

James Barton

1891 census Verbina Cottage, St Paul's, Whippingham

James Barton Head Single 44 Dairyman West Cowes, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight Observer - Saturday 8 June 1895

SUPPOSED RELIGIOUS MANIA – On Wednesday night, James Barton, a dairyman lining at Staplers, New Newport, was found died in his cowshed suspended from the beam by a rope. The deceased, who was 46 years of age, appeared to have been strange in his manner for some time, and it is supposed that he was affected with religious mania.

Isle of Wight Observer - Saturday 15 June 1895

LONELY MAN'S SUICIDE

ISLAND DAIRYMAN'S SAD END.

The acting Coroner for the Isle of Wight (Mr E. F. Blake) held an inquest last Thursday, touching the death of James Barton, aged 49 years, a dairyman, residing at Buckberry, Staplers, who hanged himself in his stable some time on Wednesday, which was reported in our last issue. The inquiry was held at the house, which is in a very sequestered spot, and the interior of the dwelling presented a somewhat comfortless appearance, a state of things no doubt due to the fact that since his mother's death, three years ago, the deceased practically lived alone.

Mr J. Hewett Sharland was chosen foreman.

The first witness was James Hobbs, a young brickmaker, living at Long Lane, Staplers, who stated that owing to Barton complaining of being lonely he offered about seven months since to stay with him at night, when his work in the brickfields did not prevent him. He last saw him alive on Tuesday night, and he was lying on the sofa when he left him, about 10 o'clock. On Wednesday evening, about 9 o'clock, he again went to the house, which he found locked up. Going to the stable, a distance of about 50 yards away, he found the door fastened from inside, but looking through an opening he could see the deceased suspended by a cord to a beam. He called a neighbour named Reed, who cut the body, which was quite cold, down. Deceased had mentioned to him that at times he did not appear to have control of himself, but never said anything about taking his own life, nor did he mention any trouble of any kind.

William Reed, veterinary surgeon, an aged man and very deaf, deposed to going to the last witness' assistance, and identified the cord produced, which he found round the deceased's neck. He was aware Barton had complained of being low spirited, but had not seen him since Monday.

Mr W. Foster, surgeon, Newport, said he had attended the deceased off and on since Christmas. His spirits were low, and he suffered from melancholia, and had mentioned to him that he was afraid he would lose control of himself. Deceased confided to him a medical secret, but he told him he would get over that all right. Witness had told Hobbs' sister that he ought not to be left alone, and had tried to get him away for a change, but there was a difficulty about the place being left alone. He was not

surprised when he heard what had happened, and had no doubt deceased was temporarily insane at the time.

In summing up the Coroner commented on the kindness of Hobbs in looking after the poor man to the best of his ability.

The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide while temporarily insane.

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