

## **John William Allen**

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### **THE LATE FATAL ACCIDENT TO A NEWPORT TRADESMAN**

At the Guildhall, Newport, on Saturday morning last, an inquest was held by the Deputy-Coroner for the Isle of Wight (E.F. Blake, Esq.), touching the death of Mr. John William Allen, the circumstances attending which were reported in our last issue.

Mr G.R. King having been chosen foreman the jury, Henry Attwell, landlord of the Sun Inn, Newport, deposed that on Thursday last he went to Cowes with deceased, leaving between half-past four and a quarter to five in the afternoon in deceased's cart. They returned from Cowes a little before ten, having between six and eight hundredweight of beef in the cart. The night was extremely dark, and they were going at a moderate pace. A conversation arose about carrying lights on the cart, when deceased said he knew every inch of the road. They had proceeded out a mile towards Newport, when the left wheel of the cart ran up on to the bank at the side of the road. Witness was thrown out on the right hand side, and cart fell over, but they were both out before the cart overturned. Witness was sent on to the hedge. The shock unnerved him for a time; he must have been insensible. Upon collecting his thoughts, he called out to deceased, but in reply he only heard a long breath. The horse, which was a spirited one, was lying quiet, but he could not see it. He ran for assistance to a cottage close by. Two men went back with him, bringing a light with them. Witness then distinguished the horse in a kneeling position, with the deceased underneath him, under the flank. Deceased was lying straight across the road. They cut the harness and released the animal. When it got up they thought deceased was dead, but they immediately sent for a doctor. Deceased had a bruise on the back of his head. Witness thought the deceased fell under the horse's feet, and so tripped the animal. He did not think they were travelling at the rate of more than five miles an hour. Deceased was sober. Witness was also sober.

By the Jury: He imagined that there was a projection in the bank which caused the accident.

William Underwood, of Somerton Cottage, Northwood, labourer, stated that on Thursday night the last witness came to his house about a quarter past ten. With a lantern he went out into the road as quickly as possible. The last witness said "There's another man about here." Witness passed along the road, and found the deceased underneath the horse. The cart was turned over on its side, and the horse was on its knees. Deceased was right under the belly of the horse. A man named Sivier came along and also rendered assistance. When the horse began to rise, witness immediately pulled deceased out. Believed he was then dead. The last witness was very much frightened.

By the Jury: Deceased was lying with his face downwards. The horse did not kick him when it was rising. Deceased's head was lying on the left side, and his legs were in the middle of the road.

Dr. Nockolds, practising at Cowes, stated that he was sent for about a quarter past ten. Found deceased lying in the road. He was dead. He could not tell what injury he had received. He had made no examination. Deceased was warm. Did not see any external injury. He imagined from the appearance of the deceased's face, that he had died of suffocation. Did not think deceased's neck was broken.

The Foreman: Suffocation would arise from the fact of the horse lying on the body?  
Dr. Nockolds: Yes.

The Deputy-Coroner said although it was a curious thing that this poor man should have got under the horse in the way stated in the evidence, yet there could be no doubt that the deceased met with his death through a pure accident. The night was very dark, and it was quite possible and probable that the accident resulted in the way described by the witness Attwell. It was suggested that the deceased fell before the horse, and that might account for the position in which he was found. It was not of importance, however, to decide how he got there, if they were satisfied that death was due to accident, and that no blame was attributable to anyone. And here he might remind them that the deceased himself was driving, and therefore Mr. Attwell could not be blamed.

In answer to the jury, the witness Underwood said there was a stump in the bank where the wheel of the cart must have run, otherwise it would not have turned over.

The following verdict was returned: “That deceased died from injuries received by being accidentally thrown out of a cart.”

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