

Mr. Francis Cheek

1881 Census - Great Pan Farm, Whippingham, Isle of Wight, Hampshire

Name	Relationship		Age	Occupation	Birth place
George Cheek	Head	Married	39	Farmer 280 Acres	Gatcombe, IOW
Ann Cheek	Wife	Married	41	-	Kingston, IOW
Alice Cheek	Daughter	Single	17	Assistant At Home	Gatcombe, IOW
Ellen Cheek	Daughter	Single	14	Drapers Apprentice	Gatcombe, IOW
Lucy Cheek	Daughter	Single	10	Scholar	Gatcombe, IOW
Kate Cheek	Daughter	Single	8	Scholar	Gatcombe, IOW
Louisa Cheek	Daughter	Single	6	Scholar	Whippingham, IOW
Walter Cheek	Son	Single	4	Scholar	Whippingham, IOW
Bertha Cheek	Daughter	Single	1	-	Whippingham, IOW
William Cheek	Brother	Married	24	F Brother	Gatcombe, IOW
Annie Cheek	Wife	Married	26	-	Carisbrooke, IOW
William Cheek	Son	Single	2	-	Whippingham, IOW
Emily Cheek	Daughter	Single	1	-	Whippingham, IOW
<i>Francis Cheek</i>	<i>Brother</i>	-	<i>32</i>	<i>Carpenter</i>	<i>Gatcombe, IOW</i>

Hampshire Advertiser - 22 October 1881

Newport

Melancholy Suicide at Newport – On Thursday evening a lamentable suicide took place at Newport. About a quarter to 7 yesterday morning a labourer named James Young, of Coppins Bridge, observed floating near the town quay the body of a man, apparently quite dead. He immediately obtained the assistance of Sergeant Tiley, and they succeeded in bringing the body ashore. – Dr. E. Allan Waterworth was immediately summoned, and, upon his arrival, he examined the body, and at once pronounced life to be extinct. The corpse was afterwards identified as that of Francis Cheek, carpenter, of Newport, who was about 37 years of age. – John Hawkins landlord of the Old Inn, Hunny Hill, states that the deceased was in his house the greater part of Thursday, and appeared to be very depressed in spirits. He told a great many of his troubles and perplexities to the landlady, adding that he had quite made up his mind to drown himself. She endeavoured to persuade him not to take such a rash step, but her entreaties, as the event proved, were entirely disregarded. – An inquest was held at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon, before Mr. F. Black, district coroner. The evidence was taken as follows: -- Mrs. Ellen Cheek, wife of the deceased, said she recognized the body as that of her husband, Francis Cheek. She had been separated from him twelve months last June, having obtained an order of separation from the magistrates. She last saw him alive a week last Wednesday evening, when he called at the house where she was living. He told her he was going to Cowes to get his tools, and he had got fresh employment. Under the order of separation he was bound to allow her 10s per week, but had got behind in his payments. A month ago last Saturday he was taken up under a warrant for arrears of £9 1s. Afterwards he payed her a small amount of account. He was apprehensive that she was going to prosecute him again, as she told him a week on Wednesday last that she must have her money. – James Young proved finding the body of deceased as above stated. – Sergeant Tiley said when deceased was taken out of the water they found in his pockets a small knife, a half-penny, a <illegible>, and a carpenter's rule. There were no marks of violence. With regard to his habits, he could say that he was frequently drunk about the town. – Peter Stark said that he knew the deceased, Francis Cheek, and he last saw him alive when he was going over the New Bridge between the quays, about 8 o'clock on Thursday morning. He was walking rather fast, and had no coat upon his back, and his waistcoat was unbuttoned. He walked rather fast towards the water. Witness said

to him “Don’t you be fool enough to jump in.” He replied “I ain’t quite tired of my life yet.” He did not see him again afterwards. The deceased did not give him the impression of being in a drunken condition. – William Cross had seen deceased on Thursday at the Tontine Inn. He was sober at the time, although he appeared to be somewhat strange in manner. He told witness that he was going to be locked up tomorrow as there was a warrant out against him. He afterwards came into the tap-room and ordered half a pint of beer, after which he went away. He had said to witness three or four nights ago, “good night,” afterwards threatening to drown himself. – William Prince, of Pyle-street, said he knew the deceased quite well. On Thursday evening he saw him at the Grapes Inn. Deceased was there and sat beside him, and he said “Billy, they have got a warrant out for me tomorrow; I am already £7 in arrear, and have paid £2, but cannot keep the payments up, as I have got no work.” He seemed very strange and different to what he had ever been before. He was not drunk, but was somewhat muddled. Having had a glass of beer, deceased went to another settle, and appeared to be half asleep. Witness woke him out of his stupor, after which the deceased said “rather than go to gaol, I’ll make a hole in the water.” – Dr. Allan Waterworth stated that he saw the body about 7 o’clock on Friday morning, which was in a shed on the Quay. The deceased had evidently been dead some hours. Witness made an external examination, but failed to discover any bruises. Foam was issuing from his nostrils, which pointed out clearly that he had met his death by drowning. He had no doubt that such was the fact. – The jury returned a verdict in accordance with the medical testimony, to the effect that deceased was in a morbid and unsound state of mind when he committed the deed.

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