

Charles Cooke

1871 census, 24 Crocker Street, Newport

<i>Charles Cooke</i>	Head	72	<i>Brazier</i>	<i>Newport Hampshire</i>
Jane Cooke	Wife	71		Cowes, Hampshire,

Hampshire Advertiser - Wednesday 29 November 1871

NEWPORT

SUICIDE BY AN AGED MAN. — A very shocking case of suicide occurred in a tenement opposite the Waggon and Horses Inn, Crocker-street, on last Monday morning, about 8 o'clock Charles Cook, aged 73, formerly for some years employed as a coppersmith at Mr. Bussel's, ironmonger, was found lying, with his throat cut, in the back room of his house. Mr. F. Blake coroner, held an inquest the same evening at the Star Hotel on view of the body, when the following evidence was taken: Emma Jones, wife of Thomas Jones, said I live at 25, Crocker-street, next door to the tenement occupied by deceased and his wife. Deceased has not for some years been working at his living. His wife is of rather weak intellect, and not in good health, and she has given him much trouble. I have frequently heard him say, when his wife worried him, that he would make away with himself. On one occasion he took a razor in the kitchen, and said he would do it. Last night about 10.30 I heard him, when they were upstairs quarrelling, repeat the threat, and she said, "Why don't you do it? Your mother will be out of her mind, and you will be like her." About 9 o'clock this morning I heard of deceased's death. The wife used to say the ticking of the clock in my house disturbed her and prevented her from sleeping, and she often asked me to stop it. At last she bought my clock for a sovereign, and put it out of use up stairs. - John Cracknell, journeyman tailor, said he had been lodging in the house since July last, and had lodged there before. Deceased was a good tempered man, and used to dress his wife and wait upon her. He often, when worried by her, said he would commit suicide. On Sunday last he appeared low in spirits, and could eat no dinner, and went up to lie down. And the night before she excited him by remarks; and deceased said it would not be long. On Sunday night, as witness was slipping on some clothing, he heard a groan downstairs, and, thinking deceased had a fit, he ran downstairs, and there found deceased lying on the threshold of the kitchen in a pool of blood with his throat cut. Mr. F. B. Tuttiett, surgeon said he was called in about 9 o'clock. There was a razor in the right hand, and a gash in the neck under the left ear, and the carotid artery was severed. On closer examination witness found a cut in the left arm, and the sleeve of the shirt down, but not cut. It appeared that at first deceased attempted to quietly bleed himself to death, by cutting a vein in the arm, and suddenly abandoned that and adopted the speedier course. Witness had attended the old couple during the last twelvemonths, the wife oftener than deceased. She was of weak intellect, and he told deceased so, and advised him to bear well up against the continual worry of which he complained. Deceased complained of pains in the head, and once, not long since, was taken with giddiness. The constant worry was calculated to produce temporary insanity. - Mr. Superintendent Grapes, of the police, had known the couple many years. The deceased had recently appeared greatly depressed in spirits, doubtless through being so worried at home. - The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict to the effect that deceased destroyed himself, but there was no evidence to show the state of his mind at the time.

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