

Ann May

1851 census, Millers Lane, Carisbrooke

Jane Starks	Head	66	Laundress	Calbourne, Southampton
<i>Ann May</i>	<i>Lodger</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>Pauper (annuitant)</i>	<i>Newport, Southampton</i>
James May	Visitor	53	Painter	Newport, Southampton
Louisa May	Visitor	45		London, England

Isle of Wight Mercury – 23 October 1858

Coroner's Inquest.

An Inquest was held at Castle-lane, Carisbrooke on Wednesday last, the 20th inst., before Frederick Blake, Esq., coroner, on the body of Ann May, found dead in her bed on Monday morning last.

Jane Starke: I live here (Castle-lane). The name of the deceased was Ann May. She has lodged in this house with me for the last 12 years. She was a single woman, 58 years of age, supported by the parish. She was not in a good state of health. She has been subject to fits for the last 40 years. I believe they were epileptic fits. She had one about a fortnight ago. She often had them in bed. I knew her to have them in the night and have gone in to her. I have generally heard her blowing and gone into her room. Mr. Wilkins (surgeon), has not seen her for the last three months. She has sometimes been very poorly, and complained of pains in her side and a fluttering, the fits lately were slighter than they were formally. She went to church on Sunday morning and to chapel in the evening. She then appeared as well as she had been for years. At half-past nine she went to bed. She had some bread and cheese and a little warm broth for her supper. She did not complain and went to bed cheerful. Her door was just closed but not latched, my door was left open as usual, I went to bed at the same time. I left her in her room just before she got into bed. I didn't sleep sound that night. I think if she had made a noise I should have heard it. On Monday morning I got up at half-past six o'clock and made a fire. At half-past seven I called deceased from the foot of the stairs, and receiving no answer I went up to her room. She was lying almost on her stomach, her head sideways on the pillow, the bedclothes were not moved, there was no appearance of struggling. I spoke to her and went round to look on her and touched her. She was not quite cold. I first thought she was asleep in a fit but when I went round to look I could see she was dead. I then called a neighbour and sent immediately for Mr. Wilkins the surgeon. She was quite dead when I saw her. There was no one else in the house that night.

E. P. Wilkins: I am a surgeon. I attended the deceased. She was a pauper, subject to occasional fits of mania. I had once in every three months to give a report to the Guardians of the Poor to be forwarded to Lunacy Commissionaires. I last saw her two or three months ago, she was tolerably well. I have understood she had fits. I don't think they were epileptic fits. I was sent for on Monday morning at half-past 9, and I found her dead. She was lying on her stomach and the right side of her head. There was access to her mouth, she was not buried in the pillows. I supposed she had been dead some time. The bedclothes were not disturbed. There was no appearance of struggling. My opinion is she died of paralysis or spasm of the heart. I thought it was very possible she would go off suddenly - being a diseased subject so many years, there is no reason to doubt that she died from natural causes.

Verdict: Died by the Visitation of God, from natural causes.

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