

## Alice Fry

### 1911 census – 19 Pyle Street, Newport

George Fry	Head	34	Machine-minder	Newport, Isle of Wight
<i>Alice Fry</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>Newport, Isle of Wight</i>
George Henry Fry	Son	6	School	Newport, Isle of Wight
Margery Alice Fry	Daughter	4	School	Newport, Isle of Wight
Wilfred Rossen John Fry	Son	3	School	Newport, Isle of Wight
Sydney Charles Fry	Son	2		Newport, Isle of Wight

### Isle of Wight County Press – 5 February 1916

#### DEPRESSION AND DROWNING.

#### SAD DEATH OF A NEWPORT WOMAN.

On Wednesday the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the Victoria Wesleyan Schoolroom, Newport, on Mrs. Alice Fry, 35, wife of Mr. George Fry, of 19 Pyle-street, Newport, who, after having been missing from her home since Monday evening, was found drowned in the stream near Shide on Tuesday morning.

CHARLES MATTHEWS, guard in the employ of the I.W. Central Railway Co., said he was guard on the 9.42 a.m. train from Sandown on the previous day, when he saw the body of a woman in the stream passing through the field where timber was just after leaving Shide Station. It was on the left hand side of the stream going towards Newport, about 300 yards from Shide. He reported it to the inspector of the Company immediately on arrival at Newport Station. Deceased was lying face downwards, and there was about 4in. of water in the stream. He saw a woman's hat on the bank.

THOMAS ASH, 23 New-street, labourer at Messrs. Morey's timber yard, said he was in the timber field, near Shide Station, at about 9.30 on Tuesday morning, when he saw the last witness get down from the train and look into the stream. Witness went to the stream and saw the body of deceased lying on the face as described. In the afternoon there was about 3ft. of water in the same place. Deceased's hat was on the bank. They at once took deceased out. She appeared to have been in the water some time. Deceased was a stranger to him. There was no trace of a struggle at the place, which was easy to access. He had never seen deceased about there at all. The working of the mills in the district accounted for the rise and fall in the depth of water.

Dr. S. V. H. UNDERHILL, police surgeon of Newport, said that on the previous day he saw the body of deceased at 19 Pyle-street. *Rigor mortis* was well established, death having taken place for many hours. There were slight abrasions on the front of the right wrist, on the left side of the neck, and on the right side under the jaw. They were quite superficial, and were such as would be caused by a fall from the bank.

ASH, recalled, said the bottom of the stream was stony, and there was about a 2ft. drop from the bank.

Dr. UNDERHILL said the injuries were such as would be caused by a fall on a gravelly soil. They were very slight, and had no influence on the cause of death. There were no other marks on the neck or head. The external appearances indicated that the cause of death was drowning.

GEORGE FRY, 19 Pyle-street, printer, said that the body viewed by the jury was that of his wife Alice. He had a family of five children. He last saw deceased alive on the evening of the 31<sup>st</sup> January, at about 8.30, when he went out to the chapel to light the lamps; she was then indoors. They had tea together that evening. He remained at home from 5.30 to 7.30, and then went to post and returned in about 10 minutes. She was sitting by the fire, with her hands held up to her head, as if her head was painful, but when she saw him she brightened up considerably and went on with her household duties. She had been in a depressed state at times, especially when alone. She worked very hard. He and his wife had been on good terms, and had never had a quarrel. She had always more or less suffered from depression of spirits, and at such times she had threatened to drown herself, but recently she had been much better in that way. – Q. Did she look after her home well ? – Yes; no one could have looked after it better. She had not been medically attended for the state of her mind.

The CORONER said that the deceased was found drowned in such circumstances as to force them to the conclusion that her death was the result of her own act. The only other point for the consideration of the jury was the state of her mind, and they had the evidence of her husband as to her depressed condition recently and at other times during their married life.

The FOREMAN said he assumed that when deceased was missed from her home steps were taken to ascertain her whereabouts.

The CORONER said he omitted to ascertain from the last witness that he reported the fact that she was missing to the police shortly after 10 o'clock the same evening; there was no neglect on his part.

Mr. FRY: I did all in my power to find out where she was after I missed her.

The FOREMAN said that the jury agreed that deceased committed suicide by drowning whilst temporarily insane. They wished to express sympathy with Mr. Fry in his sad bereavement.

The CORONER said that the jury had kindly returned their fees for the bereaved family, and he wished to thank them, on Mr. Fry's behalf, for their sympathy.

**Isle of Wight County Press – 12 February 1916**

**NEWPORT.**

THE FUNERAL – took place on Saturday of Mrs. Alice Fry, of Pyle-street, whose sad death from drowning was recorded last week. The deceased assisted her husband, Mr. George Fry, as caretaker of the Wesleyan Church and Schoolroom, and was specially devoted in her service at the Soldiers' Recreation-room at the Victoria School. The husband and two eldest children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Woods (parents of the deceased), Mrs. R. J. Greenham, the Misses H. and O. Woods (sisters), and other relatives were the principal mourners, and the Rev. W. J. Beckett (Cowes) officiated at the service in the Wesleyan Church and at Newport Cemetery, where the interment took place. There were a number of beautiful floral tributes, ...- Mr. G. Fry and Mr. and Mrs. Woods and families desire to thank the many friends for their kind condolence and practical sympathy shown them in their sad bereavement and for flowers sent.

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