

## Alfred Cheverton

*Note: some records have 'Chiverton' but 'Cheverton' seems to be used in most of the family records.*

### 1881 census, Durton Farm, Arreton, Hampshire

William Chiverton	Head	60	Farmer of 125 Acres Emp. 2 Men	Newport, Isle of Wight
Hannah Chiverton	Wife	55		Arreton, Isle of Wight
Alice Chiverton	Daughter	25	Farmers Daughter	Arreton, Isle of Wight
Austin Chiverton	Son	24	Farmers Son	Arreton, Isle of Wight
Gertrude Chiverton	Daughter	20	Farmers Daughter	Arreton, Isle of Wight
Ada Chiverton	Daughter	18	Farmers Daughter	Arreton, Isle of Wight
Lilian Chiverton	Daughter	13	Scholar	Arreton, Isle of Wight
<i>Alfred Chiverton</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>Gentleman</i>	<i>Ventnor, Isle of Wight</i>
Ethel Chiverton	Grandau	4		Ventnor, Isle of Wight

### Hampshire Advertiser - 26 January 1884

#### NEWPORT

#### DISTRESSING SUICIDE AT DURTON FARM.

On Thursday, the Coroner for the Isle of Wight (Mr. F. Blake) held an inquiry, touching the death of Alfred Chiverton, aged 47 years, who was found hanging dead in his brother's house at Durton Farm, on Wednesday last, The following evidence was taken:-

Alice Emily Chiverton, said the deceased was a bachelor, and she was his niece. For nine months he was an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum, at Fareham, but left it at Michaelmas, in 1880, since which he had lived at Durton Farm. Generally speaking he had been out of health, and at times seemed out of his mind, but at other times he appeared the same as other people. Yesterday (Wednesday) morning she took him his breakfast as usual. He thanked her for it, and she did not notice anything unusual in his manner or appearance. About a quarter past 11 she heard him bring down his plate and breakfast cup, after which he returned upstairs. A few minutes afterwards she went upstairs, and passing his door, she called to him, asking him to get up, but he did not answer. That was nothing unusual. Upon returning, she noticed a piece of dirty cloth hanging to the door. She then pushed at the door, and found it was weighty, and would not open. Calling her brother, they together opened it, just sufficient to see the deceased's clothes from the top of the door to the bottom. Her brother eventually succeeded in entering the room, and in taking the body down. The rag or cloth produced was always kept in the back court. Deceased could not have got it there yesterday morning. He attempted to drown himself both before he went to and since he came back from the asylum. They had always watched his movements, though, of course, unknown to the deceased. Not more than half-an-hour elapsed between the time she heard him return upstairs, and the time when he was taken down.

Austin Chiverton, brother of the last witness, deposed that he slept in the same room as the deceased. Yesterday morning he got up about 6 o'clock, but did not notice any difference in him. When his sister called him he pushed the bedroom door open and found the deceased suspended from the corner of a towel, which was fastened round his neck. He appeared to be quite dead, but not cold. He was in the habit of complaining that his life was a burden to him, though he appeared to be better after he came from the asylum.

Dr. M. Coombs said he attended the deceased about four years ago, before he was sent to the asylum. Before the deceased went there he was very depressed in his mind and tried to drown himself. He understood he was discharged from the asylum on the strength of a certificate that he was cured. When he arrived on Wednesday, about a quarter past 1 in the afternoon, the deceased appeared to have

been died about an hour. The features were very calm, and he should think death must have been almost instantaneous. From the position of the mark on his neck he should think the towel must have pressed upon the windpipe, which would in itself be sufficient to cause almost instant death. Witness had recommended Mr. Chiverton to keep everything out of the way that he would be likely to use against himself – that was before he was sent to the asylum. Witness considered that deceased had a suicidal tendency. Verdict, “That deceased hanged himself whilst in an unsound state of mind.” – We may mention that the deceased was formerly a grocer, carrying on business in Cross-lanes, Newport.

*Transcription and research by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,*  
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