

**Margaret Dunn**

**Isle of Wight Observer, Saturday, April 12, 1890**

**SUDDEN DEATH**

**A PAINFUL SCENE**

The Coroner for the Isle of Wight (Mr. E. F. Blake) held an inquest at the Sir John Barleycorn, Trafalgar Road, Newport, on Wednesday, on the body of Margaret Dunn, a widow, aged 60, of 2, South View, who died suddenly on Monday last. -Mr. J. W. Wooldridge was chosen foreman of the jury.

Mary Ann Saunders, wife of Alfred Saunders, a pipe maker, said deceased, her mother had lived with her for two years, and generally had delicate health, but she had not been medically attended. She was taken ill last Monday, complaining of pains in her chest and side. She continued ill, but nothing was done for her except to give her nourishment. She would not have a doctor because she said she could not afford it. On Monday deceased got up about 12 o'clock, saying she was better. At 6 o'clock witness's husband came home very drunk and quarrelsome, and struck her in the face.

The Coroner: What happened then? -Witness said her mother took the baby to go to the window to call someone, when she fell from weakness. No one knocked her down. She fell between the table and the fender. Witness picked her up. She had a spot of blood on her nose. Witness thought she had fainted. Her husband was standing in the room all the time, and a next door neighbour came in and was trying to quiet him. Witness bathed deceased's head with water, and sent for Dr. Castle, who came about half an hour after and pronounced her dead. She was then in a chair, and she never spoke after being lifted from the floor. Was sure her husband never touched deceased or threatened her.

The Coroner: How many times did he strike you? - Witness: Three times.

A Juryman: When you picked up your mother, did you not say to your husband, "You have killed my mother."?

Witness replied that she said that meaning that his language would kill her. She had been married ten years.

Elizabeth House, wife of George House, who lives next door to the last witness, said on Monday evening Mrs. Saunders and her husband had been fighting for half an hour, when she was sent for, but did not go in. She was sent for again shortly afterwards, and when she went in she saw Mrs. Dunn on the floor. Saunders became quiet, and when witness looked at deceased on the floor she told him the old lady was dead. Witness raised her with the assistance of last witness. Saunders had been very kind to the deceased.

Alfred Saunders was called and said deceased was his mother-in-law. When he came in about seven o'clock, his wife and he had an "argument," which resulted in him striking her. Deceased got up, as he thought, to go into the next house. He heard a noise, and on looking round saw deceased on the floor. When she was raised there was a bruise on his forehead, caused, he thought, by her falling against the table. - In reply to the jury, witness said the words arose with his wife because he was "tight." He had been out all day, and meeting some friends got intoxicated.

Dr Hutton Castle said when he arrived deceased was dead. In the bridge of her nose was a recent abrasion and a recent bruise over the left eye brow, and an abrasion on the left cheek. In all probability, the deceased being in a weak state, the fright and the fall together caused such a shock as to result in syncope. The injuries might have been caused by falling against something.

The Coroner then summed up the evidence, saying the case was an important one, because if the man had not come home in the state he did, this poor woman's life might have been saved for a time longer.

The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony, and did not attribute any blame to the man Saunders.

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