

Ernest Powell Wilkins

1881 census, 95 High Street, Newport

<i>Ernest Powell Wilkins Head</i>		<i>56</i>	<i>Physician</i>	<i>Newport, Hampshire</i>
			<i>Roy, Coll, Phy, Edin</i>	
E. Laura O. Bailey	Housekeeper	35	Housekeeper	Greenwich, Kent
Louisa Payne	Servant	49	Cook Domestic Servant	Southampton, Hampshire
Wyatt Hendy		20	Coachman	Beaulieu, Hampshire
Thomas Wavell		15	Dispenser Apprentice	Shorwell, Hampshire

Isle of Wight Observer – 20 August 1881

NEWPORT

CORONER'S INQUEST ON THE BODY OF THE LATE DR E. P. WILKINS. -- On Thursday Mr F. Blake, coroner, held an inquest on view of the body of Dr Ernest Powell Wilkins. Elizabeth Laura Bailey, deceased's housekeeper, gave evidence that deceased had suffered from worry of late and was very irritable. On Wednesday, the 17th inst, he was up and out early. About noon she found that he had retired to bed and was snoring heavily. On going up again about 1 o'clock and finding that he was making a louder snore and seemed restless and perspiring very freely, she became alarmed and sent across the street for his son, Dr Robert B. Wilkins, who came with Dr Hutton Castle, and she left the room. About half-an-hour after that Dr R. B. Wilkins came and told her the deceased was dead. She did not notice a bottle in the room. Did not know that he went out during the interval from 6.30 a.m. to 9 a.m. – Dr. Robert B. Wilkins said deceased, his father, had been much worried of late about some private affairs, and during the last fortnight he had become very irritable. Deceased was out early on Wednesday morning and attended a patient between 6 and 7 o'clock and he then appeared to be pretty well in health – the same as usual. Saw him again about 9.30 a.m. and offered to attend a patient for him. Deceased accepted the offer and said he did not feel well and he wanted some rest. Witness was sent for and came here and saw deceased about 1.30 p.m., asleep in his bed and making a groaning noise, and the breathing was peculiar. Witness tried in vain to rouse him, and then sent for Dr Castle, sen., who came, and they applied in vain the stomach pump. About 20 minutes after he found him in bed, deceased expired. Witness noticed no bottle of the tincture of opium in the room, but afterwards found in a pocket of deceased's clothes the bottle produced, containing about half-an ounce of opium and bearing a blank label. Deceased at times suffered much from indigestion and carried medicine in his pocket. – Dr Castle, sen, described the state of deceased when he was called in. Had medical assistance been called earlier the life might have been saved. Judging from the aggregate symptoms they came to the unanimous conclusion that deceased was suffering from an over-dose of opium. The bottle found in the deceased's pocket was minus three drams. – A verdict in accordance with the evidence was returned.

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