

Francis Clement Churchouse

Isle of Wight County Press

12 March 1932

NEWPORT

DEATH OF A TRADESMAN.- An inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Mr. Francis Clement Churchouse, aged 76, formerly in business as a boot and shoe dealer in Holyrood-street, and whose body was found under sad and sometimes tragic conditions on Friday week, was held by the Deputy Coroner (F. A. Joyce, Esq.) held at the Guildhall on Tuesday. Mrs. Emily Louisa Ann Toole, of Upper St. James's-street, identified the body as that of her stepfather, who had resided alone at 18 Hillside-terrace for about five years. He was very reserved. When she last saw him in the High-street on February 27th, she thought from the way in which he was walking that he was in rather a weak state of health. Prior to his marriage with her mother he was engaged in the business of a boot and shoe dealer and after had an Army Service store. William Kearley, drayman, living at 16 Hillside-terrace, said he was on particularly good terms with the deceased and they used to see each other nearly every day either in the garden or about the town. Witness last saw him alive on February 28th outside the back door. He did not see him for a day or two afterwards, but did not attach any importance to that. On March 4th as he had not seen or heard the deceased, he became anxious and went to the back door and shouted, but received no reply. On looking through the window he saw him lying on his back on the floor, apparently dead. He reported the matter to Inspector Randall who returned with him to the house. They found the man was dead, and he appeared to have been dead for some time. Mr. Miller, of the Ministry of Labour, Southampton, one of the executors under the will of the second wife deceased, interposed and said that deceased was properly provided for and very comfortable. Dr. A. A. Straton said he made a post-mortem examination of the body at the mortuary on March 5th. He was a well nourished man and had probably been dead about five or six days. There were no external marks of injury. The only sign of disease he could find was fatty degeneration of the heart, but here was no sign of valvular disease. The deceased died from syncope arising from fatty degeneration of the heart, and it was quite possible that the cold weather might have hastened his death. The Coroner returned a verdict in accordance with the medical evidence.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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