

Ann Taphouse

Hampshire Telegraph – 29 December 1860

ISLE OF WIGHT

NEWPORT.

A CORONER'S INQUEST was hold before F. Blake Esq., on Wednesday last, at the Newport Arms Inn, in the Corn Market, on the body of Mrs. Ann Taphouse, a widow woman aged 76, and sister to the late Mr. William Allen of this town, gaoler. And it appeared by the evidence that the deceased had lodged in the house for the last thirteen months, and was in the habit (being paralyzed) of sitting by the fire simply clothed in her night gown and a shawl over her shoulders. On the servant going up to her on the evening of the Thursday previous, about seven o'clock, in order to see how she was getting on, she found the candle out and the fire almost so, and on lighting it with a match she saw the deceased sitting quietly in her chair with her clothes burnt off above her knees ; she directly called her mistress, and they got her into bed and sent for medical assistance, when they found both her legs so horribly burnt, that death put an end to her sufferings on the morning of the inquest; and though she continued sensible to the last, she never informed any of them how the accident occurred, nor did she cry out in the least whilst her clothes were on fire, or the people of the house must have heard her. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

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