

John Dawson Self

1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census

143 High St, Newport, Isle of Wight, Hampshire, England

Name	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
<i>John Dawson Self</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>Baker & Confectioner</i>	<i>Cowes, IOW</i>
Elizabeth Self	Wife	Married	60		
John Alfred Self	Son	Single	31	Baker & Confectioner	London, England

Isle of Wight County Press
31 March 1923

NEWPORTONIAN'S TRAGIC DEATH

The death occurred on Tuesday, under extremely distressing and pathetic circumstances, of an old and well-known townsman of Newport, who had been prominently associated with the business life of the borough for 40 years—we refer to Mr. John Dawson Self, of Lukeley Lodge, The Mall. Deceased, who was in his 72nd year, was found by his son in the bath-room at his residence with a wound in his throat, as the result of which he soon expired, and with his blood-stained razor still in his right hand. The late Mr. Self had suffered from periodic fits of depression, which latterly had been accentuated by the serious illness of his wife. For about 35 years he carried on the baker's, confectioner's and business restaurant at the well-known "Self's pie-shop" in Lower High-street, where his uncle, the late Mr. T. Self, preceded him. He relinquished the business toward the end of the war, and had since lived in retirement. Mr. Self was an acceptable tenor chorister at St. Paul's Church, Barton, for some years, and for some time sang in a male quartette party. He was a former member of the local Choral Society. He leaves a widow, a married daughter, and a son, for whom much sympathy is felt.

The inquest was held by the Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) at Lukeley Lodge on Tuesday evening, when two of the deceased's old friends, Messrs. F. Billows and J. Dallimore, were present, in addition to the witnesses and Insp. W. Evans.

John Alfred Self, son of deceased, living with him at Lukeley Lodge, said deceased retired on Monday night at about 10 o'clock, and witness heard nothing of him during the night. At about 7.50 that morning he took up deceased's shaving water to the front bed-room, where his father always shaved. Deceased was then in bed, and witness asked if he was going to get up. Deceased said he had nothing to shave off, and witness replied "Well, let it stop till tomorrow morning, then". He left the shaving water on the dressing table and assisted deceased to put on his pants and socks. Witness then went downstairs and returned to his father's bed-room about a quarter of an hour later to assist him in putting on his boots. He at once saw that his father had left his bed-room, and hearing something running in the bath-room he went straight there. He there saw his father standing over the bath, holding his razor in his hand and blood running from a large wound in his throat. He said to deceased "Whatever did you do this for dad?" and he replied "I am going mad". That was all he said.—Q. You must have got there immediately on his doing it for him to have been able to speak to you?—Yes, I did. He took the razor from deceased, who gradually sank forward across the edge of the bath and soon expired. In the meantime the maid had gone for Dr. Raymond, who arrived soon after, but his father was then dead. Deceased was too heavy for witness alone to attempt to lift him, and there was no one else in the house but the maid. It was

deceased's own razor which he was holding, which he kept in his room.—Q. What has been your father's condition of mind for some time?—Well, he has been rather peculiar in his manner, particularly so during the last few days.—Q. Has he been apprehensive that he might be found to be of unsound mind?—He has been afraid that if Dr. Raymond came he would have him put away.—Q. I believe, Mr. Self, that deceased's wife was sent to a mental hospital a month ago?—Yes, a month ago today.—Q. Has that had a marked influence upon him?—There was no doubt about that, the more so during the last week.—Q. I believe he had depression, for some considerable time prior to his wife going to the hospital?—Yes, he has had it for several years. It has generally come on about Christmas time, and gone off at the end of April or May.—Q. He has never threatened to commit suicide?—No; I do not think he ever exactly threatened suicide.

P.S. Arnold said he arrived at Lukeley Lodge at about 9.30 that morning and found deceased lying in the bath-room quite dead. He has a large wound on the left side of his throat, and he was informed that the razor (produced) had been taken from his hand by his son. The razor case was lying in the bath. There was a large quantity of blood in the bath.

Dr. Raymond said that when he arrived, at about 9 o'clock, deceased was dead. He was doubled over the edge of the bath, his head and upper part of the body being in the bath and his feet just off the floor outside. There was a very severe wound on the left side of the neck, commencing at the ear and extending to the middle line. It had been self-inflicted by the right hand—deceased was stated to be right-handed—and no amount of assistance, if available at once, could have saved deceased, as all the large blood vessels on the left side of the neck had been severed. The wound was such that no help could have been of any avail. The fact that neither the wind-pipe nor vocal chords were touched by the wound accounted for deceased being able to reply to his son, but that must have been immediately after the wound was afflicted. He had been attending deceased for nearly 15 years. He had always had fits of depression, generally starting about Christmas time and going on to the end of March or April. That had been more accentuated since he had been away from business; he had worried more about himself. He had always been a highly-strung man. During the last month he had been worse than ever, since his wife had gone to a mental hospital; that had a very marked effect upon him.—Q. Has he ever been apprehensive of going there himself?—He always said I should put him there some-day. When he was well he had made that remark jokingly.—Q. You did not consider his condition bad enough for you to put him away?—Not at all. Witness added that death was due to loss of blood from the wound.

The Coroner said he had regretfully to come to the conclusion that deceased committed suicide by cutting his throat. He sympathised very much with the family in the heavy loss they had sustained under such exceptionally sad circumstances. He, however, found quite enough in the evidence of the doctor and the deceased's son to justify him in adding to his verdict that deceased was of unsound mind at the time. One could understand that the unfortunate removal of his wife to a mental hospital would have had a very bad effect upon one who was already suffering from depression.

The funeral took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Thursday, the Rev. T. Story Busher (vicar) officiating. The mourners were Mr. J. A. Self (son), Mr. Frank Shutler (son-in-law), Mr. F. Billows, Mr. J. E. Cole, Mr. George Self (Shanklin), Mrs. Tilley, Mrs. L. Jordan, Dr. Raymond, Capt. Frank King, and Mr. J. H. Flux, and also Mr. F. Pitt and Miss Rose Sweetman (old employees). Deceased's only daughter, Mrs. F. Shutler, was unable to attend on account of ill health. There were floral tributes from deceased's wife and son; Frank and Flo; Ron, Betty, and Neil; Mr. and Mrs. L. Jordan; Ellen: John E. Cole; F. S. and R. M. Tilley; Miss Horncroft; F. Billows and family; Mr. and Mrs. F. Matthews; and Mr. and Mrs. Dore and family.