

MARRIAGE: 1865 Register Office, Nonconformist or RC Church (IW Registrars ref: RO15/2)  
**William MITCHELL & Fanny CLEWER.**

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ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June 1867

### SHOCKING CASE OF SUICIDE

On this (Friday) morning a report was circulated, which unfortunately proved true, **William MITCHELL** of the Crown Tap, had destroyed himself by cutting his throat. It appears that the deceased who was 31 years of age and married, washed and dressed himself as usual, and went downstairs to the bar about 7 o'clock. Shortly afterwards his wife, hearing a great noise, rushed downstairs and found that he had cut his throat with a large clasp knife. She immediately called for assistance, and Mr. BLOXAM was sent for, and on coming immediately pronounced him dead. The deceased has, fortunately, left no family.

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ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 1867

### INQUEST

An inquest was held on Friday, at the Crown Hotel, before F. BLAKE, coroner, on the body of **William MITCHELL**, whose sad death we recorded in our last impression. It appeared from the evidence of Fanny MITCHELL, the widow, that the deceased resided at the Crown-tap before their marriage, which took place two years ago. He had been very restless and uneasy in his mind during the day and night, before he committed the rash act which deprived him of life. He was under the delusion that he would be taken to prison. He said he was the cause of the Russians having been sent away, and that he insulted Mr. PAUL. They went to bed about 12 o'clock, and he woke about 2, and continued talking very strangely till he got up about 7. He laid down on the bed before going down stairs, and said he could not rest. While she was dozing, he went down and unlocked the front door, shortly after this she heard a gurgling sound and called out, but there was no reply, she rushed down stairs and saw him lying on the floor in the bar, with his throat cut, and a large open pocket knife by his side. The deceased struggled when she first saw him, but could not speak. He was naturally of a very cheerful disposition, but a bill for £16 became due that day, and he fretted about it, as he could not raise the money. He was under the impression that he would be taken to prison. He talked wildly, and said he had done enough to be hung,-

William BUSHELL, ostler at the Crown-Hotel, was called by Mrs. MITCHELL, and found deceased in the position described by her. He had last seen him alive between 10 and 11 o'clock on the previous night. He was in a strange and excited way, and kept saying the policemen were after him on account of the bill. A party from Newport had accidentally left a large pocket knife in the stable, and he (witness) had given it to Mrs. MITCHELL, to hand to the owner when he came. This knife was placed in the table drawer in the bar,-

Mr. James WOODROW said the deceased kept the Crown-tap, and was his servant. He had spoken to him about 11 o'clock on Thursday morning. His manner was strange and rambling. He said he had infringed the Excise laws and should be transported. He said he had been a very undutiful servant. Witness certainly set it down that he was suffering from *delirium tremens*. He took him a plate of roast beef and asparagus, which he seemed to enjoy; after which, he said he had better take formal possession of everything as he was sure he would be transported. He tried to console him by saying the bill could be managed,-

Mr. R.W. BLOXAM, F.R.C.S., said deceased once lived with him. He was called that morning, about a quarter-past 7, and found him lying on the bar floor with a large deep wound in his throat, quite dead but still warm. The wound in the throat was quite sufficient to account for death, and could have readily been inflicted with such a knife as that produced. There would have

been no difficulty in a man inflicting such a wound upon himself.- the jury were unanimously of opinion that the deceased destroyed himself while in a state of temporary insanity.-

His remains were interred in the Ryde Cemetery on Monday afternoon.

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Researched & typed by

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