

## Arthur William Stammer

### 1911 Census – 5 Laycock Buildings, Sheffield

Arthur Frederick Stammer	Head	62	Police Pensioner	Newport, IW
Mary Theresa Stammer	Wife	52		Middlesex, London
<i>Arthur William Stammer</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>Ophthalmic Optician</i>	<i>Middlesex, London</i>
Cecil Francis Kent	Boarder	19	Optician Assistant	Middlesex, London

### Isle of Wight County Press – 17 June 1916

#### SENSATIONAL SUICIDE AT CARISBROOKE.

On Saturday the Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at Carisbrooke Cemetery touching the death of Arthur William Stammer, 32, single, ophthalmic optician, of 215 Glossop-road, Sheffield, whose body, in an advanced state of decomposition, was found on the previous Wednesday by Mr. Harry Percy, gardener at the Dominican Convent, Carisbrooke, lying in the meadow opposite the Convent, practically hidden by grass and thistles, in a secluded part of the meadow between Carisbrooke Castle and Whitcombe Cross, about 300 or 400 yards from the public roadway. – Mr. W. B. Plucknett was foreman of the jury, and the parents of deceased and Insp. H. Sibbeck were present.

P.C. Bungey, who was informed of the presence of the body by Percy, said that deceased was lying on his back fully dressed, with the exception of his hat, which was by his side. His right hand was still tightly gripping the revolver produced. Four chambers of this were loaded and one had been fired. The revolver was resting on deceased's chest, pointing slightly upwards. No communication was found on the body and nothing to show who the deceased was. He had 9s. 5d. in money on him.

Arthur Stammer, pensioner from the Metropolitan Police, of 235 Western Bank, Sheffield, identified the body as that of his son, who had been living with him and carrying on business at Sheffield. He did not know his son had a revolver. Deceased left home on April 20<sup>th</sup> for a holiday for the benefit of his health and went with his mother to Portsmouth, where both stayed for a week. Witness's wife then returned home and deceased remained at Portsmouth. On May 27<sup>th</sup> his wife received the following undated letter from deceased, bearing a London postmark: "My darling mother, - I am afraid this is absolutely the last note you will receive from me. I have just finished my letters to Peters and there is nothing else to do but to say 'Good-bye.' Of course, you will not be surprised in any way, as I have mentioned it so often, not once or twice. I die to-morrow, the day you receive this note. I am sending off my bag with most of the things in it. What will not go in I shall scrap. I have packed the watch in the inside pocket, where it should be all right. It is so difficult to pack here in the hotel. I have registered it and I hope it will arrive safely, and that ----- will take it, also I send my leather pocket-book, in which I carried rupee notes all the while I was in India. In one of the pockets is a registered receipt for the money I sent you from India. I don't quite know, but I think I shall spend the last day in the Island along the road we walked. 10s. will take me there. I am

sorry to hear about the hitch in the negotiations, and you will have to be careful over yourself being let in legally somehow; play as carefully as you can. You will not, of course, be able to let me know what you do. I shall post this letter as I leave the hotel. Then I think I have done. I should die happier if I thought you would believe that my last act, right or wrong, was what I honestly believed to be the best for you. That fate will be kind to you is the last sincere wish of your devoted son, Willie.” Those were all the letters they had received from deceased bearing on his death. His wife received one or two short notes from him some time before. Deceased’s watch was posted separately at Ryde. He had been ordered to join the Army on the 15<sup>th</sup> inst., up to which time he had got exemption, and that was worrying him, as he was not well and his was a one-man business. Deceased had developed whooping cough. On receiving the above letter from deceased witness’s wife at once proceeded to the Island, communicated with the police, and made inquires and a search for deceased in the Island and at Portsmouth. His wife and deceased had previously been to the Island and walked from Sandown to Shanklin together, but they did not go to Carisbrooke then. Whilst in India deceased had fever. He was worried at the prospect of having to sacrifice his business.

Dr. Thompson said death was due to deceased being shot in the head. The bullet entered in the right ear, and there was no point of exit.

The Coroner said deceased’s letter was written in a singularly clear and collected manner for a man contemplating suicide.

The jury returned a verdict that deceased committed suicide by shooting himself, but that there was not sufficient evidence to show the state of his mind at the time. The jury expressed deepest sympathy with the parents and other relatives in their sorrow, and Mr. Stammer returned thanks.

*Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2020*  
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