

James Betford Warne

Isle of Wight County Press – 4 February 1939

NEWPORT OCTOGENARIAN'S DEATH.

DISCOVERED WITH BROKEN THIGH.

How a neighbor discovered a Newport octogenarian lying in his kitchen with an injury that eventually led to his death was related to the Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) at the Town-hall, Ryde on Wednesday. The Coroner held an inquest on the body of James Betford Warne, aged 87, who had lived alone at 19 Cross-lanes, Newport, and died at the County Hospital on Sunday following a fractured left thigh. Inspector H. Rogers was present.

George Edward Plumbley, office cleaner, of St. Paul's View-road, Newport, said he lived next door to deceased, whom he had known for five years. Deceased did for himself and had refused help. For 12 months his health had been failing. In the evening he heard deceased shouting and kicking the door, and found him lying on the floor of the kitchen close to an upturned chair. He told witness that he had sat down on the corner of the chair, which toppled over. Witness sent for Dr. Dowdell, who ordered deceased's removal to the County Hospital.

Percy Frank Wadham, retired, of The Lindens, Carisbrooke-road, Newport, said he had known deceased for 40 years and for 18 years had been a trustee of his small estate. Deceased was a single man and very determined in character. He wished to live his own life. Witness's duty was to visit him once a year, but he did so frequently, and arranged with neighbours that he should not go short of anything. Deceased made a little money by gardening and fowls. He had a small income from a trust and the old age pension. When the pension was reduced to 1s. a week he ceased taking him to the Post Office and paid the money himself.

Dr. Margaret Holliday, house-surgeon at the County Hospital, said when deceased was admitted on Sunday he was extremely shocked, cold, and collapsed, and died the same evening. Death was due to shock, following a fractured femur.

The Coroner returned a verdict to this effect.

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