

Charles Mew

Isle of Wight County Press - 12 February 1887

NEWPORT

INQUEST. – On Tuesday last, the Deputy Coroner, E.F. Blake, Esq., held an inquest at the Guildhall concerning the death of Charles Mew, an old man of 78 years of age, living at Coppins Bridge, when the following evidence was given – Mrs. Amelia Sheaf stated that she knew the deceased, who lived opposite her house at Coppins Bridge. On the previous Friday evening she was standing at her door about seven o'clock, when she saw a four-wheel carriage pass down the hill; directly afterwards a two-wheel trap followed, and capsized opposite where she was standing. She heard a groan, and on crossing the road found the deceased in the gutter on the other side. She called for assistance, and deceased was carried into a neighbour's house. It was a dark foggy night. The four-wheel carriage was only going at an ordinary pace; she thought it came back after the accident. – Mr. Walter Langton, of Gatcombe Park, said he was driving a four-wheel carriage into Newport on the evening in question, about 6.30. He was going six or seven miles an hour, not more. The night was dark and foggy, but his carriage lamps were burning brightly. When near Coppins Bridge he suddenly saw a man just in front of the horse, and immediately the man fell, being knocked down either by the horse or the shaft. He at once sent his servant back to see what was the matter, and his friend Mr. Bird who was with him in the carriage, also went back. They returned and said that the man had been taken into a house and a doctor sent for. Before going home witness asked Mr. Joseph Parker Mew to see that the man had every attention. – Oliver Newnham stated that he was groom in the employ of Mr. Langton. Was sitting in the back seat of the carriage on the 28th ultimo. Just as they were entering Newport saw a man lying in the road. His master pulled up directly afterwards, and before witness could jump out he saw a bread cart which was following them go over the man, and get capsized. He ran back and held the pony belonging to the cart while the man was picked up. They were only going at a moderate pace. – Mr. W.F. Foster, M.R.C.S., said he was sent for and saw deceased at Mrs. Cooper's house. He had deceased removed to his own house next door. He was requested by Mr. Langton to attend the patient, and he continued to do so until he died. On examining him the next morning he found a circular mark over his breast bone. From day to day the pain subsided, but bronchitis, from which deceased had been suffering nearly all the winter, set in again a few days after. He gradually got worse, and died on Sunday from exhaustion. – In summing up, the deputy coroner said the evidence clearly showed, that no blame was attributable to anyone, and that the accident was altogether unavoidable. The jury immediately returned a verdict of accidental death. – Mr. Langton added the statement that he had frequently seen and spoken with the deceased since the accident. On his asking him how it was that he did not see the carriage coming when the lamps were burning, or hear it, especially as the break was on, he replied that his sight was getting old, and he was somewhat deaf. He did not notice the carriage at all, and he knew nobody was to blame. – A juror said Mr. Langton was to be greatly commended for the humane manner in which he had acted since the accident, an opinion which was unanimously endorsed by the other jurymen.

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