Frederick Charles Grist

Isle of Wight County Press 1 January 1938

NEWPORT BUTCHER`S DEATH FROM BLOOD POISONING.

FOLLOWING SLIGHT INJURY.

Mr. Frederick Charles Grist, aged 60, who for nearly 50 years had been in the employ of Messrs. Wooldridge, Ltd., Newport, for a long period as manager of their pork butcher`s business in Pyle-street, died in the County Hospital on Wednesday from blood poisoning, believed to have been caused by a slight injury to his hand from a piece of bone received in the course of his employment. Mr. Grist was taken seriously ill on Christmas-eve. He was removed to the County Hospital on Boxing-day, but all efforts to save his life were unavailing. He was very well known and highly esteemed in Newport, and by customers from all parts of the Island, and great sympathy is felt for his widow and three sons in their unexpected bereavement.

In his younger days Mr. Grist was a well known cross-country runner, and by successes in 1896, 7 and 8 he won outright the cup for the Island championship. A later hobby was the breeding of pedigree poultry, and he was one of the first to introduce Rhode Island Reds to the Island. In addition to successes in local shows he gained many prizes in London exhibitions.----The funeral will take place on Monday, service at St. John`s Church at 2.15 p.m.

Yesterday (Friday) the Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquiry into the sad circumstances at the High-street Methodist School, Ryde. Mr. L. W. Chetwood (Messrs. Lamport, Bassitt and Hiscock) represented deceased`s employers, and Inspector H. Rogers was present for the police.

Percival Arthur Grist, son of the deceased, said he lived with his father at Velanda, Wilver-road, Newport. While they were sitting round the fireside on the evening of December 20th he noticed his father looking at his thumb, and asked him what was the matter. He replied that he thought he had jagged it on a bone at the shop. There was a small rough cut on his father`s left thumb, but deceased could not say when it was done and made light of it. His father went to work on the following day, and on Christmas-eve witness`s brother brought him home after he had been taken ill at the shop. On reaching home he went to bed and complained of being cold, and said he thought he had a bilious attack. After they had washed the thumb and applied a hot dressing his father, who seemed in a semi-dazed state, said he felt a lot easier. On Christmas-day witness again dressed the thumb and found it

very much swollen. Dr. Straton was called in and on December 27th ordered his father`s removal to the County Hospital.---By Mr. Chetwood : His father told him he thought the injury must have been caused by being jagged on a bone at the shop.

John Edward Grist, relieving officer and registrar, of Ventnor, said he went to the shop in Pyle-street at 8 o`clock on Christmas-eve, as he was told that his father was ill. In the rear of the shop he found his father sitting down in a huddled position. His father told him he felt very ill and had been sick, and asked him to take him home immediately, which he did. When put to bed his father showed him his thumb, saying "My thumb has been playing me up to-day." Witness asked what was the matter with it and he replied "I think I knocked it on a bone at the shop somewhen at the beginning of the week." His father frequently had knocks and cuts in his trade and did not seem very concerned about it.

William Alfred Charles Eyles, managing director of Messrs. J. W. Wooldridge, Ltd., said deceased was in his 49th year of employment with the firm.---The Coroner : He must have started quite young then.---Witness stated that at 7 o`clock on Christmas-eve when he saw deceased at the shop he complained of being very cold, and thought he was suffering from a bilious attack, It was not until he called on deceased on the Sunday evening that he heard anything about his thumb. Deceased was not definite as to how the injury was caused, but said he thought he had banged it somewhere.

James William Groves, of 27 Portland-street, first shopman under deceased, with whom he had worked for a good many years, said that on Christmas-eve he was in good spirits until about 6 o`clock, when he complained of a very shivering condition, and then said his thumb had been playing him up. As they were so busy in the shop witness did not look at deceased`s thumb.

Dr. A. A. Straton, of Newport, said that when he first saw deceased on Christmas morning his left thumb and the back of the hand were swollen. There was a slight mark, more of a dent, on the left thumb. Witness diagnosed the trouble as blood poisoning, and on being asked if he could trace the cause, deceased was very vague and said he thought he must have jagged it on something. He made no complaint of any other trouble, and on the Monday witness advised his removal to the County Hospital.

Miss Gwenda Muriel Francis, house surgeon at the County Hospital, said deceased was admitted on December 27th, and when she asked him if he had received any injury he said he had scratched his thumb on a piece of bone while handling some meat, and thought it was done early in the week. The whole of the forearm and hand was very much swollen, and witness saw a small mark on the left thumb. On December 29th the swelling had extended to the shoulder, and he died at 5.50 p.m. that day. Death was due to blood poisoning, the primary cause of which was the injury to his thumb.

The Coroner was recording a verdict that deceased died from blood poisoning, probably as the result of a slight injury to his thumb, sustained in the course of his employment, when

Mr. Chetwood suggested that the reference to its having been done in the course of deceased`s employment should be left out.---The Coroner said that in justice to the family he could not do that. All the evidence pointed to the fact that deceased received the injury in the course of his employment, and although his verdict might leave a little element of doubt it was the verdict he should direct a jury to return.---The Coroner then returned his verdict in accordance with what he had previously intimated, and Mr. Chetwood, on behalf of deceased`s employers, expressed sympathy with the family.

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Isle of Wight County Press – 8 January 1938

The Late Mr. F. C. Grist, of Newport.

The funeral of Mr. Frederick Charles Grist, of Velanda, Wilver-road, Newport, whose death at the County Hospital was recorded last week, took place on Monday. The Rev. W. H. Mackinnon (vicar) officiated at the first part of the service in St. John's Church, and at the interment in Carisbrooke Cemetery. The mourners were Mrs. E. A. Grist (widow), Messrs. P. A., J. E., and F. G. Grist (sons), Mr. and Mrs. Wavell, of Cowes (sister and brother-in-law), Mrs. J. E. Grist (daughter-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. E. Plucknett, Mr. C. Ward, Mrs. A. Willis, Mrs. Symons, Mrs. Nockolds, Mrs. E. Attrill, and Mrs. H. Lee (brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law).

Those also present included Mr. and Mrs. W. C. A. Eyles and Mrs. and Miss Eyles, of Shanklin, and Messrs. J. Groves, J. Long, and H. Hall (fellow employees of the deceased), Mr. W. Blake, J.P., Mr. A. J. Hayles, Mr. H. E. Warder, Mr. T. A. Cleaver, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Warren, Mr. J. H. Brown, J.P., C.C., Mr. A. Scott, and Messrs. C. V. Cheverton and L. H. Morgan, joint secretaries (representing the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Oddfellows), Mr. A. H. Hughes, Mr. H. Lower, Mr. F. H. J. Damp, Mr. G. H. Woodmore (representing Messrs. John Sheath and Co.), Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. Scovell, Mr. James, Mr. H. Mayes, Mr. J. H. Black, Mr. H. Shepard, Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. Newnham Mrs. Wareham, Mr. H. Parnell, Mr. A. W. Abraham, Mr. H. J. Heal, Mr. G. W. Crews, Mr. G. Weeks, Mr. E. J. Shepard, Miss Lashmar, Mr. J. Scott, Mr. A. W. Launder, Mr. H. W. Minns, Mr. G. Smith, Mr. A. V. Gibbs (representing the Newport Trades Cricket Club), Mr. B. Dallimore, Mrs. C. Shepard, Mrs. Matthews (representing Mr. Matthews), and Mr. Hobbs.

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