

Urena Drake

Isle of Wight County Press 11 August 1934

DEATH AFTER A FALL.

INQUEST AT NEWPORT.

The Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquiry at the Poor Law Institution, Parkhurst, on Wednesday, into the circumstances attending the death, of Mrs. Urena Drake, a widow, aged 82, of Cheswick, Cross-lanes, Newport. Inspector Randall was present.

Joseph Linnington, grocer, of Cross-lanes, said deceased made some purchases at his shop at about 7.30 p.m. on July 2nd. He assisted her from the shop, left her on the pavement, and re-entered the shop. Almost immediately he heard a cry and, running out, saw the deceased about to fall. He tried to save her, but was unable to do so and she fell on her right side, doubling her arm under her. He took her home, left her on the sofa and sent for her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Albert Drake. She was conscious when he picked her up, but lost consciousness later.

George Robert Drake, labourer, of Cheswick, Cross-lanes, identified the body as that of his mother. He resided with the deceased, who had had two slight strokes and had been attended by Dr. Foster. As a result of the accident she fractured the right wrist and was attended by Drs. Dowdall and Foster. She was looked after by his brother Albert and his wife. The doctors put a splint on her arm, but she would not let it remain in consequence of the pain. The doctors had to replace the bandage three times. On July 5th his brother told him his mother was asleep and that he was going. A small oil lamp was kept burning on the mantelpiece at the foot of the bed. He later heard his mother call and found her standing near the landing with the bandage on fire. He put out the flames and got his mother back to bed. He thought she must have tried to set fire to the bandage from the lamp. She had two slight burns on her hand. She said she would get the bandage off. His mother remained at home until July 6th, when she was removed to the Parkhurst Institution.

Mrs. Agnes Drake, of The Bungalow, Cross-lanes, Newport, also gave evidence.

Miss Gladys Brereton, charge nurse at the Parkhurst Institution, said that on admission the deceased's splint was taken off and her burns dressed. They were on the little finger and forefinger of the right hand. The splint was replaced after the burns had been dressed. The deceased was seen by the medical officer next morning. The fracture united and the burns healed, but the patient's general condition was not good. She was very strange in her manner and was continually attempting to take off the bandage.

Dr. G. Raymond (medical officer at the Institution) said he saw deceased on July 7th. The burns were consistent with an attempt to set fire to the bandage. They received attention every day. He thought deceased fell in consequence of a stroke, and there was a recurrence on July 27th, which resulted in her death on Sunday.

The Deputy Coroner said he thought the relatives did the best they could in the circumstances. He returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence, and expressed his sympathy with the family.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
© 2022 <https://www.foncc.org.uk>