

Thomas Austin Squire

Portsmouth Evening News - 20 August 1902

SUICIDE AT NEWPORT.

On Monday night the Deputy Coroner for the Isle of Wight, Mr. Francis A. Joyce, held an inquest at the "Falcon" Inn, Newport, on the body of Thomas Austin Squire, aged 56, a painter, of Melbourne-street, New Village, who committed suicide on the Saturday night under melancholy circumstances.

The evidence of deceased's grown-up son and daughter was to the effect that during the last eleven weeks deceased had been at the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary at Ryde, where he had undergone two operations for rupture. On the previous Friday morning his wife received a post card from the Infirmary authorities stating that deceased would be discharged and that she could fetch him. When the wife went down at one o'clock deceased had left the Infirmary, and could not be found until evening, when he was discovered sitting in one of the shelters in Ryde Esplanade gardens. He asked his wife and children what they had come for, and when told they wanted to take him home, deceased said he wished to remain where he was till all the people had gone and then go somewhere, but he eventually went home and seemed much better. When at the Infirmary he said he was craving for home, and it was stated that once or twice he seemed depressed and somewhat strange, but never threatened to commit suicide. Deceased seemed much better at home, though he told his son he did not think he should be right again. About nine o'clock on Saturday night deceased was found to have gone out, and could not be traced, but on going into the field behind their garden the son and daughter found deceased with his head and shoulders in a tank of water. Life was extinct. There was a superficial wound (evidently caused by a blood-stained pocket-knife, found in deceased's pocket) across his throat, and a punctured wound 1¾in. deep on the right side of the throat. - Dr. Hoban said the wounds were not sufficient to account for death, which he attributed to drowning. - The Jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane," and expressed sympathy with the bereaved family.

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