

**un-named child Renton**

**Hampshire Telegraph - 22 November 1862**

**NEWPORT**

**A CORONER' INQUEST** was held before Mr. F. Blake at the Castle Inn, Carisbrooke, on Monday evening, on the body of a newly-born female infant, which had been discovered by Dr. Wilkins, concealed under the roof of a house in that village, occupied by the Rev. Mr. Bull, the curate of Carisbrooke Church. It appeared that by the evidence of Mrs. Bull that she had engaged a servant girl from Ryde, named Renton, about a month since as cook and general servant, but had not noticed anything very suspicious in her appearance, until the morning of Saturday last, when having been unwell during the night, and complaining of a cold in the back, she was induced to examine her bedroom, and from some strange appearances she sent for Dr. Wilkins, who taxed the girl with having been confined, she hesitated at first, but at last stated that she had miscarried, and pointed to a small door under the roof, as the place where the child was deposited, and from whence she afterwards brought out a full-grown infant, which was dead and cold. The evidence of the Doctor went to prove that the child had breathed, but that it came to his death from suffocation. The jury took a lenient view of the case, and found a verdict that the child had been "Accidentally suffocated." The offender, when sufficiently recovered, will be taken before the county magistrates, and no doubt committed for trial for concealing the birth.

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**Hampshire Advertiser – 13 December 1862**

**HANTS WINTER ASSIZE.**

**CONCEALMENT OF BIRTH.**

Ann Elizabeth Renton, aged 19, was indicted for unlawfully concealing the birth of her female child on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Beetham prosecuted, and Mr. Russell defended the prisoner, who it appeared was a servant in the Rev. Mr. Bull, curate of Carisbrooke. She was taken ill, and at her mistress's recommendation she went to bed. She complained of pain in her back. Next morning a surgeon, Mr. Wilkins, was sent for, who said to her that he suspected she had been confined. She admitted the fact, and told him where the child was placed. It was placed in a cupboard under the roof of the house, and prisoner got it out for him.

Mr. Russell elicited the fact that prisoner slept alone. The jury, before convicting her, must be satisfied that she intended to conceal from everyone the birth of her child. She told the surgeon at once she had been confined, and the place she had put it. She never tried to conceal the child. She intended to communicate it to a fellow servant. – The jury acquitted her.