

The Robinson family

John Joseph Robinson

Isle of Wight County Press, Saturday 10 February 1906

SINGULAR DEATH AT NEWPORT

Last (Friday) night the Deputy Coroner for the Island (F. A. Joyce, Esq.), held an inquest at the National-schools, Newport, on the body of a respected townsman, Mr. John Joseph Robinson, aged 49, of Westminster-terrace, Drill-hall-road, Newport, who died on the previous day through having accidentally swallowed, some six weeks ago, a false tooth with a plate during a fit of coughing when in bed. Deceased had resided in Newport for some 12 years, having been a wine merchant's manager, first to Messrs. Gale, and subsequently to Mr. B. Vibert, J.P. Mr. Robinson was a much esteemed member of St. Thomas's Men's Bible Class, and his untimely death is deplored by a large circle of friends, whose deep sympathy will be with the bereaved widow and family and other relatives in their sorrow.

Mr. N. H. T. Mursell was chosen foreman of the jury at the inquest.

Stanley John Robinson, chemist's assistant, son of deceased, said that just after 1 a.m. on the 21st December last deceased was seized with a fit of coughing, and as a result swallowed the false tooth and plate which were in his mouth. Under the advice of Dr. Underhill he went to the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital the same day, and Dr. Johnston endeavoured to ascertain the whereabouts of the tooth, which appeared to be in deceased's chest, by the use of the X rays. The doctor said his father had an enlarged heart and liver. Dr. Johnston wanted to pass some tubes down his father's throat, but deceased preferred to return home and think it over first. He went back to the Hospital next day, and the probings were put down deceased's throat without removing the obstacle. Deceased remained at the Hospital for 12 days, during which time he (deceased) said he was dressed for an operation, but was pronounced unfit to undergo it. Deceased worried about his work and left the Hospital at his own risk, and feeling better returned to business. Dr. Underhill advised him to return to the Hospital, but deceased said he could not afford to be away from work. Deceased, who suffered a great deal, was taken worse on Tuesday last and had to leave his work. On Wednesday, after a consultation, Dr. Underhill and Dr. Turner (Ryde) advised him to go to London for an operation if his condition allowed it, and if not to go to the Infirmary, and deceased was quite agreeable. On Wednesday night deceased was taken much worse and had to be fed with a tube, and he gradually sank and died.

By a Juror: Deceased was really unfit to go to work at the beginning of the week. His employer asked him if he had been medically advised to go to work, and he replied that he had not been advised not to.

Dr. Underhill said he was rather surprised deceased should have returned from the Hospital as he did, as the efforts to remove the plate had been unsuccessful, and it could not be located by the X rays. Deceased several times came to him in January, but they were still unable to locate the plate, which it was believed had passed into the stomach, as deceased complained of pain in the abdomen. Witness advised deceased to return to the Hospital but he said his business would not allow him to keep going away. Deceased did not complain of pain and was able to swallow food. Deceased was so bad on

Tuesday morning that witness had a consultation with Dr. Turner. Deceased had to be fed with a tube, but that exhausted him. When he was called to deceased's house the next morning he found him practically moribund, and he died soon afterwards.

By the Coroner: At the time of consultation with Dr. Turner deceased's wife was told that if he got well enough it would be the best thing to send him to London for an operation, which Dr. Turner was of opinion was one of the most severe that could be performed.

Dr. Underhill then gave details of the post-mortem. He found the false tooth and plate about 5in. down the gullet. It had ulcerated through into the wind-pipe and made a hole big enough to admit one's thumb. The clutch of the plate was embedded in the wall of the gullet. The wind-pipe was full of matter. He was of opinion that death was due to septic poisoning.

By the Coroner: If an operation had been performed he considered it would have been almost impossible for it to have proved successful.

The Coroner said that cleared up the point as to whether an operation could have been performed.

Dr. T. Smith, from the County Hospital, said it would have been a most serious operation, and could only have been performed on a young and most healthy person, and even then the mortality was tremendous. So far as he could read, he should say perhaps one person in a thousand might have a chance of recovering from such an operation.

The Coroner said it appeared there was very grave risk to run by an operation, and under the circumstances he did not think any blame whatever could be attached to any medical man for not choosing to take upon himself the very grave responsibility of such an operation.

A verdict of "Septic poisoning caused by swallowing a false tooth and plate" was then returned, and the Foreman expressed the Jury's sincere sympathy with the bereaved widow and family.

The funeral of deceased will take place to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon. The first portion of the service will be at the Newport Parish-church, at 3 o'clock, and the interment at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Mrs Sarah K. Robinson

(other records show Mrs. S. Robinson, the daughter being Miss Sarah Keene Robinson)

Isle of Wight Times, Thursday 22 February 1906

NEWPORT

Octogenarian's Pathetic Death.

The death took place under pathetic circumstances of Friday night of Mrs Sarah K. Robinson, of Newport, mother of the late Mr John J. Robinson, who died a week previous from the effects of swallowing a false tooth with plate/ The deceased lady, who was 80 years of age, caught a chill at the grave of her son, and this, coupled with the shock occasioned by his sad death, is believed to have accounted for her death.

Miss S Robinson

Isle of Wight County Press, Saturday 31 March 1906

NEWPORT

SUCCESSION OF DEATHS. – The death occurred this week, at Drill-hall-road, after a long illness, of Miss Robinson, sister of the late Mr. J.J. Robinson, who, it will be remembered, died in February. This makes three deaths in the same house within seven weeks, the late Mr. Robinson's mother having died shortly after his demise. Much sympathy is felt with Mrs. J.J. Robinson in her threefold bereavement.

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