

1901 CENSUS: RG13/1026. folio 46. page 10.

Abode: Rougemont, St. John's Park.

Francis D. WALTERS. Head. M. 64. Colonel retired Infantry (Army). Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Anne WALTERS. Wife. M. 56. Preston, Lancashire.

**Susan NORMAN. Serv. S. 37. Cook Domestic. Potton, Beds.**

Lydia MUMFORD. Serv. S. 22. Parlourmaid Domestic. Ryde, IW.

Eleanor HOWLING. Serv. S. 22. Housemaid Domestic. Ryde, IW.

George BROWN. Serv. S. 16. Page Boy Domestic. NK, London.

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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 1923, page 2.

### RYDE WOMAN DROWNED

The Deputy Coroner (Francis A. JOYCE, Esq.) held an inquest at Appley Lodge, Ryde, on Tuesday, on the body of **Susan NORMAN**, of Sea View, The Esplanade, Ryde, whose body was found floating in the water near Appley Tower on Monday morning. —Mr Henry Frederick GANDY, of Purbeck Cottage, West-street, Cowes, said that on Monday morning, at about 10.30, he was walking along the sea-wall from Ryde to Seaview and when near the watch-tower saw a body floating in the water about 15ft away. He waded out and found it to be that of a middle-aged woman. After putting a passer-by in charge, he went for the police. —In reply to the Coroner, witness said that the woman was fully dressed, except for her hat, and the water at that spot was 2ft. or 3ft. deep. The tide was coming in and was full at 12.10. —The Coroner: The sea-wall is not protected in any way? —No, sir. —Q. It would be easy for her to fall over the wall, would it not? —Yes, sir, if it was foggy, as it was that morning. —George Edward FRY, a cycle mechanic, of Haylands, identified the body as that of his wife's aunt, Susan NORMAN. As far as he knew her age was 58. With her sister, Mrs. HOLBROOK, she let apartments. For two months she had had a nervous breakdown, due, he thought, to overwork. She could not do her ordinary work, and was rather depressed about it. Witness saw his aunt on Sunday evening, at about 10.30, when she seemed in much better spirits. She expressed the hope that she would be able to do a little more work on the morrow. —In reply to the Coroner, witness said his aunt had never been in any trouble financially. She often stayed out late at night, and sometimes went out for a walk after breakfast. —Nellie CHAPPELL, a domestic servant, said she had been employed at Sea View, the Esplanade, for about three months. On Monday morning she noticed the deceased was dressed ready to go out, and remarked "You are going out early." There was more work than usual that morning, and deceased replied that she would be of no use in the house and would help by getting out of the way. She seemed much better in health, and her spirits were good. Witness did not remember her going out so early before. It was very foggy at that time. —Dr. E. L. HORSBURGH said he visited deceased on September 3, when she complained of having a nervous breakdown, following depression and insomnia. Mrs. HOLBROOK told him that she sometimes suffered from delusions, but he carefully tested deceased and found no sign of it. On examination after death, which was undoubtably due to drowning, he found no more than a small

bruise on the breast and another on the left shin, such as might have been caused by a fall. –In summing up the evidence, the Coroner said there was no doubt that deceased was drowned, and the only point to determine was the circumstances. It was clear that no other person was responsible for deceased’s death. A suggestion of suicide did enter in, but on the other hand the weather was very foggy and she might have walked down among the rocks and stumbled. He should therefore return a verdict of “Found Drowned.”