

William Viney

Portsmouth Evening News - 13 March 1908

ISLE OF WIGHT.

WAGGONER'S SAD DEATH.

ISLAND FATAL ACCIDENT.

On Thursday evening an inquest was held by the Deputy Coroner for the Island (Mr. F. A. Joyce) on the body of William Viney, carter, of Ramsdown Farm, Chillerton, near Newport, who was killed on Tuesday afternoon in a waggon accident, when returning from Newport.

Frank Draper, carter's mate, who was with the deceased at the time of the accident, said that after taking up a load of oil-cake in their four-horse waggon they had dinner at a public-house, having two pints of beer. Before leaving Newport deceased had another pint of beer and witness had half a pint. The accident happened as they were going up Gatcombe Mill Shute. Witness did not know how it happened. Deceased was driving, and the first he knew of anything being wrong was when he saw deceased under the waggon wheels. Deceased was lying face downwards, and both wheels passed over him. Witness stopped the horses and went to the assistance of deceased, who never spoke. The horses were behaving all right, but one of the horses had been troublesome previously. Deceased apparently fell when close into the bank. Witness admitted that the waggon had previously been into the bank more than once on the way. He thought deceased was capable of driving. Deceased had been into one other public-house, but he had not fallen down previously on the journey. The most drink deceased had was four pints.

Charles Oscar Sprake, of Chale, who was driving behind at the time of the accident, said he saw the waggon stopped and one of the horses jumping about, and then he saw the deceased lying in the road. He did not see deceased fall. Both men appeared sober and capable of looking after the horses.

Dr. Coombs attributed death to internal rupture.

The Coroner said drink appeared to have had something to do with the accident, as the waggon had been into the bank twice on the way, but the evidence was that the deceased was capable of looking after the horses.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and expressed sympathy with the bereaved family.

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