

DROWNED AT BOW CREEK.

LIGHTERMAN'S OAR SLIPS.

Coroner and a Dangerous Calling.

"This case emphasises the dangers under which lightermen pursue their calling, and although his cousin did what he could for the dead man, there was little chance of his being saved," said Dr. W. Bentley Purchase, Deputy Coroner for East London, at the Poplar Coroner's Court on Tuesday. He had inquired into the death of Mr. George Alfred Moss, a single man, aged 25, of 48, Abbey Road, West Ham.

The Last Message.

Mr. David Albert Moss, his father, said that his son was employed by the Southern Lighterage Co. He was a sober man, quite healthy and not lamed. He had last spoken to him on the telephone.

Thomas Arthur Moss, 13, Franklyn-street, Bow, aged 16, said he was an apprenticed lighterman. On the previous Thursday at 2.20 a.m. he was with his cousin George, on the barge "Fetish." They were on the river going into Bow Creek, and were getting along by means of oars, using one each. While his cousin was pushing on his oar, it slipped and he fell in the water. Witness ran aft and threw his own oar in the water towards him, but he was unable to catch hold of it, and the tide drifted him away from the barge.

Body Found at Poplar.

P.c. 176, Thames Division, said that on the previous Sunday he found the body of Mr. Moss floating off Trinity Wharf, Poplar. He recovered the body, which was fully dressed.

Dr. Henry Jasper Cardale said he was called to Blackwall Police Station at 8.15 on Sunday evening. There he found the body of Moss. He made a post mortem examination on the day following and found it to be the body of a well nourished man, which had been in the water for three days.

The Coroner, after making the above remarks, recorded a verdict of Death from Accidental Causes.

These two young men were cousins of my late father, who remembered this incident when he was an 18 year old Apprentice Lighterman.

The extract is from the East London Advertiser, June 1929 edition.

- Submitted by George Moss – Ex Lighterman.