

## Ada Matilda Duffett, nee Bevis 1865 – 1897

Ada Matilda Duffett was the daughter of Matilda Kirby and George Bevis. Matilda and George were married in Newport, IOW, in 1861 and had the following children;

1. George William, born 1863. He married Mary Ann and they lived in Australia.
2. Matilda Ada, born 1865
3. Ernest, born 1867
4. Frederick Henry, born 1869
5. Florence, born 1872

George Bevis died in 1878 in Ryde of acute Rheumatism (7 days) and Meningitis (3 days). Matilda married Charles Robinson Taplen in 1878.

Matilda died in 1892 from Morbus Cordis (Aortic & Mistral) Anasarca Ascites

Ada Bevis married James George Duffett on 7<sup>th</sup> February 1887. They had the following children;

1. Dorothy Marie, born 1888
2. Brunel George, born 1891
3. Leslie James Patrick, born 1895

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## Isle of Wight Observer

Saturday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1878

### WESTWING HOUSE SCHOOL

On Wednesday evening the scholars attending this school, which is so ably conducted by the Misses Fraser, had their annual presentation of prizes at the Town Hall. The Rev. A.J. Wade (vicar of Holy Trinity), made the presentations, and with kindly and encouraging words presented the prizes, which mainly consisted to books, to the following young ladies:

FIRST DIVISION. – English Subjects – 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Alice Maude King: English Composition – 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Amy Newman: Arithmetic and Writing – 1<sup>st</sup> prize Kate Withers: Good Conduct – 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Winifred Kate Dennis.

SECOND DIVISION. – English Subjects – Marion Hillyer and Adelaide Arliss (equal), 1<sup>st</sup> prize: General Improvement – Florence Lyver, Ellen Riddick, and Henriette L'Epine.

THIRD DIVISION. – Alice Hillier, 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Emily Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Ellen Spanner, 3<sup>rd</sup>: Kate Taylor, 4<sup>th</sup>.

FOURTH DIVISION. – General Improvement – Caroline Russell, **Louisa Duffett**<sup>1</sup>, Ruth Cooper, Marguerite Watts, **Sarah Duffett**<sup>2</sup> and F. Lyver.

Prize for Needlework – Marie Whitfield: certificate for Needlework – E. Riddick: first prize for French – Gertrude Howard Andrews: certificates from French – Alice Maude King, Kate Withers, Amy Newman, Winifred Kate Dennis, Marion Hillier, Adelaide Arliss, Sophia Cooper, Florence Lyver.

First prize for Theory of Music – Gertrude Howard Andrews: 2<sup>nd</sup>, Sophia Cooper. Prizes awarded for Music and Singing – Fanny Sanders, Beatrice Foster, Alice Chiverton, Amy Spanner, Rose Halstead, Sarah Cooper and Emma Cooper. Certificates for Music – Florence Lyver, Marion Hillier, Laura Sanders, Marie Whitfield, **Ada Bevis**, Helen Spanner and Kate Withers.

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<sup>1</sup> Sister of James George Duffett

<sup>2</sup> ditto

CERTIFICATES. – English Subjects – Amy Newman, Sophia Cooper, Marie Whitfield and **Ada Bevis**. Arithmetic and Writing – Amy Newman, Alice M. King, Winifred K. Dennis, Fanny Saunders, Adelaide Arliss, Ellen Riddick, Alice Hillier, Helen Spanner and Emily Moore.

After the presentation, an interesting entertainment was given almost entirely by the pupils the Misses Fraser have so well instructed. The programme opened with the part-song “The Evening Hour” (Martin), cleverly given by the pupils (who we may add all wore fancy dresses). This was followed by the pianoforte duet “Marche des Conscrits” (E. Lott), by Misses Andrews and Chiverton, whose performance did them great credit. The song “After” (Millard), by Miss Marion Hillyer, was loudly applauded, and so was the part-song “Cherry Ripe” (Martin), by the pupils. The song “Mon ame a Dieu, mon Coeur a toi” (Clapisson), was very nicely rendered by Mdlle. Henriette L’Epine, a French young lady who has only been in England three months. She was loudly encored. The pianoforte duet, “Scotch Airs” (Godfrey), by Misses M. Fraser and Sanders, is deserving of great praise. Miss Clara Fraser (one of the principals), next favoured with “Sweet Leonora” (B. Smith), which was so sweetly rendered that an imperative encore was given. The rest of the programme was gone through as follows: Evening hymn, “Ave Sanctisgima” (Rimbault), Misses Fraser, Halstead, Andrews and Cooper: part-song, “The Last Rose of Summer” (Martic), the pupils: pianoforte solo, (Fra Diavolo” (Sydney Smith), Miss Mary Fraser: song, Miss H. Fraser (encored): pianoforte duet, “Charity” (Rossini), Misses Withers and Hillyer: solo and chorus, “Charity” (Rossini), Miss H. M. Fraser and pupils: pianoforte solo, “Rhapsodie” (Sydney Smith), Miss Andrews: song, “I’ve waited long enough, Kathleen” (E. Silas), Miss A Spanner: pianoforte duet, “Ye Banks and Braes” (Mudie), Misses Amy and Nelly Spanner: part song, “Auld Lang Syne” (Martin), the pupils: God save the Queen.”

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Isle of Wight Observer

Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> 1882

[George William Bevis was the brother of Ada Matilda Duffett]

#### A SERIOUS CHARGE

**George Wm. Bevis** (19), Union-street, was charged with feloniously stealing a certain black mare, of the value of £40, the goods of Charles Taplin, greengrocer, of Union-street. – Thomas Long deposed: I live in Player-street and am horse keeper in the employ of Mr Charles Taplin. He has one horse. On Thursday night last I left the horse safe in the stable and locked the outer door. The coachhouse door was trigged up, and when they got into the coachhouse they could get from there into the stable. I went to the stable at 6 o’clock the next morning. I found the outside door open; the stable door was also open, and the mare was gone. I went into the coachhouse and missed a bridle and some corn, chaff, a bag, and two straps. The bridle produced belonged to Mr Taplin. The rug produced also belonged to Mr Taplin, but that was not on the mare, it was in the cart. The mare is now in the Market. – John M. Daish deposed: I am Inspector of Nuisances for the Borough of Ryde. On Thursday evening I was here till very late. When I left this room it was about 25 minutes to 1. I went from here straight home. I heard a horse coming at rather a sharp pace; I believe from Union-road. When the horse got into Cross-street it came at a faster pace in this direction. I was then between the Theatre and the Crown Hotel, and stopped. When the horse arrived opposite Church-lane the speed was slackened. I moved a few paces towards the horse, and it was then driven on at a quick pace in the direction of Lind-street. I hardly like to swear that it was the defendant who was with the horse, but I have not the slightest doubt of it. He had a low crowned felt hat or cap on and a white muffler, one end of which flew over his shoulder. He was driving a dark animal with a white foot or feet. The mare outside is the same colour, but I could not swear she is the same. – James Lambert deposed: I am staying at Coppin’s Bridge, Newport, with my son. I have bought and sold horses for a great many years.

On Friday morning, about quarter to 8, prisoner came to me at the Plough Inn, Newport. He said he wanted to change away his mare for a smaller one, and went into my stable and picked out one. I had a deal with him, and changed a black cob for the mare. Prisoner signed the agreement produced in the presence of Mr Salter, and I gave him the black cob and £2, and he gave me the mare. Before I bought it I asked him if it was his own mare, and he said "yes, he wanted a smaller one." He did not say anything about Mr Taplin, but said he was in partnership with his father-in-law and wanted a smaller horse. I afterwards handed the mare to the sergeant of the police at Sandown. – Charles Taplin deposed: I carry on the business of a greengrocer in Union-street. Prisoner is my wife's son. I am not in partnership with him. I kept the mare in a stable at the back of the house; the entrance is from Union-road. Prisoner had no right to take the mare away or to sell her. I have been offered £40 for the mare. The bridle and rug are also my property. The mare outside the court is my property. – P.S. Martin deposed: On Friday last I went to Sandown, and there received from the witness Lambert the mare now outside the court. – Superintendent Hinks deposed: On Friday morning last I received information that a black mare had been stolen, and from enquiries I made I went to Yarmouth, where the prisoner was in custody at the police-station. I went to him and charged him with stealing a black mare the property of Mr Taplin. He made no reply. I then went to the George Hotel stables and there found a brown cob and the bridle and rug produced. I took back the cob and handed it over to Mr Lambert at Newport. On the way from Yarmouth to Newport prisoner told me that he had exchanged the black mare for the brown cob with Mr Lambert, of Coppin's Bridge, and he had received £2. Prisoner was searched, and on him was found £1 15s 9d. – Prisoner who had nothing to say, was committed to take his trial at the next Sessions at Winchester in April next.

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The Hampshire Advertiser  
Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> 1882

HAMPSHIRE EASTER SESSIONS  
PLEADED GUILTY

**George W. Bevis**, aged 19, pleaded guilty to stealing a black mare, a bridle, and a rug, the property of Charles Taplin, at Ryde, on March 13<sup>th</sup>, and was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

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Isle of Wight Observer  
Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup> 1892  
[Mother of Ada Matilda Duffett]

DEATHS

TAPLEN – On the 21<sup>st</sup> instant, in Union-street, Ryde, Isle of Wight, the wife of Charles Taplen, aged 51

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Isle of Wight Observer  
Saturday January 14<sup>th</sup> 1893  
[Charles Taplen was the step-father of Ada Matilda Duffett]

BANKRUPTCY

*Re* Charles Robinson Taplen, of 8, Union Street, Ryde, greengrocer. – Liabilities, £445 3s 3d; available assets, £193 0s 4d; deficiency, £262 2s 11d. – The debtor attended for his public examination, and having been questioned as to his affairs by the Official Receiver (Mr H. C. Damant), stated that he commenced business when he married his late wife in 1878. She had the business at the time and he had no capital. His wife died on the 20<sup>th</sup> September last year, and there was £103 3s due from the Prudential

Assurance Company in respect to a policy on her life. By will she left everything to her children, but the will had not been proved. On account of the liabilities previous to his marriage, his late wife was indebted to Messrs Ash and Thomas to the extent of £120, but he knew nothing about it till six years after. Although he made an offer in respect to the debt, he did not look upon it as a running account. The Official Receiver: Messrs Ash and Thomas say it is. – The bankrupt stated that he had returned Messrs Ash and Thomas as creditors for £179 17s 11d. He was pressed by creditors directly his wife died, and he would have made compromise with them had it not been for Mr Briggs. He supposed his **daughter** took all the linen that was in the house when his wife died. – The Official Receiver explained that the children were by the first marriage. The Wife's life was insured before the Married Women's Property Act came into force. – The public examination was ordered to be closed.

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Isle of Wight County Press  
Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January 1893

ISLE OF WIGHT BANKRUPTCY COURT

On Monday, at Newport, before the Deputy Registrar (E.E. Blake, Esq.)

Re: CHARLES ROBINSON TAPLEN

of 8 Union Street, Ryde, Greengrocer.

Liabilities - £445 3s. 3d. ; available assets, £195 0s. 4d. ; deficiency, £262 2s. 11d.

The debtor attended for his public examination, and in reply to the official Receiver he said he first commenced business at 8 Union Street when he married in 1878. His wife had been carrying on business there previously. He had no capital when he commenced, and his wife had only the business.

When he married, the best part of the furniture was given to him by his father. He held the premises on a lease for 7, 14 or 21 years. The rent used to be £55 a year, but the last year or so it had been reduced to £42. His wife died in September 1892. Her life was insured for £100 in the Prudential and there was a bonus of £20. His wife borrowed about £11 on the policy, and there was due in respect to it £109 3s. His wife left a will. Did not know where it was, but believed Mr. Dashwood, the solicitor, had it. The purport of the will was that she left everything to the children. The will had not been proved. They wouldn't prove it because of the liability. The insurance money had not been received.

Some of his liabilities were contracted by his wife before his marriage to her. She owed Messrs. Ash and Thomas £120 at the time he married her.

The Deputy Registrar: Have you been dealing with them and paying them money since?

Debtor: yes.

The Deputy Registrar: Then that £120 must have been paid off long ago and a fresh indebtedness has accrued.

The Official Receiver: That is what Mr. Ash says.

Debtor: My wife's debt was not brought forward in my account, and I knew nothing of it until six years afterwards, when it was brought forward as against me, just within the statute.

Question: What sort of receipts did Messrs. Ash and Thomas give you?

They used to put the receipts on the bill. There was a sort of running account.

Question: You return Messrs. Ash and Thomas as creditors of yours for £179 17 s. 11d.?

Yes.

Question: Where are the accounts and receipts?

Mr. Dashwood has got them.

Question: Did you ever make Messrs. Ash and Thomas an offer in respect to this debt?

I offered to pay them 5s. in the pound on the full amount. Some years ago Mr. Ash I think it was, came to me – it was before Mr. Thomas was in the business – and he offered to take £40 or something like that, for this back account.

Question: And you offered to pay 5s. in the pound?

Yes.

Question: Then some years ago you assumed the debt as your own?

I suppose they would say so.

Answering further questions, debtor said his life was insured in the Prudential. He began to be pressed by creditors directly his wife died. Mr. Biggs pressed him. His wife conducted the business, and it was not until after her death that he became aware of the full extent of his liabilities. Had returned Mr. Dashwood as a partly secured creditor. He held some papers – accounts – and also the lease. Should not think they were of much value. The best part of the furniture in the house belonged to him. Was not aware that **Mrs. Duffett** claimed the piano. He supposed it belonged to him. His wife had it when he married her, and it had been in the house ever since. He had returned a watch as belonging to him. Did not know it was claimed by **Mrs. Duffett**. They took it for his debts.

Question: Did they take it without any consent from you?

Yes. I missed it about the Sunday before my wife died.

The Deputy Registrar: Why did you not take steps to recover it?

Debtor: I asked young **Duffett** to return it or I should give him legal notice and he only laughed at me.

The Debtor went on to explain his tenancy of a garden which he held on a lease “from a lady in the Park named Gore”. There was very little there of any value he said.

Question: Has any furniture been recently removed from your house?

Yes, all of it.

Question: I mean, previously to the sale?

No.

Question: I must ask you to be careful, was there not a parrot and cage there?

Oh, yes, I sold that parrot for one pound soon after my wife died, when I was hard up.

Question: Were there not some pictures and china? What has become of those?

I sold 2 pictures to Mr. Kemp of the Waverley Hotel when I was in difficulties

Es. He also bought the parrot. There was no china.

Question: Any silver?

No.

Question: Any linen?

It was every bit gone.

Question: Who took the linen away?

The **daughters** I suppose. When I was in the shop I did not know what was going on in the house. My wife had a lot of beautiful linen and when I came to look round after she was dead, there was not a bit of linen in the house. Not even a sheet for my bed. And I had to sleep in blankets.

Question: When did you last receive the payment of the Pier Hotel account?

About a month before I filed my petition. The amount was about £30 and I paid it away to different people who were worrying me.

Question: Did you not know at the time that you could not meet your liabilities?

No, I was going to "compromise" which I should have done if it had not been for Mr. Biggs. If I had got the insurance money it would have pulled me through.

The Official Receiver said he understood that the children to whom the debtor had referred were by a former marriage, and that the wife's life insurance was affected before the passing of the Married Women's Property Act.

Examination was closed.

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