

William Barnes

Isle of Wight Observer - 25 June 1870

SUICIDE BY HANGING NEAR NEWPORT.— On Saturday last, an inquest was held before F. Blake, esq., coroner, on the body of William Barnes, living at Castle View, Carisbrooke, who committed suicide by hanging on the previous day.— Harriet Barnes deposed: Deceased was my husband. He was a gardener, and 61 years of age. He got up on Friday morning, about five o'clock, as usual. Observed nothing particular about him. He lighted the fire, looked after the fowls, and got his breakfast soon after seven. He had suffered from a lowness of spirits between two and three years. He could not give any account of the cause. After breakfast, he put the saucepan to cook some dinner, and went to the stable and brought in some potatoes. I think that was about ten o'clock. He then sat down and smoked a pipe. He afterwards stood at the back door, and I saw him go from the door, but I did not see where he went to. When he brought in the potatoes he brought in the key of the stable and hung it in its usual place. In about five minutes after I had last seen the deceased, I took the key of the stable and went to get a few small potatoes to boil for the chickens. I found the stable door locked, and as soon as I opened it, I saw deceased hanging by a rope from a ladder which usually stood there. His face was turned slightly on one side. I could not reach the rope, and I raised him a little and rested his feet on one of the rungs of the ladder. His feet were three or four yards from the ground. I ran for assistance, and a man came and cut the deceased down. There are folding doors to the stable. They are always kept fastened by a bolt in the inside, but I don't know what state they were in on Friday morning. The deceased was always complaining that he should be staved. At first I was afraid of what he would do, but latterly not. He was afraid of everybody — even of a child. At first I used to watch him, but have not done so for the last twelve months. I never knew him to make any previous attempt on his life.— George Watson, a labourer, living at Clatterford, deposed to being called by the last witness, and to cutting down the deceased, who was dead at the time, but not quite cold. A doctor was sent for, but he did not know whether one came. Witness was sure deceased did not breathe after he was cut down.— The jury returned as their verdict. “That the deceased hanged himself while in an unsound state of mind.”

Transcribed by Roger O'Nions for the friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries 2018

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