

John William Morris

Isle of Wight County Press – 2 January 1915

NEWPORT.

OLD-AGE PENSIONER'S LONELY DEATH. – On Tuesday afternoon the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest at the Guildhall on the body of John William Morris, aged 74, shoemaker, of Town-lane, who had been living alone and was found dead in his arm-chair at home on the night of Boxing-day. Mr. H. Tullidge was foreman of the jury. Margaret Fry, 7 Bramble-road, Southsea, identified the body of the deceased, who was her relative and brought her up. He had lived at 10 Town-lane nearly all his life and for the last eight years he had lived alone. Deceased had always complained of his heart and for the last two years had practically done no work, but had had the old-age pension. She last saw deceased in September, when he seemed a little better in health, Mary Ann Carwardine, of 11 Town-lane, said that she last saw deceased alive on Christmas-day, when he came to her shop between 1 and 2 o'clock and talked with her for a few minutes and went back indoors. He seemed better and brighter than usual and made no complaint. He had previously complained of heart trouble and said that he had often had to get up in the night and sit out in a chair. On Boxing night she knocked at deceased's door, as she had not heard him about, and as she got no reply she went for the police. Insp. Harry Sibbeck said that at about 11 p.m. on Saturday, in consequence of what the last witness told him, he rapped at deceased's door and getting no reply he got a ladder and went up to the window and saw deceased sitting in the arm-chair apparently asleep. He then broke upon the door and went upstairs, where he found deceased sitting in the chair dead, but not quite cold. The fire was out, and there was a saucepan on the grate with some stew in it and there was a plate on the table. Dr. Underhill said that about 11.30 p.m. he was called by Insp. Sibbeck and found deceased lying on the bed. Rigor mortis was not established and he had not been dead many hours – less than eight hours. The appearance of deceased was quite consistent with death from heart failure. He had not attended deceased. The jury returned a verdict of Death from syncope, through disease of the heart.

Transcription by Bob Jacobs for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2020
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>

17 February 2020