

Arthur Augustus Garnham

The Isle of Wight Observer – Saturday 23 August 1890

NEWPORT

A LAD DROWNED IN THE RIVER. - On Tuesday morning the Coroner (Mr. F. Blake) held an inquest at the Fountain Inn, Sea-street, touching the death of Arthur Augustus Garnham, aged 15 years, son of Mr. J. G. Garnham, agent to the London and South-Western Railway Company, who was drowned while bathing in the river Medina the previous day. The father stated that the deceased came home between 1 and 2 o'clock. He did not stay to have any dinner, but had a sandwich cut, saying he was going to bathe. He believed his son, who was in the habit of going to the river, could swim. - Samuel White, 14, living at Hunnyhill, said he saw the deceased go into the water near the boathouse. After about ten minutes witness thought he was floating on his back, but a minute or two later he heard him gurgle. He took off some of his clothes, and was just gone into the water when deceased sank. It was nearly high tide. - Percy C. V. Pinhorn, deposed to hearing the deceased make a noise, and then he immediately disappeared. He told the last witness to make haste, as he might save him, but when he found he was too late witness rushed off to the boathouse for assistance. - The foreman (Mr. Switzer): You made no effort to save him? Witness: It was too late then. I rushed off to the boathouse knowing there were some watermen there, and I thought they could do better than I. - By a juror: I cannot swim. I should think the deceased was twenty yards from the shore. - Thomas Dyer, labourer, employed at the Cement Mills, stated that he dived for the deceased, but was not successful, as the water was very thick. The depth of water where the lad went down was between seven and eight feet. The body was recovered after about 15 to 20 minutes by means of a net. An effort was made to restore animation at once. - Dr. Allen Waterworth was sent for, and on arriving found that the deceased was dead. He thought the lad must have fainted, as he appeared to have gone down without a struggle. It was not a fact, the doctor stated, that every person drowning came to the surface three times. -The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned," and commended the witnesses White and Dyer for their efforts to rescue the lad.

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