

**Henry Oxford**

**ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS**

**19 November 1938**

**NEWPORT**

**STRANGE COINCIDENCE OF DEATH OF BROTHERS** - When Mr. C. Wyatt, of New-street, Newport, called at a lonely hut near Coleman's Farm, Porchfield, yesterday (Friday) afternoon to inform the occupant, Mr. Henry Oxford, of the sudden death of his brother Thomas, which occurred at 51 New-street, Newport, on Wednesday, he was shocked to find his badly decomposed body.

The deceased man, who was 70 years of age, lived alone at the hut and was last seen about three weeks ago. He was well known in agricultural circles as a former threshing-machine attendant in the employ of the late Mr. Charles Orchard, of Newport, and in recent years he had occasionally engaged in cattle dealing, frequently attending Newport Market.

His body was removed to the Newport Mortuary by police officers last (Friday) evening, and the Deputy-Coroner was informed.

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**26 November 1938**

**Porchfield Man's Lonely Death**

**BODY IN HUT FOR ABOUT THREE WEEKS**

Mr. H.R. Palmer (Acting Deputy Coroner) held an inquest at the Guildhall, Newport, on Monday, into the death of Mr. Henry Oxford, aged 77, a dealer, who, as reported in our last issue, was found lying dead in a hut in which he lived alone at Coleman's Common, Porchfield, by a friend who called to inform him of the sudden death of his younger brother, Mr. Thomas Oxford, who passed away suddenly while on a visit to Newport from London.

Charles Oxford, of 75 Hunnyhill, Newport, a brother of the deceased, gave evidence of identification and said he last saw his brother alive about five weeks ago, when he called at his house with a rabbit. He then complained of shortness of breath.

Emma Pearce, a sister of the deceased, living at 51 New-street, said deceased lived with her until about five years ago, when he went to reside in the hut at Porchfield. She last saw him on Oct. 28th at her house, where he had dinner. He also complained to her of shortness of breath and she advised him to consult a doctor, but he replied that he did not think he would trouble about that as he was better than he had been. The deceased usually called to see her when he came into market, but not always, and therefore she was not alarmed when he did not come. She did not think he had been attended by a doctor for over 20 years.

Charles Wyatt, of 49 New-street, Newport, who went to the hut to inform the deceased of his brother's sudden death, at the request of the previous witness, described how he discovered the body. Death had evidently taken place some weeks.

P.C. A. Corney said he and P.C.'s Ward and Peagram went to the hut after Mr. Wyatt had reported what he had found and they saw the body in a kneeling position. The deceased had apparently fallen out of an arm chair, on which his arm was resting. Deceased was fully dressed, except for a jacket. In the pockets of his clothing he found £18 in pound notes, a 10s. note, and 14s. 3d. in coins. The body was very badly decomposed.

Dr. C. K. Sylvester said that a post mortem examination showed clearly that death was due to fatty degeneration of the heart, and Mr. Palmer returned a verdict accordingly, and expressed sympathy with the family in their double bereavement.

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