

John Harvey

1891 census, St. Catherine's View, Ventnor

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Edward Attrill | Head | 29 | Stone Mason | Ventnor, Isle of Wight |
| Louisa Attrill | Wife | 23 | | Ryde, Isle of Wight |
| Charles Dillon Dunn | Nephew | 8mths. | | Ryde, Isle of Wight |
| <i>John Harvey</i> | <i>Lodger</i> | <i>60</i> | <i>General Labourer</i> | <i>Whitwell, Isle of Wight</i> |
| | <i>(widower)</i> | | | |

Isle of Wight Observer - 11 February 1899

SAD DEATH AT VENTNOR.

An inquiry was held by the Coroner for the Isle of Wight on Monday afternoon, concerning the death of John Harvey, 66 years of age, of Ventnor, who died on the previous day at the infirmary, whither he had been taken, after an accident at Ventnor a month previously.

Henry Cotton, of Wroxall, a labourer, stated that on the 5th ultimo the deceased was in charge of a one-horse scavenger cart at Ventnor, near the railway station, from 10 to half-past in the morning. As they were coming out of the station with a drum that they drew the cable by, he noticed the deceased outside with his horse and cart. They stopped for him to pass, but when the horse saw the drum it went off at a faster pace. The deceased caught it by the head, and as it jerked its head the deceased fell. Witness went to his assistance, and found he had sustained an injury above the eye, and also to his right hand. He had been dragged under the cart, but was free when witness got to him. Witness got a vehicle and took him to Dr. Lowther's. The doctor ordered the deceased to be taken home to St. Catherine's Place.

By a juror.- The height of the drum would be six feet. It was used for the electric light. It made a bit of a rattle.

Louisa Attrill, wife of Edward Attrill, 4, St. Catherine's View, Ventnor, a stonemason, said the deceased had been her lodger for 10 years. He was a carter, and had worked for Mr. Rogers for several months. On the 5th ultimo the deceased went to his work at the usual time, and at 10.30 a.m., he was brought home injured. With assistance she got him to bed, and the doctor soon afterwards arrived. Dr. Lowther examined him, and found a very severe wound over the right eye, and this the doctor attended to. The deceased told her that the horse took fright at the drum, reared, and that he could not hold it, and the axle of the cart being very low he was dragged several yards. Dr. Lowther ordered him to be brought to the infirmary at Parkhurst. Deceased remained with her several days, and was sent to the infirmary on the 11th ultimo. Deceased did not get any better. He was, however, conscious all the time. She came with him to the infirmary. When she and her husband came to see him on Saturday he was much worse, and could scarcely speak.

Charles Gibbs, labourer, Wroxall, who witnessed the accident, said the drum was rolled along. As soon as they saw the horse coming they stopped. There was six of them with it.

A juror. - And yet not one of you had the manliness to go to his help? - It was done instantly. I didn't know but that the horse is usually quiet enough.

Dr. Allan E. Waterworth, medical officer at the Union, said he saw the deceased in the evening of the 11th January. He was then in bed. Upon examination he found he had two very severe scalp wounds, and an arm and a knee were also injured. From the first he regarded it as a serious case. He got on very well for the first fortnight, but subsequently had a relapse.

In reply to a juror, witness said he thought it was a proper case to send to the hospital, though, of course, it was a long journey from Ventnor. The ambulance was sent, and the doctor added that in serious cases a nurse was sent as well. This, however, was at the discretion of the relieving officer.

Mrs. Attrill, the first witness, stated that there was no nurse sent. She came herself.

The Coroner said it was a pure accident, and no one was to blame. Mrs. Attrill was to be commended for all the attention she had given to the deceased. Dr. Lowther might naturally have considered that the man would receive better attention there than by leaving him under the care of Mrs. Attrill.

A juror suggested that the poor man's death might have been accelerated by the long journey from Ventnor.

The Coroner pointed out that he had lived more than three weeks afterwards, and for the first fortnight seemed better. This, he thought, disposed of that view of the case.

Mrs. Attrill said when she first spoke to the deceased about going to the infirmary he begged her not to let him be sent away. Her husband went to see Dr. Lowther, and asked him not to have the ambulance sent for, but he would not listen to him. He told him that if they refused to let him go he would wash his hands of the whole affair, and leave the responsibility with them. He did not complain of the way in which deceased was being looked after, but said there was not air enough in her small room. Of course it was greatly against their wish that he was taken away.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

At the unanimous request of the jury, the Coroner undertook to forward a letter to the proper quarter, suggesting that in all serious cases where the ambulance was sent to convey patients to the infirmary that a nurse should be in attendance.

Transcribed and research by Bob Jacobs for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2018
<https://www.foncc.org.uk>