

## Death of Sarah (Bremner) Wood

*Northern Ensign, 21 JAN 1913*

### TERRIBLE STORY FROM SYDENHAM

#### INVALID LADY STARVED TO DEATH

A shocking discovery was made on Friday, in a house in West Hill, Upper Sydenham, London, occupied by **Mrs. Sarah Wood**, a widow.

**Mrs. Wood** lived alone, her only attendant being a servant named **Seaton**. Tradesmen who called at the house during the week, having met with no response, gave information to the police on Friday, and shortly after noon the front door was forced open. A distressing spectacle presented itself. At the foot of the stairs lay the body of the servant, a woman of about forty years of age<sup>1</sup>. Deceased was evidently on her way upstairs when she fell, for broken crockery and food lay all around.

On the approach of the police and Airedale terrier came to the landing, and the officers proceeding upstairs were confronted with an even more painful scene on reaching the front bedroom on the first floor. On the floor lay **Mrs. Wood**, a woman over eighty years of age. She was still breathing, but in a terribly emaciated condition, evidently indicating that she had taken no food for a considerable time. A doctor was quickly summoned, but **Mrs. Wood** died directly after she had been lifted from the floor and laid on the bed.

Careful investigation of the premises satisfied the police that no crime had been committed. On the contrary, everything pointed to the servant having met with a fall which proved fatal. What happened after is a matter of conjecture, but presumably, either in answer to **Seaton's** calls for help or the need of obtaining food, **Mrs. Wood**, who was a bedridden invalid, made a supreme effort to leave her bed. She succeeded in doing so, but fell to the floor upon reaching the door to her room, where she lay until found yesterday just before her death took place. Her only companion had been her pet dog, the Airedale terrier.

#### A NATIVE OF WICK

Wick people will read the above account with feelings of the deepest regret and horror, for this deceased lady who met so terrible a fate was a native of our town. She was the last surviving daughter of the late **Mr. James Bremner, C.E.**, the famous engineer whose [monument](#) stands on the south shore of the bay. She was born in Pulteneytown, and though she had long been absent from the town she continued through friends to take an interest in its affairs and contributed largely to its charities. For many years she sent annually a beautiful laurel wreath to be placed on her father's statue on the anniversary of his birth. Sometime ago she had a more permanent tribute made in the form of a bronze wreath which now adorns the monument.

[Genealogy of this family...](#)

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<sup>1</sup> English Death Index shows one possibility, Susannah F. SEATON, age 50; Croydon, ref. 002a-648.