WILLIAM DOWNS, Surgeon.

28. Ringwood, Hampshire – 1868

Victim's name	Stephen Witt
Age	59
Date of bite	2 June 1868
Geographic location	Ashley, Ringwood, Hampshire, England
Grid reference	SU 137 047
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Unknown
Time until death	Unknown
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Dundee Courier (8 June 1868)

A man at Ring wood, near the New Forest, died last week from the bite adder.

Hampshire Advertiser (6 June 1868)

RINGWOOD, June 6. Bite of an Adder. — Stephen Witt [a Saywer] died here last Thursday from the shock to his system caused by a bite by an adder whilst he was barking some trees that had been felled in the winter. The affected part had been skilfully removed by Dr. Smith, but Witt was in such a weak state of health that he gradually sunk until he expired.

29. Ashdown Forest, Sussex – 1870

Victim's name	Randolph William Adams
Age	3½
Date of bite	13 Jul 1870
Geographic location	Ashford Forest, Sussex, England
Grid reference	TQ 455 326
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand, finger
Time until death	20 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Hastings and St Leonards Observer (16 July 1870)

On Wednesday, at Hartfield, between the hours of ten and eleven, a.m., the son of man, named Adams, aged three years, residing at Newbridge, was playing in Ashdown Forest, which the father's house adjoins, when he was bitten on the arm by what was afterwards stated by Mr. Blunden, Dr. Wallis's assistant, who attended to the child, to have been an adder. Medical assistance, however, was not procured till about three hours after the occurrence. The child lingered on till seven o'clock on Thursday morning, when it died.

British Medical Journal (27th May 1871)

Death from the bite of a viper – R.W. Adams, a healthy child aged 3½ was brought to my surgery on 13th July 1870 by his grandmother, wife of a labourer living on Ashdown Forest, who stated that about two hours previously she had met a small child crying, and he told her that, while gathering flowers on a bank, he had been bitten by a large adder on the finger. The child's hand and arm were much swollen and livid in appearance, and on the middle finger near the knuckle were two slight wounds like scratches. The child was pale and almost pulseless, and the skin was bejewelled with a clammy sweat.

Adder's oil had been freely applied by a neighbour to the child's hand and arm; and on his arriving at my surgery, my assistant, Mr. Blunden applied solution of ammonia and administered ammonia and brandy internally. The child never rallied, but lay in a restless, moaning state, and died twenty hours after the bite. Twenty four hours after death I found the arm, up to the shoulder, much swollen and of a leaden hue, with some vesications [blisters] and ecchymosis [bruising]; the face and neck were slightly swollen.

The child did not appear to have suffered much from pain. Death from snake-bite is rare in this country. The season is said to have some influence on the strength of the virus. I have seen four or five cases in adults where the symptoms have been severe; the limb being swollen to double its natural size, and the depression of the vital powers considerable. - *Wm Wallis, Hartfield, Tonbridge Wells.*

30. Loth, Sutherlandshire – 1874

Victim's name	Eliza Agnes McEwen
Age	4
Date of bite	3 June 1874
Geographic location	Loth, Sutherlandshire
Grid reference	NC 971 116
Precision	100 m
Anatomical location	Lower leg
Time until death	48 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Bolton Evening News (05 June 1874)

DEATH OF A CHILD FROM THE BITE OF ADDER. Two days ago Eliza McEwan [McEwen], four year old, daughter of the schoolmaster at Loth, Sutherlandshire, went, along with brother, aged seven years, to some whin [gorse] bushes near the schoolhouse in search of bird's nests. The girl cried out to her brother that a piece of whin had entered her leg. The boy ran forward and heard a loud hissing noise proceeding from large adder. He removed his sister's stocking, and found single drop blood, which he rubbed off.

The little sufferer's leg then began to swell rapidly, and the pain became intense. The girl was carried home by her brother, and medical assistance was at once sent for; but before the surgeon arrived the poison had got into the system, and the poor girl died after enduring 48 hours' great agony. Adders are still pretty numerous in some of the Highland districts of Scotland.

31. Leith Hill, Surrey - 1876

Victim's name	George Thompson
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	27 July 1876
Geographic location	Leith Hill, Dorking, Surrey
Grid reference	TQ 139 431
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Lower leg
Time until death	48 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Monmouthshire Merlin (4th August 1876)

FATAL BITE OF AN ADDER - A few days since [Thursday 27 July], a young man named George Thompson, who was on a walking tour with a friend through Surrey and Sussex, was ascending the celebrated elevation of Leith Hill, when he accidentally trod upon a black adder. Thompson, who was wearing knickerbockers, was bitten by the reptile in the calf of the leg. Apprehending no danger, he continued his ascent, and had reached a small village on the other side, when he was taken ill. He was assisted to the inn, and a medical man was sent for. The virus from the bite, however, had so impregnated his system that despite every attention, he died on Saturday.

Parker's Highways and Byways of Surrey (1907)

Leith Hill has another curious record of an animal. On July 27, 1876 [Thursday], a tourist walking over the hill trod upon a snake, which bit him; he managed to get to Ockley, but died in two days. The interest of the record is that Mr J. S. Bright, the historian of Dorking, says that the snake was a black adder, *Coronella laevis*, while Mr Boulenger, in his list of Surrey snakes does not admit that the *Coronella laevis* has ever occurred in the county.

The Scotsman (8 August 1928)

The Adder s Bite - Monreith, August 6, 1928 - Sir, Referring to "H.M.B.'s " note in your issue of 4th inst. upon the effects of an adder's bite , I may record an instance, within my personal knowledge of its fatal result to a human being . During the summer manoeuvres in July 1876 my regiment, the 3rd (Militia) Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers, was encamped on Holmwood Common, near Dorking. Among a great number of people who were attracted by the presence of a brigade of Scottish regiments in that beautiful region one young man arrived on a bicycle (one of the high-wheeled bone-shakers then in vogue.) In perambulating the heath he was bitten by an adder, was taken into our hospital, and died that night [Saturday 29 July]. The weather was extremely hot at the time, which would lend to increase the virulence of the venom. - *I am &c. HERBERT MAXWELL*

32. Amberley, Sussex 1878

Victim's name	Frederick Mortimer
Age	27
Date of bite	19 September 1878
Geographic location	Near Amberley, Sussex, England
Grid reference	TQ 052 279
Precision	10 km
Anatomical location	Hand
Time until death	4 hrs
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

The Merthyr Telegraph and General Advisor (27th September 1878)

DEATH FROM SNAKE BITE. A Guildford correspondent states that three young men, named Mortimer, Forbes, and Gordon, were crossing the Downs to Amberley [in Sussex on Thursday morning], when they stopped in a coppice for luncheon. As they were sitting on a bank Mortimer was bitten in the hand by a black viper. The reptile was killed and no further notice was taken of the matter. Before Amberley was reached, however, Mortimer was seized with serious symptoms and expired in great agony at a village public-house. All the three were engaged as clerks in a bank in the City.

33. Pennyghael, Mull – 1888

Victim's name	Hugh McPherson
Age	76
Date of bite	20 September 1888
Geographic location	Pennyghael, Ross of Mull, Scotland
Grid reference	NM 520 266
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	
Time until death	
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Western Daily Press (28 September 1888)

TWO DEATHS FROM AN ADDER'S BITE. That the adder is not yet extinct the western Highlands shown by painful occurrence in Island of Mull. A man named McPherson, of Pennyghael, Mull, was bitten by an adder last week and died. His son, who dressed the body, contracted blood poisoning through a cut on the right thumb, and Wednesday he also died, medical assistance proving of avail.

Edinburgh Evening News (27 September 1888)

TWO DEATHS THROUGH AN ADDER'S STING. Yesterday forenoon the arrival of the steamer Castle at Glasgow, Alexander McPherson, residing Pennyghael near Burnessan, Mull, who was a passenger on board, died from blood poisoning. The deceased was accompanied Mr Alexander McGregor, inspector of the poor, Burnessan, who at the earnest request of Lady Victoria Campbell, daughter the Duke of Argyll, at present in the island consented to take the unfortunate man to the Western Infirmary of Glasgow.

Shortly before the death occurred, Dr Robertson, Washington Street, was sent for, but his services were of no avail, as McPherson died immediately after the doctor's arrival. It appears that McPherson's father died at Mull the 20th instant from blood poisoning, and his son, who was dressing the body, had a cut on the thumb of his right hand, through which the poison was absorbed into his system. The deceased was married, 46 years of age, and has left a widow and seven children.

34. Pontrhondda, Rhondda Cynon Taf - 1893

Victim's name	Rees Evans
Age	11
Date of bite	3 June 1893
Geographic location	Pontrhondda, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Wales
Grid reference	SS 998 945
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand (First finger)
Time until death	48 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

South Wales Echo (7th June 1893)

DEATH FROM THE BITE OF AN ADDER: On Saturday morning last a lad named Rees Evans, of No. 1, Sherwood-terrace, Pontrhondda, eleven years of age, was nesting on the side of the mountain on the Tyntilla Farm. He thrust his hand into a tuft of grass, and was bitten by an adder on the first finger. He did not feel acute pain until he reached home, when he began to cry, and described what had happened. A navy working close by made two attempts to suck out the poison, but was unsuccessful. A doctor was called in, but the poor lad died on Monday morning from the effects of blood poisoning.

British Medical Journal (15th July 1893)

Fatal case of snake-bite in South Wales – The interest attaching to snake-bites in general, and the comparative rarity of the occurrence of fatal effects from the bites of snakes peculiar to this country will doubtless prove sufficient apology for the publication of the following case: A.B. aged 11½ years, whilst playing on the side of a mountain in Glamorganshire on June 3rd, 1893, was bitten by a snake. He saw a bird resting on a fern, fluttering its wings: for the purpose of capturing it he extended his hand, and was immediately bitten by a reptile lying concealed. The bite was at once sucked by someone who had witnessed the incident, and the boy ran homewards.

He was seen professionally within three-quarters of an hour following the receipt of the bite. At this time he presented two distinct punctures, situated about one-tenth of an inch apart, on the middle phalanx of the right index finger. There was no swelling, no tenderness on pressure, no complaint of pain in the part. The case was regarded as a bite from an ordinary "mountain snake," and was treated accordingly. The boy appeared to be of particularly robust physique for his age.

At 5 P.M. an hour and a half after being bitten—he was decidedly drowsy, and gave evidence of great pain in the affected finger on being roused; vomiting had taken place; his temperature in the axilla was normal; the right hand was swollen, but did not pit on pressure. The pupils were widely dilated and reacted to light.

At 8 P.M. the hand and forearm were very dark, swollen, and brawny; there was excessive tenderness on pressure; extension to the arm was evident. The pulse, temperature, and respiration were normal; mydriasis was present, and he was still vomiting. His drowsiness had completely passed off, the mental faculties being wholly undisturbed; he complained of great thirst, and of severe pain at the site of the initial wound.

At 8 A.M. it was found that there had been progressive extension of swelling, and duskiess of the involved tissues during the night. The whole of the limb and a portion of the right side of the chest and the side of the neck were implicated tenderness and pain were aggravated. The surface of the body was cold, the pulse at the wrist very compressible and small, the temperature in the opposite axilla normal, and respiration normal lie vomited all ingesta. There was no tendency towards delirium.

At 2 P.m. the upper part of the abdomen on the right side had become affected. He was cyanotic, the countenance pinched and anxious, and the surface covered with clammy perspiration. No pulse could be felt in the radial artery; precordial pulsation was extremely faint. The temperature in the opposite axilla was 98° F., in the axilla of the affected side 101.5°F. Mentally the boy was still quite undisturbed. The respirations were lowered. The pupils were still dilated and reacting to light.

At 7 P.M. information was received to the effect that he was very much better, and that the parts were not so black." When seen, however, this improvement was found to be fallacious. There was less discoloration of

tissue, but much more oedema; all symptoms were aggravated, but his mind was still perfectly clear. The respirations were lowered in frequency. From this time towards midnight he continued much the same. Death occurred at 1 A.M. Consciousness was retained almost up to the moment of his decease. During no part of his illness had convulsions occurred.

REMARKS.-The recorded fatal cases of snake-bite in this country are comparatively rare. Naturally the main interest in this connection is as to the determination of the exact type of the reptile. Presumably it belonged to the adder species. The respiratory and cardiac centres appear to have been rapidly and progressively affected, while the sensorium remained free. The question arises as to whether the fatal result was due to the toxic action of the specific virus itself or to poisoning of a ptomainous character. In any case, the extreme vascular depression primarily, and the subsequent lowering of respiratory function, coupled with the absence of mental disturbance markedly shown throughout, are facts of great interest.

35. Strensall Camp, Yorkshire - 1891

Victim's name	Private Arthur Judge
Age	20
Date of bite	21 September 1891
Geographic location	Strensall Camp, Yorkshire, England
Grid reference	SE 632 593
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Back of hand
Time until death	2 weeks
Verified	True
Classification	Secondary effects: Infection of wound

York Herald (8 October 1891)

THE SINGULAR FATALITY AT STRENSALL, A SOLDIER BITTEN BY AN ADDER - An inquest was held yesterday, by Mr. J. R. Wood with respect to the death of Arthur Judge (20), a Private in the 1st West Riding Regiment, who died on the previous day, having been bitten by an adder at Strensall Camp about a fortnight ago.

Isaac Judge, Hastings, ex-inspector of police, identified the body of the deceased as his son.

William Aldridge, private in the West Riding Regiment, said that the company to which he and the deceased belonged was stationed at Strensall, and on the 21st of last month he saw Judge playing with a snake outside the canteen. Someone had caught it on the common and brought it into the camp. It was in a mess tin when witness first saw it, and deceased took it out with his hand to show it. He handled it in the middle of its body, and it turned round and bit him on the back of the hand. The wound did not bleed at all. He noticed marks on the hand which were caused by the snake. The reptile was about a foot long. Judge continued to play with it for about a quarter of an hour, and it was subsequently killed.

The deceased did not seem to suffer any pain, and paid little attention to the bite, going soon afterwards to the range where the volunteers were shooting. Witness had seen two or three snakes on the Common like the one in question, and Judge, who had been in India, wanted to show the men at the canteen how they handled snakes there.

Sergeant Hallowell, of the Army Medical Staff Corps, said that he met the deceased, who casually mentioned the matter to him, showing his right hand, the fore-finger of which had two small wounds on each side of the knuckle. Witness sent him to the Hospital where he was put to bed and given some sal-volatile, and he slept well that night.

On the following day Surgeon-Major Hickson saw the deceased, and witness noticed about 11 o'clock a little discolouration on the back of the fore finger and on the back of the hand, which had been punctured by some instrument, probably a knife. When spoken to about this wound deceased said he had seen a good deal of snakes and it, was a right thing to do to cut the hand.

Deceased was in pain most of that day and was frequently seen by Dr. Hickson. He seemed to improve, and on the 30th September he was transferred to the Military Hospital at York. Witness saw him on Saturday, when he seemed to be getting on pretty well. Hallowell further said that he had had some experience in dealing with such cases, as they had had other soldiers who had been bitten by snakes at Strensall and recovered in a day or two.

Surgeon Connor said that he saw Judge at Strensall on the 26th of September and noticed that the hand which had been bitten was swollen and discoloured, but he did not think it was a proper case in which an operation should be performed. Witness had seen him since at the Hospital at York, and the cause of death, which took place yesterday, was tetanus, but whether it was set up by the bite or the wound on the back of the hand he was unable to say, it might have been either. He did not think more could have been done for the deceased. The bite of the English adder is not generally fatal.

Sergt. Hallowell, on being recalled, told the jury that the wound on the back of Judge's hand was made before he saw him. Deceased said he had done it himself. It was poulticed, and an abscess subsequently formed which was opened by Dr. Hickson.

The jury returned a verdict to the following effect: - "That the deceased died from tetanus, but whether it was due to the bite of an adder, or to the wound subsequently made on the back of the hand of the deceased, there is not sufficient evidence to satisfy the jurors."

36. Ravenglass, Cumberland - 1901

Victim's name	Joseph Albert Hartley
Age	4½
Date of bite	14 June 1901
Geographic location	Ravenglass, Cumberland, England
Grid reference	NY184 003
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Lower leg
Time until death	60 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

London mid Surrey Times And General Advertiser (21st June 1901)

VIPERS FATAL BITE. A naturalist correspondent writes: The first fatal viper bite of the season has taken place in Cumberland, when a boy named Hartly [Hartley aged 4½ years], of Whitehaven, was the victim. He was chasing butterflies, and had neither shoes nor stockings on. Running along a brook-side he trampled upon one of these vermin. It bit him above the heel of one leg, and the lad died a few hours afterwards. During the last forty years this is the seventh record of fatal adder attacks, and in all these cases the act of retaliation was the result of being accidentally trampled upon. If not thus interfered with, or irritated by being "stirred up" by someone using a stick, adders are perfectly harmless, and, if not present in plague form, really do a great deal of good by destroying toads. &c.

Lancashire Evening Post (14 June 1901)

DEATH FROM SNAKE BITE IN CUMBERLAND - Information has been received Whitehaven of the death in the Eskdale Valley of a little lad between four and five years of age, named Joseph Albert Hartley, a son of Mr. John Hartley, of Low Ground, Birker, from the bite of a viper or other snake. While chasing a butterfly he ran among some vamps [banks] at the side of the river, and probably stepped on the reptile, he saw it rear itself up, and bite him on the leg. The lad ran home, suffering intense pain, and ultimately died.

British Medical Journal (7 July 1945)

Fatal cases: Case 2: Healthy 4½ yr old boy died from circulatory collapse; unconscious after 60 hours.

37. Henllan, Denbighshire, Wales – 1903

Victim's name	David John Manuel
Age	10
Date of bite	6 August 1903
Geographic location	Henllan, Denbeighshire, Wales
Grid reference	SN 356 407
Precision	100 m
Anatomical location	Lower leg
Time until death	48 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromise individual: Delicate constitution

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard (14th August 1903)

FATAL CASE OF SNAKE POISONING - A very sad case of death, resulting from a snake bite, occurred near Henllau on Saturday last, and as fatal cases are fortunately rare, it has caused unusual interest in the district. The particulars of the case, as disclosed at the public inquest, show that the unfortunate boy, David John Manuel, aged ten years, who was bitten, was of a delicate constitution.

The inquest was held on Monday, August 10th, at Berllan, Henllan, before Mr J. H. Evans, coroner for South Cardiganshire. The jury elected the Rev V. E. Davies, Henllan, to be foreman, the jury, together with the Coroner, went to view the body at Mason Cottage, after which John Thomas, Trebedw, Henllan, said: On Thursday morning last, about eleven A.M. I was cutting hay for myself on the railway, about 200 yards from Henllan Station. David John Manuel, my grandson, was my only companion. He was cutting the thick rushes for me about twenty yards in front, in order to thatch my hayrick when the hay was harvested. The deceased screamed and said, "Grandfather, a snake has bitten me" and I rushed forward. He wore knickerbockers and he showed me the part of his leg where he was bitten. There were three little marks like pin-pricks or thorn punctures and a little irritation visible around them I searched for a snake, but could not find one.

I told deceased to go home to Mason Cottage, which was about 300 yards off, and I would follow. He walked on and I went after him, but he was not lame. I reached the house about three minutes after he had reached it, and his mother and grandmother were attending to him on the settle in the kitchen. They applied cream to the marks on the legs. I did not give any stimulant to deceased and soon he became sick and vomited. We then dressed the wound with linseed oil and, having got a horse and trap from D. Lewis of the Factory, T. Jones. Pencnwc, drove him and his mother to see Dr A T Evans to Llandyssul, about four miles or more by road. The deceased's leg had swollen slightly and he was placed in a lying position at the bottom of the trap with a pillow for his head. He complained of feeling cold before leaving and shawls were wrapped around him. About a quarter of an hour had elapsed between the time of the bite and the vomiting. He habitually vomited if he caught cold and was a very delicate child from birth. In the afternoon, I saw a snake within five yards of the spot where he said he was bitten. I cannot describe it, but it seemed to me about a foot and a half long, and had black spots on its back. I tried to kill it, but it escaped.

Hannah Manuel, next called, said deceased was her little boy and was delicate from his birth. He had a nasty cough always and was weak-chested. I remember on Thursday his coming in and complaining of a snake bite, and I looked at his leg and my mother applied cream to the marks on it. Afterwards, he and I and Thomas Jones (as driver) went to Dr A T Evans's house at Llandyssul. He was not at home and we looked for Dr Davies but he was not there either. About three p.m., Dr Evans came home and he was taken in to Rock Cottage, Bridge Street, and seen by Dr Evans and Nurse Evans (& district nurse) who did something to the wound and gave deceased some whisky and water.

I was with him and the nurse until Saturday morning when my mother relieved me about ten a.m. and deceased died about mid-day on Saturday. He was drowsy until Friday night when he became restless. He used to vomit at times before this and was always a weak child.

Alfred Thomas Evans, registered medical practitioner, was next called and said I remember returning home on Thursday last about 3 30 p.m. and finding the last witness who said her boy was at the Cilgwyn Arms. I went there and found him lying on chairs. I examined his leg and found two small punctures on the outer side of the left leg midway between knee and ankle. The skin and tissues in the immediate neighbourhood were of a purple colour, and the further out a sort of livid leaden colour. His general condition was one of extreme collapse and I forbade his removal home at it would have been dangerous and he would most likely not have survived the journey. I gave him some watered whiskey, but it did not revive him. The bite had then (if at all) taken place four and a half hours before. The proper thing in such a case is to administer stimulants at once

and suck the wound and apply a ligature at once to prevent the blood being poisoned. There would be no danger in sucking the wound, unless there was a cut on the lips or mouth. Deceased was taken to Rock Cottage, put to bed, and a district nurse and myself attended to him afterwards until his death.

It is very unusual in this country for a death to be caused by snake poisoning, The common English snake is not poisonous, the only one that is poisonous is the adder or viper, which can be easily distinguished from the other kinds as it has a definite neck, which the common snake has not, and the back of the viper is marked in zig-zag fashion. The quantity of virus it contains is very small, but it is very deadly it is an alkaloid and not an acid. It has a paralyzing effect, and I consider the collapse of the deceased was due to the effect of the poison on his brain. Deceased's temperature from first to last was below the range of an ordinary clinical thermometer. We failed completely to warm him, though every available means were tried. He died at last of syncope. I attribute death to snake poisoning on a weak and delicate system.

Dr H. H. Davies was also called in to consult with me, but we could do no- thing more. The jury, after a brief summing up by the Coroner, brought in a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, that death was due to poisoning, the effects of a snake bite. The Coroner, in his remarks, pointed out the advisability of everyone becoming acquainted with the proper treatment in cases of snake poisoning since such a large number of cases had occurred recently. He further alluded to the markings on the body which so easily distinguish the poisonous species from the tie non-poisonous ones, and said he hoped that this sad case would be a lesson to the many that would hear of it, so that they could know what was to be done if ever they were placed in similar circumstances.

38. Ludlow, Shropshire – 1903

Victim's name	Constance Maud Victoria Harding
Age	6
Date of bite	26 September 1903
Geographic location	Whitcliffe Woods, Folkestone, Kent, England
Grid reference	SO 491 728
Precision	100 m
Anatomical location	Lower leg (ankle)
Time until death	58 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Gloucester Journal (3 October 1903)

DEATH FROM AN ADDER'S BITE - A child's death under extraordinary circumstances was investigated by coroner's jury Ludlow on Saturday. The six-year old daughter of a local tradesman was in Whitcliffe Woods with a maid, when she complained of being scratched. Her ankle immediately swelled, and she was carried home in fainting condition and medically attended. Blood poisoning supervened, and the child died on Saturday morning. A doctor said the cause of death was the bite of adder—a rare case, the reptile having bitten through the child's sock. A verdict death from blood poisoning caused by the bite of a venomous reptile was returned.

Shrewsbury Chronicle (2 October 1903)

EXTRAORDINARY FATALITY AT LUDLOW - CHILD BITTEN BY ADDER - Much sympathy with the bereaved parents was expressed in Ludlow on Saturday, when It became known that Constance Maud Victoria (Conny) Harding, the six year old daughter of Mr. Edward Watson Harding, draper. High-street, had died from blood poisoning following the bite of an adder.

On Wednesday, whilst out for a walk with an aunt in Whitcliffe Wood, on the footpath leading from the top of Mary knowle to the Sunny Gutter, the deceased child complained that she had scratched her leg; but rapid swelling showed that something much more serious had taken place. The aunt carried her young charge home quickly as possible; fainting and sickness arousing alarming apprehensions and inducing all possible speed, and a doctor was summoned. At first it was impossible to say what had caused the swelling, three tiny marks like pin pricks suggesting no positive solution. Blood poisoning set in, however, and the doctor was then able to say with practical certainty that the little girl had been bitten an adder.

Her condition rapidly grew worse, and died early on Saturday morning. The case is a most exceptional one, and there no record of a previous death in the district from an adder's bite, though there are numbers them la the woods, and they are not Infrequently killed.

An inquest was held on Saturday afternoon at the Guildhall, before Mr. J. H. Williams (borough coroner).

Agnes Maud Prinn said she was sister to Mrs. Harding, deceased's mother, and had charge of the children. On Wednesday they went into the Whitcliffe Wood, on the steep bank leading from Maryknowle to Sunny Gutter. When about three parts the way down the bank deceased called her and said she had scratched her leg. At the bottom of the hank deceased complained of pain in her leg, and witness turned down her sock and found that the ankle was swollen. Witness took the child's shoe off, and after a rest they started for home; she carried deceased all the way. They reached home at 4:50 [Wednesday], and a doctor was called. The child died at 2:30 that morning [Saturday]. By a Juryman: Deceased did not say she had stepped on anything: fainted twice or three times and was sick on the way home. The doctor came about six o'clock.

Dr. G. A. Shackel said he was called to deceased on Wednesday evening. The last witness told him exactly the same facts that she had told the Jury: she did not know whether the child had fallen down or what had happened. Deceased had a big swelling over the ankle joint. There was no wound. There were three marks like the pricks of a pin: but there was no inflammation from them, and there was nothing to show that the deceased had been bitten. At first he thought it was a fracture or a bad sprain, but he could form no definite opinion, as the swelling was so great. He had the place fomented with lotion, and saw the child again the next day. He then found that the inflammation had spread up the leg, and came to the conclusion that the deceased was suffering from blood poisoning, and that she had been bitten by an adder whilst in the wood.

Deceased died from exhaustion caused by intense pain and from the effects of the bite from an adder. He did not think he could have done any good has he seen the child earlier. All the mischief was done by the great swelling. It was a very rare case; he had never come across one before with death resulting. He could not say that the three spots like pin pricks were the actual wounds through which the poison had been put into the ankle. The mischief was done in a few minutes, and the poison must have been so strong that nothing could have been done if deceased had been attended on earlier. Deceased was not a strong child.

The Coroner, In summing up said the child had evidently stepped on an adder which had turned and bitten its leg. The Jury returned a verdict that deceased died from the effects of blood-poisoning, caused by the bite of venomous reptile.

Birmingham Daily Gazette (16 June 1936)

The victim of an adder's bite at Cannock Chase last week inspired our talk. It recalled in the mind of one of my Salopian friends the case of Miss Harding, a popular young girl, belonging to a well-known Ludlow family, who stepped on a nest of adders while Hiking out one Sunday about 20 years ago. There was no remedy at hand, and her death caused widespread sorrow in the district.

39. Menabilly, Cornwall – 1903

Victim's name	William Davie
Age	57
Date of bite	19 November 1903
Geographic location	Menabilly, Cornwall
Grid reference	SX104 510
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	
Time until death	10 days
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Exeter and Plymouth Gazette (18 December 1903)

UFFCULME - Mr. William Davis, who has just died at South Cott, Menabilly, Cornwall, the result of being bitten by an adder on November 19th, was at one time head gamekeeper to the late Sir John Walrond and to the Right Hon. Sir W. H. Walrond M.P. at Bradfield. Deceased, who was 57 years of age, was a member the Uffculme branch of the Rational Friendly Society.

Banffshire Journal and General Advertiser (22 December 1903)

Under somewhat sad circumstances the death of Mr William Davie, for many years gamekeeper at Troup, Gamrie and lately South Cot. Menabilly, Cornwall. took place on 8th inst. Mr Davie was a native of Tore Troup, and was eldest son the late Mr Wm. Davie, for many years the respected head gamekeeper Troup. Mr Wm. Davie, jun. acted for twenty years as a gamekeeper at Troup, under his father, and afterwards he secured appointment as head keeper on a Devonshire estate. From there went Plymouth, and for the two years he was employed Menabilly. Cornwall.

Some ten days prior his death he was out shooting, and got bitten by an adder, with the result that blood poisoning set in and caused death. Deceased was much liked his co-workers on the estate, and his sad death is deeply deplored. With his widow and five of a family, who survive him, and with other relatives, much sympathy has been extended. Mr Davie was fifty seven years of age. The funeral took place on the 12th, and was attended by all the tenants on the estate. Davie was a brother of Mrs Borrowman, Wright's Cose, Banff.

40. Folkestone, Kent – 1906

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	26 May 1906
Geographic location	Folkestone, Kent, England
Grid reference	TR 224 379
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	
Time until death	
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

The Cardiff Times (26th May 1906)

BOY KILLED BY A VIPER - One of the scholars of a preparatory school at Folkestone has died from the sting of a viper while another of the boys is lying in a critical condition from the same cause. It is not often that a death caused by the sting of one of the poisonous snakes of England is reported. The viper, which was killed, was a large and formidable specimen.

Northern Daily Telegraph (26 May 1906)

SLAUGHTER OF ADDERS - A fatal case of snake-bite at Folkestone is drawing attention to the abundance of the venomous adder in many parts of the country. From the Colchis game farm. Temple Ewell, near Dover, for instance. Mr E. Squire writes that within a few days two of his gamekeepers have killed thirty-two adders in a single wood.

These reptiles are no doubt most abundant in the southern counties, but they are common enough wherever the wild aspect of woodland or moorland has been at all preserved. More adders can be killed now than at any other season, because the reptiles are breeding, and the males come actively abroad. As the summer passes the male tends to disappear, shrinking from sight under cover of the undergrowth, and only the females as a rule are discovered.

41. Bournemouth/Scarborough/Wolverhampton – 1906

Victim's name	
Age	
Date of bite	1906
Geographic location	Bournemouth/Scarborough/Wolverhampton
Grid reference	
Precision	
Anatomical location	
Time until death	
Verified	False
Classification	

Bridlington Free Press (20th July 1906)

OUR ONLY POISONOUS SNAKE. ADDER ONLY DANGEROUS WHEN ATTACKED - Referring the account of adder (presumably the *Vipera berus*) voluntarily biting and killing child, a naturalist correspondent writes to the Daily Despatch that during the last quarter of century eight nine fatal cases of adder attacks have taken place in this country (one this summer). In not one of these was it shown that the viper (our only poisonous snake) acted voluntarily. As matter of fact, they are timid creatures, and with the exception one or two of the larger species of tropical snakes, and then only when ravenously hungry, voluntary attacks human beings are rare. Only the trained eye of a field naturalist can readily detect the creatures, and the best thing to do is to protect oneself against possible accidents. That is easy enough. adder's teeth, recurved fangs, at the root of which the poisonous fluid lurks, are not strong enough to pierce the leather of ordinary thick-soled boot, and if thick wooden socks, or knickers, are worn, even the event of the fangs penetrating the skin, the poison will be arrested by the wool.

"In the three cases reported this year, one at Bournemouth, another near Scarborough, and the third near Wolverhampton (one fatal), the victims had attacked the adders, which is an extremely foolish thing to do."

Shepton Mallet Journal (15 June 1906)

Mr. A. B. Smith, school teacher, of Scarborough, who is one of party camping out at Langdale End, few miles from Scarborough had the misfortune to be severely stung on the arm by viper. He had two vipers in basket at the time. On Sunday afternoon he was medically attended. His arm was very much swollen and his side was also affected by the sting.

Derby Daily Telegraph (20 June 1881)

WAKEFIELD NATURALIST BITTEN BY ADDER. Mr. Joseph Wainwright, F.L.S., of the firm of Messrs. Wainwright and Mason, solicitors, Wakefield, is now lying in a very critical state at his residence, Springfield House, Lofthouse, near Wakefield, suffering from the effects of a serious bite from a large adder. Mr. Wainwright, who is nearly 70 years of age, is the president of the Wakefield Paxton Society, and he also occupies a similar post in connection with The Wakefield Naturalists and Philosophical Society.

On Saturday he joined a party of Wakefield naturalists, who had arranged to visit Brockerdale, Park, and Wentbridge. The party drove from Wakefield in a waggonette, and on reaching their destination they commenced ramble through the woods, and to search for objects of interest. Whilst thus engaged one of the party discovered a viper upwards of two feet in length, and Mr. Wainwright made an attempt secure it. Having placed one of his feet upon the tail of the adder, he seized the venomous reptile a few inches below the head with his left hand. Immediately the viper twisted its head round and bit Mr. Wainwright on the middle finger of the left hand.

The effects of the venom almost instantly manifested themselves in a most alarming manner. Mr. Wainwright has been in the habit of carrying a small bottle of ammonia when out botanising, but unfortunately he had not supply of this well-known antidote in his possession on Saturday, and it was found impossible to procure any in the district. The venomous finger, well as the wrist and the arm, were bound round with twine tightly as possible in order to prevent the poison from spreading into the system, and messengers were despatched to Pontefract for medical assistance. Dr. Simpson, of Pontefract, hurried to the place, and recommended that the sufferer should be removed to Pontefract, but Mr. Wainwright decided to be driven to his own residence.

On reaching Wakefield about midnight, Dr. Wade, the medical officer for the borough, was called. Notwithstanding that poultices were applied frequent intervals throughout the night, the sufferer became delirious, the hand and arm assumed unusual proportions, and Mr. Wainwright had evidently much pain. On Sunday afternoon, on a Wakefield correspondent calling at Springfield House, he informed that the sufferer was sleeping soundly, and that he appeared to be progressing as favourably could be expected.

42. Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire - 1906

Victim's name	William John Joseph Sobey
Age	51
Date of bite	23 Jun 1906
Geographic location	Hayscastle, Wales
Grid reference	SM 906 260
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand, finger
Time until death	2 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Intoxication

The County Echo [Wales] (28 June 1906)

Fatal Adder Bite. BRICKLAYER SUCCUMBS TO SHOCK AT HAYSCASTLE. Mr Ivor Evans, coroner, held an inquest at the Hayscastle Inn on Tuesday concerning the death of William John Joseph Subey, 52, of Haverfordwest, a bricklayer [from Devonshire] employed by Messrs Evans and Wilcox, contractors, at Peullan, Trevine [Trefin], and who died on Saturday evening last at the Hayscastle Cross Inn, under somewhat singular circumstances. Mr James Harries, C.C., was chosen foreman and the jury viewed the body lying in a shed of the Inn. Deceased's son, W. J. J. Sobey, aged fifteen, employed with his father, gave evidence of identification and said he lived at Fountain Terrace [Fountain Row], Haverfordwest On Saturday after- U0011 they left Trevine, where they were engaged on a building, for Haverfordwest. When about halfway his father saw an adder by the road side and took out his pocket- knife to strike it. He killed the adder and shortly afterwards he complained of pain in the right hand and he then discovered that he had received a bite from the adder.

As they proceeded the pain increased so much that he had to lie down by the roadside at Newton. Witness then ran to the black- smith's shop in the vicinity to procure a conveyance to take his father home. Mr Wm I Harries, the blacksmith, brought his conveyance and they lifted deceased into it. As they were doing so deceased said he could lay down and die. They proceeded as far as Llayscastle Cross Inn when the thunder- storm became so severe that the horse was frightened and they were obliged to remain there. They took deceased out of the trap and placed him on some straw in the cart-shed of the Inn. He had asked twice for a stimulant which was refused.

Replying to the Coroner as to the habits of the deceased witness said he drank a little regularly and had consumed about two pints of beer that day. Continuing witness said that he was in the Inn until about 10 o'clock then he went to the shed and noticed his father was lying with his head on one side and quite motionless. He at once summoned the landlord and others who came and it was then discovered that he was dead. Mr Harries, the blacksmith, corroborated much that the son had said. He (witnessed) thought the deceased was suffering from the effects of alcohol because he smelt strongly of beer. When they brought him to the Hays- castle Inn he never thought there was anything serious the matter with him.

Mr Wm Phillips, landlord of the inn at Hayscastle Cross, explained that he never saw deceased alive. Air Harries told him he believed the man was worse for beer and so he declined to serve him. Albert Devereux, a youth living at Hayscastle, said the deceased's son threw an adder out on the road while he was standing on the Cross About 10 o'clock he noticed that the boy was shivering and took him a jug of tea and some bread and butter. The position in which deceased was lying attracted attention, and on closer inspection they found him dead. A letter was banded in from the licensee of the Square and Compass, Trevine, stating that deceased was supplied with two pints of beer at his house.

Dr Wilson, Haverfordwest, was called and stated that he examined the deceased and made two incisions in his right hand. Some series fluid issued which showed that there had been in inflammation before death. From the symptoms which had been described and the fact that deceased was rather a heavy drinker he had come to the conclusion that the adder bite was sufficient to cause death by shock. Replying to questions Dr Wilson said it was not due to poisoning in the ordinary way. He explained that in one case the poison from a bite took effect slowly and there would be spelling of the limbs but in the present instance deceased's constitution was undermined by the cause mentioned and the adder bite, acting upon this, caused shock which resulted in heart failure. After a short deliberation the jury returned the verdict that death was due to shock caused by the bite of an adder acting on a debilitated constitution Deceased leaves a widow with nine children for whom much sympathy is felt.

The Pembroke County Guardian and Cardigan Reporter (29 Jun 1906)

DEATH FROM ADDER BITE. HAVERFORDWEST MAN'S TRAGIC END. STUPOR MISTAKEN FOR INTOXICATION. INQUEST AND VERDICT. A very tragic affair occurred at Hayscastle Cross on Saturday evening last. It appears that a mason, William John Joseph Sobey, of 9, Fountain Row, Haverfordwest, who was working at Trevine, was returning home with his son, a lad of sixteen, as usual.

About two miles the Trevine side of Hayscastle Cross the man saw a small adder crossing the road. It was the small, red species commonly called a viper. Taking out his pocket knife Sobey attempted to kill it, and partly, if not wholly, succeeded. He first made a slight cut near the reptile's middle, the second attempt resulted in a small cut near its head. Immediately afterwards the man felt a slight pain like a pin prick in his finger, which grew more painful. The boy put the snake in his pocket, and the two proceeded on their journey.

After coming about a mile the man suddenly grew pale, and was evidently greatly fatigued. He fell into a kind of stupor, going quite blind, and a trap was procured to convey him to Hayscastle Cross, where a night's lodgings was asked for. Mr. Phillips, the proprietor, thinking the man was intoxicated, told him he, could lie in an outhouse. It should be explained that neither the man nor his son complained of any illness whatever.

About 9.30 p.m. the lad went into the bar for whisky for his father, but was told his father had had sufficient already. Shortly afterwards the man died, having lived only about five hours at the outside after being bitten. THE INQUEST was held at the Cross Inn, Hayscastle, by Mr. Ivor Evans, coroner for North Pembrokeshire. The chairman of the jury was Mr. James Harries, C.C. The first witness was Wm. John Sobey, deceased's son, who was working with his father at Penlan, Trevine. Witness said that he and his father started to walk home from Trevine to Haverfordwest about three o'clock on Saturday afternoon, and when about half-way between Trevine and Hayscastle the deceased saw an adder in the hedge and proceeded to kill it with his knife. After he had killed the adder he began to complain of pain in his hand, where, he told the boy, the adder had bitten him. He gradually became worse until at last the boy had to leave him by the roadside and go for assistance. He went to the blacksmith's shop, Newton, to fetch a trap to take him home, and Mrs. Harries, the blacksmith, then came along with him and put deceased in the trap. Mr. Harries asked how he felt then, and his father replied that he felt as if he could lie down and die. Presently, after they had gone a little deceased wanted to go down from the trap, and then witness could tell by his actions that he had gone perfectly blind. As it was then getting on in the evening, about six o'clock, Mr. Harries said he could not drive him in to Haverfordwest that night, but would drive him to Hayscastle.

After they arrived at Hayscastle Cross public house they laid the deceased down in some hay in a shed, and covered him with bags. Mr. Harries helped him to make the deceased comfortable. As the storm was still on the witness advised his father to stay in the place all night, and he went to fetch some whisky from the public house, but was refused by the landlord, who stated that deceased had had quite enough. He went a second time to fetch some whisky, which was again refused him, and when he returned to the shed where his father was he found him in a sleepy state. Subsequently he discovered that his father was dead.

Wm. Harries, blacksmith, Newton, said that when he first saw the deceased his impression was that he was quite drunk. He smelled very strongly of beer, and he was speaking thickly, and also walked like a drunken man. There was a heavy thunderstorm, on at the time, and it was as much as witness could do to hold the head of the pony, so he refused to take him further than Hayscastle Cross on such a night. He heard the boy ask his father how his finger was, and the deceased replied that it was all right. The boy then told witness that deceased had hurt his finger when killing an adder. It never occurred to witness that deceased was in a serious state.

Wm. Phillips, innkeeper, Hayscastle Cross, gave evidence stating that he asked Mr. Harries what was the matter with the man, and he was told that he was under the influence of drink, so he refused to serve the boy with more drink for him.

Albert Devereaux, tailor, Jubilee Cottage, Hayscastle, said that about ten o'clock he saw the boy Wm. John Sobey, who attracted his attention by his miserable condition, being wet through and shivering. Witness told his mother about the boy, and asked her for a cup of tea to take to him. As he was taking the tea for the boy he observed that the deceased, whom he came across when looking for the boy, was lying motionless with his head on one side. The boy, when he saw his father lying thus, began to cry, and witness and the boy came to the conclusion that the man was dead.

Dr. James Wilson, Haverfordwest, who had examined the body, said he had made incisions in the palm of the right hand, which was considerably swollen. He had come to the conclusion, from the swelling, especially of the fore-finger, which was half an inch thicker than that on the other hand, that deceased had been bitten by an adder. He found that serous fluid ran from the finger, showing that there was inflammation before death.

He was convinced that the deceased had been bitten by an adder, and owing to his intemperate habits the bite had acted more rapidly than it otherwise would, and he had died from shock.

The symptoms described by the boy corresponded with what would be the probable effect of such a bite on a person of deceased's habits. He did not think any blame was attached to the landlord of the public house for refusing drink to the man., He believed the landlord had acted perfectly honestly in the matter. The Coroner thought they all agreed with the doctor's impression that the innkeeper could not be blamed for refusing to serve the boy with stimulants for his father, as he had no alternative but to refuse when the man had every appearance of being under the influence of drink.

After hearing the very clear evidence which the doctor had given the jury would doubtless be able to come to the conclusion that death was the result of heart failure due to shock in m snake bite, acting on a system which was under- mined by intemperance. A verdict was returned accordingly.

43. Aldershot, Hampshire – 1906

Victim's name	Joseph Millard
Age	38
Date of bite	22 Jul 1906
Geographic location	Aldershot, Hampshire, England
Grid reference	SU 796 365
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Unknown
Time until death	4 days?
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

Sheffield Evening Telegraph (26 July 1906)

DEATH FROM AN ADDER BITE – Joseph Millard, 35 years of age died at Aldershot yesterday from the effect of an adder bite.

Hull Daily Mail (27 July 1906)

Death from adder bite - Joseph Millard, 35 years of age, died at Aldershot on Wednesday from the effects of adder he received a few days previously while working at Bordon Camp.

44. Ramsley, Derbyshire – 1909

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	Unknown
Date of bite	Unknown
Geographic location	Big Moor, Ramsley, Derbyshire, England
Grid reference	SK 286 748
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Unknown
Time until death	Unknown
Verified	False
Classification	Secondary effects: Suffocation due to swelling of the glottis

British Medical Journal (17 July 1976) p154

This document erroneously reports the Ramsley case as occurring in 1912. This is the date of the subsequent reference and not the incident itself.

British Medical Journal (20 July 1912) p120

I may mention that the last man before myself bitten on Big Moor, Ramsley, was a hard-working tenant farmer, who struggled to the nearest farmhouse two miles away, and died before medical assistance could be obtained. The immediate cause of death was swelling of the glottis and suffocation following his sucking out the poison from his wounds. A similar swelling of the lips, tongue and fauces troubled me. - *Herbert Peck, MD Chesterfield Rural District.*

British Medical Journal (11 September 1909) p654: States that the Dr Peck bite incident occurred on 5th August 1909. As Peck states that the man before him bitten died, the fatality cannot have occurred in 1912 as often reported. The case must have occurred on or before 1909.

45. Wanstead, London – 1913

Victim's name	George E Box
Age	51
Date of bite	31 May 1913?
Geographic location	Railway at Wanstead, London, England
Grid reference	TQ 399 881
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand (finger)
Time until death	7 days?
Verified	True
Classification	Secondary effects: Infection of the wound (likely)

Sheffield Evening Telegraph (12 June 1913)

DEATH FROM AN ADDER BITE - A verdict of death from heart failure following blood-poisoning from the bite of an adder was returned at the inquest on George Box, a Manor Park labourer. He had been taken to West Ham infirmary, but said nothing about the bite, and was treated for an abscess. While the doctor was incising this, his finger was pricked by what proved to be an adder's fang.

Essex Newsman (14 June 1913)

DEATH FROM ADDER'S BITE. The death took place under singular circumstances on Saturday night of George Edward Box. 52, a platelayer on the Great Eastern Railway, who, until two months ago, lived in Lower Richmond Street, Romford. Deceased was working on the railway at Wanstead about a fortnight ago, and he was bitten by an adder. He took little notice of the incident at the time, but subsequently the effects became marked, and made it necessary to consult a doctor. Last Saturday deceased was his way to secure medical aid when he collapsed in the street, and was taken by the Metropolitan Police on an ambulance to West Ham Hospital. He was found to be suffering from poisoning, and after attention had been given to him he was removed to Whipps Cross Infirmary. Every effort was made to counteract the poison, but without success, death ensuing the same night. Deceased leaves a widow and family.

46. Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire – 1920

Victim's name	Alfred Archibald Howells
Age	2
Date of bite	14 July 1920
Geographic location	Hill Cottage, Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire, Wales
Grid reference	SN 076 270
Precision	100m
Anatomical location	Head, temple
Time until death	A few hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Nottingham Evening Post (25 May 1920)

FATAL SNAKE BITE - REPTILE COILS ROUND WELSH BOY'S, NECK, - A tragedy is reported from Mainlochog [Maenclochog], Pembrokeshire. It appears that the two year old child of Mr. and Mrs. Howells was playing in the garden when it picked up a snake, which coiled itself round the boy's neck. They played together for a time, and the father had considerable difficulty, when the child entered the house, getting the snake away. The child had been bitten on the temple, and died before the doctor arrived.

Western Daily Press (26 May 1920)

SNAKE KILLS CHILD – A fatality following a snake bite is reported from the village of Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire. The 18-months old boy of Mr and Mrs Howells was left to play in the garden behind the house,

Hill Cottage, when it came across a snake. The reptile, after being picked up twisted itself about the baby's neck. How long the child played with it is impossible to say, but the father was horrified when the child came into the house to find the snake coiled round the baby's throat.

He had considerable difficulty in freeing the snake, which had bitten the child on the temple. Medical aid was at once summoned, but the child died before the doctor arrived.

47. Malvern Hills, Worcestershire – 1932

Victim's name	Frasier William Harris
Age	51
Date of bite	15 July 1932
Geographic location	British Camp, Malvern Hills, Worcestershire, England
Grid reference	SO 762 400
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand
Time until death	24 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Physical condition

Gloucester Citizen (20 July 1932)

DEATH FROM SNAKE BITE MAN WHO PUT ADDER IN HIS POCKET A verdict of "death by misadventure in accordant with the medical evidence" was recorded the inquest at Birmingham today Frasier William Harris (51) who during ramble on Friday with other patients from the City Mental Hospital picked up an adder and put it in his pocket. He died Saturday. Mrs. Harris said her husband had been receiving treatment at the Hospital for 18 years, being certified in 1914. Although he knew her when she visited him, and was getting along fairly well, was not considered sufficiently recovered to be allowed to come home.

Dundee Evening Telegraph (20 July 1932)

SNAKE BITE DEATH MAN PUTS ADDER IN POCKET - Mental Patients Outing - A verdict of death by misadventure in accordance with the medical evidence was recorded at the inquest at Birmingham to-day on Frasier William Harris (51), who during a ramble on Friday with other patients from the City Mental Hospital, picked up an adder and put it in his pocket. He died on Saturday.

Mrs Harris said her husband had been receiving treatment at the hospital for years, being certified in 1914. Although he knew her when she visited him, and was getting along fairly well, he was not considered sufficiently recovered to be allowed to come home.

Sidney Douglas Dear said that Friday Harris was one a party of patients who went for day's outing to the British camp at Malvern. Witness had charge them, and there were two other officials with him.

After meal at one o'clock 21 of the 26 patients, including Harris, went for some sport in the neighbourhood, and when they returned one or the attendants called his attention to Harris's condition. He looked seedy and ill, but he thought probably the heat had got over him, as it was a hot day. He gave him a cup of tea, which seemed to revive him.

Some six minutes later a nurse said he had been bitten on the left thumb by an adder.

"I asked Harris about the reptile," said Dear, " but he did not say where he had picked it up. There was kind of bluish mark, and I came to the conclusion that his condition arose out of the snake bite."

He placed a ligature on the man's arm and telephoned for a doctor and after receiving treatment Harris seemed to recover and it was considered that had sufficiently revived to be taken back to hospital.

Nurse Aubrey John Rogers said that supervision over the party was not strict but was consistent with safety. It would be possible for Harris to have an opportunity of picking up an adder from the grass. He was the first to notice Harris's collapsed condition but he thought he had been overcome by the heat. He was given tea.

"Afterwards," continued Rogers, "Harris asked me to take the snake out his pocket. I hardly believed him but I put my hand in his pocket and found the snake there." He immediately killed the adder.

Dr C. W. Forsythe, medical superintendent at the hospital, said death was due to the toxic condition caused by the snake bite.

The Coroner (Mr W. H. Davidson) - This reptile has been identified as common English adder. It is twenty-two inches long, about the normal size of this adder. Do you think that a bite from such a reptile is always fatal? - No, sir. There are cases in which bite is fatal - maybe it depends on the physical condition the patient? - Yes, sir. And the lack of proper treatment was not one of the causes of the loss of this man's life? - No, sir. It was rather his physical condition? Quite so.

48. Edgefield, Norfolk – 1934

Victim's name	Dorothy Margaret Horne
Age	3
Date of bite	5 May 1934
Geographic location	Edgefield, Norfolk, England
Grid reference	TG 083 367
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Lower leg
Time until death	24 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Western Daily Press (9 May 1934)

FATAL ADDER BITE WHILE PICKING COWSLIPS - Child Killed by Our Only Poisonous Snake. Three-years-old Dorothy Margaret Home [Horne], of Mill Street Holt, Norfolk, was gathering cowslips in a field at Edgefield with her grandfather when she was bitten an adder. The small wound was not noticed for several hours, and then the child was taken to Cromer Hospital where she died.

At the inquest yesterday when a verdict that the child had died from poisoning caused by bite from an adder was returned, the coroner advised anybody bitten by adder to suck the wound.

Bitten by Frog - It was stated that the little girl told her grandmother that she had been bitten a frog. The coroner (Mr W. J. Barton) said it was the first inquest of that kind he remembered, and Police Inspector Balls said it was his first case of the kind in 25 years of service.

Although a fatal case of snake bite something of a rarity in this country, the adder or viper, Britain's only poisonous snake has claimed several victims for its venom recent years. Treatment saved all but one.

The poison injected through a canal along the fangs from a sac in the upper jaw, acts directly on the heart. The last recorded fatal case in this country was that of a mental hospital patient who, while on a ramble some two years ago, picked adder and placed it in his pocket.

Gloucester Citizen (9 May 1934)

CHILD KILLED BY ADDER BITTEN WHILE PICKING FLOWERS - The risk of children being bitten by adders when playing in fields and woods is emphasised by an inquest held at Cromer Hospital, Norfolk, on Dorothy Margaret Horne, the three-years-old daughter of Mr. Horne, of Holt, Norfolk.

A verdict that death resulted from poison from the bite of an adder was recorded. The coroner said that a snake bite wound should be sucked immediately after a person had been bitten.

According to the evidence, the child was out with her grandfather on Sunday morning gathering cowslips at Edgefield. A few hours later a punctured wound was observed two inches above her left ankle. She seemed well then, but craved for water. Dr. Nash was called and dressed the wound, but within short while the child had to be rushed Cromer Hospital, where she died 2 o'clock on Monday morning—less than 24 hours after being bitten. Mr. Horne, the child's father, said an adder had been seen frequently in the meadow where the child was gathering the flowers. Although bites from adders are comparatively common at this time of the year in England, it is rarely that they have fatal results.

49. Whitecliff, Shropshire – 1934

Victim's name	Unknown
Age	6
Date of bite	5 May 1934
Geographic location	Whitecliff, Ludlow, Shropshire, England
Grid reference	SO 509 741
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Unknown
Time until death	36 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age & condition

British Medical Journal (17 July 1976) – Alistair H Reid

Case 9: Female aged 6, 1934, Whitecliff Hill, Shropshire. Hours between bite and death: 36

Walker, C W, British Medical Journal, 1945, 2, 13.

Fatal cases: case 4. Female of 6yrs age. Delicate previous health. 36 hours from bite to death. Mode of death: circulatory collapse, unconscious. No antivenin was administered.

It is possible that the source was confused, and this relates to the 1906 death of a 6-year-old girl at Whitecliff.

50. Tyddffunon, Caernarvonshire – 1941

Victim's name	Glyn Hughes
Age	2
Date of bite	15 June 1941
Geographic location	Tyddyn Ffynnon, Mynydd Nefyn, Wales
Grid reference	SH 322 399
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Lower leg
Time until death	Unknown
Verified	Unknown
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Liverpool Echo (18 June 1941)

DIED OF SNAKE BITE - A verdict of death from poisoning, having been bitten by a snake, was returned by the South Caernarvonshire coroner, yesterday, at an inquest on Glyn Hughes, the two-years-old boy of Eifio [Eifion] Hughes, Tyddffunon, Mynddevin [Tyddyn FFynnon, Mynydd Nefyn]. The boy and his sister, aged four, were playing by a hedge near the house, when snake bit him in the right leg. Despite medical attention died Sunday morning.

51. Budleigh Salterton, Devon - 1941

Victim's name	Gavan Bruce MacKay
Age	2yr 3m
Date of bite	10 July 1941
Geographic location	Coppice Cottage, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, England
Grid reference	SY 061 825
Precision	100 m
Anatomical location	Unknown
Time until death	12 hours?
Verified	True
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Western Times (18 July 1941)

ADDER'S FATAL BITE - Much sympathy is felt for Mr [James A] and Mrs [Lily M] Mackay, of Keeper's Cottage, near Budleigh Salterton, in the loss they have sustained by the death of their son, Gavin [Gavan] Bruce Mackay, at the age of two years and three months. The boy was playing in a wood opposite his house last week when he was bitten by an adder. He was taken to hospital, but died the following morning. The funeral took place on Saturday.

52. Wareham, Dorsetshire - 1957

Victim's name	Michael John Smith
Age	14
Date of bite	11 May 1957
Geographic location	Wareham, Devonshire, England
Grid reference	SY 894 888
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Hand
Time until death	2½ hours
Verified	True
Classification	Secondary effects: Hyper-allogenic reaction to antivenin

The Singapore Free Press (27 May 1957)

'Lizard' he found an adder - A 14-year-old boy who died after being bitten by an adder shouted to a friend just before the snake struck: "I've found a lizard." This was reported at an inquest on Michael John Smith of Knowle, Bristol, Britain, who died in Poole hospital following treatment.

Michael was one of 20 boys from Highgrove School, Bristol, attending a camp near Wareham, Dorset. The master in charge, Mr. Frederick Buckland, said he sent the boys out on field work. Twelve-year old John Miller said he went with Michael and some other boys to the "Jungle Jim" area of the camp. Michael left the other boys to cross the road. Then he called out "I've found a lizard." "Michael dived on it and cupped his hands over the head of the adder and I saw its head come up and bite him."

Death was due to shock following snake-bite treatment. Verdict: Misadventure.

British Medical Journal (17 July 1976)

In 1957 a 13-year-old boy died from anaphylactic shock due to subcutaneous Pasteur antivenom. The boy had suffered from asthma attacks about four years earlier.

He arrived at Poole General Hospital 55 minutes after being bitten on the hand, which was swollen. He was not shocked.

Pasteur ER antivenom 10 ml was injected subcutaneously, and seven to 10 minutes later the boy collapsed with arrested breathing. Shortly afterwards the heart stopped. For a few minutes the heart responded to resuscitative measures but he died two and a half hours after the bite (T A J Wickham, personal communication, 1957).

Naturally this episode brought antivenom into disrepute and doubt-less accounted for the statement in the British National Formulary 1974-7622: "The bite is less dangerous than the antiserum." This statement is

justified in regard to Pasteur ER antivenom, which was unrefined and feeble in neutralising *Vipera berus* venom (P Boquet, personal communication, 1967). But these strictures do not, in my opinion, apply to Zagreb antivenom.

Liverpool Echo (17 May 1957)

BOY DIES AFTER INJECTION OF ANTI-SNAKE BITE SERUM - WAS NORMAL ON THE WAY TO HOSPITAL Doctors' Vain Efforts After His Collapse VERDICT Coroner Says Nothing Was Left Undone.

A boy who had been bitten by an adder collapsed seven minutes after being given an anti-snake bite serum in hospital, it was stated at a Poole, (Dorset) inquest to-day on Michael John, Smith, aged 14, of Kinsale Road, Knowle, Bristol.

On the way to hospital he was "quite normal." When he collapsed he was given oxygen and his heart massaged. He revived, but after about five minutes he died.

Dr. Terence Wickham, pathologist, who gave the cause of death as cardio-respiratory failure due to anaphylactic shock following snake bite treatment, said: "If the serum were not given at the earliest possible moment, it would have been nothing short of criminal neglect." The boy was one of twenty from Hengrove School, Bristol, attending a camp at Carey, Wareham, Dorset.

A verdict of misadventure was returned, the Coroner stating that nothing was left undone which could have been done to save the boy.

BOYS SENT OUT ON FIELD WORK - Mr. Frederick Buckland, master in charge of the school party which arrived on Saturday, told the Coroner (Mr. J. W. Miller) that he started a "flagpole" lesson at the camp between 3 and 4 p.m. Then he, sent the boys out on field work, and they were told the boundaries to where they were limited. **I HAVE BEEN BITTEN** - A little later Michael called out: "I have been bitten by an adder." He took the boy to a first-aid tent to apply an antiseptic and then telephoned for a doctor. He gave the boy some milk to drink. They arrived at Poole Hospital by ambulance at about 4.45 p.m. The boy said the snake was in an area at the edge of the camp. Answering Mr. C. C. White, for the parents, Mr. Buckland said Michael was quite normal on the way to hospital and kept sucking the wound and spitting. Mr. Buckland said he knew the boy had suffered from asthma but had recovered.

NOTICE IN CAMP - Asked if the boys had been warned about adders. He replied: "The boys are warned before they go and are warned again by the warden. There is also a notice in the camp. This boy was warned by me. Mr. Jack Bateman, camp warden, said he warned the boys that the best thing to do was to treat any snakes they might see as dangerous and leave them alone. The area in which he was told the boy was bitten was about ten yards outside the camp boundary, which was clearly defined. Mr. Bateman told Mr. White, that in the past two years he; had seen only two snakes, and he had not heard of any boys, at the camp being bitten before.

SAW A SNAKE - Twelve-years-old John Miller of Westbury Road, Bristol, said 'Mr. Buckland told the boys they must not touch any kind of snakes. With Michael and some other boys he went to the "Jungle Jim" area of the camp. Michael left the other boys to cross the road. Then he called out. "I've found a lizard." John said he went over to Michael "I saw a snake coming out of the hedgerow." he said. "Michael dived on it and cupped his hand over the head of the adder and I saw its head come up. "He ran across the road and put his hand up and said, I have been bitten by an adder."

OUT OF BOUNDS - In reply to Mr. J. B. Tomlinson (for Bristol Education Authority). John said the other boys warned Michael about going across the road because it was out bounds. Brian Townsend, aged 14, another camper, said Michael; had been on nature study and; would know a lizard or slowworm if he saw one. Dr. Richard Keays, casualty officer at Poole General Hospital, said when the boy was brought in he gave him an injection of anti-snake bite serum. Michael was quite talkative and seemed normal in every way apart from the small bite at the base of his finger. There were no general symptoms.

Within a minute or two of the boy being admitted to the ward a doctor was called. He was told the boy had collapsed. When he (Dr. Keays) arrived in the ward, artificial respiration was started and the boy was vomiting. A tube was put down the throat to administer oxygen. The surgical registrar made an incision and the boy's heart was massaged for ten to fifteen minutes. The heart then started beating quite strongly and kept on for about five minutes, then gradually stopped again. Further attempts were made to start it without effect.

Dr. Geoffrey Herd, medical registrar, said he did not think there was anything that could have been done beyond what was done. Dr. T. Wickham pathologist, gave me cause of death as cardio-respiratory failure due to the aspiration of vomit due to anaphylactic shock following snake bite treatment. If he had been at the hospital when the boy was admitted he would have prescribed the same treatment. He would not have expected a boy of that age to die from such a bite. The shock could have been due to the boy being hyper-sensitive to the type of serum which was prepared from an immunised horse.

Asked if he could say if the boy would have died from snake bite. Dr. Wickham said it was impossible for him to say whether the vomiting was due to snake bite or the injection or combination of both. "If the serum were not given at the earliest possible moment it would have been nothing short of criminal neglect" he added. The Coroner, recording a verdict of death by misadventure, said every step was taken and it was very unfortunate that conditions arose which caused the death of the boy. The evidence before me Indicates that there was nothing left undone which could have been done to avoid the ultimate result." he added

53. Mendip Hills, Somerset - 1961

Victim's name	Hillary Irene Brown
Age	12
Date of bite	22 May 1961
Geographic location	Priddy Pool, Mendip Hills, Somerset, England
Grid reference	ST 547 515
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Lower leg (ankle)
Time until death	19 hours
Verified	True
Classification	Secondary effects: Anaphylaxis

Birmingham Daily Post (24 May 1961)

Schoolgirl Dies After Snake Bite - A 12-year-old Bristol Schoolgirl. Hilary Brown, died in hospital yesterday after being bitten by an adder while visiting the Mendip Hills with her family. Hilary who lived at Bewdley Close, Hovers Park, and was a pupil of St George Grammar School, was bitten on the ankle on Monday while playing near Priddy Pool, where her family were picnicking. Taken to Wells Hospital, she was transferred to Ham Green Hospital, Bristol, which is specially equipped for such cases.

A Somerset police officer said that night: "A number of snakebites have been reported from this part of the Mendips In the past few years. Few people realise how serious a bite from an adder can be."

The adder is the only poisonous snake Indigenous to Britain, and its bite is particularly serious to children: but in the first half of this century only seven deaths [incorrect] from adder bites were recorded. Adders are found in parts of the New Forest, the West Country, and in dry heathland and waste areas of Lancashire. Yorkshire and Scotland.

British Medical Journal (17 July 1976)

A previously healthy girl was bitten on the ankle and immediately began vomiting violently. Soon afterwards, when her parents reached her, she was collapsed, breathing heavily, and cyanosed with a puffy face, swollen lips, and half-opened eyes under swollen lids.

She was admitted to hospital one and three-quarter hours after the bite in severe shock with extreme restlessness and disorientation. Face, eyes, and lips were swollen and cyanosed, blood pressure was unrecordable, and pupils were dilated and fixed. On several occasions she vomited bright red blood, and a motion passed contained bright red blood.

Pasteur antivenom was not given because clinically her condition suggested severe anaphylaxis. Despite an intravenous infusion of dextrose solution containing 48 mg noradrenaline and 175 mg prednisolone, the blood pressure remained low and she was very restless. Plasma electrolyte concentrations were normal though the blood urea rose to 143 mmol/l (86 mg 100 ml), and she had passed no urine.

Nineteen hours after the bite breathing stopped, and despite artificial respiration she died - *J McRae, personal communication, 1961.*

54. Shropshire – 1963

Victim's name	Sylvia Hughes
Age	57
Date of bite	20 July 1963
Geographic location	Whitecliffe, Ludlow, Shropshire, England
Grid reference	
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Wrist
Time until death	Unknown
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Healthy individual

British Medical Journal (12 June 1971)

One fatal case has been reported to me since, but the victim was a lady aged 76[?] who was picking bilberries when bitten on the wrist. I myself have seen two more cases, but in each the reaction was less severe, the season was later and the bites little more than pricks. – A.W.J. Houghton – *Royal Salop Infirmary Shrewsbury*

Possible linked source:

Birmingham Daily Post (22 July 1963)

ADDER BITES WOMAN Mrs. Sylvia Hughes, aged 57, of Sandpits Road, Ludlow put her hand on an adder on Saturday when picking whinberries [bilberries] at Whitecliffe, Ludlow. She was bitten on the arm. Mrs. Hughes was taken to Ludlow Hospital and given a serum and was then transferred to the Copthorne Hospital, Shrewsbury [opposite the Royal Salop Infirmary]. She was stated yesterday to be "rather poorly."

55. Trussachs, Perthshire – 1975

Victim's name	Raymond Leitch
Age	5
Date of bite	29 June 1975
Geographic location	Trussachs, Perthshire, Scotland
Grid reference	NN 567 062
Precision	1 km
Anatomical location	Lower leg (inner right ankle)
Time until death	43 hours
Verified	False
Classification	Envenomation: Compromised individual: Age

Daily Mirror (12 December 1975)

SNAKE OF DEATH HAUNTS A DAD - The taste of snake-bite poison will remain with Ronald Leitch forever. He sucked the venom from his son's leg after an adder had bitten the boy. Mr. Leitch broke down yesterday when he told a court: "I will always have that taste in my mouth." He was giving evidence at an inquiry into the death of his son Raymond. Five-year-old Raymond was enjoying a holiday picnic when the snake struck. Mr. Leitch, 43, had taken his family into the Scottish Highlands, and the children had gone off to play. He heard a scream and ran to Raymond, who had two puncture marks on his ankle. "I sucked the wound. There was a funny taste in my mouth. I will always have that taste." M. Leitch told the court. He rushed the boy to a doctor who dressed the wound, but then Raymond became violently sick.

BLACK - They went to a hospital near their home in Paisley, Renfrewshire, and were sent to another hospital in the town. Raymond whose leg was turning black was then taken to a hospital in Glasgow. By the next morning the boy's lips were blue and his eyes were roiling, said Mr. Leitch. On the following morning Mr. Leitch was called to the hospital and told that Raymond had died. Mr. Leitch was told that an antidote was available but doctors didn't want to use it because there were risks involved. The inquiry in Glasgow continues today. .

British Medical Journal (17 July 1976)

A boy was bitten on the right ankle at about 12:30 on 29 June. He subsequently vomited three times and reached hospital in Glasgow six hours after the bite, when swelling had reached above the knee and blood

pressure was 80/60 mm Hg. About an hour later blood pressure was 102/60 mm Hg. Zagreb antivenom was available in the hospital but was not given. No further blood pressures were recorded. According to nursing reports the boy vomited several times during the ensuing 36 hours, and on 30 June he was very pale. At 0700 on 1 July a sudden deterioration was noted and at 0720 an ECG showed no activity. There was no response to cardiac massage. At necropsy the whole of the right leg was very swollen and showed blue-red discoloration. The heart showed a few sub-endocardial haemorrhages. Posterior aspects of the lungs showed areas of haemorrhage or congestion. No cerebral haemorrhage, pulmonary oedema, or thrombosis in the right thigh vessels were evident.

56. An honourable mention (and possible lead)

The Glamorgan Gazette (5th April 1907)

BRAVADO WITH SNAKES. A man named [Henry] Richards, living at [Jenkins Row] Maesteg, near Cardiff, known locally as "Henry the Snake Charmer," because of his skill in taming snakes, was shewing an adder he had captured to some friends when it bit his finger. Richards merely laughed, and, by way of bravado, placed the adder's head in his mouth. The reptile bit the roof of the man's mouth, and, with a cry of terror, Richards ran to a local surgery, which he reached in a state of collapse. Subsequently he was carried home unconscious, but is now recovering slowly, both his arm and face being terribly swollen. It is a curious circumstance that Richards's father died from the effects of a snake's bite.

Sheffield Evening Telegraph (3 April 1907)

The son has always taken great interest in snakes. His attention was first directed to them by rescuing a little girl from a snake that had crawled upon her. He captured the reptile, and has since been known to have had upon his person many as nine snakes, which has carried about in his pockets. Richards's method of capturing vipers is worth describing. When out walking he knows if a snake is about, and without difficulty can locate attracts the snake's attention to a white handkerchief, and then grasps the reptile's tail. The cap is then placed across his arm, when it is said to become quite still under his influence. Richards finds much difficulty preserving the lives of the snakes he catches, as he is without knowledge of how to feed them.

57. Other leads...

Epworth Bells, Crowle and Isle of Axholme Messenger (5 April 1902) – 1890-1900 ?

Last week Mr. Bailey, of Epworth, was bitten by an adder near Nineveh Farm. The bite caused his hand to swell considerably, and other symptoms of blood-poisoning supervening, medical aid was called in. Happily the injury proved to be slight, but it may be well to note, for the benefit of others, that the bite of this particular kind of snake, the only poisonous species native to Britain, is sometimes attended by more serious consequences.

The adder may easily be distinguished from the harmless grass snake by its markings. It has two diverging marks between and rather behind the eyes, a spot on each side of the hinder part of the head, and (what is most noticeable) a row of confluent nearly diamond-shaped spots running zig-zag along the upper surface the whole length of the body and tail, with a row of small irregular, almost black, triangular spots on each side. It varies in colour, but is always thus marked. The length is more than about two feet.

The adder is not uncommon near Hatfield Moor, and we understand that at least one fatal case of injury from its bite has occurred at Epworth within recent years.

Leamington Spa Courier (5 November 1909) – 1907?

English Snakes and Adders - In giving these glimpses of animated nature I experience the feelings of a travelling menagerie showman, who generally boasts that his exhibits are real forest-bred; mine have never been tamed or caged, nor shall they be. I dislike cages, would rather be the plainest wild bird than the most gaudy and well-fed, imprisoned in a golden cage. However, my, young son had a tame water-snake, which escaped to the hall of neighbour, where it was beaten with broom sticks, boiled, and then burnt, "to prevent its mate

seeking for it." This is quite true and, shows how a slight knowledge of natural history had not been included in the estimable lady's education, or son would have been spared tears, and the dame regrets.

There are many adders or vipers on the heath, on which I delight to roam; they unfortunately occasionally cause death. A Territorial was bitten two years ago and died from the effects, and I know of several people who have had serious suffering from them; most cases, in endeavouring to catch the adders alive.

About 30 vipers are destroyed annually this heath. They grow to about 20 inches in length, have a dark or black zig-zag mark their full length, with a distinct V on their head, which stands for viper, I suppose. Their food consists mice, frogs, lizards, newts, and other small livestock. In the spring they delight to lie the top of bank or stone wall sunning, retiring to their holes habitations the afternoon to sleep. I believe many bipeds do likewise, in their chairs.

The grass or water-snake lives on similar food to the adder, it does not strike its prey, having poison fangs, but takes a more leisurely way of swallowing, and does not dislocate its jaws in the act. They grow to many as four feet long. I saw one in Cornwall over three feet long, some years since; they may be safely handled. Like all snakes, they swim well, but not the great sea serpent, which is usually depicted moving and down, the back half out of the water. The blindworm is also common, as in the Midlands. When met with it is generally killed, as dangerous. I am reminded of a line the Midsummer Night's Dream, "Newts and blindworms do no harm." Evidently the command has not been revoked. The newt dons a splendid golden livery for courting, and like the frog, the gills of both change to lungs when they leave the water, and they grow older and become amphibious. A lady friend told me she did not like serpents because of the mean behaviour of the first recorded, in the oldest history.—Wessex.

Western Daily Press (12 May 1934)

ADDER'S BITE - I saw in your newspaper the 9th May, an account of child's death through the bite of adder My father, a Somerset rector, was once bitten by an English adder. I drove him at once a doctor whose three hours' patient attention and skill were rewarded by his charge's partial recovery. A great deal suffering continued from blood poisoning in the arm and hand.

Of course my father sucked the wound, but unfortunately did not expectorate the deadly poison, which we fear was the primarily, of his last fatal illness. An account appears one of Mr Knight's books on the Mendips. MARY BARTLETT (Miss) 12, St. Helena Road. Westbury Park.

Birmingham Daily Gazette (14 May 1938)

ADDERS do not "charge" human beings, as some foreign snakes do. Only when a man comes within striking distance (say 15 inches) is he in immediate danger. Adders are deaf (they have no ears), but they appear to be very sensitive to vibration of the ground, and they usually slide away if they know someone is coming. However, they are often sluggish and loth to move when they are basking in the sun. Then there is a danger of treading on them —and being bitten.

The bite of the adder very seldom proves fatal to a healthy human adult or adolescent, but small infants, Invalids and very old people may suffer serious effects.

The famous Victorian naturalist, Frank Rockland, once had a pocket containing a live adder "picked" when he was in London. The wretched thief was a chronic drinker, half-poisoned with alcohol, and he died in a very few hours, despite skilled medical attention.

Romford Recorder (30 June 2018)

But an eleven year-old South Benfleet boy was killed in 1809 “by the bite of a Serpent”.

Estimated Grid References of Bite Locations

#	Date of bite	Victim	Location	OSGB	Precision
1.	23 Aug 1722	Un-named baby	Bagshot, Surrey	SU 903 629	1 km
2.	14 Apr 1733	Un-named man	Clare Market, London	TQ 308 811	100 m
3.	15 July 1734	Un-named man	Bedminster, Bristol, Somerset	ST 570 717	1 km
4.	09 Oct 1735	Un-named man	Paddington, London	TQ 267 812	1 km
5.	18 Jun 1784	Un-named man	Hull, Yorkshire	TA 097 288	1 km
6.	15 July 1749	Un-named man	Barnet, London	TQ 281 950	1 km
7.	20 Sep 1767	Mr Parsley	Shirehampton, Gloucestershire		1 km
8.	05 Aug 1790	Mr Newell	Lockerley, Hampshire	SU 289 270	1 km
9.	22 Sep 1790	Mr Watson	Hanham, Somerset	ST 641 718	1 km
10.	08 Aug 1791	Un-named man	Sydenham Wells, London	TQ 344 717	1 km
11.	05 Sep 1792	Thomas Forster	Camden, Gloucestershire	SP 159 434	1 km
12.	05 May 1794	Mr Kettle	Lower St. Columb, Cornwall	SW 836 625	1 km
13.	22 May 1794	Lawrence Kerswill	Newlyn, Cornwall	SW 870 546	1 km
14.	28 Jun 1794	Un-named soldier	Southampton, Hampshire	SU 492 106	1 km
15.	19 Sep 1804	Un-named woman	Upper Beeding, Sussex	TQ 201 109	1 km
16.	17 Aug 1809	Un-named child	Gartmore, Stirlingshire, Scotland		
17.	21 July 1829	William Meadowcroft	Epping Forest, London, England	TQ 478 933	10 km
18.	1835	Un-named servant	Buchlyvie, Perthshire, Scotland		
19.	13 Apr 1835	William Turner	Cowfold, Sussex, England	TQ 213 226	10 km
20.	02 Sep 1835	Maria Sewell	Bedford New-town, London		
21.	21 Aug 1840	John Minter	Park Farm, Folkestone, Kent, England	TR 223 371	1 km
22.	1842-1862	Un-named boy	Moreton Hampstead, Devon		
23.	10 Jul 1843	Mary Angove	Red Gate, St Cleer, Cornwall	SX 240 693	100 m
24.	30 May 1857	George Beviss	Thorncombe, Devon	ST 371 050	100 m
25.	24 May 1862	Mr Wilkins	Burgess Hill, Sussex		
26.	02 Jul 1865	Mrs Siddon	Epping Forest, London	TQ 404 951	10 km
27.	12 Sep 1867 [†]	Ms Hurst	Handsworth Wood, Birmingham	SP 051 911	1 km
28.	02 Jun 1868	Stephen Witt	Ringwood, Hampshire	SU 137 047	1 km
29.	13 Jul 1870	Randolph William Adams	Ashdown Forest, Sussex	TQ 455 326	1 km
30.	03 Jun 1874	Eliza McEwan	Loth, Sutherlandshire	NC 971 116	100 m
31.	27 Jul 1876	George Thompson	Leith Hill, Surrey	TQ 139 431	1 km
32.	27 Sep 1878	Frederick Mortimer	Amberley, Sussex	TQ 052 279	10 km
33.	20 Sep 1888	Hugh McPherson (& Son)	Pennyghael, Mull	NM 520 266	1 km
34.	03 Jun 1893	Rees Evans	Pontrhondda, Rhondda Cynon Taf	SS 998 945	1 km
35.	23 Sep 1891	Pte Arthur Judge	Strensall Camp, Yorkshire	SE 632 593	1 km
36.	14 Jun 1901	Joseph Albert Hartley	Ravenglass, Cumberland	NY 184 003	1 km
37.	6 Aug 1903	David Manuel	Henllan, Denbighshire	SN 356 407	100 m
38.	26 Sep 1903	Constance Maud Victoria Harding	Whitcliffe Wood, Ludlow, Shropshire	SO 491 728	1 km
39.	19 Nov 1903	William Davie	Menabilly, Cornwall	SX 104 510	1 km
40.	26 May 1906	Un-named school boy	Folkestone, Kent	TR 224 379	1 km
41.	23 Jun 1906	William Sobey	Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire	SM 906 260	1 km
42.	1906		Bournemouth ?		
43.	22 Jul 1906	Joseph Millard	Aldershot, Hampshire	SU 796 365	1 km
44.	1909	Un-named man	Ramsley, Derbyshire	SK 286 748	1 km
45.	12 Jun 1913	George Edward Box	Wanstead, London	TQ 399 881	1 km
46.	25 May 1920	Alfred Archibald Howells	Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire	SN 076 270	100m
47.	15 Jul 1932	Frasier William Harris	Malvern Hills, Worcestershire	SO 762 400	1 km
48.	05 May 1934	Dorothy Margaret Horne	Edgefield, Norfolk	TG 083 367	1 km
49.	1934	Un-named girl	Whitecliff Hill, Shropshire	SO 509 741	1 km
50.	15 Jun 1941	Glyn Hughes	Tuddnffynon, Caernarvonshire	SH 322 399	1 km
51.	10 July 1941	Gavin Bruce Mackay	Budleigh Salterton, Devon	SY 061 825	100m
52.	11 May 1957	Michael John Smith	Wareham, Dorsetshire	SY 894 888	1 km
53.	22 May 1961	Hilary Brown	Priddy Pool, Mendip Hills, Somerset	ST 547 515	1 km
54.	20 Jul 1963	Sylvia Hughes	Whitecliffe, Ludlow, Shropshire	SO 509 741	1 km
55.	29 Jun 1975	Raymond Leitch	Trussachs, Perthshire	NN 567 062	1 km

Map of Bite Locations



Figure 1 – Map of fatality locations

Verification of Reports

1. Bagshot, Surrey - 1722
2. Clare Market, London - 1733
3. Bedminster, Bristol, Somerset – 1734
4. Paddington, London - 1735
5. Hull, Yorkshire - 1784
6. Barnet, London - 1749
7. Shirehampton, Gloucestershire – 1767 (Parsley)
8. Lockerley, Hampshire - 1790 (Newell)

Possible options

- John Newell, christened 2 Jun 1782 (8 yrs)

Not him but....Must be family

Joseph Newell England and Wales Census, 1851	
Name	Joseph Newell
Event Type	Census
Event Date	1851
Event Place	Michelmersh, Hampshire, England
Registration District	Romsey
Residence Note	Awbridge Common
Gender	Male
Age	68
Marital Status	Married
Occupation	Broom Maker
Relationship to Head of Household	Head
Birth Year (Estimated)	1783
Birthplace	Lockerley, Hampshire
Page Number	7
Registration Number	HO107
Piece/Folio	1671 / 249
Affiliate Record Type	Household

9. Hanham, Somerset – 1790 (Watson)
10. Sydenham Wells, London – 1791
11. Camden, Gloucestershire – 1792 (Thomas Forster)

Christening Registration	Name	Father	Mother	Date	Location
	Thomas Forster	Thomas Forster	Elisabeth	6 January 1771	Mickleton, Gloucester, England

12. Lower St. Columb, Devon – 1794 (Kettle)
13. Newlyn, Cornwall – 1794 (Lawrence Kerswill)
14. Southampton, Hampshire - 1794

15. Beeding, Sussex - 1804
16. Gartmore, Sterlingshire - 1809

17. Epping Forest, London, England – 1829 (William Meadowcroft)

Christening Registration	Name	Father	Mother	Date	Location
	William Meadowcroft	Thomas	Charlotte	16 Mar 1828	Chigwell, Essex, England

Burial Registration	Name	Date	Location
	William Meadowcroft	26 Jul 1829	Chigwell, Essex, England

18. Buchlyvie, Scotland – 1835 (John McAllan?)

Kippen Area – Heads of Families - Farm Servants

Farm	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839
Broich Brioch Mill	Robt McFarlane	Robt McFarlane	Robt McFarlane	Robt McFarlane	Robt McFarlane	Robt McFarlane
Drummerchan (Drumerchin)	-	John Graham	-	-	-	-
Arnprior	John Graham	-	John Graham	John Graham (Carter)	-	-
Arnfinlay	John McAllan	John McAllan	John McAllister	-	-	-
Cairn	-	-	-	Robert Dick	-	-

<https://www.oldscothish.com/kippen.html#HoFs>

Most likely:

- John McAllan

Kippen Church Burials (1835)

Name	Date	Age
James Murdoch	September 1835	29
John Parlane	1835	26

19. Cowfold, Sussex – 1835

Burial Registration	Name	Age	Date	Location
	William Turner	66	22 April 1835	Cowfold, Sussex, England

20. Bedford New-town, London – 1835 (Maria Sewell)

21. Folkestone, Kent – 1840 (John Minter)

Burial Registration	Name	Age	Date	Location
	John Minter	76	04 Sep 1840	Folkestone, Kent

22. Moreton Hampstead, Devon – 1842-1862

23. Red Gate, St Cleer, Cornwall – 1843 (Mary Angove)

Burial Registration	Name	Age	Date	Location
	Mary Angove	4	13 July 1843	Common Moor, St. Cleer

24. Thorncombe, Devon – 1857 (George Bevis)

1861 Census	Address	First Name	Surname	Position	Status	Age	Sex	Occupation	Born	
	Coppice House Wellhouse Lane Thorncombe Near Axminster Dorset	Charles	Bevis	Head	Mar	27	M	Game Keeper	DOR Thorncombe	
		Sarah	Bevis	Wife	Mar	28	F		SOM Chard	
		Ann	Bevis	Daughter			7	F		DOR Thorncombe
		Jane	Bevis	Daughter			3	F		DOR Thorncombe

Baptism Record	Name	Father	Mother	Date	Location
	George Bevis	Charles	Sarah	20 Apr 1856	Thorncombe near Axminster, Dorset

25. Burgess Hill, Sussex – 1862 (Wilkins)

Census 1861 – Cuckfield, Sussex

- Albert Wilkens, born 1855 (aged 7 in 1862), Clayton, Cuckfield, Sussex, England

Kelly's Directory of Sussex 1866

- Wivesfield National School: James J. Wilkins, master; Mrs. Wilkins, mistress

26. Epping Forest, London – 1865 (Siddon)

Kelly's Directory 1852

- King, Charles, undertaker, 21 New Compton street, Soho
- Targett William, undertaker, 34 New Compton street, Soho
- Secker Richard Geo. undertaker, 7½ Compton St. Clerkenwell (most likely an employee here)

27. Handsworth Wood, Birmingham – 1867 (Hurst)

28. Ringwood, Hampshire – 1868 (Stephen Witt)

29. Ashdown Forest, Sussex – 1870 (Randolph William Adams)

Burial Registration	Name	Age	Date	Location
	Randolph William Adams	3	17 July 1870	Hartfield, Sussex, England

1871 Census	Address	Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
	Hartfield, Sussex, England	George Adams	Head	M	49	Salehurst, Sussex
		Elizabeth Adams	Wife	F	47	Speldhurst, Kent
		William Adams	Son	M	21	Tunbridge, Kent

30. Loth, Sutherlandshire – 1874 ()

1871 Census	Address	Household	Role	Sex	Age	Birthplace
	Loth, Sutherland, Scotland	Eliza Agnes McEwen	Dau	F	1	

31. Leith Hill, Surrey – 1876 ()

32. Amberley, Sussex – 1878 ()

Assumptions:

- 'Young man' = ages 17 to 29,
- Gender is male.
- Birth and residence are in England.

Deductions:

- Date of birth between 1849 and 1861

Birth		1871 Census (must be here)			1881 Census (must not be here)			Age @ 1878
Date	Place	Name	Age	Occupation	Name	Age	Occupation	
1857	England	Thomas Henry	14	Errand boy				21
1859	Blackburn	Thomas D	12	Draper				19
1858	Wakefield	Tom	13	Twister				20
1853	Corsley, Wilts	Major	18	Labourer				25
1859	Ipswich	Edward	12	Scholar				19
1849	Buckingham	C G	22	Artist				29
1861	Birmingham	William A	10	Scholar				17
1857	Tring	Albert John	14	Scholar				21
1858	Ardsley, Yorks	James	13	Coal Miner				20
1856	Middlesex	Charles Henry	15	Scholar				22
1850	Tadcaster	George	21	Warehouseman				28
1852	Borrowby, Yorks	David	19	Servant				26
1855	Bury, Lancs	Thomas	16	Wool Piercer				23
1856	Woodborough, Wilts	James	15	Labourer				22
1861	Handley, Yorks	William	10	Scholar				17
1857	Birmingham	William	14	Roller				21
1855	St Andrews, Middx	George	16	Brace Maker				23
1860	Highgate, Middx	John Henry	11	-				18

1860	Mortlake, Surrey	James	11	-					18
1856	Easton, Yorks	James	15	Driver					22
1851	Halifax, Yorks	James	20	Weaver					27
1861	Kentish Town, Middx	Jessie	10	Scholar					17
1853	Crediton, Devon	William H	18	Farmer					25
1852	Saxmundham, Suffolk	Edward	19	Miller					26
1852	Luddenham, Suffolk	William	19	Labourer					26
1857	Sunderland, Durham	George	14	Spinner					21
1851	St George Hannover Square, Middx	Frederick Mortimer	20	Bank Clerk					27

The traditional walking route between Guildford and Amberley was the Wey South Run. Assuming lunch was around the halfway point, then the incident would have occurred close to Roundstreet Common, which is wooded

33. Pennyghael, Mull – 1888 ()

34. Pontrhondda, Rhondda Cynon Taf – 1893 (Rees Evans)

35. Strensall Camp, Yorkshire – 1891 (Young)

1891 Census (Father)	Address	First Name	Surname	Position	Status	Age	Sex	Occupation	Born
	St. George's Road Hastings, Sussex	Isaac Young	Judge	Lodger	Wid'er	69	M	Police pensioner	Surrey, England

36. Ravenglass, Cumberland – 1901 (Joseph Albert Hartley)

Burial Registration	Name	Date	Location
	Joseph Albert Hartley	14 June 1901	Eskdale, Cumberland, England

37. Henllan, Denbighshire – 1903 (David John Manuel)

Death Registration	Name	Age	Date	Location
	David John Manuel	10	Jul-Aug-Sep 1903	Newcastle In Emlyn, Cardiganshire, Wales

38. Whitcliffe Wood, Ludlow, Shropshire – 1903 (Maud Victoria Harding)

Burial Registration	Name	Age	Date	Location
	Constance Maud Victoria Harding	6	29 Sep 1903	Ludlow, Shropshire, England

39. Menabily, Cornwall – 1903 (William Davie)

Death Registration	Name	Age	Date	Location
	William Davie	57	Oct-Nov-Dec 1903	St. Austell, Cornwall, England

40. Folkestone, Kent – 1906 ()

Victim Options, dies in Elham District in 1906 of approximately the correct age (Prep schools are usually 8 to 13 years of age)
Must have died before 26 May 1906 – probably early to mid May

- Frederick Edward Marshall
 - Died too early in year
- Ernest Edward Smith,
 - died from a cliff fall (BNA – Folkestone, Hythe, Sandgate & Cheriton Herald 2 June 1906)
- Ernest K Smith,
 - son of civil engineer, Radnor Park Road, aged 8 [13 in 1906], Portuguese national (FS – 1901 Census)
 - no death found
- Albert Harold Williams
 - died Apr-Jun 1906 at Victoria Hospital, Folkestone (A – Cemetery Registers)
 - Albert Harold Williams died in 1906 at Elham, Kent (FMP – England and wales deaths) [aged 15 in 1906]

- Buried 19 May 1906, Folkestone, St. Michael, Kent Aged 15
- Harry Pereivac Arnold
 - died Jan –Mar 1906 at Victoria Hospital Folkestone (A – Cemetery Registers) **Death too early in year**
- Tom Flood,
 - son of tailor, aged 2 [7 in 1906] (FS – 1901 Census) – **Tailor too lowly a profession**
- Fred Clifton
 - died in Apr-Jun 1906 at Elham, Kent (FMP – England and wales deaths) [aged 7 in 1906] – **Son of navy (unlikely)**
- William Henry Menpes
 - died in APR-JUN 1906 at Elham, Kent (FMP – England and wales deaths) [aged 15 in 1906]
 - of Peters Street, Folkestone, Kent (FS – 1901 Census) [Aged 15 in 1906]
- Harold Robert Rayner
 - died in 1906 at Elham, Kent (FMP – England and wales deaths) [aged 13 in 1906]
 - Harold R Rayner Romney Marsh (FS – 1901 Census) **Lived in Romney Marsh**
 - Burial 28 Nov 1906 (**too late in year**)
- Arthur White Napier Scott
 - born 1890 in Dagshai, Bengal, India to Robert MacDonald Scott
 - died in 1906 at Elham, Kent (FMP – England and wales deaths) [aged 15 in 1906]
 - ☞ Belgrave Gardens, Dover, Kent (FS – 1901 Census) **Lived in Dover, mother of independent means, born in INDIA**
- William Albert Cannon (JAN-MAR 1906) **Death too early in year**

School Options – Kelly's Directory of Kent 1903

Free Grammar, Foord road,

- Founded in 1674 by Sir Eliab Harvey; the school was rebuilt in 1882 in the Elizabethan style from the designs of Mr. R. Wheeler: the building is intended for about 150 pupils, of whom to are admitted free: provision is made for the reception of 20 boarders.

Kent College for girls,

- near the Least was erected in 1886 & cost of £5,000, under the auspices of the Kent Wesleyan Methodist School Association Limited & is a structure of red brick from designs by Messrs. Rucklison & Smith, architects, Maidstone / a building ranged for 70 boarders & 50 day scholars; Miss Bronyate, head mistress

Technical Schools, Grace hill,

- erected at a cost of over £6,000, & opened, November, 1896; T. Irving Dalgliesh, master A School Board of 9 members was formed 7 Aug. 1882. for the borough of Folkestone; Alfred Henry Gardner, solicitor, 8a, Cheriton placet clerk to the board; Richard Colegate, Sussex road & William Falconer, Grove road, attendance officer.

Board School Black Bull road,

- erected 7 Aug. 1884. at a cost of £5360, & opened January, 1886, for 700 children; average attendance, 196 boys, 176 girls & 265 infants; T. Arthur Mummery, master; Miss B. Bird, mistress; Mrs. E. Fullnell, infant's mistress

Board School, Dover road,

- erected 1885, at a cost of £4,607; for 824 children; average attendance, 312 boys, 250 girls & 260 infants; J. G. Welch, master; Miss E. Welch, mistress; Miss M. J. Grahall, infants' mistress.

Board School, Sydney street,

- built in 1897 for 270 boys, 200 girls & 330 infants; average attendance, 250 boys, 180 girls & 320 infants; T. Jones, master; Miss Lucy Stevens, girls' mistress & Miss J. A. Hugill, infants' mistress

Christ Church National (mixed), Bouverie road,

- for 350 children; average attendance, 197 boys & girls & 33 infants; John A. Richardson, master; Miss Emma Channing, infant's mistress

St. Mary's Higher Grade Dover road,

- erected in 1855 for 575 children; average attendance 200 boys, 170 girls, 125 infants; Arthur J. Hall, master; Miss Grace Harrison, mistress; Miss Emily Ockendon, infants' mistress

St. Eanswythe's (girls & infants), The Bayle,

- for 143 children; average attendance, 121; Miss Kate Rowlatt, mistress

St. Peter's, East cliff,

- built in 1812, for 332 children; average attendance, 95 boys, 87 girls & 11 infants; Thomas Charles Cullum, master; Miss Louisa Miles, mistress; Miss Laura. Smith, infant's mistress.

Catholic, Cheriton road,

- built in 1884, for 94 children; average attendance, 70; Sisters of the Catholic Church, Mistresses

Wesleyan (boys, girls & infants), Grace hill:

- opened in 1871, for 210 boys & girls & 109 infants; average attendance, 197 boys & girls & 103 infants; William Bramley, master; Mrs. Emmeline Ashworth, mistress

Pretoria House School, Grimston Avenue, Folkestone

- serious preparatory school for Rugby, Harrow etc Conrad attended etc – very likely

Bedford House – Pretoria house renamed by 1906? Also Grimston Avenue

41. Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire – 1906 (William Sobey)

1901 Census	Address	First Name	Surname	Position	Status	Age	Sex	Occupation	Born
	Lower Commercial Row Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales	William J. J.	Sobey	Head	Mar	37	M	Mason	St Budeaux, Devonshire

Death Registration	Name	Age	Date	Location
	William J J Sobey	49	Apr-May-Jun 1906	Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Wales

42. Bournemouth? – 1906

43. Aldershot, Hampshire – 1906 (Joseph Millard)

Death Registration	Name	Date	Location
	Joseph Millard	July 1906	Farnham, Surrey, England

44. Ramsley, Derbyshire - 1909

45. Wanstead, London – 1913 (George Edward Box)

Death Registration	Name	Date	Location
	George E Box	1913	West Ham, London, England

46. Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire – 1920 (Alfred Archibald Howells)

Burial Registration	Name	Date	Location
	Alfred Archibald Howells	14 July 1920	Pembrokeshire, Wales

Kelly's Directory 1920 (private residents)	Name	Location
	Benjamin Howells	Cefneitbyn, Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire, Wales
	William Howells	Penuchafydref, Maenclochog, Pembrokeshire, Wales

47. Malvern Hills, Worcestershire – 1932 (Frasier William Harris)

48. Edgefield, Norfolk – 1934 (Dorothy Margaret Horne)

Death Registration	Name	Date	Location
	Dorothy M Horne	1934	Norfolk, England

49. Whitecilff Hill, Shropshire - 1934

50. Tuddnffynon, Caernarvonshire – 1941 (Glyn Hughes)

51. Budleigh Salterton, Devon – 1941 (Gavan Bruce MacKay)

1939 Register (census)	Address	First Name	Surname	Position	Status	Age	Sex	Occupation	Born
	Budleigh Salterton, Devon, England	Gavan B	MacKay						
		Lily M	MacKay						

Marriage Registration (parents)	Spouse 1	Spouse 2	Date	Location
	James A MacKay	Lily M White	Oct-Nov-Dec 1933	Plymouth, Devon

Birth Registration	Name	Father	Mother	Date	Location
	Gavan B MacKay		MacKay nee White	Apr-May-Jun 1939	Devon, England

Death Registration	Name	Date	Location
	Gavan B MacKay	Jul-Aug-Sep 1941	Devon, England

Exeter and Plymouth Gazette 07 March 1941

BUDLEIGH SALTERTON - At Exmouth Petty Sessions, on Monday, Mrs. Lily Mackay, Boyne-road, Budleigh Salterton, was fined £1 for a contravention of the Light Restriction Order. [Railway line used to run along the south end of Boyne Road]

52. Wareham, Dorsetshire – 1957 (Michael John Smith)

Death Registration	Name	Date	Age	Location
	Michael J Smith	Apr-May-Jun 1957	14	Poole, Dorset, England

53. Priddy Pool, Mendip Hills, Somerset – 1961 (Hilary Brown)

Death Registration	Name	Date	Location
	Hilary Irene Brown	27 May 1961	St. Mary-Redcliffe, Bristol, Gloucester, England

54. Whitecliffe, Ludlow, Shropshire – 1963 (Sylvia Hughes)

- Sylvia Lloyd marries Edward Hughes at Oswestry in 1929

55. Trussachs, Perthshire – 1975 (Raymond Leitch)

Please submit any corrections or additions to: Steve Langham steve@surrey-arg.org.uk

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