

## Walter Pitt

### 1891 census – Heath, Garsdon, Wiltshire

William Pitt	Head	59	Sawyer	Garsdon, Wiltshire
Louisa Pitt	Wife	53		Charlton, Wiltshire
<b>Walter Pitt</b>	<b>Son</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Agricultural Labourer</b>	<b>Garsdon, Wiltshire</b>
William Clark	Visitor	12		Malmesbury, Wiltshire
George Ridgway	Grandson	3		Lyne, Cheshire

Isle of Wight County Press – 24 August 1895

### FATAL FALL AT NEWPORT

### INQUEST, YESTERDAY

Yesterday (Friday) at noon Frederick Blake, Esq., held an inquest at the Sir John Barleycorn Inn, Trafalgar-road, Newport, on the body of Walter Pitt, 23, who was lodging at Newport, but whose home is near Devizes, in Wiltshire, who on Monday afternoon, under circumstances given below, met with an accident which terminated fatally on Thursday afternoon.

Mr. G. H. Waterworth was foreman of the jury and the following evidence was given:-

Alfred William Stoneham, bricklayer, of 10, South-view, Trafalgar-road, said deceased was his brother-in-law and lived with him. He was 23 years old last birthday, and was engaged as a bricklayer's labourer at new premises being built at the bottom of Pyle-street. Witness was employed on the same building. Witness last saw the deceased before the accident about 20 minutes past 4 on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst. He was engaged in pulling down the scaffolding and stopping up scaffold holes in the wall. The scaffolding would be about 15 ft. high. The ladder was in a safe condition. Witness believed deceased was carrying an empty bucket down the ladder when he fell, though witness did not see him fall. Deceased had worked there during the whole time the building had been in operation. About an hour after he last saw deceased the carpenter called witness, and he ran into the road towards the ladder and saw deceased lying on the hard road with his head towards the ladder. Witness raised and supported deceased's head and sent for a doctor. Deceased was unconscious at the time. Witness did not see any injury at the time. Witness thought that deceased missed his footing in stepping from the scaffolding on to the ladder and fell head foremost into the road. Deceased was medically attended till about 4.15 on the previous day when he died, having never regained consciousness. He did not consider deceased's occupation hazardous. Deceased was taken into a cottage near, where he was attended by the doctor and then removed to South-view on an ambulance stretcher.

Martha Brewer, 14, of South-street, who was near the new buildings on the afternoon in question, said she saw deceased coming down the ladder with an empty bucket in his hand. When he had got several rungs down a girl named Elliott screamed out that some children were falling into the mill-pond close by, and deceased turned round to see what was the matter and missed his footing and fell. She called to men on the scaffolding and they came down to where the deceased had fallen. He fell sideways, pitching on his head and shoulder, and did not attempt to rise. The ladder did not give way.

Dr. Foster said he saw deceased a few minutes after the accident lying in a cottage close by, unconscious and tossing about as if in great pain and vomiting pretty considerably. He ascertained that deceased had fallen from the scaffolding, pitching on his head, and concluded that he was suffering

from concussion of the brain. He gave directions as to his removal home by the ambulance and saw him later in the evening, when he was still unconscious and worse than when he first saw him. He examined deceased's head and found the frontal bone was split directly up the centre. The fall as described was quite sufficient to account for that injury. From the first, witness had little hope of his recovery. He saw him two or three times a day until he died. He never became conscious. The cause of death was, in his opinion, concussion of the brain.

The learned Coroner briefly summed up, remarking that it appeared to be a pure accident and that no blame attached to any one.

The Jury concurred and immediately returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

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Mr. J. R. Hayles, ex-superintendent of the Newport Ambulance Corps, was in charge of the ambulance which conveyed deceased from the scene of the accident to his lodgings.

### **Isle of Wight County Press – 31 August 1895**

#### **THE RECENT FATALITY AT NEWPORT.**

The funeral of the young man named Walter Pitt, of South-view, Newport, who recently met with a fatal accident whilst engaged on a new building at the bottom of Pyle-street, took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Sunday afternoon last. Deceased was a member of the Wiltshire Volunteers, and about 50 members of the local Volunteers, under Colr.-Sergt. Orman, attended the obsequies as a mark of respect to the memory of a lamented comrade. Fellow-workmen acted as bearers and sent a floral wreath. The deceased was greatly respected by those who were acquainted with him, and his sad death has called forth sincere sympathy for his parents, living in Wiltshire, and for the other members of the bereaved family.

We have received the following letter from the father of the deceased:

Garsdon, near Malmesbury, Wilts, August 29, 1895.

Dear Sir, – My wife and I wish, through you, to thank from the bottom of our hearts the many kind friends at Newport who recently showed their deep sympathy with us over the loss of our dear son, Walter Pitt, who met his death by falling from a ladder in your town. We ask you to publish this that all may know how their Christian sympathy has helped us in our sorrow. – Believe me, dear Sir, your obedient servant and his father.

WILLIAM PITT.

*Transcription by Pamela Cowan for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2025*  
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