

Alfred Baker Wake

Isle of Wight Observer – 7 January 1911

NEWPORT.

AVERSION TO THE WORKHOUSE. – Mr. F.A. Joyce, held an inquest at the Town Hall, Newport, on Tuesday, on the body of Alfred Baker Wake, aged 75, a former well-known cattle dealer of Wellow, who was found dead in the “Swan” stables on Monday morning. – The evidence of deceased’s son, Morgan Alfred Wake, cow-man, of Wellow, and others, was to the effect that for some years past deceased had obtained a precarious livelihood by cattle dealing, but latterly he had had to depend upon an old-age pension and the kindness of friends. For some time past he had had no home, and had got in where he could to sleep. He had been advised by relatives, and the police and others to go to the Workhouse, where he would be better looked after, but he had absolutely declined to go, saying he would rather die in the street. On Saturday afternoon he was seen by Mr. Alfred Stratton, butcher’s assistant, lying in the stable at the “Swan,” and he was then moaning as he often was. He had a joint of meat in the stable, and nearly 5s. in money, so the Coroner said it could not be said that he had been starved. – Dr. Foster said he attributed death to heart failure brought on by a long-standing ailment. – The Coroner said that in the special circumstances neither the relatives, the police, nor the Poor Law Authorities could be blamed for the manner in which deceased lived. – The Jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes.

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