

## William Adams

Isle of Wight County Press Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August 1896

### A NEWPORT PAINTERS FATAL FALL

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On Tuesday afternoon a painfully fatal accident occurred at Newport. A journeyman painter named William Adams. Aged 50, living at Town-lane, Newport, was engaged at work on a ladder in front of the Fountain Inn in Sea-street, facing the Quay, when he accidentally fell backwards of the ladder to the ground, pitching him on his head and sustained injuries which speedily terminated fatally. An inquest on the body was held on Wednesday evening by Edward F. Blake, Esq, at the Green Dragon, Pyle-street, Mr. John Sheath being foreman of the jury. After viewing the body the following evidence was given:

John Locke, house decorator, of Broadlands, said deceased had been a painter in his employ since October. They had been working for some days at the Fountain Inn. The deceased was on the previous day distemping the house. He was standing on a 15-runged ladder doing the out side wall. Witness told him to take down some advertising plates, and whilst doing so deceased fell from the ladder to the ground. Witness went to deceased at once, and found him lying on his back. His head was much injured and blood was flowing from his nose and mouth. He was unconscious. Witness sent for Dr. Waterworth, who came at once and had the deceased removed into a store. The deceased died shortly after the fall.

Frank Brading, mariner, of Orchard-street, said that at about 4 p.m. on the previous day he was sitting on the Dolphin Inn steps. He knew the deceased and saw him standing on a ladder at the Fountain Inn. Deceased was hammering an advertisement plate and attempting to pull a nail from the wall. He used more force in attempting a second time to get the nail out, and the nail suddenly gave way, causing deceased to become unbalanced. Deceased nearly righted himself on the ladder when he went backwards and fell headlong to the ground. Witness ran across to deceased at once. They raised his head but he never spoke. He saw a severe wound on deceased's head and blood was flowing from his mouth and nose.

Dr. E. Allen Waterworth said that he was summoned soon after 4 o'clock and went to the Fountain Inn, where he saw some men holding up deceased on the ground. Deceased was quite dead. He made an external examination of deceased and found a severe scalp wound on the top of the head, the skull being extensively fractured. Those injuries were quite sufficient to cause instant death, and were such as would be caused in a fall as described.

The learned Coroner briefly summed up, remarking on the extremely painful character of the occurrence and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death"

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A CASE FOR THE BENEVOLENT.— As reported in another page, William Adams, a journeyman painter, fell from a ladder on Tuesday afternoon and was killed. A subscription list, headed by the Mayor of Newport, is lying at Messrs. J. and W. L. George's office, to which those who would like to assist the bereaved family in their distress are invited to contribute. The case is an urgent one, and we commend it to the practical sympathy of those who have it in their power to help.

*Transcribe by Ben Marden (Pseudonym) for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries 2017*

*<https://www.foncc.org.uk>*