

**Barrie Edgar Downer**

**Isle of Wight Country Press – 27 April 1940**

**Newport Parents' Tragic Bereavement.**

**BABY SON DIES FROM SCALDS.**

At the Methodist School, Ryde, on Tuesday the Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce Esq.) held an inquiry into a particularly sad fatality, which occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Downer, at Ceton [*sic*], Staplers-road, Newport, on Sunday, when their only child, Barrie Edgar, aged 18 months, fell into a bowl of almost boiling water and received injuries which caused his death at the County Hospital later in the day.

The evidence of the father, a Newport butcher, and his wife was that the little boy was playing in the garden, where his father was at work, and his mother did not notice him enter the kitchen, where she was preparing to wash some clothes, and the little one fell into a bowl of hot water which she had just taken from the copper and placed on the floor. Apparently the child slipped while trying to reach a tin of biscuits on the table. The father and mother immediately called in Dr. A. A. Straton, who took the boy to the County Hospital in his car, but he died from the shock of extensive scalds that night.

The Coroner returned a verdict of accidental death, and expressed sympathy with the parents.

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