

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 7th March 1868

INQUEST.- An inquest was held at the Eclipse inn, Haylands, before F. BLAKE, esq., on the body of Alfred SIBBICK, when the following evidence was adduced:

Mary SIBBICK said she was the wife of George Henry SIBBICK, a laborer, and the deceased was her step-son. His mother died 14 months ago and left four other children. Witness married on the 28th of April last year and had had the charge ever since of the eldest and three youngest. She left home about 3 p.m. yesterday to go to Ryde and left all the children at home alone. The eldest boy is over 10 years of age, the girl six, and a boy of four, and the deceased two years and one month. They were all at the back door when she left, and she told the eldest to take care of the baby. Se did not get home till near 6 o'clock, and deceased was then in the next house dead. She had left them before for quite as long, if not longer.

Jane MITCHELL said she was the wife of Frank MITCHELL, laborer, and lived next door to the last witness. About 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon the sister of deceased (six years of age) came to her crying that deceased had fallen into the water. She ran directly and found the deceased on the ground by the side of a pan filled with water. His clothes were very wet. She called to a woman to come, and she came and took him up and brought him into her house. He was warm but quite dead. She had one child of her own. She had never seen the last witness anything but kind to the children. She had known her leave them before.

Dr. BEATON said he was a surgeon and lived at Ryde, and was sent for yesterday, about 6 o'clock to see the deceased. He arrived about 7 p.m., and found the deceased rolled in blankets before the fire. He examined him and found him to be quite dead and cold. There was no doubt but that the deceased died from drowning. There were no marks of violence on the body.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned."
