

Charles Edward Nobbs

1901 census, 1 Broadlands Terrace, Newport

<i>Charles Edward Nobbs</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>County Accountant</i>	<i>Newport, Isle of Wight</i>
Emily Nobbs	Wife	49		Brighstone, Isle of Wight
Charles Nobbs	Son	29	?? Assistant	Brighstone, Isle of Wight
Tertius Nobbs	Son	21	Inspector of Weights & Measures	Brighstone, Isle of Wight
Florence Nobbs	Daughter	19		Newport, Isle of Wight
Ethel Nobbs	Daughter	17	Telephone Operator	Newport, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press - 19 March 1910

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE COUNTY ACCOUNTANT.

We deeply regret to announce the death, which took place suddenly last (Friday) night, of Mr. Charles E. Nobbs, the Deputy Clerk of the I.W. County Council and County Accountant. The deceased gentleman, with his wife, was attending a ball at Parkhurst Barracks. At the conclusion of the first dance he complained of feeling unwell and retired to the clock-room, where he rapidly became worse and expired almost immediately, apparently from heart affection. Col. Donovan, R.A.M.C., was quickly in attendance.

The late Mr. Nobbs, who is believed to be about 65 years of age, was a well known accountant and had been in the office of the County Council since that body was formed, first as head of the clerical staff under the late Mr. Arthur S. Estcourt. He was appointed Deputy Clerk and County Accountant during the Clerkship of the late Mr. Wooldridge some 12 years ago. Thoroughly conversant with the provisions of the Local Government Act and highly competent as an accountant, the late Mr. Nobbs discharged his duties with a conspicuous efficiency which had won for him the entire confidence and the unstinted praise of the members of the Council specially responsible for administering its financial affairs, and his death is a great lose to the Council and the Island. Mr. Nobbs was the able correspondent of the evening classes in the Newport and Carisbrooke district. The deepest sympathy of his many friends will be with the widow and the family in their heavy bereavement.

Isle of Wight County Press - 26 March 1910

THE SUDDEN DEATH OF THE COUNTY ACCOUNTANT

INQUEST AND FUNERAL

An inquest on the body of Mr. Charles Edward Nobbs, aged 59, the Deputy Clerk of the I.W. County Council and county accountant, whose painfully sudden death was reported in our last issue, was held at the County Headquarters Police-station on Saturday by the Deputy Coroner for the Island (Francis A. Joyce Esq.). Mr. Frank Hale, ex-Deputy Chief Constable, was foreman of the jury. Supt. J. H. Gallaway (Deputy Chief Constable) and Inspector Salter were present on behalf of the police.

The CORONER said he regretted to have to call the jury together under such extremely painful circumstances. As they were aware, the late Mr. Nobbs suddenly died whilst attending a ball the previous night with his wife at Parkhurst Barracks. The young lady with whom he was dancing immediately before his death was present and could be called if the jury considered it necessary, but as she stated that Mr. Nobbs was not ill when dancing with her, and that he did not complain of illness, he (the Coroner) did not propose to call her unless the jury thought it necessary.

Mrs. EMILY NOBBS, wife of the deceased, of 1 Broadlands-terrace, Newport, said her late husband had enjoyed very good health until recently, excepting for a cold and a cough. He was last medically attended about a year ago by Dr. Castle. He had never complained to her of having a weak heart. She went with her husband on the previous night to a dance given by the sergeants of the 2nd Suffolk Regiment at Parkhurst Barracks. They left home at 8.45, arrived at the Barracks about 9 o'clock, and dancing started in the Gymnasium soon afterwards. Her husband took part in the first dance, a waltz, with a young lady friend. He danced round two or three times and then she noticed that he stopped dancing several times and was walking and she wondered why. As soon as the waltz was over her husband sat down in a chair in the usual way and she had just sat down with him when she saw his head suddenly incline forward on his chest, and he was on the point of falling out of the chair when four or five of the sergeants and others came round to help him, and he was carried out of the ball-room to the gentlemen's room - a booth. He died almost at once, and only a few minutes elapsed between the time he sat down and his death. The sergeants and others did all in their power for him.

By the Foreman: She drove with her husband to the ball in a carriage. He did not complain of anything, in fact he was as bright as possible. It was a very cold night but he was well wrapped up.

Sergt. WHIPP R.A.M.C., stationed at Parkhurst, said that at 9.10 p.m. as he was entering the Gymnasium he was called by Colr.-Sergt. Barber to see deceased, who was at that time being carried to the tent outside. Witness gave deceased stimulants, attempted to restore respiration, and released all tight fitting garments, but he could see that life was passing away. Col. Donegan arrived immediately and pronounced life extinct. The tent was about 15 or 20 yards from the ball-room.

Lieut.-Col. JAMES DANIEL FRANCIS DONEGAN, R.A.M.C., stationed at Parkhurst, said that he was cycling near the Military Hospital on his way to the ball when he was told something had happened. He pushed along as fast as he could and arrived at about 18 or 20 minutes past 9. He saw the adjutant and the last witness, and then went to deceased, who was lying in the tent. Death had taken place, he should say, about four or five minutes. There was every indication that death was due to natural causes, and deceased's appearance was consistent with the view that it was due to failure of the heart's action.

Dr HUTTON CASTLE, of Newport, said he attended deceased about 9 months ago for chronic bronchitis, and a little before that deceased had a very severe attack of influenza with bronchitis. He examined deceased a good many times and always found that the action of the heart was very weak. - Q. Did you give any warning to him? - I repeatedly warned him against over-excitement and over-exertion, but he was always very cheerful and did not appear to take much notice of my advice on that point. - Q. I suppose dancing was not the most advisable exercise for him having regard to the condition of his heart? - No, not after his attack of influenza and bronchitis. - Q. I think he was very fond of dancing? - Yes, very, and he was an excellent dancer. - Q. What conclusion did you arrive at as to the cause of death? - I examined the body externally and its appearance was quite consistent with a person who died suddenly from cardiac syncope. I saw no other cause of death. - Q. Having regard

to the state of his health, you were not, I suppose, surprised at what happened? - I was not at all surprised.

The FOREMAN: After your examination of the body you came to the conclusion that death was due to heart failure ? – As far as one could judge from his external appearance there was nothing to suggest anything else. It was entirely consistent with such a death. – Q. You have known the late Mr. Nobbs for years ? – Yes.

The FOREMAN: There has been no post-mortem examination ? – No.

The CORONER said it was quite within the power of the jury to ask for a post-mortem to be made, but having regard for the whole of the circumstances and the evidence of the doctor he came to the conclusion that it was not necessary, especially as he knew from Dr. Castle that he had examined deceased and found him suffering from a weak heart.

The FOREMAN: I think that with the knowledge the doctor has of the deceased it is hardly necessary to order a post mortem (hear, hear).

Supt. GALLAWAY: I understand that not long ago the late Mr. Nobbs stated that he danced because he was increasing in weight and he thought that the exercise did him good, seeing that he was following a sedentary occupation ? – Yes, but he kept on dancing. He was extraordinarily fond of it, and that was a pity, I think.

The CORONER said the jury would have no difficulty in coming to the conclusion, after hearing the evidence, that deceased succumbed to sudden heart failure; everything pointed to that most strongly. They had the satisfaction of knowing that “first aid” was rendered to the deceased at once, and that every one there did all they could in the painful circumstances. It seemed clear that there could be no other verdict than one in accordance with the medical evidence.

The FOREMAN said the jury were all agreed that death was caused by cardiac syncope, and a verdict accordingly was returned.

The FOREMAN added that the jury desired him to express their deepest sympathy with Mrs. Nobbs and the family in their distressing bereavement. Mr. Nobbs was well-known to them, especially to himself, and he was much esteemed.

The CORONER said he fully agreed with the jury’s expression of regret at the death of Mr. Nobbs.

Mr. W.H. DYER (a juror), said as a neighbour of the late Mr. Nobbs he should like to say how fully he shared those expressions of deep regret.

Supt. GALLAWAY: On behalf of the police I should like to say that we deeply sympathise with Mrs. Nobbs and the rest of the family in their heavy bereavement.

Mr. TERTIUS NOBBS (son of the deceased), speaking with emotion, on behalf of his mother and the family, thanked the jury, the coroner and the police most sincerely for kind expressions of sympathy.

THE FUNERAL

- took place on Wednesday afternoon, amid many signs of sorrowful regret, the first part of the service being at St. Paul's, Barton, and the interment at Newport Cemetery. The Vicar designate of Barton, the Rev. C. Collis, conducted the service with marked impressiveness. The family mourners present were Mrs. C.E. Nobbs (widow), Messrs. Charles, Arthur and Tertius Nobbs (sons), Mrs. Atkey and Miss Ethel Nobbs (daughters), Mr. Cyril Nobbs (brother) of Croydon, Mrs. A. Nobbs (daughter-in-law), Mr. Atkey (son-in-law), Mr. Colin Cave (Southsea), Mrs. W Trickett, and Mrs. W. Knott. There were also present a number of members of the County Council and various public authorities, public officials, and others. Mr. Godfrey Baring, J.P. (chairman of the County Council), who was unavoidably prevented from attending, was represented by his secretary Mr. C. Turner Clark, and there were also present Ald. J. Thomas, J.P. (vice-chairman of the County Council), the Mayor of Newport (Mr. Charles Webb), the Rev. A. Dedamers, C.C., and Messrs. E. Chatfeild-Clarke, J.P., C.C. (chairman of the Finance Committee of the County Council), F. Baker C.C., T.A. Wright, C.C., F. Morgan, C.C., T.C., Leonard Jordan, C.C., Charles Dabell, J.P. (chairman of the Rural District Council), John Dafton (Clerk of the County Council), S.R. Cocks (county surveyor and architect), and H.H. Bailey (deputy county treasurer for Hampshire). The County Education office was represented by Messrs. F.G. Flux, J.P. (secretary), H.C. Grapes, C. Martin, F.R.H.S. (county horticultural instructor), A.B. Baker and H.W. Lincoln; the County Asylum by Dr. Harold Shaw (medical superintendent), Mr. J.H Green (clerk to the committee of visitors), and R. Holt (engineer); and others present included Messrs. H. Eldridge Stratton (Clerk of the Rural District Council), A.G. Harrison (Clerk of the Guardians), T. Ross Pratt (Town Clerk of Newport), R. Jones (Clerk of the Sandown District Council), John Duke (Newport borough auditor), S. Attwood (representing Mr. John Fardell, Clerk of the County Justices, who was unable to be present), W. Ormsby Rymer (office of Commissioners of Taxes), E.E. Holland (Financial Clerk for the Rural District Council), W.H Wadham (assistant overseer), and L.H. Phillips and P. Morgan (County Council office staff). The Newport Gas Company was represented by Messrs. R. Pinnock, J.P., J.W. Wooldridge, and J.G. Pinnock (directors), Frank King (secretary), and S.W. Ibbotson (manager), Mr. W.C. Black (deceased's co-auditor of the Company) being prevented from attending by an engagement out of the island. Others present included Capt. H. P. Wilton, Lieut. Stubbs (adjutant of the 2nd Suffolk Regiment) and a number of warrant officers, staff sergeants, and sergeants of the same regiment in uniform, Sergt. Whipp, R.A.M.C., Messrs. J. Bevis, T. Loe, J. Howard Burgess, W. Westmore, C.A. Good, J.W. Marshall, H. Allen, B. Osborn, and T. Spanner, Supt. J.H. Galloway (Deputy Chief Constable), representing the Chief Constable (Capt. H. Adams Connor, M.V.O.), who was unavoidably prevented from attending, Inspector Salter, and Capt. Page (Church Army). Among those who regretted inability to be present were Mr. H.H. Pollard, J.P., C.A., Mr. J.E. Morris, C.A., Mr. R. Young, C.C., Mr. A. Millward, J.P., C.C., Mr. Oliver Hayles, C.C., Mr. E.J. Alexander, C.C., Dr. J. Gibson (medical officer of health of the rural district and county schools medical officer), and Mr. H.C. Pike (county treasurer). The polished elm coffin, with brass mounts, bore the inscription: "Charles Edward Nobbs, died March 18, 1910, aged 59 years." The beautiful floral tributes were thus inscribed: To dear father, in ever loving memory from his sorrowing wife and children; to dear father, in ever loving memory from Alice, Dick, and the children; Minnie and Violet, with deepest sympathy; with deepest sympathy from Edith and Aunt Fanny; with deep and sincere regret for the loss of an old and valued friend, from Godfrey Baring; with esteem and regret from Admiral Sir Algernon de Horsey; with deepest and sincerest sympathy from Mr. E. Chatfeild-Clarke; with sincerest sympathy from the warrant officers, staff sergeants and sergeants, 2nd Battalion Suffolk Regiment; with sincere sympathy from Mr. F.G. Flux; with all true sympathy from James H. Green; to dear Da., with deepest sympathy from Harriett Dover; with heartfelt sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. Connors; with true and

deepest sympathy from all at Oxford; with deep and sincere sympathy from the County Education officers, M.A. Cann, H.C. Grapes, A.B. Baker, and H.W. Lincoln; with sincere sympathy from Phillips and Phil, County Council offices; a tribute of sincere sympathy from cousin Polly and family, 10 Hearn-street; with deepest sympathy from C. Cave and Mr. and Mrs. Mabey; with love and deepest sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. Attrill and family and Mr. and Mrs. Cassell; with deepest sympathy from Mr. and Mrs. W. Westmore; a tribute of sincere sympathy from G. and M. Few; with deepest sympathy from the teachers of the evening classes; with deepest sympathy from Mrs. Fleming and family; with deepest sympathy and in affectionate remembrance of an old friend, John Duke and Mrs. Duke and sons; with deep sympathy from a few friends. Mr. G. F. Quinton carried out the funeral arrangements. – Mrs. Nobbs and her family desire to express their heartfelt thanks for the many kind letters and expressions of sympathy received by them in their heavy bereavement.

As reported in our last issue, the late Mr. Nobbs had been head of the accountancy department of the County Council offices since the formation of the Council, and he had been deputy clerk and county accountant for some twelve years, having been appointed to that position during the clerkship of the late Mr. Wooldridge. He had served under four County Council clerks, three of whom have died during his tenure of office, namely, Mr. Arthur S. Estcourt, Mr. John Wilson Fardell, and Mr. William H. Wooldridge, to all of whom, as well as to the present Clerk (Mr. John Dufton), he proved invaluable in the discharge of his responsible duties, and his place will be exceedingly difficult to fill. Successive chairmen of the Finance Committee of the Council, including Admiral Sir Algernon de Horsey, K.G.B., and Mr. E. Chatfeild-Clark, J.P. (the present chairman of that committee), have often publicly testified to the excellence of Mr. Nobbs's work in every way. He was a prince of accountants, and he will be sadly missed both inside and outside the County Council. The late Mr. Nobbs obtained a good knowledge of the law as a solicitor's clerk, formerly in the County Court office, and this proved exceedingly useful in his County Council work. Mr. Nobbs was also an auditor whose services were sought after, and for the past 20 years he had been one of the auditors of the Newport Gas Company.

At Tuesday's meeting of the East Cowes District Council Mr. G. Groves, C.C., referred to the deep loss the Island had sustained by the death of Mr. Charles Nobbs. Most of the members of the council knew him, and what an able man he was, and he supposed there was no Council in the Island that had not been brought into touch with him personally or with his work. He proposed that a letter should be sent to the widow expressing their deep regret at the loss sustained by the county and their sincere sympathy with her and the other members of family in their sad bereavement. – Mr. Board seconded, and said he had known the late Mr. Nobbs for many years and had worked with him for 10 years. - The proposition was carried by the members standing.

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