

John Candlish

1891 census, 20 Field Place, Carisbrooke

Alexander Dempster	Head - Widr	67	Retired Draper	Dumfries Scotland
John Dempster	Son	37	Draper	Newport, Isle of Wight
Janet G Dempster	Daughter	27	House Keeper	Newport, Isle of Wight
John Candlish	Brother-in-law	57	Pensioner	Windsor
Arthur Westmore	Friend	30	Grocer	Newport, Isle of Wight

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES - 4 February 1897

AN UNSATISFACTORY CASE

FOUND DEAD IN BED AT NEWPORT

On Friday morning about 9.30 **John Candlish**, a pensioner, aged 63, was found in his bed quite dead. He lodged at 20, Lower Field-place with a Mr and Miss Dempster. On Sunday night he went out, and whilst walking on the Mall fell down and was conveyed home. The injured man was assisted to bed, and had not been seen since until Friday morning. Miss Dempster states that she had been to his room several times, and knocked, but failed to get an answer. Dr. Meller was called in as soon as the discovery was made. He is of opinion that the deceased had been dead several days. The facts have been reported to the Coroner.

An inquest was held on Friday afternoon by Mr E.F. Blake, the Coroner.

The first witness was Albert Pointer, a maltster, who said he saw the deceased fall from the Mall steps on to the road. This was at half past eight on Sunday evening. Witness spoke to him, but he simply groaned. With assistance he carried him home, a distance of 200 yards, Dempster was there. Witness said, "Do you think I should go for a doctor?" He replied "Let him rest; I will see about that."

Alex. Dempster 20, Field-place, Newport, stated that deceased had lived with him 16 or 17 years. He was a pensioner. Witness did not know whether deceased went out on Sunday as he was in bed. He did not send him out for anything. Witness first saw him on Sunday evening, when he was brought home. Could not see that he was injured. He was too bad himself. His daughter lived at home with him. Deceased said he was very bad. Witness went to bed. His daughter gave the deceased something to eat, and helped him to bed.

The Coroner: Did you ask for him on Monday?

Witness: He never came to see me and I never went to see him. I'd enough to do with myself. Sometimes deceased went out for a day or two. I never knew a breath about his being dead until this morning.

A juror (Mr Roache): The sooner we get rid of this witness the better, Mr Coroner.

Another juror: He's drunk I should think.

Dr. Mills said he was sent for about ten that morning, and went to Dempster's house where saw the deceased. He had been dead, I should think, two or three days. (Sensation).

Witness made an external examination and found a slight contusion at the back of the head (not serious). The primary cause of death was concussion which might have been obviated to a certain extent. "Of course I could not say his life would not have been saved," added the doctor.

The Coroner said this was a very unsatisfactory case, and it would be impossible to complete it that day. They must have the evidence of the daughter. ("Quite right, sir," from the jury.)

The inquest would be adjourned until (Saturday) morning.

The room in which the deceased was found lodging - a garret - was in a deplorable filthy condition.

The adjourned inquest was held on Saturday, when Dempster's daughter, for whose attendance the inquiry was adjourned gave evidence. She said that deceased often fell down owing to excessive drinking. When he was brought home on the previous Sunday evening she attended to him, gave him what he wanted, and sat up with him till about 4 o'clock the next morning, when she helped him to bed. Several hours after she heard him call to her. She went to his bedroom door, but could get no answer, and she concluded he had had too much drink, and left him alone. On Monday evening her father told her deceased had gone out and had got fresh lodgings, and she need not trouble further.

She did not go to deceased's room after on that account.

Replying to a question, witness admitted that she knocked up a publican during Sunday night and asked for beer for a dying man, but was refused it. Deceased had had a fit several times.

The Jury returned a verdict "that death was caused by injuries sustained in a fall."

A Juror expressed the hope that the attention of the Sanitary Authority would be called to the condition of Dempster's house.

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