

Kitty Emily Cooke

**Isle of Wight County Press
11 December 1937**

**NEWPORT MAN'S
TRAGIC DISCOVERY.**

Finds Wife Drowned in Bath.

The sad story of how a husband, after only two years of married life, found his wife drowned in a bath was told to the Deputy-Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) at an inquest held in the Guildhall, Newport, on Wednesday, into the death of Kitty Emily, aged 29, the wife of Mr. Jack Douglas Cooke, outfitter, on 17 St. Thomas's-square, Newport. The tragic occurrence aroused great sympathy with the bereaved husband and with the deceased's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Line, of Cowes.

Describing the ordeal, the husband told the Coroner that at about 3.45 on Sunday afternoon his wife said she was going to have a bath and he remained in the living-room writing. He did not notice how the time had passed until 5.20, when he called his wife. Receiving no reply, he went to the bath-room which was on the same floor, but as there was no light shining under the door he went into the bed-room. As his wife was not there he returned to the bath-room and on opening the door saw her in the bath, her whole body being immersed with the exception of a small part of one arm. He immediately dragged her out and tried to revive her, but as he could get no response he telephoned for a doctor and then continued his attempts at artificial respiration until Dr. Heathcote arrived and pronounced life extinct.—In reply to the Coroner witness said that his wife liked a reasonably hot bath and the water was still fairly warm when he lifted her out. She had evidently had a bath as the water was soapy. The geyser was turned off and there was no smell of gas. He thought she was dead when he found her. His wife had been in fairly good health, although about a month ago she complained of pains in her back during the night, but they passed after he had given her hot water to drink.

Police-Sgt. Denness stated that when he was called to the flat at 5.40 p.m. he saw the body of the deceased lying on the bath-room floor. The water in the bath was still warm, but the geyser was turned off and cold.

Dr. A. A. Heathcote said death had taken place when he arrived. A post-mortem examination showed clearly that death was due to drowning, but he found a large malignant growth in one organ and a number of secondary growths in the liver which would have caused death in a few months. Such a condition would make the deceased very liable to faint through anaemia.

The Coroner: Is it not often the case that people suffering from internal trouble seek relief from pain in a hot bath?

The Doctor: Yes, that is so, and to slim. Mrs. Cooke, I know, was rather obsessed with the idea of keeping slim.

The Coroner: Would not the growths have caused her considerable pain?—The Doctor: Not necessarily.

In reply to the Coroner Mr. Cooke said his wife had not complained of pain since the occasion to which he had previously referred, and as far as he knew she had done nothing to keep slim except to go short of food at times.

In his summing up, the Coroner said that was a very painful case and he deeply sympathised with the bereaved husband. He had come to the conclusion that the deceased must have been conscious of the trouble referred to by the doctor and that she probably had a very hot bath to relieve pain; that she fainted and was suffocated. Her very placid features were not consistent with drowning in the ordinary way. He was satisfied in his own mind that that was what happened and he returned a verdict that she was accidentally drowned.

Police-Inspector T. Willmott was also present.

The Funeral

took place on Thursday, the service at the Parish Church being conducted by the Rev. H. Ewbank (Vicar of Carisbrooke). The mourners were Mr. Jack Cooke (husband), Mr. A. G. Line, of Cowes (father), Mr. and Mrs. Sibbick (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Cooke (father-in-law and mother-in-law), and Miss R. Vine (cousin). Others attending included Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Purkis, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Lower, Mr. G. Weeks, and Mr. W. Upton. The interment followed at Newport Cemetery, and there was a large number of beautiful floral tributes.

Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2020
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>