

SINGULAR DEATH OF A YOUNG WOMAN – The Deputy Coroner (E F Blake, Esq.) held an inquest at the Gem Inn, Hill Street, on Monday afternoon, on the body of **KATE WILLIAMS**, aged 26.

The circumstances of the case were rather melancholy. It seems that on Saturday night, about half past ten, PC Taylor was on duty near the Pier Hotel, when two young men came to him and said they had heard cries of distress, apparently proceeding from the water. He immediately went to the place indicated, the George Street slipway, and searched with his light all along there. He then proceeded along the wall of the old Ferry Company's quay, and finally discovered deceased floating, face downwards, in the water between the Victoria Pier and the George Street slipway.

He immediately launched a boat from the slipway, and, with the assistance of the two young men, rowed to deceased and brought her to the slipway. Dr Back was at once sent for, and pronounced her dead. She was quite cold.

The great difficulty the Jury encountered was to discover how the deceased had got into the water. It seemed that she was the wife of a waiter at the Pier Hotel, and that they lived at 33 Pier Street. She was described by two witnesses as of a lively cheerful disposition, and the very last person to commit suicide. She could hardly have fallen over the wall at the place where she was found without climbing a lot of timber; in fact, she would have no business there at all. She might have fallen over the Dover Street slipway to the eastward, but the idea was negated by the evidence of the young men who heard her cries, which seemed to come from the westward.

Charles Williams, the husband, said he went home about ten and found the door locked, and was very uneasy, as his wife was not in the habit of stopping out late. She used to meet him sometimes at the Pier Hotel when he left work about ten, and they would go for a walk together. They had had no quarrel whatever, and his wife was in particularly good spirits, and expected her sister (who was head nurse at the Ventnor Hospital) over to spend the day with her on Monday. He believed his wife came out of the house to meet him, and finding she was too soon, went for a walk along the Esplanade, and being a stranger (they had only been in Ryde three months, and his wife seldom went out), she lost her way and fell over the wall.

The poor fellow seemed much affected, and several witnesses stated that he and his wife lived very happily together, and they had been married two years. – After some little discussion the jury returned a verdict of "Found Drowned, there being no evidence to show how the deceased came into the water".