

1901 CENSUS: RG13/653. folio 63. page 17.
Abode: 10 Charlotte-road, Wimbledon, Beddington, Surrey.

Ernest E. BICKMORE. Head. M. 37. Clerk. Newington, London.
Beatrice C. BICKMORE. Wife. M. 36. Dalston, London.
Ethel BICKMORE. Dau. 13. Norwood, Surrey.

MARRIAGE: Sept Quarter 1908. Rochford. 4a. 1221.
Hugh Sutherland Valentine PATERSON & **Ethel BICKMORE.**

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday Dec 15th 1966.

DIED IN GAS ACCIDENT

After being missed by their neighbours, an elderly Ryde couple were found dead in a gas-filled room of their house, on Monday week.

This was told to the I.W. Coroner, Mr. James BULLIN, at the inquest held at the Ryde Town Hall on Friday, when he recorded a verdict of "accident death" on Mrs. **Ethel PATERSON**, aged 78, and a verdict of death through "natural causes" on Mr. **Hugh Sutherland Valentine PATERSON**, aged 82, both formerly of 21 Dover-street, Ryde.

Mrs. Gertrude Marian HASWELL, of 42 Wandle-road, Wandsworth, S.W.17, who was a cousin of the deceased, told the coroner that they had always been a very happy couple and never had any worries.

The Island Pathologist, Dr. Peter SWINSTEAD, said that from the post-mortem held, although Mr. PATERSON had a high percentage of carbon monoxide in his blood, the prime cause of death was coronary thrombosis. The cause of death in the case of Mrs. PATERSON, however, was carbon-monoxide poisoning.

Mrs. Hilton MERRILL, a neighbour of 19a Dover-street, said that she last saw the PATERSON's the previous Saturday. They had just returned from shopping and were in high spirits.

Mr. PATERSON, a retired mercantile shipping engineer, greeted Mrs. MERRILL, and said that he would see her tomorrow when he and his wife intended to go to her house and watch television.

When they did not arrive, Mrs. MERRILL said she was not worried, because she thought that friends might have arrived.

"I first got worried the following day," she said, "when Miss HITCHINGS, another neighbour, came round and told me that there was a window open that she had never seen open before. I was really worried then, and I got my husband to phone the police.

Miss Dorothy Edith Mayne HITCHINGS, of "Little Dover Cottage", Dover-street, told the Coroner that she had arranged to meet the PATERSON's at their house on Sunday morning.

Became Worried

“I saw the papers and milk outside the door” she said, “and I began to get worried because I didn’t know what was the matter. The following morning I called on Mrs. MERRILL, because I was extremely worried by then.”

“They were a very devoted couple” she added, “and when I last saw them, they were just the same.”

P.C. Barry NEWNHAM said that he went to 21 Dover-street at 11.55 a.m. on Monday morning, and upon looking through a window that was open, he smelt a strong odour of gas.

“When I entered the house” he said, “I went to the kitchen and saw that gas was escaping from the grill of the cooker, and a gas ring was alight. Mr. PATERSON was laying in a corner with his head against the wall, and Mrs. PATERSON was lying in a chair.”

They had evidently been dead for some time. The house was searched, but no notes were found. Gas installations were inspected, and found to be in order.

“There was danger of an explosion,” he added.

Mr. BULLIN said that he was convinced that Mr. and Mrs. PATERSON did not take their own lives purposely.