

## Henry Sargent

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### NEWPORT

CORONER'S INQUEST. — An inquest was held on Friday last, the 27th ult., at the Guildhall, Newport, before F. Blake, esq., and a jury, on the body of Henry Sargent, a pensioner and employed as mariner, who hung himself early that morning to a beam in the kitchen of his dwelling-house, in the High-street, Newport.—Walter Woodnut deposed that he kept the Dolphin-inn, Quay-street. He knew the deceased, and that his name was Henry Sargent, a seafaring man. He saw him at his house on the previous night: he came there about half-past 9 o'clock and remained until half-past 10 or twenty minutes to 11. He (witness) was sitting in the room while he was there, and heard him talking. He frequently used his house. He was that evening much as usual. He had a pint of beer, and nothing else. He never knew him drink more than two pints of ale. He was a very steady man. He did not observe but what he was sober. He was joking and laughing as usual. He never saw him out of temper in his life. —Louisa Oliver Sargent said the deceased Henry Sargent was her husband, and lived in the house where the body was then lying. He was about 55 years of age. He worked in one of the vessels belonging to the cement mill. On the previous evening he walked from Cowes. He left home that morning for Cowes, and returned about half-past 10 at night. He was not then tipsy, but rather the worse for drink. He appeared in an excited state, as he usually did when he had taken two pints of beer. When she let him into the house, he said he had walked from Cowes, and she asked him when he was going again, and he said about 4 o'clock in the morning. He asked her to send out for a little beer, as he wished to drink with his son-in-law, Thomas Larcome, who was in bed, he had just returned from a voyage. She went for a quart of 4d., and deceased did not drink quite half of it, and she then took it away because he should not have any more, and he then went to bed. He was not tipsy but the worse for drink. He had been in bed about half-an-hour when she found him very restless, and talking at random. He said he thought he should get up and go on board the vessel, as he was fearful of being too late. He put on a portion of his dress, and kissed the children before he went away, and he went downstairs. Shortly after she heard a noise below, as if he was breaking crockery-ware, and called to her son-in-law, who got up and went downstairs, but she still continued to hear the noise, as if her husband was destroying the things, as he usually did when excited. She took a light and went downstairs into the kitchen, and saw deceased hanging to a beam, and she then screamed upstairs to her daughter. It was not many minutes before she heard him breaking the things. Her son-in-law then came back with the police. The neckerchief produced belonged to her husband; he had it on his neck the previous night. She thought she had seen a long cut in his head. A very little would excite him, and after drinking two pints of beer he had been so bad that he was obliged to be tied down, and he appeared in that state on the previous night, and did not know what he said or did. There had been no quarrel at home. About 12 months ago he attempted suicide and was cut down. He had made six attempts to destroy himself within the last four years. She was fearful of the same thing the previous night, which made her go downstairs with a light. After being excited he would contradict what was told him of what he said and

did. He once went through the house with an open knife in his hand, declaring that he would act like the Sandown murderer, who killed his wife and six children. The deceased had £22 a-year pension from the Coastguard service. He had been in a desponding state some time. —Thomas Larcome, mariner, son-in-law of deceased, said he lived in the same house with deceased. The night before he had three or four hours' interview with deceased, after being away 23 days, when he found him much as usual. Afterwards witness was called up by his mother-in-law and he got up, and found deceased sitting in a chair before the fire, neither drunk nor sober. Deceased quietly talked to witness, but was in a frenzy when speaking to his wife, but they did not appear to be quarrelling. Deceased said he owed for some beer at Cowes, and his wife said she would send some postage stamps to pay for it, which appeared to displease him. Witness drank the greater part of the beer they had, and then went into the back yard with deceased, and left him there. Witness heard deceased and his wife come upstairs to bed. He next heard the smashing of crockeryware in their room, and then a smashing down-stairs. He got up, and heard deceased in the back room. Witness then went straight out of doors for the police, and returned in about six or seven minutes with P.C. Tiley and two others. Witness's wife called from the window to make haste, as her father was hanging. They then got a light, and P.C. Tiley found deceased in the kitchen hung to a beam, and took a knife and cut him down. Deceased gave two or three sighs, and witness and Tiley then went for Mr. Foster, the surgeon, but he was dead when he arrived, he knew deceased on one occasion - 12 months ago last February—attempt to destroy himself, and he had frequently heard him say he would do so. —P.C. Tiley said he was on duty in the Corn-market at half-past 2 that morning, when the last witness came to him. He went with him to deceased's house, obtained a light, and found deceased hanging to a small beam in the kitchen. He took his knife from his pocket and cut him down. The beam was six feet two inches high, and his feet was about six inches from the floor. He was not dead when he cut him down. He breathed about twice, and he saw his eyes move. The handkerchief produced was the same deceased had round his neck, and it was attached to the beam. — Mr. Foster, surgeon, deposed that he was called about 2 on the morning in question, and he went to deceased's house immediately. He was quite dead, lying on his back. He directly saw he was too far gone to make any effort to restore animation. He examined his neck, and found a mark such as would be done by a handkerchief, which was sufficient to cause suffocation. He also saw some marks of the nails in his boots on the table, where he first rested, and then threw himself off. —The Coroner having summed up the evidence, the jury returned a verdict "That deceased hung himself while in a state of temporary insanity."

Transcription produced for the Isle of Wight Family History Society ([www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](http://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)) By: Tony Bevis

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