

Captain John Samuel Graves

1871 census, Tiverton, Devon

Maria Graves	Head	68	Gentlewoman	Wichchurch, Herefordshire
Mary E F Graves	Daughter	43	Gentlewoman	Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
Catherine A Graves	Daughter	41	Gentlewoman	Bath, Somerset
Isabel Graves	Daughter	22	Gentlewoman	Bath, Somerset
Constance Graves	Daughter	18	Gentlewoman	Bath, Somerset
John S Graves	Grandson	10	Scholar	Sidney, Australia
John S Graves	Son	32	Capt. 103rd Fusiliers	Armagh, Northern Ireland
Jane Evans	Servant	22	Cook	Edinburgh, Scotland
Anne Fewings	Servant	21	Housemaid	Tovringon, Devon
John Lock	Servant	19	Footboy	Tiverton, Devon
George S Graves	Lodger	38	Commander RN	St Marys in the Field

Hampshire Advertiser 23 March 1872

Newport, March 23

Accidental Death of a Captain of the 103rd Regiment (Royal Bombay Fusiliers). – The sad tidings of the death of Captain John Samuel Graves, of the 103rd Regiment, at Freshwater, reached Newport on the morning of Wednesday. On the afternoon of the following day Mr. E. F. Blake, deputy coroner, held an inquest at Freshwater on view of the body, when a verdict of “Accidental death” was returned, in accordance with the evidence. Deceased was aged 33. Full particulars of the accident, as given at the inquest, will be found in our Yarmouth news.

Yarmouth, March 23

Distressing and Fatal Accident – We regret to have to record the almost sudden death on Tuesday evening, at Freshwater, of Captain J. S. Graves, of the 103rd Royal Bombay Fusiliers, and who was at the time in command of a detachment of that regiment at Freshwater Redoubt. The place where the unfortunate gentleman met with his untimely end was in a part of the new road leading from Colenutt to Cliff Hall. About midway there is by the side of the road a meadow entered by a stile, the ditch beneath, in which there is generally running water, being crossed by a plank of wood much worn. The ditch is not deep, and yet in this comparatively harmless-looking place occurred the accident by which the unfortunate officer, who had escaped many perils both by field and flood, lost his life. It appears Captain Graves had been spending the evening with his brother officers at Cliff End Fort, and left there about half-past 10, and in proceeding to his quarters at Freshwater Redoubt, in getting over the stile, he fell into the ditch, and must have been seized with an apoplectic fit and died. His body was found in the ditch, with one leg on the plank which crossed it, about 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning by a labourer, named Henry Gosden, while going to his daily work, who at once gave information to Police-constable McLoughlin and Police-sergeant Horlock, who had the body removed to the dead-house at Golden-hill Fort where a post-mortem examination was made by Dr. Herbert Taylor, of Freshwater. The inquest was held at the Golden-hill Fort on Thursday afternoon, by Mr. Blake, coroner, and a respectable jury, of which Mr. Murrow was foreman. The inquiry lasted about one hour and a half. The witnesses examined were Lieut. Nott and Lieut. Hickley, of the 103rd, stationed at Cliff End who deposed to Captain Graves being in their company, and leaving about half past 10. Quartermaster-sergeant Sarl, R.E., deposed to meeting him about 11 o'clock on the evening in question, being the last person who saw him alive.

Dr. Taylor deposed that he had made a post-mortem examination of the body, and pronounced apoplexy to have been the cause of death. The Coroner having summed up, the jury returned a verdict of "Apoplexy, consequent on the fall." The corpse was taken the same evening to Parkhurst, to be interred there. Captain Graves had seen seventeen years' service – sixteen in India, and one in Parkhurst. He was gazetted Ensign, June 20, 1855; Lieutenant, November 30, 1857; and Captain, July 30, 1862.

Hampshire Advertiser
27 March 1872

Newport

Funeral of the Late Captain Graves. – The remains of this lamented officer, Captain John Samuel Graves, of the 103rd Regiment (Royal Bombay Fusiliers), borne on a gun carriage, drawn by four horses, were escorted with due military honours from Parkhurst Barracks to the grave in Carisbrooke Cemetery on Saturday afternoon. Among the mourners were a brother and an uncle of the deceased, also Colonel Furneaux, commanding, and officers of the 103rd, officers of the 79th Regiment (Cameron Highlanders), and a staff officer of the district from Portsmouth. As the procession descended Hunny-hill, the thunder rolled, and there was a fall of snow. The way through Newport was lined with spectators, the band of the 103rd playing the Dead March in Saul, the knell tolling, and many houses of business showing signs of mourning. At the entrance of Carisbrooke-road the pipers of the 79th Highlanders played "Flowers of the Forest." Arrived at the entrance to the Cemetery, the corpse, borne by non-commissioned officers of the 103rd, was received by the Rev. E. B. James, M.A., vicar, and the Rev. R. Nutt, curate, who, with the Rev. H. Hare, Chaplain of the Forces, led the way to the mortuary chapel. At the grave the Rev. H. Hare officiated; the firing party delivered their three vollies, and the procession reformed and took the road to the barracks, the band playing a favorite march.

National Probate Calendar 1872

GRAVES John Samuel, 23 May. Administration of the effects of John Samuel Graves late of Freshwater Redoubt near Yarmouth in the Isle of Wight in the County of Southampton a Captain in Her Majesty's 103rd Regiment of Foot a Bachelor who died 20 March 1872 at Freshwater Redoubt was granted at the Principal Registry to George Sawle Graves of 7 Greenbank Falmouth in the County of Cornwall a Commander in Her Majesty's Navy the Brother. Effects under £100.

Transcription by Ian Roach, further research by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries
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