

Jessie Gordon Stay

Isle of Wight County Press – 17 February 1923

GUNVILLE LAD'S SAD DEATH.

TETANUS FOLLOWS FOOTBALL INJURY.

Much sympathy has been aroused with Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Stay, of Rambler Cottage, Gunville, in the death of their only son, Gordon Jessie, 17, which took place at the County Hospital, Ryde, on Wednesday, as the result of tetanus, or lockjaw, which arose from a wound sustained by him whilst playing for the Newport Trojans Football Club, at Dodnor, on Saturday week. The deceased was a very popular member of the Newport Trojans A.C., and was employed by Mr. J. H. Linington, ironmonger, of Newport. The sad occurrence emphasises the need for immediate and thorough cleansing and anti-septic treatment of all wounds which have come into contact with the soil.

The inquest was conducted by the Deputy Coroner, F. A. Joyce, Esq., at the County Hospital, Ryde, yesterday (Friday).

– Evidence of identification was given by Louisa May Stay, deceased's mother, who said her son went to play football at Dodnor, Newport, on February 3rd, and was brought home in a cab at 5 o'clock. He told her he had fallen down and cut his knee on a piece of broken glass. The lad remained home for some days under the treatment of Dr. G. Raymond, and when it was found that symptoms of lockjaw were developing, he was removed to the hospital, where he died on Wednesday morning. In reply to the Coroner, Mrs. Stay said she did not know whether any disinfectant was used when the wound was first dressed.

– Kenneth Edward Cousins, 21 Trafalgar-road, Newport, stated that deceased was playing for the Newport Trojans against Newport Invicta. He was coming down the field with the ball, when he slipped and cut his leg open. He was taken to a farmhouse, where hot-water and bandages were obtained and the wound dressed, but no disinfectant was used. The cut was rather deep.

– William Dan Buckler, decorator, of Carisbrooke-road, Newport, deposed that he helped assist deceased to the farmhouse immediately after the accident. Witness, in reply to the Coroner, added that the ground was at one time used as a dump, but there was not much glass about.

- Gwendoline May Rolfe, house surgeon at the hospital, said deceased was admitted on the 11th inst. suffering from a bad wound below the left knee and from tetanus. He was given anti-toxin for the tetanus, and the wound, which was septic, was bandaged. The wound was worse, and the lad passed away early on Wednesday morning.

– The Coroner remarked that lockjaw came from a germ picked up from the soil. The right thing to have done was to have applied a disinfectant immediately after the wound, which would have arrested the action of the germ. He asked the Press to inform the public

that the slightest wound from contact with the soil should be treated with disinfection to prevent tetanus.

- The House Surgeon, in answer to Mr. Joyce, agreed that the germ had developed when deceased was admitted to the hospital, adding that the application of disinfectant would not have prevented tetanus, but would have arrested its progress.

- The Coroner observed that mortality from tetanus was very low, with which the House Surgeon agreed.

- In returning a verdict that the lad died from tetanus, developed from an injury sustained accidentally in playing football, the Coroner said that was one of those unfortunate cases in which no person on the field could be held in the least degree responsible. He sympathised with the deceased's parents, and again emphasised the necessity of treating minor injuries with a disinfectant.

Isle of Wight County Press – 24 February 1923

CARISBROOKE

YOUNG FOOTBALLER'S FUNERAL. - The funeral of Gordon Jesse Stay, of Gunville, whose death from lock-jaw, following an injury sustained whilst playing football for the Newport Trojans A.C., has been previously recorded, took place on Sunday afternoon at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The pathetic nature of the lad's death aroused widespread sympathy, and quite 300 people gathered round the grave, where the service was conducted by the Rev. P. H. Bryant. The coffin was borne to the grave by the following fellow footballers : Messrs. W. D. Buckler, L. Westwood, A. and P. Pointer, C. Cousins, and W. James. Amongst those also attending were numerous other members of the Trojans A.C., representatives of the Newport St. John's, Newport Invicta, B Co. I.W. Rifles, and Albany Rover football teams. Mr. J. H. Linington, deceased's employer, his fellow employees, and the Newport section of the 217th Battery R.F.A. (T.), under B.S.M. Mack and Sergt. Brading, in which deceased was a promising young gunner, Major A. L. N. Jennings (commanding the 217th Battery R.F.A. Territorials), Mr. G. Norman, Mr. A. W. Spanner (representing the Hants and I.W. Football Association), and numerous friends of the family from the Carisbrooke district also followed. There were about 25 beautiful floral tributes. Mr. O. C. Hamilton made the arrangements.

Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,

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