

George Prieur otherwise George Medawar

Isle of Wight County Press – 11 August 1934

INQUEST ON A CONVICT AT PARKHURST.

WIDOW ASKS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

There was an unusual incident at an inquest held at H.M. Prison, Parkhurst on Wednesday by the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.), on the body of George Prieur, aged 45. The widow, who was dressed in mourning and accompanied by her brother, held a private interview with the Deputy Coroner. On returning to the inquest room, the Deputy Coroner said that as the deceased had been convicted in the name of Prieur that name would be used for the purpose of that inquiry. To this the widow replied that the Coroner was holding an inquest on a man who did not exist. The Deputy Coroner said it was not their fault that the deceased had assumed that name. If he chose to change his name, he must be treated in that way. Mr. Williams was foreman of the jury.

Chief-Officer James Ellis said that the deceased was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at the Old Bailey on April 25th last year, and was received from Wandsworth Prison on December 19th. With the exception of 10 days, when he was employed at knitting, he had been in hospital ever since. He was described as a financial agent.

Hospital Chief-Officer Arthur Broadbent Shaw said deceased was reported seriously ill on Tuesday, and died the same night. Every care was taken of the man, who was seen by a doctor every day.

The Deputy Coroner inquired if the widow would like to ask any questions.

The widow: I should like this inquest adjourned until I am legally represented.

The Deputy Coroner: I am unable to assent to your proposition.

The widow: Under those circumstances I am not asking any questions.

The Deputy Coroner: I do not see the necessity. I cannot alter the routine of the prison authorities. You have a means of correction afterwards, but no doubt your solicitor will tell you about that.

The widow: What notification was I given of the inquest?

The Deputy Coroner: I am not compelled to give you any notification; I am under no obligation to do that.

Dr. J. M. Ahern, chief medical officer, said the deceased had suffered from angina pectoris. He was admitted to hospital on reception, and continued as a patient until February 3rd of this year, when he was discharged to the prison, marked fit for light work only, and located on the ground floor. On February 14th he complained that he was nervous about being left alone in view of the attacks of angina pectoris. He was again admitted to Hospital, where he remained until his death. He was getting up at 6 p.m. on Tuesday when his (the doctor's) colleague was called and found him suffering from cerebral haemorrhage. He was partially conscious, and was put on the seriously ill list. The Governor and the chaplain were notified.

His wife was summoned by telegram, and she visited him the same day. A post-mortem examination showed that the heart was greatly enlarged and weighed about three times more than the normal amount. The haemorrhage of the brain was very severe and was the cause of death.

A juryman asked what caused the haemorrhage.

Dr. Ahern said the bursting of a blood vessel. The deceased had high blood pressure, and that caused the arteries to burst.

The jury returned a verdict that the cause of death was cerebral haemorrhage.

At the Old Bailey Prieur, who gave a Kensington address, was found guilty of fraudulent conversion and an offence under the Companies Act. It was alleged that he misappropriated property valued at over £95,000 belonging to the Hearts of Oak Assurance Co., Ltd., Stevenage House, Holborn-viaduct. In the witness-box he said his real name was George Middard, but he changed it by deed poll in Paris, an aunt having died and left him money on condition that he changed his name.

Isle of Wight County Press – 18 August 1934

Dead Convict's Identify.

DISCLOSED AT FUNERAL AT CARISBROOKE.

The mystery surrounding the identity of a convict undergoing a term of five years' penal servitude for fraudulent conversion under the name of George Prieur, who died at Parkhurst Prison last week, was cleared up at the his funeral at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Monday.

It will be remembered that at the inquest on Wednesday week the man's wife declared that the Deputy Coroner was holding an inquest on a man who did not exist, but Mr. Francis Joyce said he could only accept the name under which he was known to the prison authorities. The deceased's wife, who resides at Holland Park, London, W., claimed the body for burial and the interment took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery following a service at the Newport Roman Catholic Church, the Rev. Fr. J. Doran officiating. The name on the coffin plate was George Medawar and the age was given as 46. The coffin was a handsome one with silver fittings and the widow and a gentleman, understood to be her brother, motored from London for the funeral and returned immediately afterwards. Seven magnificent floral tributes were placed on the grave. That from the widow was a large cross of 50 Harris lilies, extending the length of the coffin, and among the others was one bearing the inscription "He was a man more sinned against than sinning." Messrs. O. C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements.

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