

George Henry Cheverton

Isle of Wight County Press – 8 April 1944

Newport Naval Veteran`s Suicide.

LONELY AFTER WIFE`S DEATH.

A sad story of a Naval veteran`s depression and suicide, following his wife`s death in January, was told to the Deputy-Coroner (R. E. A. Webster, Esq.) at the inquest on Wednesday into the death of Mr. George Henry Cheverton, aged 85, of Rosa, Fairlee-road, Newport, who was found lying dead in the kitchen of his home on the previous day with his head in the gas oven and the taps turned fully on.----Sergt. Steer was the police officer present.

Arthur Lawrence Cheverton, licensee, of 66 Nodehill, Newport, said his father had lived alone since the death of his second wife in January and he had been rather depressed of late. On Monday his father came to see him at Nodehill and on Tuesday witness went to Fairlee to see his father. On opening the front door he smelt gas strongly and found the back part of the bungalow full of gas. His father was lying with his head in the gas oven, all the taps turned fully on. A sheet had been placed to prevent the gas escaping. His father had obviously been dead some time. Witness turned off the gas and opened the doors and windows. He had never heard his father threaten to take his life.

Mrs. Daisy Snow, living next door, agreed that Mr. Cheverton had been feeling lonely and depressed since the death of his wife. On Monday afternoon she got him three eggs. He complained of feeling lonely and she remarked that she was lonely, too, referring to the fact that her husband was away in the Army. Mr. Cheverton replied "Yes, but your loneliness can be cured, mine can`t." He told her she could go over and pick turnip greens if she would like any. She said she would get some on the following day. At about 1.30 on the following afternoon she knocked at the door, but could get no reply. She did not suspect that anything was wrong, however, as Mr. Cheverton was deaf and she knew he often went to bed in the afternoon. He had definitely been in low spirits since his wife`s death.

Dr. John Hastie Jones, of Newport, said the usual signs of coal gas poisoning were absent. He formed the opinion that deceased died from heart failure almost as soon as he began to inhale the gas, his heart being weak. When he saw Mr. Cheverton on the previous Friday and Saturday he was depressed.

The Deputy-Coroner returned the verdict "That the deceased committed suicide by inhaling coal gas while in such a state of depression that he was not responsible for his actions."

Mr. Cheverton was a native of Newport and very well known there. He served 21 years in the Royal Navy, in which he was a diver and gunnery instructor, retiring with the rank of chief petty officer in 1902. In that year he took over the licence of the Cutters` Arms Inn, Carisbrooke, which had been carried on for many years by his first wife`s family, and continued as the landlord for 11 years. Since then he had been living in retirement and devoted his leisure mainly to gardening, of which he was very fond. He had never had a serious illness. He was a brother of the late Mr. A. M. Cheverton, the well known cycling champion, and leaves three sons and a daughter.

Isle of Wight County Press - 15 April 1944

NEWPORT

The Late Mr. G. H. Cheverton.---The funeral of Mr. G. H. Cheverton, a Naval veteran of 85, whose death at his residence, Rosa, Fairlee-road, was announced last week, took place in Newport Cemetery on Saturday, the Rev. H. M. Jackson officiating. The mourners were his three sons (Messrs. G. L., A. L., and C. V. Cheverton), his step-son (Mr. F. Studd, of Portsmouth), and Mrs. W. Croucher (niece). There were several floral tributes.

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