

**William Albert Frederick Smith**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
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**NEWPORT APPRENTICE'S FATAL  
EVENING MOTOR-CYCLE RIDE.**

At an inquest in the Hunnyhill Methodist Church, Newport, on Monday, the Deputy Coroner (R. E. A. Webster, Esq.) heard the sad story of how Frederick William Albert Smith, aged 19, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Smith, of 90 Hunnyhill, Newport, an apprentice fitter at Messrs. J. S. White and Co.'s works at Cowes, met with fatal injury on Thursday week while taking a fellow apprentice for a ride on the pillion seat of his motor-cycle. Inspector Willmott was present, and Mr. C. F. Bulbeck was foreman of the jury.

The deceased's father said his son enjoyed excellent health. He had had the motor-cycle since April, and was a careful rider. His mother and grandmother, aged 72, had enjoyed rides on the pillion of the machine. He left home at about 7 p.m., taking a friend from the works as his passenger. The pillion rider came back about an hour later and told witness that his son had met with an accident. Deceased was brought home in a car later, and witness called in Dr. Cooper, who saw him twice before he died early on the following morning without regaining consciousness.

Roy Charles Reynolds,, of Braemoor, Bernard-road, Cowes, deposed that he was riding pillion on Smith's machine when the accident occurred. As they were going along Forest-road, travelling between 30 and 35 miles an hour, and approaching the "S" bend at Vittlefields, Smith cut down the speed to about 20 miles an hour. When they were about to take the corner deceased changed down to second gear, and the engine stopped. As he let in the clutch again the machine jumped, got into some loose gravel at the side of the road, and hit the fence bordering the farmyard. Witness was catapulted over Smith's head on to the road, but escaped with abrasions. When he got up he saw Smith, still astride the machine, lying in the road. He was unconscious, and with the help of Mrs. Flux, of Vittlefields Farm, and a man who was near, he carried Smith into the entrance to the farmhouse, where he was made comfortable on the lawn. Witness then went to inform Smith's parents, and his mother was driven out to Vittlefields in a car.—By the Coroner: He did not have any feeling that the speed was excessive as they approached the corner.

Mrs. Maud Flux, of Vittlefields Farm, said she heard the crash, and helped to bring in the injured man. All the injuries she could see were a graze on the forehead and others on the knuckles, but he was deeply unconscious.

Leonard James Jacobs, grocer's manager, staying at Pelham, Priory-road, Carisbrooke, said he was standing about 200 yards on the Yarmouth side of the corner, when he heard the motor-cycle approaching. By the sound it appeared to be coming fairly fast. He then heard the crash and the engine stop, and when he reached the spot the two previous witnesses were getting Smith clear of the cycle. He helped to carry him to the farmhouse lawn.

Dr. John. D. Cooper, locum tenens for Dr. A. A. Straton, of Newport, who attended the deceased after he had been taken home, said he was in a semi-conscious condition and breathing heavily. His eyes showed that he had sustained an injury to the brain. He did not consider it would be wise to move him again,, and he gave instructions as to his treatment. He was not present when death took place the following morning as a message failed to reach him. Death was due to fracture of the base of the skull.

P.C. Newnham produced a large piece of stout wooden paling which had been torn off in the collision, and said that the motor-cycle, after smashing four palings, skidded along the road on the foot-rest for 36 feet. The machine was in good condition.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, adding that they considered the accident due to an error of judgement in taking the corner. They joined with the Coroner in his expression of sympathy with the bereaved parents.

The funeral service took place on Tuesday at the Hunnyhill Methodist Church, and the mourners were Mr. A. A. Smith (father), Mr. G. C. Pardy, and Mr. E. Chapman. Messrs. Fordham, H. Mundell, and R. Barnes (workmates from Messrs. White's shipyard) were also present. The foreman fitter, charge hand, and fellow workmen and brother Foresters were present at the ceremony. Mrs. Smith was unavoidably unable to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith thank all who gave their assistance at the time of the accident, and also kind friends and neighbours for expressions of sympathy, and for the beautiful floral tributes.

Mr. H. W. Parnell made the arrangements.

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