ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 23rd March 1867

CORONER'S INQUEST.- An inquest was held at the Royal Albert Inn, on Tuesday last, before E. F. BLAKE esq., deputy-coroner, on the body of **Sarah DEACON**, an illegitimate child, aged 9 weeks. –

The first witness called was Sarah, the wife of Samuel MUNFORD, of the above inn. She had known the mother of the child over 12 months. The deceased was born in that house, the mother being attended by Mrs. John MUNFORD. There was no medical gentleman present. The child was a remarkably healthy one. On the morning of Friday last, about halfpast 6 o'clock, the mother called out to witness to come to her, as she was afraid the baby was dead. She went at once and found the deceased lying on its right side, quite warm, but dead. It was a large-size double bed. On the other side of the bed was another of the mother's children, about 1 year 8 months old. They sent for a medical man at once. The child's face and hands looked a little purple. The mother, who gets her living by hawking, was remarkably kind to both her children. Her mother, who resides in Southampton, had come over to Ryde.-

Mr. A. WOODFORD, surgeon, practising in Ryde, was sent for on Friday last, about 9.30 a.m., and attended at once. He found deceased lying on its right side, dead. He made a careful examination and found no marks of violence. The body was quite warm. The face and greater part of the left side were livid, and there was a slight frothy discharge from the nose and mouth. It was a very healthy child to all appearance. He should have expected to have found the condition of things he had described if death had been caused by suffocation. On the previous day he made a post mortem examination, and found the lungs a good deal congested - quite sufficient to account for death. His opinion was that death resulted from suffocation. There was nothing else to account for death. —

Maria DEACON, mother of the deceased, said she was a hawker, residing at Southampton, but for the last few weeks had been staying in Ryde, at the Royal Albert, where she was confined on the 5th Jan. The child was a remarkably healthy one. On Thursday night she went to bed between 9 and 10 o'clock. Her eldest child had been put to bed before. Deceased slept on her left and the other on the right side. She nursed it about 12 o'clock at night, and it did not wake to her knowledge. Between 6 and 7 o'clock in the morning she woke up and went to move it. Its face was lying against her, but she found it did not breathe. It was not on her arm. She called out for Mrs. MUNFORD and the father of the child who lodges at the inn. The child's mouth and nose was full of milk when she first looked at it. - In answer to the jury, witness said he went to bed perfectly sober, and the father of the child had been exceedingly kind to deceased, and the other child.-

A verdict of "Accidental death" was recorded.

Researched & typed byu Ann Barrett Kate MacDonell