

George Walter Brown

1911 census – 152 High Street, Newport

<i>George Walter Brown</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>Butcher</i>	<i>Newport, Isle of Wight</i>
Edith Grace Chant		39	Housekeeper	Newport, Isle of Wight
Leslie Melton Chant		13	School	Southampton

Isle of Wight County Press – 3 May 1913

SUDDEN DEATH OF A NEWPORT TRADESMAN.

Last (Friday) evening the Deputy-Coroner (F.A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the Guildhall touching the death of Mr. George Walter Brown, aged 56, proprietor of the well known butcher's business in Lower High-street, Newport, who we regret to record died rather suddenly on Thursday afternoon. The eldest son of the late Mr. Walter Brown, of Kitbridge, the deceased over 30 years ago founded with his younger brother the business of Messrs. Brown Bros., of which for some years he was the sole proprietor. Of a kind-hearted disposition, he was unostentatiously a friend to many in poor circumstances, by whom he will be greatly missed, as he will be by a large circle of friends, amongst whom he was very greatly esteemed.

Insp. Sibbick represented the police.

Mr. G. H. Arthur was foreman of the jury at the inquest, at which Mrs. Edith Chant, sister of the deceased, who acted as his housekeeper, said deceased had enjoyed excellent health until last Sunday, when he complained of a pain in the chest, which he attributed to a cold. She applied hot flannels to his chest on Sunday and Monday. He seemed much better, and got up on Tuesday and went in the shop for a while, as also he did on Wednesday and Thursday. On the latter day, at about 1 o'clock, he told her that an orange he had had did not agree with him. She again applied the hot flannels for the pain in his chest, and he said he was better and should get up for tea. At about 4 o'clock he asked witness to make him some arrowroot, and she went into an adjoining room to do so. About a quarter of an hour later her mother, who was sitting with deceased, called out "Oh Edith, come at once. He is dying." Witness ran into the room at once and saw that her brother was dead. Her mother said that deceased suddenly made a noise and died. She did not think it necessary to call for a doctor previously. Deceased had not been attended by a medical man. Q, For how long? – Never, to my recollection.

Mr. Herbert Lower, of High-street, Newport, nephew of the deceased, said he called on deceased at 3.30 p.m. on Thursday and remained with him for about 20 minutes. Deceased was cheerful and said he was better. Deceased said he had had a pain in his chest and witness said, "If you are not better tomorrow I should certainly have a doctor," and deceased replied, "Yes, I will." – By the Foreman: He did not think at the time it was necessary to call in a doctor. He was greatly surprised when he heard deceased was dead.

Dr. Stanley Foster, who was called to see deceased at 4.30, said he found him quite dead. He made a post-mortem examination with Dr. Seagrove, and found the heart dilated, thickened, and flabby, decided fatty degeneration of the walls, and symptoms of syncope. The stomach showed symptoms of gastritis, probably of a few days' duration, which might have been caused by indigestion, and he thought that the strain of indigestion on a weakened heart caused syncope, which was undoubtedly the cause of death.

The Jury returned a verdict in accordance with the doctor's evidence.

The Foreman said the Jury wished to express their sympathy with the relatives of the deceased, who was a well known and much respected tradesman, and one who would be greatly missed by the poor of Newport.

Mr. F. Trim (brother-in-law of deceased) thanked the Jury for their sympathy and the police for the kindly way in which they had dealt with the case.

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