

1891 CENSUS: RG13/1024. folio 74. page 6.
Abode: West View, Binstead-road, Ryde, IW.

Jane M. E. HARRINGTON. Head. S. 65. Living on own means. Portsea, Hants.
Agnes E. MARSH. Serv. S. 40. General Servant Domestic. Chillerton, IW.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday Oct 22nd 1936, page 4.

RYDE WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH – LIVED ALONE
Cousin's Tragic Discovery

The story of how an elderly Ryde woman met her death from burns was told to the Assistant Deputy Coroner, Dr. H. Y. MANSFIELD, at the inquest at Ryde on Tuesday on Mrs. **Agnes E. MARSH** (77), of 44 Argyle-street.

Mrs. Harriett TAYLOR, of 45 Green-street, Ryde, wife of Councillor H. V. TAYLOR, stated that Mrs. MARSH, who was her cousin, had resided in Argyle-street for the past nine years. She refused to leave her house and live with relatives. About a month ago Mrs. MARSH was unwell, but she refused to see a doctor. Towards the end of September, however, she was seen by Dr. Upcott GILL, who paid two visits. Witness visited her frequently. She (Mrs. MARSH) was not able to get about very well, but she managed to look after herself. She last saw her alive on Saturday, October 17. She was then in her bedroom, where there was a fire. There was also a fire in the kitchen and as it was nearly out witness advised Mrs. MARSH to make it up. There was no guard around the kitchen fire. Her cousin was in her bedroom when she left.

Lying on the Floor

Miss Bessie TAYLOR, also of 45 Green-street, said that on Sunday morning last she called at 44 Argyle-street and found a tap running. She shouted to Mrs. MARSH, but received no reply. She went upstairs and not finding her there went into the kitchen. She caught sight of something on the floor of the scullery and on entering found Mrs. MARSH lying on the floor with her head resting on a bath. She was badly burned and was dead. Witness added there was a fire in the kitchen.

The Coroner: She probably set alight to herself in lighting the fire and turned on the tap to put out the flames?

Miss TAYLOR: Yes.

Dr. Upcott GILL said he was called to the house and found Mrs. MARSH lying on the floor. Most of her clothing had been burned off and the body was badly burned. Death was due to shock from burns in conjunction with her age and general bodily condition.

P.C. COOKE said he went to the house and found a piece of paper where Mrs. MARSH had been sitting. The paper had been practically burned away, and witness

formed the opinion the paper caught alight from the fire while Mrs. MARSH was asleep and she only woke when the flames reached her body. Witness added that the house was in a filthy condition.

Replying to the Coroner, Mrs. TAYLOR said Mrs. MARSH used not to trouble about herself.

“It is a wonder the house was not burned down,” remarked the Coroner in returning a verdict that death was due to shock following extensive burns.