

**Ernest Charles Wells**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 19 April 1930**

**SEQUEL TO BLACKWATER ROAD SMASH.**

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**Death of Injured Pedestrian.**

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The Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the Workhouse on Thursday on the body of Ernest Charles Wells, 57, of Newport, who died in the Infirmary on Tuesday. Mr. W. Thorpe was foreman of the jury.

The Deputy Coroner pointed out that Well's death was the sequel to an accident which occurred at Blackwater on November 3rd, when at dusk, on a Sunday evening, he was knocked down by a motor-cycle. The driver of the motor-cycle was killed, and Wells, who was walking along the road, was badly injured. He had since received treatment at the County Hospital and at the Workhouse Infirmary. The circumstances of the accident were fully inquired into at the inquest on the driver. A Welsh miner who was riding pillion on the motor-cycle and was also injured had returned home, but if the jury considered it necessary the inquest could be adjourned for his attendance.

Walter William Wells, of 52 Whitepit-lane, Newport, identified the body as that of his brother, who was 57 years of age. He had frequently seen him since the accident, but his serious head injuries so affected him that he was never able to remember the accident.

Walter Arthur Orchard, of the Post-office, Blackwater, who was cycling from Blackwater to Newport, described the accident on November 3rd, which resulted in the death of the motor-cyclist, Wilfred James Hayden, of Godshell, and serious injury to Wells, and the jury were shown a plan of the road at the spot where the accident happened. Orchard was very definite that Wells was walking close to the left-hand edge of the road when he was struck from behind by the motor-cycle.

P.C. Butcher, who was called to the scene of the accident, said he found both the rider and Wells badly injured. Hayden died at the County Hospital the same night, and Wells was sent to the hospital suffering from a fractured leg and other severe injuries.

Ivy Beatrice Brice, superintendent nurse at the Infirmary, said Wells was transferred from the County Hospital on February 6th. His condition was then hopeless, and she was surprised that he had lived so long.

The Coroner: Did you receive from the County Hospital any particulars of the case, giving details of his injuries and his progress whilst at that institution?

Witness: Not a word, sir.

The Coroner: Is it not customary to give a patient's medical history on transfer from on hospital to another?

Witness: It is the usual thing, yes, but in this case no information was available. She had always previously received such particulars verbally or otherwise. The patient was too ill to give any information and she only heard the cause of his injuries from his brother. Deceased had been in a more or less semi-conscious condition for a month. He was moved from the County Hospital because his was a purely medical and nursing case.

The Coroner said it seemed to him to be important that the medical history of a patient should accompany any transfer of that nature to ensure proper treatment.

Dr. George Raymond, medical superintendent at the Infirmary, said he examined the deceased on his transfer from the County Hospital. His left leg was fractured and in plaster of paris, there were severe old scalp wounds on the head, the legs and arms were badly contracted, and the jaws set so that his mouth could not be opened more than half an inch. As no medical history accompanied the patient he went to the County Hospital and inquired about it, but found that no detailed record of the case had been kept. The only information available was that there had been a fracture of the leg, which had rejoined. The case was hopeless and there was no doubt that death was due to the injuries the man received in the accident. Everything possible was done for the comfort of the deceased at the Infirmary.

The Foreman: Had you known the history of the case could anything more have been done?

Dr. Raymond: No.

In reply to the Coroner, the Doctor said the absence of the record was quite exceptional. He had never known it happen before in connection with patients transferred from the County Hospital, and he believed it was due to a change in the medical staff at the time. His experience, with that one exception, was that they were most careful in keeping records at the County Hospital.

The Coroner said that was also his experience. He had never known a case where he had been unable to get satisfactory evidence of a patient's injuries and condition on admission to the hospital. It might be very important to him as coroner to have such information at times.

A Juror: It was apparently neglect on some one's part, but it is likely to happen again?

Dr. Raymond: I don't think so.

The Coroner said he thought the jury would agree that further evidence was not necessary. That poor man was another victim of the craze for speed and was terribly injured. It was surprising that he had survived so long. If responsibility rested on any one it was on the driver of the motor-cycle, who lost his life. It was an accident which should have been avoided. The motor-cycle was being ridden at a speed of from 30 to 40 miles an hour, and it was a terrible thing that a man walking close into the side of the road should be cut down in that way.

The jury returned a verdict that death was due to injuries received by deceased by being knocked down by a motor-cycle.

### **Isle of Wight County Press - 26 April 1930**

#### **NEWPORT**

**The Funeral** —of Mr. Ernest C. Wells, aged 57, son of Mr. Walter Wells, whose death at the Infirmary last week followed the injuries received when knocked down by a motor-cycle at Blackwater in November last, took place on Saturday, the first part of the service being conducted at the Wesleyan Church by the Rev. A. W. Coulson, and the interment following at Newport Cemetery.

The mourners were Mr. W. Wells (father), Miss Wells and Mrs. Gray (sisters), Mr. W. W. Wells (brother), Mrs. W. W. Wells (sister-in-law), Miss G. Wells and Mr. G. Wells (niece and nephew), and Mr. R. White. The organist (Mr. E. J. H. Quarrier) played Chopin's Prelude in F minor and Handel's

Dead March in “Saul”, and the hymns sung were “Lord, it belongs not to my care” and “Give me the wings of faith to rise”.

In addition to wreaths from the family and friends, there were floral tokens from the members of the Newport Wesleyan Church and the trustees and stewards of the Blackwater Wesleyan Church. The deceased, it will be remembered, formerly assisted his father in the business which the latter carried on for many years at God’s Providence House.

Mr. Wells and family desire to thank their many friends for kind inquiries and expressions of sympathy, also for floral tributes sent.

*Transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2021*  
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