

Emma Calpine

Isle of Wight Times, Thursday January 30, 1908

SAD SUICIDE AT NEWPORT.

On Saturday evening the Deputy Coroner for the Island (Mr. F. A. Joyce) held an inquest at the Newport Council Schools on the body of Emma Calpine, aged 28, wife of Mr. Cecil William Calpine, clerk, of 15, Medina-avenue, Newport, who was found hanging on the previous afternoon.

Deceased's husband who is a clerk at the Royal Brewery, said his wife who was very near her first confinement, had been subject to fits of depression, which had been aggravated by her condition. He left home on Friday morning, when his wife seemed in her usual state.

About 11 o'clock a grocer's lad called with a parcel which deceased took in remarking on the dirty weather. When the husband returned at 1.10 p.m. he found deceased suspended from the stair banister by a rope, and he at once cut her down and tried means of artificial respiration, whilst a neighbour ran for a doctor, but all without avail. He had not thought it necessary to have anyone staying with deceased, though they had company in daily to cheer them up. She had never threatened suicide. He lived on the best of terms with his wife.

Dr. Thompson said that he had often seen deceased with reference to her fits of depression, of which she had complained recently, although she had said she was neve[r] better in bodily health, and when he saw her on the previous Wednesday she said she ought not to feel miserable, as no woman could have a more happy home or a better husband. He did not think it necessary for anyone to stay with deceased and she did not want anyone to stay with her. She said she was not at all dreading her approaching confinement, which would probably have taken place that day (Saturday). It was an extraordinary case of suicide, and he had never known a similar case.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane," and expressed sympathy with the husband.

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