

Joseph Richard Tucker

**Isle of Wight County Press
27 February 1943**

NEWPORT PENSIONER'S SAD END.

An inquest was held at the Guildhall, Newport, on Monday by the Deputy Coroner (R. E. A. Webster, Esq.) on Joseph Richard Tucker, 76, an old age pensioner, who died following a fall at his home, 6 New-street, Newport, on Thursday week.

George F. Simpson, a retired soldier, said he had lived with the deceased for 24 years. Owing to chronic bronchitis the doctor had ordered deceased to stay indoors and he had been living and sleeping in the kitchen. On Thursday week witness left the house at about 12.45 to do shopping and fetch medicine. When he returned he found deceased lying on the floor with his head and shoulders in the fender. He had apparently fallen off the rocking chair. Mr. Johnston helped put deceased on the couch. Deceased did not appear injured, and when asked if he was hurt replied that he was not. His face was covered with soot and there were scorching marks on his face and head. Asked how long he had been lying there, deceased replied "a long time." The rocking chair was broken and the deceased had fallen off it twice recently.

Mrs. R. H. Gray, who also lives at 6 New-street, said she went through the kitchen at about 1 o'clock on Thursday week, when deceased appeared much as usual.

Mr. F. C. Johnson, of Cedron House, Carisbrooke-road, proved helping the first witness to place deceased on the couch. Mr. Simpson came out of 6 New-street and asked him to help pick up Mr. Tucker. He knew both Mr. Simpson and Tucker. He said he told Mr. Simpson he should fetch a doctor.

Dr. A. A. Straton said he went to the house at about 10.40 p.m. on Thursday week and found Tucker lying on the couch dead. Witness had been seeing him for some time as he was suffering from chronic bronchitis. He had been dead from about an hour to an hour and a half. In his opinion death was due to heart failure accentuated by shock caused by burns.

Acting P.S. Davis said the grate was an old fashioned kitchener with a fender around it about 5 in. high.

The Coroner returned a verdict of death from heart failure due to senile decay, accelerated by shock caused by falling in the fireplace and slight burns.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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