

## George Morris

### 1901 census, Medina Villas, Alvington Road, Carisbrooke

<i>George Morris</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>Laborer, Woodman</i>	<i>Dorset, Wool</i>
Mary A Morris	Wife	60		Hampshire, Shirley
Frank Morris	Nephew	24	Laborer, Woodman	Dorset, Wool
George Taylor	Boarder	40	Builder's Laborer	Hampshire, Southampton
Charles Langley	Boarder	53	Builder's Foreman	Hampshire, Southampton
Emily Langley	Boarder	55		Hampshire, Southampton

### Isle of Wight County Press – 8 January 1910

#### WOODMAN'S TRAGIC DEATH AT CARISBROOKE.

Yesterday (Friday) afternoon the Deputy Coroner for the Island (F.A. Joyce, Esq'), held an inquest at Frosthills, Froglands, Carisbrooke, on the body of George Morris, a woodman, aged 68, who was found lying dead in his cottage on Thursday evening with shocking injuries to his head and with a gun beneath him. – Mr. Henry Cave was foreman of the jury and Insp. Cass and P.C. Bungey were the police officials present.

FRANK MORRIS, living next door to the deceased, identified the body as that of his uncle. Deceased had been living alone, but witness and his wife had looked after him. Deceased's wife died in January, 1909. Witness's wife told him that his uncle came round on the previous morning and asked her for the key of the shed, which she gave him. About five minutes afterwards he returned with the key and witness's wife saw him go along the path-way with his hand in his coat pocket. About 10 minutes afterwards she heard a noise as she was coming downstairs. She thought it was that of a nail being driven into the wall. Witness tried the door of deceased's cottage and found it locked, with the key inside. He then became anxious and fetched P.C. Bungey after noticing that his gun was missing from the shed. P.C. Bungey returned with him and they forced the door and found his uncle lying by it with the gun under him. A piece of string was tied round his foot and attached to the trigger. His uncle was rather peculiar at times.

By the Foreman: Shooting frequently took place in the neighbourhood and his wife would not perhaps have noticed the shot.

By a Juror: The gun was not loaded when left in the shed, but the cartridges were in a box there.

P.C. BUNGEY said he knocked at the deceased's door and getting no reply forced it open. In the living-room he found the deceased lying on the floor, face downwards, his head hard against the door lying on the gun (produced), with both hands clasping the barrel. A piece of string was round the trigger and attached to deceased's foot. He was quite dead. He called Dr. Raymond and in his presence moved the body. He found an empty cartridge in the gun and an undischarged one in the trousers pocket of the deceased. The cartridges corresponded with those in the box. Apparently the deceased had placed the muzzle of the gun in his mouth. He thought deceased had been queer for the past week or so.

Dr. STANLEY FOSTER said he had attended the deceased off and on for some years. He had been off his work about six or seven weeks. He had had no really serious illness, but had suffered

from a disordered state of the liver, which made him depressed. Deceased was always inclined to worry a lot and he did not think he had been quite the same since his wife died. His depression was quite out of proportion to the extent of his illness.

Dr. G. RAYMOND said he was called about 7.15 on Thursday evening and proceeded to the house with P.C. Bungey. There was no doubt deceased had committed suicide. He had been dead for several hours.

The CORONER having summed up, the jury returned a verdict to the effect that the deceased committed suicide whilst of unsound mind.

The deceased was well known as a good workman on farms on the Seely Estate, particularly as a hurdle and spar maker.

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