

George Henry Shepard

Hampshire Advertiser – 12 January 1867

ISLE OF WIGHT

NEWPORT

AN INFANT FOUND DEATH IN BED. – On Thursday, Mr. F. Blake, coroner, held an inquest on view of the body of George Henry Shepard, aged five months, son of Mr. James William Shepard, general carrier, residing in Lugley-street, who was found dead in bed on Tuesday morning. J. W. Shepard said, - I had a few friends to spend the evening with me on Monday. I and my wife retired to bed about 3 o'clock on Tuesday morning, carrying deceased to bed with us. It was a full-sized bed, and deceased was laid by the side of his mother, not between us. I heard nothing of the deceased while I was in bed. I arose about 8 o'clock, and went away to business, and about 10 o'clock I was sent for, and went home, and found deceased was dead. – Emma Shepard, the mother, said, - I laid deceased in the bed as usual, and was about to give deceased the breast just before rising, about 10 o'clock, when I found him dead and cold; the under part of his face and hand was quite black. He had always been in good health. He was lying in his usual position. There was no appearance of his having struggled. I am very wakeful at night, and am sure I did not overlay him. His grandmother had nursed him that night, and had not given him anything to induce sleep. – Dr. E. P. Wilkins gave evidence to the effect that when called in he found the body lying as described by the mother, as though it was asleep. It appeared to have been dead some hours. There was nothing in appearance inconsistent with death from natural causes. There was nothing to indicate that it had been overlaid. He thought death might be due to determination of blood to the head. Verdict - "Died from natural causes."

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