

## Phebe Mary Newman

### 1911 England, Wales & Scotland Census

Fern Bank, Broadlands, Fairlee Road, Newport, Hampshire, England

Name	Relationship	Status	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
James Reynolds	Head	Married	86	Retired builder	Newport, IOW
Tabitha Jane Reynolds	Wife	Married	81		St. Helens, IOW
<i>Phebe Mary Newman</i>	<i>Niece</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>43</i>		<i>Bembridge, IOW</i>

### Isle of Wight County Press

10 January 1920

#### YESTERDAY

#### DISTRESSING SUICIDE AT NEWPORT.

Much sympathy has been aroused in Newport by the suicide of a well-known and active Christian worker in the person of Miss Phebe Mary Newman, aged 52, who resided with her aunt, Mrs. Reynolds, aged 69, at Fern Bank, Broadlands. Deceased was joint hon. sec. of the P.T.E. Society, leader of the Women's Bible Class in connection with the Congregational Church, and an earnest organiser of successful charitable efforts on behalf of Sir John Kirk's Crippled Children's Homes. The Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquest yesterday at the residence of Mr. G. H. Arthur, C.C., who placed a room at his disposal.—Supt. J. H. Gallaway stated that at about 11 a.m. on the previous day Mr. Arthur called at the Police-station and said he suspected that there was something wrong at Fern Bank, as the blinds were still down. They went together to Fern Bank, and after failing to obtain admission by the front door, which the aunt, who was too feeble-minded to give evidence, was unable to open, went to the back of the house, climbed over the wall, and entered the house, meeting Mrs. Reynolds in the passage about halfway between the front door and the kitchen. He could only obtain a rambling statement from her as to the whereabouts of Miss Newman, but on the corner of the table in the front room he found a note in deceased's handwriting, addressed to her brother, Mr. Newton Newman, of Laburnum Cottage, Bembridge, which read: "I can't go on any longer; I feel so awful". There was another letter, which deceased had written on the previous evening to her sister in South Africa and left ready for posting, but that letter was quite coherent and contained nothing to suggest that she was contemplating self-destruction. They searched the outside buildings and in a store at the side of the house found deceased hanging by a small rope from a rafter. She had used a chair to stand upon to fasten the rope. He and Mr. Arthur cut the body down, and as it was still warm he resorted to artificial respiration whilst Mr. Arthur went for a doctor. He continued efforts to restore life until a few minutes before the doctor arrived and pronounced life extinct.

Mr. Arthur said he noticed between 10 and 11 that the blinds at Fern Bank were still drawn and that the front had not been swept as usual. That aroused his suspicion and he went for Supt. Gallaway. A young girl went every morning at about 9 o'clock to assist with the work at Fern Bank. She went there at the usual time on Thursday, and, being unable to get an answer, returned home without reporting it.

The Coroner said Mr. Arthur took quite the right course in reporting the unusual circumstances to the police.—Deceased's brother said that his sister had lived with her aunt for about 45 years. She had

latterly complained of the trouble she had with her aunt, who was very difficult to life with. They had received a letter from deceased since Christmas stating that she and her aunt had been staying with Miss Cheverton at Durton Farm. She said she was feeling very poorly before she went there, but the change had done her a lot of good. She only returned from Durton on the 5th last.—Supt. Gallaway said that he had ascertained that some time ago deceased was suffering from mental depression, and was medically attended.—Dr. Raymond said that on arriving at Fern Bank he found deceased dead. Her face was slightly warm, but the limbs were quite cold. Death was due to asphyxia from hanging. There were superficial wounds on the left wrist and inside the right thigh, evidencing that deceased had made a feeble attempt to sever arteries before hanging herself.

The Coroner said deceased evidently acted on a sudden impulse to destroy herself, and he sympathised with the relatives in the very sad death of one who had been so active in many good works, in which her loss would be keenly felt. He returned a verdict of “Suicide by hanging whilst temporarily of unsound mind”.—The Coroner and Supt. Gallaway thanked Mr. Arthur for his assistance, and Mr. Newman thanked the Coroner and the witnesses for their sympathy and help.

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