

Frances Hannah Denham

1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census

5 Brook Lynn Cottage, Gunville Lane, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, England

Name	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Mary Denham	Head	Widow	69	-	Newport, IOW
<i>Frances Hannah Denham</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Newport, IOW</i>

Isle of Wight County Press

9 November 1918

CARISBROOKE

Swift Death From Pneumonia.—Overworked Doctors.—On Saturday the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.), held an inquest on the body of Frances Hannah Denham, 44, single, housekeeper for Mr. Henry Reynolds, postman, living at Castle-street, whose death occurred rather unexpectedly on the previous day, after an attack of influenza. Deceased, who had been acting as postwoman in the village and district, was stated by Mr. Reynolds and neighbours to have been unwell since the beginning of the week, but she and they regarded it as only a heavy cold, and deceased did not wish Mr. Reynolds to carry out his suggestion to call in a doctor. The neighbours attended to her, and hot milk and bovril were supplied and thermogene wool was placed on her back and chest by Mrs. Saunders, at deceased's request, as she complained of feeling cold.

On Friday she was much worse, and at 8 a.m. Mr. Reynolds went for the doctor, but owing to other urgent cases Dr. Underhill was unable to attend until the afternoon, when deceased had passed away. In the meantime Nurse Rowe, district nurse, had been called in, and, arriving at about 11 o'clock on Friday morning, she recognized that deceased was very seriously ill from pneumonia. She did all she could for the patient, and remained with her until she died. Dr. Underhill said from the evidence he should say that death was probably due to pneumonia, following on so-called influenza. The message he received in the morning was would he call and see Miss Denham as soon as possible. The reason he did not do so before was that he was quite unable to, and if he had been asked urgently to go and see deceased in the morning he should have had to refuse owing to the great pressure of urgent work at the Union infirmary and in private practice.

The Coroner said they realised that it was a physical impossibility in the existing exceptional circumstances for doctors to attend all cases of illness when they were called. It would be a good thing if, during an epidemic, all public health authorities would issue instructions as to general treatment of patients until a doctor could attend. Nurse Rowe said notices had been posted in the parish, but leaflets had not been distributed from house to house as in other districts. The Coroner said he took it that patients should be kept warm and in bed, and that they should be given warm bovril and milk so as to maintain their strength Dr. Underhill agreed. Nurse Rowe said that there had been a good many cases of illness to deal with recently, whole families having been down. Deceased was running about on the previous Saturday to fetch comforts for a man who was dying in that house, and she volunteered to sit up with him. The Coroner said pneumonia sometimes developed very rapidly, and though it was regrettable that the urgency of the case was not recognized before, that criticism must not be taken as severe, as it was difficult to recognize when it did develop. He recorded a verdict that death was due to pneumonia following influenza.