

Ann Dyer

1861 England, Wales & Scotland Census
Union Street, Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Hampshire

Name	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Benjamin Dyer	Head	Married	63	Blacksmith	Brixton, Isle of Wight
Mary Dyer	Wife	Married	67	-	Brixton, Isle of Wight
Cornelius Dyer	Son	Married	34	Journeyman baker	Brixton, Isle of Wight
Ann Dyer	Son's wife	Married	37	-	Newport, Isle of Wight
Elizabeth Newell	Lodger	Widow	65	Proprietor of houses	Freshwater, Isle of Wight

[note: 'enceinte' another word for 'pregnant']

Hampshire Advertiser

18 March 1865
Newport

An Extraordinary Case Before The Coroner. —Mr. F. Blake, coroner, held an inquest on Wednesday, at the Grapes Inn, Upper St. James's-street, on view of the body of Ann Dyer, aged 41, a married woman living with her husband, Cornelius Dyer, a journeyman baker, in Union-street. It appeared that the deceased, who was of very penurious habits, though in affluent circumstances for her station in life, persisted in denying that she was *enceinte*, up to the time of giving birth to a fine child; also immediately after the birth she expressed a doubt as to that fact. No preparation had been made for the event; she was alone when the child was born, and shortly afterwards the child was found dead on the floor. The mother sank rapidly, and was a corpse within the space of about three hours after the birth.—Charlotte Mills, a widow living in South-street, who attends women in their confinement, said deceased had been married about five years, and had never given birth to a child, but she had a miscarriage about three years ago. I was not aware that she had been *enciente* lately. Her husband came to me about 7 o'clock on Sunday morning, saying she was very ill, and had had a baby, which was dead. He asked me to come and attend her, and I did so. He told me deceased did not think she was going to have a child, but she thought she was going to have the dropsy. When I entered the room and saw deceased she was in bed. I saw the dead child on the floor, and on taking it up I found it was not yet cold. I expressed surprise that I was not sent for sooner, and deceased said, "I went to see you, and was going to tell you about it, but you were not at home." I sent deceased's husband for Miss Dennis, a midwife. She came, and after attending to deceased, giving her a small quantity of tea and spirits, she left for an hour, saying that she thought there was no need of calling a doctor. About half an hour after Dennis left I observed that the deceased became very pale. I then thought that she had dropped asleep, and I went downstairs for some gruel, and sent her husband up to her. I followed quickly after him, and he touched deceased's cheek and said she was gone. I saw that she was dead, and sent for Miss Dennis, who then sent for Dr. Tuttiett. Deceased said she was passing from her bed to a stool, and had nearly reached the stool when the birth took place.—Benjamin Dyer, deceased's father-in-law, who had lodged in the house with them about twelve months, said: I had no idea that deceased was *enceinte*. Her father, Richard Shepard, of Bursledon, Hants, was on a visit here last week, and expressed to her his belief that she was in a family way, and she denied it, saying it was very unlikely. Last Saturday she complained of spasms.—Elizabeth Dennis, midwife, said: When I went to attend deceased last Sunday morning I asked her if she knew what was the matter with her before the child was born. She said, "No." I told her I did not believe it, and she again denied it. When I left her for an hour I did not think she was so very ill as to require a doctor.—Cornelius Dyer said: I have been married to deceased four years. She had a miscarriage about three years

ago, and then I did not know of her condition till this happened. I was not aware of her being in the family way lately. She always denied it to me, and said her extraordinary appearance was caused by dropsy, and she had always refused to have a doctor. She said it was unlikely that she should have a child at her age (41). She did not complain to me of spasms last Saturday, but complained of bilious, and I gave her some gin. Shortly after 8 o'clock that night she told me to let her alone and let her have a nap, and she should be all right in the morning. On Sunday morning, soon after daybreak, I, at her request, went downstairs, lit the fire, and made her some tea. She drank a cup, and I went downstairs with the empty cup, and in a few minutes I thought I heard a knock. I called to her about the knock, and she said "I have not knocked, but make haste up with a light." I found her in a stooping position by the stool. She looked round, and said "Is it a child?" I said, "I think it is." She said "Can I touch it?" She touched it, and said "The child is dead." I helped her into bed, and ran away for Mrs. Mills. The child being dead I did not pick it up. We never had any angry words since our marriage. Deceased was always very saving, and sometimes would not allow herself the money to get half a pint of beer, and I have sometimes got it for her against her will. She used to say that her reason for not getting married sooner was that she did not wish to have children.—Mr. F. B. Tuttiett, surgeon, said I was called to the house on Sunday morning about quarter past 10 o'clock, and found the dead body of the deceased in bed. The death of the child was doubtless caused by falling on the floor. He was of opinion that the mother's death was caused by the hemorrhage which was produced by the violence which, under the unfavourable circumstances, would be likely to take place. I have heard of some cases where persons have come to their confinement without knowing their condition; possibly such cases may occur, but they are not probable.—The Coroner, in summing up, said the evidence went to show that no blame could be attached to persons about the deceased. The husband did not appear to be one of the brightest, otherwise he might have been, perhaps, blamed for not calling in a doctor when he suspected that she was *enceinte*. There were some grounds for supposing that deceased could hardly be ignorant of her condition at some time previous to the birth, but perhaps it would be well to take the more charitable view, as she was beyond the reach of blame.—Verdict, "Died from excessive hemorrhage during child-birth."

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