

James William Rayner

Isle of Wight County Press - 20 January 1951

Newport Man's Fatal Fall Downstairs.

The Coroner (Mr. R. E. A. Webster) was told how an 86-years old man's desire to visit his son's sick bed led to his death, when he conducted an inquest at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, on Friday week on James William Rayner, a retired wheelwright, of 39 Robin Hood St., Newport, who died after falling down a flight of stairs.

Dr. G. J. Taine, orthopaedic registrar said that Rayner was admitted to the hospital with a head injury on January 5th. He was semi-conscious and there were lacerations on his skull. Witness thought he was suffering from severe concussion. The patient improved, but uraemia developed, and his death on January 11th was due this and chronic nephritis precipitated by the head injury.

Mr. Tom Vincent, a retired lawyer, said that on the evening of January 5th Mr. Rayner, his father-in-law, was living with him and he said that he was going upstairs to visit his son, who had bronchitis. Witness told him to be careful as he had a cold and was a little tottery on his legs. He had not been upstairs long when witness heard a bang, as if he had fallen downstairs. He found him at the foot of the stairs bleeding profusely from a head injury. A doctor attended him and on the following day decided that it was a case for the hospital.

P.S. A. H. Eyles said that the stairs were steep and unlighted, and there was no illumination in the passage or on the landing. There was a mat at the head of the stairs which might have been the cause of the fall.

The Coroner recorded a verdict of death from natural causes.

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