

SHOCKING BOAT ACCIDENT AND LOSS OF LIFE

Great excitement has been caused in the lower part of Ryde by the upsetting of a boat off Ryde, and the loss of three lives. One body was recovered at the time, and the inquest before the coroner, F. BLAKE, esq., was held on Tuesday last, at the Pier hotel tap, Ryde.

- The jury having viewed the body.

Olaf HAUXTHAUSEN said he was Russian consul at Cowes, and that he came as interpreter for the witnesses in this case, they being unable to speak the English language.

Capt. SELANDER said he was captain of the Russian barque Agnes, now lying off the Motherbank. He knew the deceased. He was cook on board his ship. His name was **Otto Wilhelm WECKMAN**; his age was 17 years. On Sunday last, the 11th inst., he and five men left the ship between 4 and 5 o'clock, for a sail in a boat belonging to the ship, about 18 feet long. We sailed towards Cowes. In returning, we had to tack; and, not being able to fetch the ship, we tacked again. In tacking the second time, the boat capsized. She had a mainsail and a foresail up. The wind was blowing fresh E.S.E. He was steering the boat, and one of the men, Gustaf Adolph SNELL, now present, held the sheet. It was not made fast. His opinion was, that in tacking, the wind veered a little, and took the sheet on the wrong side. We were all thrown into the water. The boat went round and round. We clung to the boat when it righted. It was full of water. We remained til nearly 7 o'clock. A boat came to our assistance, and took us to Ryde Pier. We were quite exhausted.

R. W. BLOXAM, esq., said he was a surgeon. He saw the deceased on Sunday last, about 7 o'clock, at the end of the pier. He was apparently dead. He had the appearance of a man that had been drowned. He (Mr. BLOXAM) adopted the usual means for restoring life, without any hope of success. Deceased was pallid; his face, cheeks and extremities were cold; the pupils were dilated; the tongue was white, and protruded against the teeth; the nostrils and the mouth were full of froth. He saw no marks of violence.

Gustaf Adolph SNELL said he was an able seaman on board the barque Agnes. He went on Sunday afternoon, with the captain and four other men, for a sail. We were all sober; none of us had anything to drink. (The witness here recapitulated the captain's evidence as to the capsizing of the boat.) He was holding the sheet. It was daylight when the boat went over, and it was nearly 7 o'clock when we were picked up. The deceased was alive when we were picked up. We were about a mile from the ship when we were capsized, and were close to the Quarantine ship when picked up. He was quite exhausted. Two men, besides deceased, were lost, and not yet found. One disappeared immediately the boat capsized, and the other held on to the sail for some time, and then disappeared. He and the other two saved had previously been on shore. We were on shore about an hour. He and the captain came off the Pier. The other two did not come off. He had nothing to drink. He had nothing all day but the dinner allowance of wine.

John WHEELER said he was a mariner on board the Quarantine Vessel. About 6.15 on Sunday he was on deck, and heard voices shouting in the direction of Ryde Pier. It was quite dark. They appeared to be calling for help. He could not see where they were. He called to the men below. We then lowered a boat, and went in the direction of the voices. In about 15 minutes we found a boat full of water, and three men visible sitting in it. We got two men into our boat, and then found the third man holding another by the collar to keep his head out of the water in the boat, and from washing out. The fourth was deceased. We took the other two into our boat. The deceased appeared to be dead. He rolled him about. There appeared to be no life in him. We brought them to the Pier.

This being the whole of the evidence, the jury immediately returned a verdict of "Drowned by the accidental upsetting of a boat."
