

William George Henry Feaver

Isle of Wight County Press – 13 September 1924.

COWES MAN KILLED ON A BARGE.

FALL FROM ALOFT.

The distressing death of William G. H. Feaver, of 4 Trafalgar-terrace, Terminus-road, Cowes, mate of the barge Zanobia, who received fatal injuries by falling from the cross-trees of the ship on to the deck, was investigated by the Deputy Coroner (E. V. Budden, Esq.) and a jury at the Traders'-hall, Northfleet, Kent, on Monday. Mr. H. W. Parker, of London, appeared on behalf of the relatives of deceased, and Mr. F. A. Edwards (H.M. Inspector of Factories) was present.

Emily Adelaide Feaver, wife of the deceased, said he was 35. She last saw him alive on Sunday week, when he was in good health and spirits. He had been doing the same sort of work since a boy. She had two children, aged four and two.

Jesse Farthing, of 123 Western-road, Strood, the master of the barge, owned by Mr. W. H. Howlett, of Park-place, Gravesend, said she was on the hard at Northfleet undergoing repairs to the bottom. At about 3.30 p.m. he gave deceased instructions to stow the top sail, as he had always done. He had to go up the rigging about 40ft. Witness saw deceased climbing the rigging as he went below. Later the third hand reported the accident to him. Since the mishap witness had been up the rigging, and it was in good condition. The ship was afloat when the accident occurred. The repairs were decided upon when the ship was at Cowes. The rigging was renewed about five or six years ago. Nothing was broken. As far as he knew deceased was quite fit when he went up. He was a teetotaller. He had no cause for complaint against deceased.

Albert Cook, cook on the barge, said he was in the fore-castle when the deceased called to him to undo the clew lines and pull down, tie, and make them fast. He did so, and shortly afterwards, hearing the mate say "Oh," looked up and saw him falling from aloft. He struck the port rail and fell on the deck. Witness went aft for the captain. There was no wind to speak of. He did not notice any big boats pass that would have caused the barge to roll. Nothing was broken in the rigging. He had never seen deceased come over faint. – The Captain, recalled, said he had not known deceased have fainting fits. He would have been standing on the cross-trees when he fell. That was the recognised way of doing the job. – Dr. Shute said there was a large scalp wound on the left side of the head, disclosing a fractured skull. – The Coroner said it was possible, but he did not think it probable, that the deceased had a fainting fit when aloft. He appeared to have slipped in some accidental way. – The Foreman (the captain of a sailing barge) said he had slipped when doing the same work, but was fortunate enough to save himself. A verdict of "Accidental death" was returned.

The funeral took place at St. Paul's (Barton) Cemetery on Thursday afternoon, the Vicar (the Rev. Miles Atkinson) officiating. Deceased was a member of the Sir Edward Riley Lodge, R.A.O.B., Newport, and many members assembled to pay the final tribute of respect. The Lodge also sent a handsome floral tribute, and there were similar tokens of affection and esteem from relatives and friends. The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. H. W. Parnell, Newport.

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