

Ernest Odell

Isle of Wight County Press - 15 August 1885

NEWPORT.

A NEWPORT BOY DROWNED AT SOUTHAMPTON. - On Saturday last the Southampton coroner (Mr. W. Coxwell) held an inquest on the body of Ernest Odell, seven years old, living at 14, Union St., Newport, who was drowned at Southampton the previous evening. Hamlet Odell, the father of deceased, and captain of the ketch Carry, a Newport vessel, said he last saw deceased alive on Friday evening, about seven o'clock, sitting on a post under Mr. Westlake's quay, at Chapel, the vessel being alongside. Witness told him to get down, or he might fall into the water, and the deceased replied, "All right." About a quarter to eight they were on the point of starting, when witness noticed deceased's hat in the water, and jumping into a little boat took a hook and grappled for deceased, whose body he found about four yards from the quay. He thought deceased must have been playing with the little boat and fell overboard. There were three men on board, but none of them heard a sound of deceased going. William Warren, a labourer, stated he was working at the Corporation yard on Friday evening, and saw deceased on a little boat attached to the vessel. He had an oar in his hand playing with. He had previously, between four and five, seen the father take the boy out of the boat. James Guy, mate of the Carry, stated that he saw deceased about seven o'clock on the side of the deck. He got on the post of the quay and then back again to the ship, and he heard the father tell him to get off the post, when he replied, "All right." He saw deceased's hat in the water between the quay and the vessel, but could not say how deceased got in the water.—The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned."

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