

Charles Niblett

1901 census, Chillerton, Gatcombe

<i>Charles Niblett</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>Dairyman</i>	<i>Gatcombe, Isle of Wight</i>
Julia Niblett	Wife	60		Godshill, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press – 8 March 1902

A CHILLERTON DAIRYMAN'S SAD END.

A painful sensation was caused at Chillerton on Wednesday morning last when it became known that the death had occurred under distressing circumstances of Mr. James [*sic*] Niblett, of Bank Cottage, who had resided in the village for many years and was well known amongst the inhabitants. The deceased, who was 67 years of age, had carried on business as a dairyman at Kerville for some considerable time. He had been unfortunate of late in regard to his cattle, and only recently lost a cow. This seemed to have induced depression, and on Wednesday morning his death took place in the sad manner disclosed by the evidence at the inquest. Much sympathy is felt with the bereaved widow and family

The inquest was held by the Deputy Coroner for the Island (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) at Kerville Cottage, Chillerton, on Thursday afternoon. – Mr. J. H. Russell was chosen foreman of the jury.

Lewis Charles Niblett, the deceased's son, stated that his mother came to him on Wednesday morning about half past 7 and said she could not find the deceased and she thought there was something wrong. Witness then went to try and find him. He found the barn door fastened on the inside. He gave the door a pull and opened it and saw his father hanging by a rope on the beam. He immediately cut him down, but found that he was dead. He then communicated with the police. The rope produced was the one deceased used and it belonged to his father. Witness last saw his father alive on Tuesday evening, about quarter past 6. He had not seen him on the morning of his death. He was quite cheerful when he saw him on Tuesday evening and seemed to be getting over his troubles a bit. Deceased was 67 years of age. About 12 years ago deceased fell off a bank when cutting a hedge and broke his knee-cap, through which he was in bed for a long time and they had been informed by the doctor that since then he had had a severe nervous shock. During the last three years deceased had had some very bad losses with his cattle, and just lately he lost a cow. Deceased thought the other cows were all going to die. Witness tried to persuade him that nothing would happen, but he failed to remove the impression. – The Deputy Coroner: You have not heard him threaten to destroy himself? – Witness: No, sir. I never had the least thought of that. If I had I should have been with him all the time. Witness added they had not considered it necessary to take the doctor's advice with regard to the deceased's mind. Deceased had not had any other anxieties apart from those mentioned. They were all on good terms at home. – The Foreman said he saw the man himself on Saturday morning and he thought he would be one of the last to have committed suicide. – In reply to a juror (Mr. J. George), witness said deceased was worried over the cows, and the loss he sustained on his estate worried him considerably, especially just at the last, but witness repeated that he never thought anything like this was going to happen. Deceased had supper overnight and was as cheerful as could be.

The Deputy Coroner said he did not think it would be necessary to call the widow.

P.C. Stevens deposed to being called by the last witness and to going to the barn, where he saw the deceased lying on some straw. He was quite dead. There were marks on the pig-sty as if the deceased had swung himself off from there.

Deceased's son was recalled and said his father left home about 5.30 in the first place, and about 7.30 witness found him in the barn. He must have hung himself immediately he finished his work. He usually had breakfast at 7 o'clock.

Dr. Hutton Castle said P.C. Stevens came to him to go to Chillerton about 10.30 on the previous morning. He drove there about 11 o'clock and examined the body of the deceased externally in the barn. He supposed he had been dead for three to six hours. He could find no marks of violence whatever. His face was pale. – The Deputy Coroner: You would not generally expect to find that in cases of hanging. – Dr. Castle: It is not at all unusual. In hanging by suicide cases have occurred in which there have been no marks at all, though it is more usual to find marks. – A Juror (Mr. G. Williams) said he saw a slight mark round the neck. – Dr. Castle: That is what I should have expected. The Doctor added that death from suicidal hanging resulted in different ways. Perhaps the most common was syncope or failure of the heart's action from fright or fear. In his opinion that was the cause of death here. – The Deputy Coroner: Probably in that case death resulted very quickly? – Dr. Castle: Yes. There was no dislocation of the neck. A very important point was as to the face. In death from suffocation the pressure on the windpipe would make the face blue-black, but here the face was pale. Personally he had no doubt that the cause of death here was as he had stated.

The Rev. A. T. Richardson said the deceased came to see him about midday on Monday. He told him of the loss of his cow and asked him for help. He knew that deceased had had other serious losses so he told him he would help him. Deceased seemed to be in a dazed condition rather than depressed. He seemed to be more like a man who hardly knew what he was about than one who was overwhelmed with grief.

The Deputy Coroner briefly summed up the evidence, and the jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane."

The Foreman said the jury desired to express their deep sympathy with the bereaved widow and family.

The Deputy Coroner said he would see that effect was given to the sympathetic intention of the jury.

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