

John Wragg Whitfield

1891 census, 37 St Thomas Road, Highbury, Islington

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|-------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>John W Whitfield</i> | <i>Head</i> | <i>41</i> | <i>Omnibus Driver</i> | <i>St Giles, London</i> |
| Alice C Whitfield | Wife | 33 | Assistant to Confectioner | Holborn, London |
| Ethel M Whitfield | Daughter | 12 | Scholar | St Pancras, London |
| Violet C Whitfield | Daughter | 11 | Scholar | St Pancras, London |
| Catherine E Whitfield | Daughter | 9 | Scholar | Tenby, Pembrokeshire Wales |
| Edith A Hooker | Sister-in-law | 18 | Drapers Assistant | St Giles, London |
| Herbert C Hooker | Brother-in-law | 14 | Clerk | St Giles London |
| Alec R Parker | Nephew | 2 | | Islington London |
| Maria Foster | Servant | 65 | General Servant | Mile End London |

1901 census, 31 Umpreville Road, Hornsey, Middlesex

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|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>John W Whitfield</i> | <i>Head (wid)</i> | <i>51</i> | <i>Licensed Victuallers Manager</i> | <i>St Giles, London</i> |
| Catherine E Whitfield | Daughter | 19 | | Tenby, Wales |
| Alex R Parker | Nephew | 12 | | Finsbury Park, London |
| Julia Isles | Servant | 60 | General Servant | Ditchling, Sussex |

Isle of Wight Times

20 April 1905

NEWPORT

SAD SUICIDE

Servant's Shocking Discovery

On Sunday morning a shocking discovery was made at the "Swan" Hotel, High-street, Newport, by a servant named Eddie Coombes, who, on going downstairs at 8.30 found the body of the landlord of the hotel, Mr. John Wragg Whitfield, hanging on the bannister. She sent for help, and P.S. Bennett went and found the body hanging by means of a roller towel to the bannister. Deceased was cold and stiff, and Dr. Foster, who arrived immediately, declared life to be extinct.

Deceased had fastened one end of the round towel round the top of the bannister, and apparently placing his head through the loop at the other end, he walked down the stairs until suspended by the towel over the bannister. There is a considerable drop, but deceased kept on the stairs, and one of his feet was hardly off the stairs when the body was found.

Deceased, who was a widower, was stated to have been rather depressed of late. He appeared in his usual health on Saturday night, when he retired to rest at 11.30, and after saying "Good-night" to the servant he locked his door. Nothing was heard by the other occupants of the house during the night. Deceased was fully dressed, excepting his coat and hat. He came from London several years ago to the hotel. Deceased's two brothers had arranged to visit him for a brief stay to cheer him up, and when they arrived on Sunday they learned of the sad news for the first time. Deceased was about 55 years of age. His daughter formerly lived with him, but she had been away from home for several months.