

## George Holmes

### 1901 census, 13 Terrace Road, Newport

<i>George Holmes</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>Salesman</i>	<i>Ryde, Isle of Wight</i>
Dorcas A Holmes	Wife	43		Newport, Isle of Wight
Arthur G. W Holmes	Son	18	Cycle Agent	Newport, Isle of Wight
Ethel Holmes	Daughter	19		Newport, Isle of Wight
Charles Holmes	Son	15	Bookseller Clerk	Newport, Isle of Wight
Stanley Holmes	Son	13	Bookseller Clerk	Newport, Isle of Wight
Doris Holmes	Daughter	6		Newport, Isle of Wight
Ellen Quirk	M in law	70	Widow	Wellow, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press – 26 October 1901

### DISTRESSING CYCLING FATALITY AT NEWPORT.

On Wednesday morning Mr. George Holmes, of Terrace-road, Newport, who, as announced in last week's issue, had met with a serious cycling accident, succumbed to the injuries he sustained, death being due to concussion of the brain. The deceased was a commission agent, was known in all parts of the Island, and was much respected. His figure was a specially familiar one to railway travellers in the Island and he was always most ready in conversation with his fellow passengers. He had not long recovered from serious indisposition due to the breakdown of the nervous system, and it was believed that the fatal fall from his machine was due to a fit. Deceased will be much missed by his many friends, whose deepest sympathy is with the widow and bereaved family in their sorrow. At the time of his death Mr. Holmes was the chief ranger of Court Island Foresters, and the esteem in which he was held by his brethren is evidenced by the fact that he had previously been sub-chief ranger in addition to having been the assistant secretary with the late Bro. Snudden and auditor for several times, and his death is keenly felt by all Foresters in the Island, and especially by members of his Court, with whom the deceased had ever been a good and cheery worker. Deceased was looking forward to having the honour of initiating Major Seely, D.S.O., M.P., into Forestry on the 5<sup>th</sup> prox. He was a prominent and valued member of the Castlehold Baptist Church congregation and of the P.S.A. Society, and a popular vocalist, whose tenor singing was helpful in the performances of the Philharmonic Society and in local choirs.

An inquest was held at the Sir John Barleycorn on Thursday morning by the Island Coroner (Edward F. Blake, Esq.), Mr. G. M. Smith being foreman of the jury. - John Cheverton, a lamp-lighter, said that about 5 p.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup> inst. he was in Terrace-road, near St. John's Church, when he saw deceased approaching him on a bicycle. He heard deceased give a "great moan" just before he got to witness, and he then immediately fell off his machine on the right side. Witness went to pick him up, but being unable to lift him called for assistance. The deceased was then unconscious. - The Coroner: You did not see what caused him to fall off the bicycle? - Witness said no. Deceased did not strike anything and there was nothing in the way. He believed deceased must have had a fit - Dr. Barr said on examination of deceased he found an extravasation of blood under the scalp on the right side, and there was concussion of the brain. He had been told that his shoulder was partially out, but there was no dislocation. Witness only found the one injury. For the first two or three days afterwards deceased rallied, but symptoms of compression set in on Monday and he could not swallow. He gradually became more comatose and died on Wednesday morning. - The Coroner: You have no doubt he died

from injuries of this fall? - No. - The Coroner briefly summed up and a verdict of “Accidental death” was returned.

The funeral will take place on Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. and the Foresters will assemble half an hour earlier.

### **Isle of Wight County Press – 2 November 1901**

#### **IMPRESSIVE FRIENDLY-SOCIETY FUNERAL AT NEWPORT.**

The funeral took place on Sunday last, amid marked manifestations of sympathy and sorrowful respect, of the late Mr. George Holmes, of Terrace-road, Newport, whose distressing death, due to an accidental fall from a bicycle, was reported in our last issue. The funeral procession was one of the longest ever seen in Newport, members of friendly societies and others bringing up the total number of mourners on foot to quite 200. The personal mourners included the widow and children of the deceased, together with his father and mother and other relatives. The Castlehold Baptist Church, where deceased worshipped and sang in the choir, was represented by Messrs. A. W. Abraham, A. Kemp, T. P. Leach, and T. R. Teal, in addition to the Rev. A. E. Johns (pastor), who officiated, and Mr. F. Damp, who superintended the carrying out of the funeral arrangements, which were in the hands of his firm. The deceased was at the time of his death the chief ranger of Court Island Foresters, No. 1821, and considerably over 100 of his fellow officers and members attended the funeral, as well as officers of the district and other Island courts. The Foresters wore the green collar ribbon and sprig of yew in the button-hole. The polished coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths, in the centre of which reposed the chief ranger’s regalia, which had been worn by the deceased, and Bros. J. Stubbs, P.C.R. (trustee), W. H. Dyer, P.C.R., F. Peck, P.C.R., and G. F. Jones (sub-chief ranger), P.C.R., of Court Island Foresters, acted as bearers.

*(Other members of Friendly Societies attending not transcribed)inquest*

The first part of the service took place at the Castlehold Baptist Church, where there was a crowded congregation. As the coffin was borne into the church Mr. Charles King, T.C., at the organ, gave an expressive rendering of “O rest in the Lord.” The Rev. A. E. Johns impressively read the Burial Office, “Brief life is here our portion” was sung, and the rev. gentleman then, in the course of a touching address, said they would remember their late brother as diligent in business, bright in hope, genial in manner, bravely facing the stern conditions of life, and, better still, some of them would remember him for his inward trust in God and his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Such being the case and such their hope and assurance death was for him but a swift release from the storms and stress and struggles of life. They felt most tenderly – there was not a heart in that congregation or town but felt most tenderly – for the bereaved ones, and the fact that his death had happened under most painful circumstances only served the more powerfully to awaken their sympathy. That event spoke to them of what shadows they were and what shadows they were pursuing. Nothing was sudden to him who was always ready. At the conclusion of the service the “Dead march” in *Saul* was played on the organ by Mr. Charles King. The funeral procession reformed and slowly wended its way to Newport Cemetery, where, in the presence of an unusually large assemblage, the burial rites were completed by the Rev. A. E. Johns, and the Foresters’ funeral service was read by Bro. E. J. Smith, acting chief ranger. There were many beautiful floral tributes.

*Transcription by Pamela Cowan for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2024*  
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