

Vera Doris Alderslade

Isle of Wight County Press - September 8th 1945

NEWPORT LADY'S TRAGIC END.

The Coroner (R. E. A. Webster, Esq.) held an inquest on Monday at 10 Medina-road, Newport, on the body of Mrs. Vera Doris Alderslade, aged 56, widow of Mr. William Marden Alderslade, whose body was found hanging from a girder in a garage at the back of the building on Sunday.

Dr. Samuel Myers, Castle-road, Newport, stated that he was called at about 5 p.m. on Sunday. The deceased who had been cut down, was dead. Death was from asphyxiation by hanging.

John Butler Alderslade, 3 Avondale-road, Newport, said the deceased was his sister-in-law. Her husband died on August 27th, 1942. She was rather unstable mentally and her husband's death put her completely off her balance. She had always been sensitive and highly strung. Previously witness had consulted Dr. Davies-Jones, who had treated Mrs. Alderslade as a voluntary patient, and she had also attended an institute at Salisbury. On coming away from Salisbury in November, 1943, her health had greatly improved. She was subject to depression when brooding over the loss of her husband, but at times was quite happy. She had never threatened to take her life and had no financial worries.

Miss Ellen Roberts, companion to deceased, said she had been with her since September, 1944. She was highly strung, but otherwise had good health. When she talked about her husband's death she was liable to become depressed. On Sunday after witness went upstairs after dinner, and on coming down at 4 p.m. she saw a note in deceased's handwriting. She went to the garage and cut deceased down before going for assistance, but she was then quite dead.

Percy William Arnold, a foreman employed by Messrs. Gould, Hibberd, and Randall, and living near, said he went to the garage. He described how a piece of cord had been fastened round a girder and then round the neck of deceased, who had apparently stepped off a chair.

P.C. Newnham gave corroborative evidence.

The Coroner returned a verdict that deceased took her life while in a fit of mental depression. He expressed his sympathy with the relatives. - Mr. Alderslade, in thanking him, said how much they appreciated the kindly, helpful, and tactful way in which the police had carried out their duties.

Mrs. Alderslade was well known and much esteemed in Newport, and her sad end came as a painful shock to her many friends, although it was known that she had suffered from a mental disorder at times. When not suffering in this way she was a most charming and kindly woman and was a regular worshipper at the Parish Church. The death of her stepson who, while serving in the R.A.F. failed to return from a raid on Germany, was another heavy blow. Her late husband for many years carried on the business of J. K. Alderslade in the High-street and was a director after the firm was made into a company.

He also engaged in considerable building development on the estate near the Victoria Recreation Ground.

The internment took place on Wednesday, the service being conducted by the Rev. Canon Hogg, M.A. The mourners were Mrs. Winifred Lewry and Mrs. Mildred Taylor (step-daughters), Mr. E. U. Taylor, Mr. J. B. Alderslade (brother-in-law), Mrs. Alderslade and Miss M. A. Alderslade, Mr. Geoffrey Pescott (representing Mrs. Kathleen Alderslade), Miss Roberts (the deceased's housekeeper-companion) Miss Ada Harding, of Salisbury (a close friend), Mrs. T. P. Whiston, Mr. Harold H. Gould, Mr. Arthur A. Lewis, and Mrs. Elsie Prince.

Transcribed by Roger O'Nions for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

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