

1901 CENSUS: RG13/1025. folio 6. page 4.
Address: Marine Hotel, Esplanade, Ryde, IW.

Frank BAND. Head. M. 36. Hotel Keeper. Austria (Naturalised British Subject).

Alice BAND. Wife. M. 41. Erith, Kent.

Marie BAND. Dau. 10. London W.

Amelia BAND. Dau. 7. Brighton, Sussex.

Annie BAND. Dau. 4. London, W.

Ivy BAND. Dau. 1. London W.

Richard FOTHERINGHAM. Visitor. M. 33. Clergyman (C of E). Newcastle, Staffs.

Marianne E. FOTHERINGHAM. Wife. M. 37. Scotland.

Harry BUTTS. Serv. M. 36. Hotel Manager. Peckham, London.

Louise RODWELL. Serv. S. 21. Non Domestic. Holloway, London.

Rudolph GRAP. Serv. S. 17. Hotel Porter. Hungary (Austrian Subject).

William KAISER. Serv. S. 21. Hotel Waiter. Austria (Swiss Subject).

THE ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 21st July 1906

RYDE WOMAN'S SAD DEATH

Inquest

On Tuesday evening at about five o'clock, Mrs. **Alice BAND**, wife of Mr. Frank BAND, the licensee of the Marine Hotel, was found by her little daughter in a private room on the ground floor in a fit. Her husband and the manageress were called, and Dr. MACKENZIE, who was sent for immediately, arrived a few later but pronounced life extinct.

The deputy coroner (Mr. F. A. JOYCE) decided to hold an inquiry into the causes of death on Thursday, and attended at the Marine Hotel for this purpose. Mr. S. D. MUNDAY was chosen foreman of the jury. The deputy coroner said he was not anxious to convene the jury, but as deceased had not apparently seen a doctor, he had no alternative but to hold an enquiry.

Mrs. Eleanor THOMPSON, barmaid at the Marine Hotel, was the first witness examined. She stated that at about two o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, she was serving in the bar when the deceased came in and sat down, she conversed with witness and seemed in the usual state of health, she asked for a glass of beer; she had had one about half hour previous. Deceased remained in the bar until half past four or twenty minutes to five when she rose to leave the bar. She was then under the influence of drink. Witness had only served her with two glasses mentioned since two o'clock; she had enquired for the key at 3 o'clock in the morning, and witness found her in the parlour at seven o'clock but she afterwards went back to bed. Witness helped her out of the bar in the afternoon, and she said she wanted to sit near the window, and witness then left her. At ten minutes to five witness was called by deceased daughter, Amelia, aged 13, and she was then sitting on the floor. Witness spoke to her, but deceased was unconscious and did not answer. Miss HUNT afterwards came in and suggested for the doctor should be called, and Dr. MACKENZIE arrived at about half past five. Deceased would not speak after witness had left her in a chair. Witness had been there since a year last April, and during more or less the whole of that time, deceased had been addicted to drink, they endeavoured to keep drink from her, but she got at it herself. No attempt had been made to get her into a home.

By the foreman; Witness had been told not to give drink to deceased, but the latter would otherwise get it herself. Deceased took part in the work of the hotel. Deceased had not been attended medically for some time to witness's knowledge.

Annie HUNT, manageress of the hotel, confirmed the evidence of the previous witness. When the daughter called the witness, deceased was sitting on the floor. She looked very ghastly and was unable to speak, witness then sent for a doctor immediately. Witness had been there for

two years, and agreed with the last witness as to the intemperate habits of the deceased woman,

Frank BAND, husband of the deceased said he was licensee of the hotel. He identified the body as that of his wife who was forty-six last birthday. On Tuesday afternoon he was called by Miss HUNT, who said she was dying, witness said "oh no," but went immediately. He saw the deceased half sitting and half lying on the ground. He loosened her clothing and rubbed her hands. During the last five years deceased's nerves were in a bad state, and she would take to drink. Witness was at first under the impression that she was on this occasion in a fainting fit to which she had previously been subjected. She had practically been under the doctor for the last ten years, but was last seen about 12 months ago by Dr. MACKENZIE when the baby was ill. Dr. MACKENZIE suggested putting her under restraint twelve months ago, and witness took a solicitors advice on the subject. He could not, as the law stood, take any steps. When deceased was alright she overworked herself, and when taking drink abstained from food, so that she was very weak. It was not the quantity she took as he had given orders to the assistants with regard to serving her with drink. Witness had been in Ryde for five years.

Dr. Ingleby MACKENZIE said he was telephoned for on Tuesday at ten minutes to five. On arriving at half past, he found deceased lying on the floor quite dead. Although he had a very strong opinion as to the cause of death, he could not assign any definite cause. Under the coroner's instructions, he had to-day made a post mortem examination. He found that the right lung was fairly healthy, but the left lung was completely collapsed and adherent to the chest wall. There were signs of old pleurisy and fatty degeneration of the heart which on account of the lung's collapse, was pulled well over to the left side. The valves were normal, but the cavities were filled with blood and post mortem clots, the stomach was enormously distended with gas and liquid, which had a strong smell of spirit. There was little food in the stomach. The liver was enlarged and had a nutmeg appearance, which is invariably caused by excessive drinking. Both kidneys showed signs of acute inflammation, but the other organs were fairly healthy. He should think that the cause of death would be the pressure on the heart caused by the enormous distention of the stomach. He should say she should have had an attack of syncope. In answer to the coroner, witness said he had attended deceased for the past five years, and he was afraid all the treatment was for excessive drinking. He had advised the husband as to putting her away, and also the deceased some years ago to go voluntarily to a home, but she refused to do so. He had spoken to her twelve months ago very seriously, but apparently without avail.

In reply to the foreman, the doctor stated that in his opinion the fatty degeneration was due to the deceased's habits, because when a person was addicted to drink, the fibres of the body become wasted and turn to fat.

The deputy coroner said the jury should have no difficulty in coming to a conclusion that death was due to failure of the action of the heart. All the witnesses agreed to the deplorable and awful habits, but they were not called upon to express any opinion. There did not appear to be any blame attaching to the husband, manageress or barmaid, for unless she had been convicted, only the Magistrates had the power to send her away. He expressed the opinion that the circumstances did not require a rider to the verdict.

The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the testimony, and desired to add nothing to the verdict save an expression of sympathy, in view of the sadness of the case, with the husband and family.
