

**Herbert Whittington**  
**Evening News – 11 November 1938**  
**FOUND HANGING FROM BED-POST**  
**ISLAND CORONER'S VERDICT**

The shock received by two women who had returned from a cinema on Wednesday night and found a relative had hanged himself in a bedroom was described at the inquest at Newport to-day on Herbert Whittington. aged 30 single, a gardener, of Collingwood Road, Newport.

After hearing the main evidence. the Deputy Coroner (Mr. F. A. Joyce) announced that the verdict would be that Whittington "Committed suicide by himself " and added. " I don't think I am justified in saying any more."

Expressing sympathy with the relatives, the Deputy Coroner said that if the relative' considered it was justifiable and would be comfort to them, he would add a comment to the effect that being Of a reserved disposition Whittington was probably disturbed by something of an unknown character.

Richard Whittington, a brother, said that Herbert enjoyed home life, and did not appear to have suffered from illness or any worry recently.

Evidence of Miss Elizabeth Mary Whittington, a sister, who lives at 20, Collingwood Road. Newport. was that on Wednesday evening Herbert went home for his tea as usual and at 6.20 p.m. she and her mother went to a cinema leaving Herbert. apparently quite normal, sitting by the fire.

"When we returned at 8.20 we saw a light in the bedroom window." said Miss Whittington. "We thought Herbert had gone out leaving the light burning. but when I went Into the bedroom to put the light out I found him hanging from a bedpost with the skipping rope round h!' neck." A neighbour was called and artificial respiration was applied, but unsuccessfully.

**"Conclusive Proof," says Coroner**

After hearing tho evidence the Deputy Coroner commented: "These facts are really very simple. and there is conclusive proof that he committed suicide by hanging himself. I don't think I am justified In adding anything." said the Deputy Coroner. "The man did not display any depression of a marked character. and his friend' and relatives had not noticed anything unusual about him. It is unusual for a man to commit an act like this without giving some sign. I don't think I am entitled to add anything." At this point a brother interposed that their father died In 1926 from cancer. The family had thought that perhaps Herbert was worrying and wondering whether he himself had cancer.

The Deputy Coroner: I quite understand your desire, but I do not think there is any evidence of this.

The brother then said that Herbert might have worried, but he was the sort of man who would conceal a worry if he had any.

Deputy Coroner Joyce said that while that was possible, there was no evidence.

Another brother mentioned that some three weeks ago an uncle from Canada had visited the house. The uncle bore a marked resemblance to their father, and several times after the uncle's stay Herbert had commented on the resemblance. They thought perhaps that had reminded Herbert of his father's illness.

The Deputy Coroner said the deceased man might have had a worry which he kept to himself.

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