

## **Charles Broderick**

Hampshire Telegraph – Saturday 21 April 1894

### **REMARKABLE SUICIDE AT NEWPORT.**

On Monday Mr. Edward F. Blake held an inquest at the Fountain Inn, Sea-street, Newport, on the body of Charles Broderick, 65, gas-fitter, who was found dead in the River Medina on the previous day.

Deceased had lodged at the house of Frank and Harriett Braker, of 6, Union-street, Newport, for the past two years, but was not in constant employment. His landlady last saw him alive about a quarter to eight the previous Friday morning, when he left without waiting for breakfast, saying he wanted to see about something. He took some bread and butter with him. Deceased had been drinking excessively during the past fortnight, and the landlady wanted him to wait to see her husband, as they wished him to leave their house altogether on account of his intemperate habits. Deceased had not recovered from the effects of the previous night's drinking when he came downstairs on the Friday. He had seemed very strange in manner lately, and continually wished he was dead. He had told her more than once that he should like to be with his wife, who was living with her son and daughter at Reading. The deceased said he was broken-hearted and wished to die. A letter found on deceased and addressed to his "darling daughter," at Reading, ran: "I am dying. Miserable man, all through your mother. I don't blame you, as you have been my only source of comfort. I have been molested and greatly troubled. Good-bye. I have no home. Pray, take my body to the Forest House (Workhouse), and my son, who will take my club money, will pay expenses. I am broken-hearted. Forgive me. It is too bad. I never get my sleep at night, and no peace in the day." His landlady said he was generally talking in that strain lately. - Ernest Read, iron moulder, living at Little London, said that on Sunday morning he met deceased, who looked very strange, on the Quay, walking down by the side of the River Medina. He said "Good morning." About an hour and a quarter later, from information received, witness went down the river to Five Trees, where he saw deceased lying on the bank dead. His hat was hanging upon a bush on the river bank. - Fred Morey, mariner, of Sunnyhill, who went down the river in a boat at 8.45 on the morning in question deposed to seeing the body of deceased in the water about 10 yards from the bank. He pulled it out and found life was extinct. Deceased was lying face downwards in about six inches of water, which had not gone over him, as the back part of his coat was dry. Deceased had apparently walked into the water.

The Jury returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane.