

Alfred James Urry

The Evening News – 22 August 1933

CHARGE OF MANSLAUGHTER AT NEWPORT

DEPUTY CORONER ADJOURNS THE INQUEST

Accused Not Present

DOCTOR DESCRIBES DEAD MAN'S INJURIES

The Island Deputy Coroner (Mr. F. A. Joyce) sitting with a jury at Newport to-day, opened the inquest into the death of Alfred James Urry (48), a sawyer, of Clifford Street, Newport, who died in the early hours of Saturday morning following an alleged brawl in the Mall, Newport, on Friday night.

Robert Anthony Clay, the Newport labourer, who was charged with manslaughter before the Borough Magistrates on the previous day, was not present in court, but was represented by Mr. P. W. Harman, of Ryde.

Before the proceedings commenced Inspector Randall informed the Coroner that a man was in custody and had been brought before the Magistrates on a charge of the manslaughter of Alfred James Urry.

The Coroner said that having regard to the intervention of the police, his course was clearly defined, namely, to take evidence sufficient to enable him to issue a certificate for burial. He had considered it essential that a post mortem should be made and he had given instructions to Dr. Raymond on behalf of the police, and suggested, through the medium of the police, that the man charged should be given the opportunity to have a medical representative on his behalf if need be. He understood that the man was not able to choose a medical man, but Dr. Stratton had been associated with Dr. Raymond in the post mortem so that a perfectly impartial examination should be made.

The Coroner added that he did not intend at this stage to admit any controversial evidence on the part of the medical witnesses.

Turning to Mr. Harman, the Coroner said "I understand the opportunity has been given to you client to be present."

"Yes, but he elects not to attend," Mr. Harman replied.

Widow's Evidence

The widow, Mrs. Charlotte Jane Urry, who was deeply affected, gave evidence of identification, stated that her husband was a sawyer employed by Messrs. Saunders Roe, of East Cowes. Her husband, she said, left home on Friday night at about 7 o'clock and at 11.30 he was brought home injured and unconscious. As he failed to recover consciousness she sent for Dr. Raymond, but her husband died shortly after.

Dr. J. Raymond, of Newport, stated that at 4 o'clock on the morning of August 19 he was summoned to 33, Clifford Street, Newport, where he saw a man who had been dead apparently for about half an hour.

Urry's Injuries

On the same day, in association with Dr. Stratton, he carried out a post-mortem. He found that on the front of the right arm, between the shoulder and the elbow there were about 11 small bruises and a small abrasion on the arm, a graze on the left shoulder and back of the left hip, and a bruise below the left elbow. There was also dried blood on the nostrils and mouth. A considerable amount of clotted blood was found in the membranes and the brain.

There were signs of bruising on the brain.

Cause of death

The cause of death was pressure on the brain due to haemorrhage, the result of a fracture of the base of the skull.

Dr. Stratton gave formal evidence, stating that he accepted Dr. Raymond's account of the post mortem as correct.

The Coroner then announced that he would adjourn the inquest *sine die*, and as he considered it undesirable to bind over the jury for a considerable time he would discharge them.

The inquest was accordingly adjourned, the jury giving their fees to the widow.

Isle of Wight County Press – 2 December 1933

NEWPORT MANSLAUGHTER CASE.

FATAL SEQUEL TO FRIENDS' QUARREL.

PRISONER SENTENCED AT HANTS ASSIZES.

The calendar of prisoners for trial at the Hampshire Assizes which opened before Mr. Justice du Pareq at the Castle, Winchester, on Friday in last week contained one case only from the Island, which was heard on Tuesday. In this case *Robert Anthony Clay*, 34, labourer, of Newport, pleaded not guilty when charged with the manslaughter of Alfred James Urry at Newport on August 19th.

[proceedings not transcribed]

Prisoner was found guilty and Insp. H. Randall stated that he was a native of Belfast. He served in the Royal Irish Rifles and was discharged with a good character, and later served with another regiment. He married a Newport woman in 1922, but in 1923 his wife obtained a separation order. The parties subsequently lived together again for a time, but the

separation order was subsequently restored. The trouble was drink, and defendant was of a quarrelsome disposition.

His Lordship, taking into consideration the fact that prisoner had been in prison for 13 weeks, passed sentence of 12 calendar months' imprisonment with hard labour.

Transcription by Bob Jacobs for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries. ©2020
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>