

William Henry Hatten

1851 Census, St Johns Road, Carisbrooke (possibly)

Henry Hatten	Head	30	Millwright	Carisbrooke; Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Sarah Hatten	Wife	28		St Helens, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Emily Hatten	Daughter	10		Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
John Hatten	Son	8		Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
* Henry Hatten	Son	6		Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Hampshire
Ellen Hatten	Daughter	1		Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight, Hampshire

**Age and sister Emily fit but birth registered as just 'Henry'*

Hampshire Telegraph 18 May 1870

Melancholy Suicide by a Naval Seaman – On Monday morning last F. Blake, Esq., coroner, held an inquest at the “Cooper’s Arms”, Coppins-bridge, on the body of William Henry Hatten, aged 24, a seaman in the Royal Navy. –Mrs. Emily McSherriff [*sic McSherry*] said: The deceased, who is my brother, served about four years and a half in the Chinese seas on board H.M.S. Rinaldo, but was sent home about four weeks ago, on account of the delicate state of his health. On Friday last he arrived at Newport from Chatham Hospital, and although he had got better, yet I observed that he continued low in spirits. I am not aware of anything to cause him trouble, but I believe he has been suffering from sun stroke since last January. He was quite different in spirits from what he formerly appeared to be. Yesterday he was silent, and somewhat lower in spirits than on Saturday, and had dinner at my house a little before one o’clock. After dinner, he went out, but returned directly, and gave me seven five pound notes, eight sovereigns, one half-sovereign, and several papers, which he desired me to take care of for him, and then left the house. I did not again see him alive. He was quite sober when he left, and partook of neither beer nor spirits after his dinner. He was on furlough for seven weeks, and he did not require to return to Portsmouth until some time in June. –Mrs. Vine said: I live in Little London, and yesterday, at about quarter to two o’clock p.m., I saw the deceased running across the fields, and down the east bank of the river Medina. On his left arm he had the figure of a gun, and on the right arm a mark or badge. He was running very fast, and just as he got opposite to “Five Trees” he stopped, as if exhausted, but almost immediately began to run again. It was low water at the time, and no person running along the banks was at all in danger of falling into the water. I did not again see the deceased alive, but afterwards saw his body taken out of the mud. He had a cap on when he was running, but that had not yet been found. –George Newman said: About three o’clock yesterday afternoon, as I was walking down the east bank of the Medina, at low water, I observed something lying in the water, and as the tide was ebbing fast, I stood looking at the object. I first noticed the heels of a man’s boots, and then that it was a man lying on his face. I called for two boys, who went in and pulled the body of the deceased out. He was quite dead. Dr. Foster said: At four o’clock on yesterday afternoon I was called to see the body of the deceased, which had been brought from the place where it was found to Newport. On examination I found a mucous fluid issuing from the mouth and nose, and, on pressing his stomach with my hand, a large quantity of water came rushing out of his mouth. Life was quite extinct. The deceased must have been dead at least an hour and a half, and his death was caused by drowning. There were no marks of violence on his body. Police-constable Rapkins stated that 10s. 8d. were found in the pockets of the deceased. Verdict:--Drowned himself when in an unsound state of mind.

Transcription by Ian Roach, addition research by Tony Barton, for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries
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