

Patrick Stephens

1881 census, Exbury Road^[see note], Carisbrooke

Patrick Stevens Head Widower 88 Pensioner 97 Regt Dublin, Ireland

Isle of Wight Observer – 24 December 1881

Newport.

An inquest was held yesterday (Tuesday) at the Britannia Arms, before Mr. Blake, coroner, touching the death of Patrick Stephens, an old pensioner, who was found lying dead in his house in Tinpit-lane^[see note] on the morning of Monday. The jury having viewed the body, Mr. Robert Page was elected foreman. The following evidence was afterwards taken. Mary Hickey, daughter of the deceased, said that her father had been a widower and a pensioner, and lived alone. His pension was 1s per day. He was 85 years of age. As he was of an odd temperament, she had not been on particular good terms with him. - Robert Mathews, carpenter, Hunnyhill had been intimately acquainted with the deceased. The deceased was addicted to drinking, and had been in a feeble state of health for some time past. He saw him on Sunday morning, and made him some tea, when he noticed how feeble the old man had become. Saw him again in the evening when he appeared to be rather better. - Walter Downer said he had known the deceased twenty years. Yesterday morning as he was going to Kitbridge Farm he saw a neighbour endeavouring to enter the house. He was attracted to the house as both doors were fastened. Upon his looking in at the bedroom window he found the deceased lying on his back. Dr Charles Matthias Mellor said that he had previously attended the deceased for a wound on the head caused by a fall when in a state of intoxication. He went on Monday to the house and found him lying upon the floor on his back. His head was near the wall, and the deceased was quite dead, and had been so for, perhaps, three hours, judging from the rigidity of the limbs and other symptoms. He noticed some blood on the wall near the spot where his head was lying. He examined the head and found a wound at the back, which had probably been produced by the deceased falling from his bed. The skull was not fractured, neither did he observe any other indications of violence. The immediate cause of death would be concussion of the brain, the result of a fall. The witness added that the nervous system of the deceased was exhausted by the too frequent use of stimulants, and also from the fact of his not taking sufficient food. But for these drawbacks he might have rallied. - A verdict was at once returned strictly in accordance with the doctor's testimony.

Note: 'Tinpit Lane' is the old name for Worsley Road, Newport. 'Exbury Road' hasn't been identified, but from the other properties on the census return appears to refer to the western part of Worsley Road.

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