

## George Henry Jolliffe

### Census 1891, Gunville Road, Carisbrooke

Joseph Pierce	Head	67	General Labourer	Gunville, IW, Hampshire
Sophia Pierce	Wife	66		Apes Heath, IW, Hampshire
<b>George H Jolliffe</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>General Labourer</b>	<b>Gunville, IW, Hampshire</b>
Albert Jolliffe		22	General Labourer	Gunville, IW, Hampshire

### Isle of Wight Observer – 22 December 1894

#### FATALITY IN A SANDPIT

On Monday morning, Mr. E. F. Blake, held an inquest at Forestside, touching the death of Henry Jolliffe, who met with his death through the foundering of sand in a pit on the Alvingstone estate, on Saturday last.

James Luxton Manning, of Alvington Farm, Carisbrooke, said deceased, who was 30 years of age, was a carter in his employ, and on Saturday last, about 10 o'clock went to his sand pit for a load of sand. Two men beside were working at the pit. Witness went to the pit about 10 o'clock, and first went to see George Trueman, who was working on the top. After exchanging a few words with Trueman, he looked over the edge of the pit and saw deceased and a man named Frederick Drudge loading sand from a part of the pit which had not been worked for months. They were not digging the sand - they were simply using a prong and shovel. As witness was going down by the side of the pit to where deceased was he saw the sand above move, and he shouted "Look up!" and gave the alarm to deceased and his mate. Drudge jumped out, but deceased in running round, the cart was caught by the sand and buried. There had been no excavating or undermining, and there was no sand overhanging above. He attributed the founder to the recent rains, a trench which had been made to keep surface water out of the pit having become stopped up. Witness and Trueman immediately set to work to release deceased, which they did in three or four minutes. He was then alive, but not conscious. No external injuries were visible, but a little blood was coming from the mouth. A doctor was sent for, and deceased was removed to Alvington House. They then set to work to dig out Drudge, whose legs were embedded in the foundered sand, and who was stated to be confined to his bed suffering from injuries received in the accident.

George Trueman, labourer, in the employ of Mr Manning, gave similar evidence. He said that a little dry sand was being hooked from the side with a prong, which deceased was to mix with the wet make it fit for use. He could not say that that caused the sand to slip. He had never known it to slip before, and the part where deceased was was considered to be perfectly safe.

Dr. Grove, J.P., who was called immediately, said without a *post-mortem* he could not speak positively as to the cause of death, but his opinion was that he either died from shock or some injury to the spinal cord. He did not think suffocation could have taken place in such a short time. As many deaths had occurred in the Island under similar circumstances, it seemed to him desirable that some regulation should be made with reference to the working of such pits, the sides of which were often very much too perpendicular.

The Coroner agreed, but said he had no power to make such regulation. But that case differed from previous cases inasmuch as there had been no excavation. In many cases under his notice the

men, to save time, trouble, and labour, had undermined. He hoped that everyone connected with such pits would exercise all possible care in that respect.

Mr. Manning said all his men had received strict orders continually never to work upward in the pit.

The Coroner said that had not been done in that case, in which the usual negligence and carelessness was not apparent.

The jury returned a verdict of “Accidental death.”

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