

Edwin Sheaf

Isle of Wight County Press - 2 May 1925

NEWPORT

WELL-KNOWN YOUNG TRADESMAN'S SUDDEN DEATH. – Mr. Edwin Sheaf, 36, fishmonger, of 1 Lower St. James's street, well known in the district as a travelling fish salesman, died with painful suddenness early yesterday (Friday) morning. At about 4 a.m. his wife woke to find him breathing strongly, evidently seriously ill, and immediately sent for a doctor, but before the medical man arrived he had passed away. The deceased had been in his usual robust health during the previous day and attended to business as usual. An inquest will be held this (Saturday) afternoon. Mr. Sheaf was a much-esteemed young fellow, a member of the family who have resided at Hurstake, on the Medina, for many years. He leaves a widow and two young children, with whom sincere sympathy is felt in their tragically sudden bereavement.

Isle of Wight County Press - 9 May 1925

NEWPORT MAN'S SUDDEN DEATH.

The circumstances attending the sudden death of Edwin Sheaf, aged 36, fish and fruit salesman, of 1 Lower St. James's-street, Newport, who, as reported last week, died early on Friday morning, were inquired into by the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) on Saturday. Insp. Evans attended the inquiry on behalf of the police.

Ellen Matilda Sheaf, the widow, said her husband had been in good health recently. He had influenza for a week at Christmas, but appeared to have completely recovered. He had done his daily work and had not complained of feeling unwell. On Thursday night deceased had supper of fish and chips at about 9.40 and went to bed at about 11 o'clock. At about 3.15 on Friday morning she heard her husband apparently snoring and tried to rouse him, but was unable to do so. She called up Mrs. Wareham, who lived opposite, and sent for Nurse Cooper, from the Nursing Home. The nurse came immediately, but witness thought that her husband was then dead. He enjoyed his supper and did not complain when they went to bed. Witness slept lightly and would have heard if deceased had called out. They all had the same food for supper, and none of them had suffered any ill-effects from it.

Mrs. Annie Wareham, of 54 Crocker-street, said that she was called by Mrs. Sheaf at 3.15 on Friday morning, and found that Mrs. Sheaf's husband was dead, lying slightly on his right side. Witness fetched Nurse Cooper, and afterwards Dr. Straton came and pronounced life extinct.

Ethel Cooper, a nurse attached to the Newport Nursing Home, said that when she arrived the man was dead. She telephoned for Dr. Straton, and waited until his arrival. Her conclusion was that it was a heart case, and that the man had died very quickly.

The Coroner said Dr. Straton was ill and confined to his bed, and he was unable to call him as a witness.

Dr. John Joseph Dowdall, of Newport, said he had made a post-mortem examination that morning. There was no evidence of any internal injury. All the organs were healthy and normal, except that there was an excessive amount of pericardial fluid. The stomach was distended and almost twice the normal size. He thought the distention was from constant heavy meals. There was old-standing distention. The muscle walls of the stomach seemed thin and fairly healthy. There was very little food in the stomach. The pericardial fluid would tend to weaken the heart, and the distention of the stomach would accelerate it.

The Coroner found that the cause of death was cardiac failure, due to excessive pericardial effusion, and accelerated by pressure from a distended stomach. The Coroner expressed sympathy with the widow and family and said the deceased was a hardworking man who took an interest in his business and did his work thoroughly.

Amid every sign of respect and sympathy the funeral of deceased, who was a member of a well-known Newport family, took place on Monday, the first part of the service being conducted at the Parish Church by the Vicar (the Rev. Canon C. H. Thompson). The mourners were the deceased's brothers, Messrs. Alfred, William, Frederick, Frank, Leonard, and Harold Sheaf, J. Sanger (father-in-law), Fred Salter, and H. Wolfe (brothers-in-law), W. Taylor, C. Reid, and K. Reid. A large number of people were present in the church and at the interment in Newport Cemetery. The wreaths, numbering 47, included tributes from the Mac Fisheries Ltd., and Mr. Fred Trim of Southampton. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. O. C. Hamilton.

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