

## William Henry Thomas

Hampshire Advertiser - 31 July 1872

### NEWPORT

**A LAD DROWNED IN MEDINA RIVER.** - Mr. F. Blake, coroner, held an inquest on Monday, at the Dolphin public-house, Quay street, on view of the body of William Henry Thomas, aged 15 years, who was drowned on Saturday in the river Medina. John Lambert, aged 14, said, - On Saturday evening I went down the river with deceased in a rowing boat we had hired of Mr. Cooper, by the river side. Deceased was a gardener, in the employ of Captain Harvey, at Broadlands. I have been accustomed to the management of a rowing boat, but deceased had not much knowledge of it. I can swim, but he could not. We rowed down to Dodner, and, as we were returning and the tide running out, we were in about seven feet of water, between Dodner and Hurstake, and came to a vessel moored there called the Alfred. Deceased, who was rowing with one oar, then suddenly ceased rowing and stood up and caught hold of the Alfred. Deceased lost his hold on the vessel, the tide carrying the boat away, and dropped into the water. He did not sink immediately, and I jumped over the side of the boat to save him. I swam to him, kept his head above water, and shouted for assistance. Deceased clung to my neck, and then sank. When in the water he said he was trying to stop the boat. A man named Kearley came and got me out of the water into our boat. - William Henry Hare, son of the chaplain at Parkhurst Barracks, said he was walking on the shore near Dodner, and saw the lads pass in their boat. Soon afterwards he heard a cry of distress, and, seeing only one boy in the boat, hastened along shore to the nearest point, and there, saw Kearley in a boat rescuing the witness Lambert. - John Edward Kearley, clerk to Shepard, Bros., said he was bathing with others at Muddy lock point, on the east side of the river. Deceased and the witness Lambert, in their boat, came and bathed near him and then went up the river. They returned up the river, and witness beard a splash and a cry of distress, and saw that one of the lads in the boat was in the water. He ran about 300 yards along shore, and swam away to the drifting boat. He got Lambert, who much exhausted, into the boat, and with the help of two others succeeding in finding the body of the deceased. - Dr. Waterworth was called to look at the dead body about 9.30 on Saturday night, and had no doubt that death was caused by drowning. - Verdict "Accidentally drowned."

Transcriptions by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,  
© 2023 <https://www.foncc.org.uk>