

MARRIAGE: 5th Jan 1862 at St. Thomas's Church, Ryde, IW.
Thomas POOL. 22. Bachelor. (father: **** POOL)
Ann DUNFORD. 21. Spinster. (father: Edward DUNFORD)

1871 CENSUS: RG10/1165. folio 15. page 21.
Address: Laundry, Binstead, IW.

Thomas POOLE. Head. Mar. 30. Captain of Yacht. Portsmouth, Hants.
Ann POOLE. Wife. Mar. 29. Laundress. Brading, IW.
Hellen POOLE. Dau. 8. Ryde, IW.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 26th June 1873

SAD CASE OF THE DROWNING OF THE CAPTAIN OF A YACHT.

An inquest was held at the "Fleming Arms," Binstead, on Tuesday evening, before Mr. F. BLAKE, coroner, and a jury of which Mr. GAD HILL was foremen, on the body of **Thomas POOLE**, the Captain of Sir Charles LOCOCK's yacht "Cid," who met his death by drowning on the previous day, under the following circumstances. The jury having been sworn, proceeded to view the body, which was lying at Binstead House.-

The Rev. LOCOCK deposed as follows; Thomas POOLE, the deceased, was called the "Captain" of Sir Charles LOCOCK's (my father's) yacht, the "Cid," of 13 tons I think. He and one boy formed the crew. I was in the yacht yesterday: there were also there the butler and his two children, and two of the maid servants, besides deceased and the boy. We went to Spithead, and I steered. We returned to Binstead in the yacht, to her moorings, about half- past two. POOLE was standing at the bow as she came up to her moorings, and he endeavoured to catch the boat which was moored, but not in her usual manner (that is the secret of the whole incident). The buoy, instead of being free for POOLE to catch it with the boat hook, was in the boat- instead of floating. The boy belonging to the yacht had left it so- that was under POOLE's direction. (The Coroner: You don't know that.) The effect was that instead of catching the rope loop of the buoy with the boat hook, we steered right up to the boat and he jumped in from the bow of the yacht: he could not reach her without: he let himself down partly, and partly dropped himself into the boat, which was a good sized one- the largest of the two boats we have. He let go his hold of the yacht, and the impetus- of the "Cid" -carried him over the side of the boat, and he went head -foremost into the water: the boat did not capsize. I saw him go over and come up again on the other side of the boat- close to it, and he touched it many times, but could not get his hand up to the gunwale of the boat so as to catch hold of it. He then, I thought, began to swim round the stern of the boat. In the meantime we had drifted on, the "Cid" having caught the wind- so that we shot ahead. We were sufficiently near to have rendered assistance, but we always understood from him that he was a good swimmer; I had sent my children out with him: we relied upon his saving himself: he was within two yards of the mooring rope of the boat and supposed he was perfectly safe. I turned the "Cid" round to go to him: really he was drifting away, though he appeared to be swimming. By the time I had got her round and was able to look at him, he was perhaps 10 yards away from the boat, and he immediately sank, about 30 yards from the "Cid." He did not rise again. Had he been a good swimmer, we saw no reason why he could not save himself. We thought him as safe as if we had thrown the buoy to him. Nothing was thrown to him. Being a good swimmer, and close to the bank, we considered he would have no difficulty in saving himself. I had the life belt ready to throw to him when I turned round. I did not do that at first, because I thought he was perfectly safe. He was touching the boat. He once

called out for help- just as he was drifting away: that is we heard a noise: we could not distinguish anything- else he did not speak. There was a severe blow at the back of the head, and I imagine he struck the keel of the boat in coming up the first time- on the other side of the boat: I think that disabled him and rendered him partially unconscious. I think there could have been no difficulty else in reaching his hand to the top of the boat. It is a common thing to get into a boat from the water. I think it is very doubtful whether he would have been able to have laid hold of anything if it had been thrown to him, under those circumstances: he was never really swimming: he never struck out. A person in full possession of the powers of mind and body would have had no difficulty in laying hold of the boat. He had been with us seven years- six years with this yacht.- By the Foreman: He pitched over head foremost, seeming to lose his balance.

Chas. MONKTON, butler in the service of Sir Charles LOCOCK, gave corroborative evidence, the only varying or additional statements being as follow: I saw him jump over the side of the "Cid," but could not see the boat. Next I saw him come up from under the water. He came up close to the boat and reached it in a minute or so. I had no anxiety as to his saving himself at that time, because I thought he could swim well. He put both hands on the boat and they seemed to slip off. I think the boat was too high to get hold. He appeared to swim to the boat: he did not call for assistance then: the yacht was drifting away. After we came round, I saw him at the stern of the boat struggling in the water: it lasted a very few moments: I saw him disappear then. We were not near enough to throw anything to him then. The only chance to throw anything was just as we passed him when he first came up, but we had no anxiety then: we expected to see him get in the boat. I said to one of the girls "He's all right: he'll be in the boat in a minute." He had told me he could swim.

The Foreman: Don't you think that if a lifebuoy had been thrown out at first he might possibly have caught it? – MONKTON: he might or he might not. The next minute he touched the boat.- One or two jurors said they understood that deceased could not swim.- Another said a man told him he had seen him swim some distance. By the Coroner: Blood had come from deceased's head on to the bed, as if from a wound. By a Juror: heard that deceased jumped in the boat and pitched out again- that the motion of the sea or something threw him out.

Thomas Frederick ROACH, mariner, Ryde: I found the body of deceased yesterday. I saw him fall over I was aboard of the "Menelaus" quarantine ship. I saw him jump in the boat, the yacht went past, and I saw there was a man overboard. We lowered a boat to go to him. As the yacht passed, and as I did not see the man in the boat, I said that man is overboard. I did not see him fall over because of the mainsail of the yacht. I then saw him in the water. He tried to get hold of the boat. We pulled towards him, but could not see him; he had disappeared. If he could have reached the boat he would have got hold. I searched at once and we landed him 1 ½ hours afterwards: we found him with the hooks and line about 20 yards from the boat. I didn't think anything could have been thrown from the yacht to him; as it soon shot past. By the foreman; I saw him jump in the boat, but no more of him until he was in the water.

The Coroner then summed up the evidence, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned." The Foreman thought sailors should be more cautious as to how they get into small boats: he had seen sailors run along the gunwale and jump in frequently, which was most dangerous. It is a pity the lifebuoy was not thrown out at first, for even had it not been required, no harm would have been done: it might have been the means of saving this life. It is always well to err on the right side had the poor fellow too worn a cork life-jacket – which can be done without inconvenience- he would have been supported till assistance could have been rendered. We wonder sailors and landsmen taking water trips, ever leave the shore without one.
