
IN MEMORIAM

Rhoda Ann Sturgess The Tragedy of a Selfless Heroine

Rhoda Ann Sturgess was born on June 3rd, 1884, in Kintbury. She only had one arm from birth, but that did not stop her from playing with her friends.

At some point in the next seven years, the family moved to Newbury and lived near Gas House Lane, just off Cheap Street, where they were recorded in the 1891 census.

It was in Cheap street, in March 1894 that Rhoda saved her younger sister's life when she ran under the legs of a horse, pulling a cart of manure.

Rhoda saw the danger she was in and rushed after her, pushing her sister clear of the wheels, but was caught herself and run over by the offside wheel of the heavy cart. By the time medical assistance arrived, poor Rhoda was already dead at the tender age of eight.

An inquest was held on March 10th in The Newmarket Inn, and after taking statements from witnesses, a verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Rhoda was buried in Newtown road cemetery in an unmarked grave that same week, though the exact date of her burial is unknown.

Paul Thompson
Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery.

