

**Alice Maud Mary Baxman**

**Isle of Wight County Press – 8 July 1922**

**NEWPORT**

**DEATH IN A FIT.** – The Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest on Tuesday, at St. Leonard's, St. John's-road, on the body of Alice Maud Mary Baxman, aged 48, wife of Mr. Harry Baxman, of the address named.

Mr. Baxman said his wife had suffered from epileptic fits for over 15 years. He left her at home at about 12.45 p.m. on Monday. When he returned at about 5 p.m. he tried to get in by the back door but could not open it. The window however was not latched, and he effected an entrance by lifting the sash. He then found his wife lying at full length on the floor with her head "forced forward against the door" and down on her breast. He loosened her blouse but she seemed quite dead. Deceased was subject to frequent fits, which were sometimes very bad. They varied a good deal in character – fits of spilmptis (?) hysteria following one another. On one occasion she injured her shoulder.

Miss Lilan Gifford, residing next door, said she saw deceased at the front of the house about 3.45 on Monday afternoon. They talked together for about five minutes, and deceased then seemed quite herself. After going into the house she heard no more of deceased until Mr. Baxman called to her at about 5 o'clock. She then went into St. Leonard's and found deceased lying on the kitchen floor as Mr. Baxman had described.

Mrs. Rosina Gifford, mother of the previous witness, said she was home in the house at about 4.30 on Monday afternoon, and she heard the deceased call out "Oh" three times. She heard nothing more, and thought Mrs. Baxman had had a very light attack. She heard nothing like the sound of a fall, and the occurrence did not specially call her attention to deceased, as they were accustomed to the fits, which sometimes passed off very rapidly.

Dr. Buckell said he arrived at the house at 5.45 on Monday evening. He found deceased lying on the kitchen floor. He was of opinion that she had been dead over an hour. Some time ago he attended her for an injured shoulder, and was informed that the injury was caused while she was in a fit. In his opinion deceased died from suffocation, owing to the fit and having fallen in the position in which she was found. Deceased was very stout with a short neck.

The Coroner said he did not think there was any necessity for a post mortem examination but as it was a case in which suffocation had occurred a coroner was compelled to hold an inquest. He returned a verdict of "Death from suffocation arising from, and caused during, an epileptic fit." It was a pity, he added, that nobody was with the deceased at the time.

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