

## Allen Etheredge

Isle of Wight County Press – 12 September 1936

### NEWPORT MAN'S FATAL FALL FROM HAY CART,

The Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce), Esq.) on Tuesday sat with a jury to inquire into the circumstances leading to the death at the Count Hospital of Allen Etheredge, 66, a Southern Railway pensioner, of Petticoat-lane, Newport. The inquest was held at the High-street Methodist School, Ryde. Deceased passed away on Friday week, following a fall from a cart at Newport on the previous Tuesday. Inspector H. Rogers represented the police and Mr. H. G. Jolliffe was elected foreman of the jury. Mr. H. R. Palmer appeared for the widow and Mr. G. S. Green for Mr. W. J. Stickland, the employer of the unfortunate man.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mary Etheredge, the widow, said her husband was employed by the Southern Railway until he reached the age of 65, when he retired on pension. Since then he had been employed in casual work. He commenced working for Mr. Stickland on September 1<sup>st</sup>. He told her he was cutting grass from the ditches and haymaking. That evening a man came and told her that her husband had fallen on the road. She went to the hayfield, about 300 yards away. Her husband, who was lying by the side of the road, said his head and shoulder hurt him. He was taken home and put to bed. Dr. Heathcote attended him and arranged with the ambulance to take him to the County Hospital. – By Mr. Green: Her husband never suffered from giddiness.

William John Stickland, farmer, of Priory Farm, Carisbrooke, deposed that at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday week he was working with a horse and cart in Petticoat-lane. Witness was engaged in picking up the hand trimmings and deceased said he would get up in the cart and tread them down, which he did. They finished, and witness went to put the rake by the horse and looked round just in time to see deceased fall backwards over the wheel. Neither the horse nor the cart moved. He should say deceased fell about 2 ½ yards. Deceased, to his knowledge, had no previous experience of trimming; it was his first job in his employ. Deceased was lying in the road for about three minutes and when he regained consciousness said "You can go on, I shall be all right." He got up and walked half way home himself. Witness did not think he was hurt a lot; he saw he had a little cut on his head. – Mr. Palmer: He arranged for deceased to come into his employ on the same day. – By a jurymen: The trimmings were 2ft. or 3ft. deep in the cart.

Dr. Eustace F. Stead, of Totland, stated that he saw the deceased at the County Hospital. He had an abrasion on the left side at the front of the head and was unconscious. There was no other external wound. It appeared to be a severe wound and was consistent with the accident. He formed the opinion that deceased was suffering from severe haemorrhage inside the skull, probably from the rupture of an artery over the brain.

The Coroner said that since deceased's death Dr. J. McElroy (the hospital house surgeon) had terminated his appointment, and he (the Coroner) had released him from appearing that day. There was, however, a deposition by him, stating that death was due to cerebral compression, following the rupture of the middle meningeal artery. Dr. Stead said he agreed with that opinion.

George Samuel Lower, farmer, of Kitbridge Farm, Newport, said that on the evening of the accident he was engaged in hedge trimming in his own field adjoining Petticoat-lane. Deceased was working about 25 yards from him. After Mr. Stickland's arrival deceased got into the cart and trod down the trimmings as they were put up. Witness took no notice until he heard a shout from Mr. Stickland that deceased had fallen from the cart, and then he went into the lane, where he saw deceased with his head injured and a pool of blood near him. After deceased had sat up for a little while he said "You can go on with your work, I have had worse things than this." Witness helped carry him home after he had gone along the lane. Deceased fell on to the gravel road. There were side boards to the cart, but no tail board.

The Coroner said he thought this was purely an accident and no adverse comment need be made. He did not for one moment think the widow suggested that any blame was attached to the employer.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the evidence. They expressed their sympathy with the widow as also did Mr. Green on behalf of Mr. Stickland. – The witnesses and jurymen handed their fees to her.

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The funeral took place on Tuesday, the service being held in St. John's Church, Newport, the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Mackinnon) officiating. The coffin was borne by the following employees of the Southern Railway: Messrs. F. Morgan, R. Windam, B. Linington, P. Rolf, G. Prince, and A. Cooke. The family mourners were Mrs. Etheredge (widow), Mr. and Mrs. W. G., Mr. and Mrs. B. V., and Mr. R. K. Etheredge (sons and daughters-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Charlesworth, and Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Cole (sons-in-law and daughters), Masters A. and B. Knight (grandsons), Mrs. S. Pearce and Mrs. V. Ayles (sisters), Mrs. Hazelwood (cousin), and Miss V. Barton. Others present were Mr. E. W. Landon, J.P. (secretary of the branch of N.U.R.) and Mr. H. Ledger (permanent way department). The interment followed at Carisbrooke Cemetery. The late Mr. Etheredge was a native of Suffolk, and came to reside at Wellow when 11 years of age. Mr. H. W. Parnell, of Newport, carried out the arrangements.

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