

1851 CENSUS: HO107/1664. folio 179. page 2.

Abode: Buckingham-road, Ryde, IW.

Charles DRAYTON. Head. Mar. 40. Painter. Ryde, Hants.

Jane DRAYTON. Wife. Mar. 40. Laundress. St. Helens, Hants.

Jane DRAYTON. Dau. Un. 17. Laundress. Ryde, Hants.

Frank DRAYTON. Son. 15. Errand Boy. Ryde, Hants.

Joseph MARSH. Lodger. Un. 21. Painter. Ryde, Hants.

1861 CENSUS: RG9/657. folio 23. page 17.

Abode: 13 Buckingham-place, Ryde, IW.

Charles DRAYTON. Head. Mar. 50. Painter. Ryde, IW.

Jane DRAYTON. Wife. Mar. 51. Laundress. St. Helens, IW.

W. J. H. SIMMONS. Lodger. Un. 22. Clerk Elec. Tel. Company. London, Middlesex.

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday Sept 14th 1861, page 5.

CORONER'S INQUEST

On Thursday last a coroner's jury was empanelled to inquire into the circumstance under which **Charles DRAYTON**, a painter, and well-known character in Ryde among waterman and publicans, came by his death. It appears that the deceased had some quarrel about a fortnight since with James REDMAN, a licensed driver, a man who, in the ring, would be considered a heavy weight, being a very stout and portly man. REDMAN struck him a blow on the side of the head, the result of which will be gleaned from the evidence. The jurymen assembled at the Town Hall at 3 o'clock, and consisted of the following tradesmen:--Messrs. E. SWEETMAN (foreman), James LAKE, George HARBER, Benjamin WHITTINGTON, James ISAACS, William WEARN, John BONE, William WILTSHIRE, George MURRAY, Thomas STREET, John GOODALL, George MUNDELL, and Henry JOLLIFFE. The jury having been sworn in the usual way, proceeded to view the body in Buckingham-road. On their return, the first witness called was:

William BURNETT, who being sworn, deposed --I live at Oakfield, and am a painter. I know the deceased. Charles DRAYTON. He was a painter, and lived in Buckingham-road, Ryde. I should think his age was about 50. On the 30th day of August last, between the hours of 2 and 4, I was in front of the Pier Hotel, on the Esplanade. DRAYTON was between Mr. TAYLOR's, the chemist, and the Eagle Hotel, also on the Esplanade. About six or seven yards from where I was standing I saw the deceased accost James REDMAN, who was standing near him. He walked towards him and heard him accuse REDMAN of borrowing a shilling of him, and of having

never repaid it. He said "Jerry you owe me a shilling, but you have never paid me." Jerry is a nickname REDMAN goes by. Redman replied "I never had a shilling of you in my life." The deceased then, without saying anything more, shoved REDMAN three or four times, and said, "you villain, you do, and you shall pay, or I will have it." REDMAN stood as quiet as possible, and begged him to go away. REDMAN walked away from him, and the deceased then followed him still, until they got to the passage leading to the Union publichouse, on the Esplanade. DRAYTON still abused him, and said "b----- your eyes, if you don't pay me now I'll knock you down." REDMAN again told him to go away. The deceased upon that caught hold of him (REDMAN) by the sleeve or breast of the coat, and REDMAN, in self defence and to get him away, pushed him down with the right or left hand. It was not a blow; he did it as any one would who wished to shun some one who was annoying them. I do not know whether he touched him on the chest or mouth; it was with the back of the hand. At the time of the push DRAYTON still had hold of REDMAN's coat. I only saw him strike the deceased once. DRAYTON was quite tipsy at the time. I saw him several times during the day, and, from the middle of the day up to this occurrence, he appeared very unsteady. From the push or shove DRAYTON fell on the paved passage, right on his back, his head striking the floor. I was standing so as to command a view of the passage; being about four or five yards from them, I could see all that transpired. He laid there until I called assistance to help him up. He made no effort to raise himself, and appeared to be stunned. I helped to get him up, and observed some blood running, either from the lip or mouth, but not much, as if it was a slight wound. I did not observe any wound. When I got him up he could neither stand nor speak. I called to a man named REEVES to assist me in carrying him into a back place, belonging to the Union Tap, and bathed his face and hands with water, until Mr. OLLARD came, about nine or ten minutes afterwards. Mr. REDMAN appeared to me to be quite sober at the time. I think he went for a doctor, for he came back with one; he did not help him up, for he seemed too much hurt. I do not think the push or shove, would have caused a sober man to fall. I feel certain it would not. REDMAN did not appear angry more than I am at the present time. When DRAYTON took hold of his coat, he told him to go away before he pushed him. REDMAN pulled himself away once and deceased took hold of him a second time, and REDMAN again told him to leave him alone and go away. DRAYTON said he should not, and "You owe me the shilling, and I am determined to have it." REDMAN did not exercise more violence, in my opinion, than was necessary to extricate himself. I am quite certain he did not strike him with his closed fist.

By the Juryman. —He fell lengthway in the passage. There were about 20 standing around, but I did not take particular notice as to who they were. From the state he was in at the time a slight push would cause him to fall.

John Farmery OLLARD, surgeon, was next called. He deposed —I did not know the deceased before the 30th of August, when SAUNDERS came for me. I went, and found him laying on his back on a board on the ground. I found his upper lip swollen and slightly cut on the inner surface. There was a bruise on the left cheek from a blow of some kind. I remained two or three minutes, and he appeared to be coming round. I

told those in attendance to give him as much air as possible, and take him home. I have since seen him every day at his house, in bed. He was rambling and incoherent in his talk, and very restless. He complained of pain in the back part of his head, and I found a bruise there, as if from a fall. He continued to ramble in his talk and to be very restless until Friday following, and quite incapable of giving any collected statement. On Friday he improved a little, and his daughter informed me he had been out. He was worse on the following day when I saw him, and continued to grow so until Tuesday, when he became suddenly insensible and died on Wednesday forenoon. I this morning made a post mortem examination. I found the remains of a bruise on the left cheek, caused by a blow of some kind. On removing the scalp, I found a considerable amount of congestion on the back part of the head, more especially on the left side, corresponding with the exterior bruise. On removing the skull, I found the membranes internally congested; and in cutting through the membrane found a large quantity of clotted blood, fully two ounces, occupying the anterior part of the superior and the whole of the inferior of the left hemisphere. There was a considerable infusion of bloody serum in the left ventricle, and a small clot of blood under the left lobe of the cerebellum. All the other organs were quite healthy. The state of the head would be accounted for by a blow or fall rupturing one of the arteries of the brain, which rupture was the cause of death. If he had fallen as described, it might have been caused by a fall or blow. It would not necessarily be a severe blow to cause the swelling of the lip and cut. The blow on the cheek was also apparently caused by a blow, and was not sufficiently near the lip to have been caused by the same blow. When I first saw him he had evidently been drinking, but I could not exactly say what state he was in.

REDMAN here stated that the blow on the cheek was done on the day previous about the same time; but Mr. OLLARD said that the blow was not of 24 hours standing.

Charles REEVES was next called, and stated that he lived in Buckingham-road, next door to DRAYTON, and saw him on Friday morning, the 30th ult., at 7 o'clock, when he was drunk. He saw him between 11 and 12 in Pier-street; he was then drunk, but could walk. In the afternoon, somewhere about 2, he saw the deceased in the Union passage in BURNETT's arms, and helped to carry him in the back place. Witness saw a little blood from the lip or tooth, and believed REDMAN went or sent for a doctor. REDMAN said deceased had been following him about and accusing him of owing him a shilling, and he (deceased) struck him a time or two. REDMAN also stated that he put out his hand so (witness here swung round his arm) and pushed him down. REDMAN did not appear to be angry at all, and was sober. He (witness) thought from the state DRAYTON was in a little would cause him to fall. On the previous day he saw two of his relations knock him down on the pavement opposite the Pier hotel, and he (witness) took his part. When he got up he appeared to be almost senseless, and was helped up by a man named SIVELL. When DRAYTON was drunk he was quarrelsome and violent. Him and REDMAN were always on good terms.

Mr. HADLEY. —I should like to ask who the relations were:

Witness. —George DRAYTON and George DRAYTON, father and son. On the same day, after I had assisted him home in a carriage and half-an-hour afterwards, he

came back to me at Mr. KENDALL's, at the Pier tap. I would not have any conversation with him, but walked away on the pier. I do not know whether he complained or how long he stopped.

James TAYLOR, Licensed chairman, was next called and stated –That he was present when the affair occurred. He saw deceased come out of Union passage in a tipsy state. This witness's evidence was principally corroborative of that taken before.

Jane DRAYTON, widow of the deceased, was next called and stated –That on the 30th of August she did not see her husband from 9 in the morning until he was brought home in the afternoon. He had been drinking at 9 o'clock. After he was brought home he went out again and was again brought home in a Bath chair. He was never sufficiently sensible to give any account of how it happened. He was sensible at times, but did not know that he had been struck until she (witness) told him. REDMAN called on her one day, in company with REEVES and another man and said "I hope the poor dear fellow will get over it," and "I would not have knocked him down for the world, if he had not been drinky." He further said that they had always been friendly. He (DRAYTON) was injured in his head three or four years ago, and ever since he had been in a very excitable state after drinking.

Henry SIVELL, mariner, was next called. He stated –DRAYTON was my uncle. I did not see him on the day this affair happened. I saw him on the following day, in the evening, at his own house. He was then sensible, but told me nothing. On last Friday I saw him again; and he said, putting one hand behind and one in front of his head, "it was three or four years ago this happened." As this witness did not seem to know anything about the case, he was dismissed.

Frederick FAIRALL gave evidence in corroboration of the fight the day previous, between DRAYTON, and George DRAYTON and his son.

REDMAN declining to make any statement.

The Coroner proceeded to sum up, first suggesting that anything that had been stated in the evidence respecting the injuries received in former years and the day previous might be dismissed from their minds. After he had gone through the whole of the evidence the jury retired, and shortly after returned with the following verdict:- "Death occasioned by contusion of the brain, caused by violence, but could not find sufficient evidence to criminate REDMAN."