

Samuel Robert Ranger

Isle of Wight County Press - 19 October 1935

Suicide by Hanging at Newport.

At the Castlehold Baptist School on Saturday, Dr. H. Y. Mansfield, acting deputy coroner, held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Samuel Robert Ranger, aged 61, of 36 Hearn-street, Newport. The deceased was found hanging in his bed-room by a pyjama cord round his neck and attached to the bed post on October 10th. Inspector H. Randall represented the police. The Coroner sat without a jury.

Ellen Mary Ranger, widow, said the deceased had been unable to work for five years, owing to ill-health. He had had medical attention during that time. He was always very quiet and reserved. He had formerly been employed for 10 years by Messrs. J. S. White and Co., of Cowes, as a storeman. He was last seen by a doctor three weeks ago. On October 10th he came downstairs at 8 a.m., had his usual breakfast, and appeared normal. He had not threatened to take his life.

Miss Margaret Ranger, domestic servant, daughter of the deceased, stated that on her return from shopping at about 11.45 a.m. on October 10th she went upstairs to hang up her coat. As she did so she looked into the back bed-room, usually occupied by her father, and saw him in a sitting position, with a cord round his neck hanging from the bed rail, and went for assistance. Although her father had been ill, she did not think he was more depressed than usual. - Inspector Randall: Has he said he was tired of life? -Not to me.

John Tiltman, of 12 Collingwood-road, Newport, deposed that at about 11.30 a.m. on October 10th he was called to the house by Miss Ranger and found her father as described. He cut the cord and sent for a doctor and the police.

P.C. Steer said he applied artificial respiration to the man, but without result. The cord was attached to an old-fashioned bedstead. The distance from its top rail to the floor was 3ft.10in. The length of the cord of the pyjamas was 5ft.6in. The deceased left no note or correspondence.

Dr. C. K. Sylvester said he attributed death to strangulation.

The Coroner's verdict was that the deceased committed suicide by strangulation while of unsound mind.

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