

Christome Reese

Isle of Wight County Press 5 June 1880

COWES

A MAN FOUND DROWNED OFF OSBORNE.----An inquest was held at the Castle Inn, East Cowes, on Monday afternoon, before E. F. Blake, Esq., Deputy-Coroner for the Island, on the body of Christome Reese, whose dead body was picked up on Sunday afternoon off the Osborne estate.---William Hallett, a Coastguardsman, stationed at East Cowes, said he was on duty in Osborne Bay on Sunday, and saw a man in a boat about a quarter to 3 o'clock pulling up and down the bay. He saw him until 4 o'clock, when he (witness) left to get his tea, and returned in half-an-hour, when he saw the boat floating without anyone in her. Later on he saw a speck on the water by the aid of his telescope, and pulled to it and found a man floating quite dead, with his legs downwards and his head under water. He put a rope round the body, and pulled it on shore. He then went after the boat in which he had seen the deceased, and found that the oars were in it, together with the deceased's coat, cap, and stick. The water was very calm.---Sarah Reese said the deceased was her husband, and they had been married seven months. He was 43 years of age, and was a licensed hawker. She last saw [him] alive about 12 o'clock on Saturday at her house. He did not get up until 11 o'clock, and would not have any breakfast. He left to order some potatoes of Mr. Ash. The potatoes were brought, but the deceased did not return, and it being unusual for him to stop away, witness got uneasy. Witness had had no quarrel with him all the week. They had a few words previously with regard to his taking part with a woman who broke a window. Witness was with the deceased at Ryde Fair, but did not see him the worse for drink all the week, except on Tuesday, when he went to Portsmouth. His chest was very bad, and that made him low-spirited. He did not suffer from delusion. Deceased was a most affectionate husband.---A written paper was produced, which was found on the body, and when submitted to Mrs. Reese she said she believed it to be the writing of the deceased, but he generally wrote in German. The words on the paper were apparently "My dear,--Please excuse my not writing to you-----" It then broke off abruptly.---The jury, after some deliberation, found that the deceased had committed suicide, but that there was not sufficient evidence to prove his state of mind at the time.

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