

Edward White, aged 60 buried Carisbrooke Cemetery 17 September 1869

HAMPSHIRE TELEGRAPH AND SUSSEX CHRONICLE Saturday, September 18, 1869

SUICIDE - On Wednesday evening last, F. E. Blake, Esq., coroner, held an inquest at the Clarendon beershop, Newvillage, Newport, on the body of Edward White, a shipwright, aged 60. The following evidence was given: Edward White, son of the deceased, nearly 14 years of age said, last night I did not observe any thing unusual about my father. This morning, at a quarter to six, he came into my bedroom, told me to get up and dress myself quickly, as if I did not it would be six o'clock before I got to my work. He also said it wet very wet, and asked me if my overcoat was down stairs. After I got down stairs, and while I was putting on my boots, he appeared excited and said, "I wish some one would shoot or hang me, when I am walking out," and as I left to go to my work, I did not again see him alive. It is only a week since we came to our present house, as we formerly lived in West-street. My father was for many years a shipwright at Cowes, but nearly three years ago he had to give up work, on account of his heath and sight failing him. For some time back he had become totally blind in one eye, and could not see very well with the other. He was in reception of parish relief. He was at times irritable and strange, and had become worse since my brother had been bitten by a dog in the summer of 1868. He was always saying that he would come to want, and he but lately ran after my mother with a knife. - Fanny Parsons said: I live in Melbourne-street, next door to the house of the deceased. This morning, about half-past seven, Mrs. White came to my house in a most excited manner, only saying, "Come and see my husband." I followed her into her house, and on my saying, "Where is he?" she pointed to the wash-house in the yard, close to the back door, and said, "There." I then went out and saw him hanging by the neck from a beam. On seeing this, I ran into the back room, took a knife off the table, with which I cut him down, and on examining the body I found it cold. The line by which the deceased was suspended was a piece of the cord used by his wife in drying clothes. In answer to a juryman, the witness said that the deceased was partly dressed, had his hat on, but was without his shoes, and that he must have thrown himself from a small chest, as the body partly fell upon the chest when she cut him down. - Charles G. White said: On Monday last he called at his father's house, and finding him very strange, he told his mother that if his father became worse they would have put him into an asylum. Dr. Castle said that he was sent for, before eight a.m., and on arriving, he found the body of the deceased cold, and from that he concluded that he must have been dead for more than an hour. He knew the deceased and visited him for the purpose of putting him on his parish books, so that he might obtain relief. Verdict - That deceased hanged himself while labouring under an unsound state of mind. Mrs. White was unwell in bed, and could not therefore attend to give evidence.

Transcribed by Ann Ryder for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries (c) 2017