

Charles Edward Rackett

1901 census, Thorness Cottage, Northwood

Edward A. Kemp	Head	30	Game Keeper	Isle of Wight, Carisbrooke
Mary J. Kemp	Wife	28		Isle of Wight, Newport
<i>Charles E. Rackett</i>	<i>Brother-in-law</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>Game Keeper's Assistant</i>	<i>Isle of Wight, Whippingham</i>

Isle of Wight County Press – 30 July 1904

DEATHS.

RACKETT. – July 24th, Charles Rackett, of Merton-terrace, Hunnyhill, Newport, aged 20 years. – Mr. and Mrs. Rackett and family wish to thank all who rendered assistance in any way in connection with the sad bathing fatality at Porchfield on Sunday last, and also for the kind expressions of sympathy and flowers sent.

Isle of Wight County Press – 30 July 1904

DISTRESSING BATHING FATALITY NEAR PORCHFIELD.

Another distressing drowning accident was the subject of a Coroner's inquiry at Porchfield on Monday, the deceased being Charles Rackett, aged 20, whose parents live at Worsley-road, Hunnyhill, Newport. Deceased was staying for a short time with his brother-in-law, Mr. Edward Kemp, keeper, of Thorness, and on Sunday morning he went for a bathe at Lock's Hard, near Lambsleaze Farm. He got out of his depth and, being unable to swim, was drowned, in spite of a plucky effort on the part of a sailor named William Pragnell to rescue him. At the inquest held by the Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) at the Sportsman's Rest, Porchfield, on Monday evening. Mr. Hawkins (Lambsleaze Farm), was chosen foreman of the jury, and Supt. Ayres, with P.C. Walker, was present on behalf of the police. The deceased brother-in-law, Mr. Kemp, gave formal evidence of identification, and the next witness called was William Pragnell, a seaman from the Royal Naval Barracks at Portsmouth, at present staying at Porchfield. He said that on Sunday morning, between 10 and 11, he was bathing with the deceased and several others at Lock's Hard, Porchfield, near Lambsleaze Farm. Deceased got out of his depth. Witness saw him rise and immediately went to his assistance, but the deceased clutched his neck and dragged him under. Witness was obliged to let him go. Deceased came up a second time, and witness tried to get hold of him again, but could not do so. Deceased did not come to the surface again. Deceased could not swim. They got a boat and dragged over the spot with chains. Deceased disappeared about 10 or 15 yards from the bank, where there is a deep hole; from 4 ft. of water the bather would plunge into 10 ft. – Harry Osborne said that with Mr. Hawkins, tenant of Lambsleaze Farm, he searched for the body. Whilst rowing about over the spot they fancied they touched deceased with an oar. They secured the body, which was brought to the surface, after it had been in the water three-quarters of an hour or so. – The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned."

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