

Mr. James Yelf

1871 Census - South Street Extons Yard, Newport, Isle of Wight

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation etc.	Birth place
Susan Yelf	Head	74		Sussex
James Yelf	Son	48	Income from rent of houses	Newport, Hampshire
George Yelf	Grandson	12	Scholar	Portsmouth, Hampshire
Joseph Yelf	Grandson	23	Labourer	Newport, Hampshire

Hampshire Advertiser 17 December 1879

NEWPORT

Death of a Miser – On Monday morning an inquest was held at the Green Dragon Hotel, touching the death of a man named James Yelf, known as a miser. He occupied the attic in a low part of the town, and was known to live in a penurious manner, buying up fragments of filthy bacon, and eating, it is stated, every kind of rough garbage. On Saturday afternoon he was found lying dead on what he used for a bed, a few old clothes spread upon the floor in his attic, with his head resting on a chair for a pillow, and wearing a shirt which consisted of a few remnants of calico in a filthy condition. There were a number of dirty boxes in the room and a safe in the lower part of the house, and in them was found by the police superintendent, £17 in gold and £4 8s in silver. Bank books were also found showing that in one bank the deceased had £182 0s 8d to his credit, and £20 in another. It was also stated that he was the owner of fourteen houses. He would attend chapel tea meetings, when the price was not more than 6d, and ate the plum cake voraciously. For some years he was in the habit of advertising for a wife with money, and exchanging *cartes* with his fair correspondents *incog.* sighing for connubial bliss. The jury returned a verdict that death resulted from natural causes, but added a rider which embodied the opinion of Dr. Castle, that death was accelerated by insufficient food and the want of clothing to screen him from the intense cold.

Further information:

In May 1880 a newspaper carried a report of the sale by H. C. Wadham, at Warburton's Hotel of a number of 'small tenements' owned by the late James Yelf.

Lot 1. Four dwelling-houses in Upper Field Place (today's Field Place), with large garden, let at £32 pa, sold for £275.

Lot 2. A dwelling house, also in Upper Field Place with large garden, let for £8 9s. pa, sold for £77 10s.

Lot 3. A tiled and weather-board dwelling house in Cross Lanes with large garden, let at £7 3s. pa, sold for £70.

Lot 4. Two brick dwelling houses, known as 'Belmeade place', Cross Lanes, with front and rear gardens, let at £16 4s., sold 'after a very keen competition' for £210.

Inquest transcription by Ian Roach for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2018

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