ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday 20th February 1897

FOUND DEAD IN THE HIGH-ROAD NEAR RYDE.

An inquest was held at the High Park Tavern, near Ryde, on Saturday morning, by the Coroner (E. F. BLAKE, Esq.), on the body of **Henry HAYLES**, who was found dead on the previous morning.- Mr. J. C. REID was the foreman of the jury.

P.C. W. SIMMONDS deposed that on the previous morning at about 2.30, he was on duty near St. John's Church, Elmfield, when he found the body of the deceased in the high-road, close under the wall opposite the church. He knew deceased previously. He was quite dead. he lived alone a good mile from where he was found. Witness had him brought to the High Park Tavern.

Thomas FRAMPTON, of the Seymour Inn, Warwick-street, Ryde, said he had known deceased for some time. He was a gardener. He came to witness's house on Thursday evening, at about 9 o'clock. He came there occasionally. He remained till 11 and went away alone, saying he was going home. He went down Star-street. His home was nearly two miles off. He did not stay there so late as a rule. He would have gone before if it had not been so wet. He did not complain of being ill. He was a very steady, sober man. Witness never saw him the worse for drink. Never knew him have a serious illness of any sort.

By the Foreman: He was not under the influence of drink when he left for home.

Henry William HAYLES, son of the deceased, of No. 2, Monkton-villas, Park-road, said deceased lived alone at Cherrygin. He used to do a job of gardening sometimes. Witness last saw him alive a fortnight ago, at Seaview. he looked all right then and never complained at all. He was 68 years of age. He was laid by some years ago. He preferred living alone.

Mr. Alfred WOODWARD, M.R.C.S., of Ryde, said he had known deceased very well for years, but had never attended him. He saw his body at half past 4 on Friday morning under the wall near St. John's Church. He was quite dead and cold, and had apparently been dead two or three hours. There was a little lacerated skin wound on the chin, which might have been caused by falling. There was no other mark of injury. He afterwards examined him in the afternoon and found the right shoulder dislocated. That could have been done by falling, but had nothing to do with his death. Thought walking up the hill at that time on a rough night caused his heart to fail.- Q. You have no reason to think that he died from other than natural causes? - A. None whatever.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes."

Researched by Ann Barrett