

Jane Cross

1911 census, 51 Lugley Street, Bee Hive, Newport, I W

Frederick Cross	Head	49	Basket Maker	Newport, Isle of Wight
<i>Jane Cross</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>51</i>		<i>Rookley, Isle of Wight</i>

**Isle of Wight County Press
18 November 1916**

NEWPORT WOMAN'S SUDDEN DEATH.

FATAL SEIZURE IN THE STREET.

Yesterday (Friday) the Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the Soldier's Home, Newport, on the body of Jane Cross, 60, wife of Mr. Frederick Cross, living in the premises formerly known as the Old Inn, who died suddenly on Tuesday.

Mr. W. J. Rugg was foreman of the jury, and Insp. H. Sibbeck was present.

Mrs. Emily May Dove, of Brookfield, Hunnyhill, said that on the evening of the 14th inst. she met deceased in High-street, near the Market, between 6 and 7 o'clock. They decided to go to the pictures, but deceased previously went to the Bugle Tap to get her husband's supper beer. Deceased went home with the beer and witness waited for her at the Bugle Tap, where she joined her between 7 and 8. They then went to the Picture-palace, but after looking at the placard decided not to go in and went for a walk. Witness left deceased before 8 p.m. at the top of Chain-lane, and deceased started to go down that lane. She was able to walk easily. That was the last witness saw of her. Deceased had only one drink at the Bugle Tap, which was the only public-house they went into. In the early part of the evening deceased had complained of pains in the left side; she had often made a similar complaint; witness had never known her fall down in a fainting fit.

William Le Count, labourer, of Chain-lane, said that on the evening of the 14th inst. he was at home, when he heard someone outside shout "Will someone pick me up?". He went out and, groping in the darkness, found deceased lying on her back. She did not say what had happened and declined to rest at his house, saying she wanted to get home, so he assisted her there. She walked fairly well, except that she did not put the right foot in the ground properly. She called him by name and spoke quite distinctly. He got her home at about 8 p.m., and found the house locked up. She said Mr. Cross, who had the key, was up the street, and that he might find him at the Bugle Tap. She said she was all right, and he went to the Bugle Tap, but did not find Mr. Cross. He left a message there in case he came in for him to return home. He returned to see how Mrs. Cross was getting on, and did not leave till about 9, when she said that Mr. Cross would be home in a few minutes. She was able to support herself by holding on the paling.

By the jury: there was no one with the deceased when he went into Chain-lane. He could not see deceased's face, as it was so dark.

Ernest Holbrook, a lad living at 20 Sidney-terrace, Hunnyhill, said that at about 9.30 the same evening he was passing the Old Inn, when he heard a hard breathing noise and thought he could see some-one in the corner leaning against the door. He thought it was a soldier trying to get into the house, so he went on and said nothing about it.

The Coroner: You are not a Boy Scout?

Witness: No, sir.

Frederick Cross, basket-maker, of the Old Inn, said he last saw his wife alive at about 7.15p.m., when she came up to the workshop behind the house. After bringing in his beer and saying she thought she should go to the pictures for an hour and that Mrs. Dove was going with her, she told him to lock the doors of the house, and he did so. He went on working till 9.40 p.m., when he went indoors and had a read and a smoke until it got to 11 p.m. or after. It was often late when they left the pictures. At about 11.25 he opened the door and found deceased outside. He said "What's up?" but she did not speak, and after getting her indoors he found she was dead. He saw some bruises on her face; there was no blood on the steps outside. He went to Insp. Sibbeck and sent for Dr. Underhill, who said she had been dead for some time. Deceased had complained of her heart for some time, but had not been medically attended for some years. He had not known her fall in a faint, but she had had to stop going upstairs and hold on.

Dr. S. V. H. Underhill said there was a slight bruise on deceased's eyebrow and left side of the nose, and a few scratch marks on the lip, quite superficial in character, such as he should expect from a fall - merely abrasions and nothing to do with the cause of death. A post-mortem showed disease of the valves on the left side, and fatty degeneration of the muscles of the heart. He concluded that death was due to valvular disease of the heart.

The Coroner said that the evidence exonerated both the husband and the witness Le Count from the slightest blame. It was quite a reasonable assumption on the part of the husband that the return of his wife was delayed by leaving the pictures late, and Mr. Le Count had done everything he could for her. He acted with consideration and kindness in trying to find out the deceased's husband, who was in his workshop when his wife thought he was out. No doubt she had an attack of heart failure in Chain-lane, when she fell, and another attack, which was fatal, after being taken home by Mr. L. Count.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from valvular disease of the heart," and the Foreman expressed the sympathy of the jury with the husband.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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