

George William Jones

Isle of Wight County Press

6 November 1897

FATAL ACCIDENT AT CARISBROOKE.

Yesterday (Friday) a serious accident which on the previous day befell a single young man named George Jones, living with his widowed mother at Carisbrooke, terminated fatally. Deceased, who was well known as one of the employees at the Eight Bells yard, had been temporarily employed at Priory Farm, Carisbrooke, in connection with thrashing operations, which were finished when the accident occurred. Without warning, the top of a straw rick recently built up slipped over and forced into the perpendicular a 31-round ladder which was standing by the side of the rick, with the result that the ladder fell over with considerable force to the ground. In its descent it struck deceased, who was standing near where the end of the ladder pitched, causing severe injuries to his head and rendering him unconscious. Dr. Castle was immediately summoned and rendered all possible assistance, and deceased was then removed home on the local St. John Ambulance stretcher, under the direction of Supt. John Way, who rendered opportune assistance. Dr. Waterworth, the deceased's club surgeon, then took over the charge of the patient, whose case was regarded as very critical from the first, and without recovering consciousness the poor fellow succumbed to his terrible injuries yesterday morning. An inquest will be held this morning.

Isle of Wight County Press

13 November 1897

THE FATAL ACCIDENT AT CARISBROOKE.

On Saturday morning the Island Coroner (Edward F. Blake, Esq.) held an inquest at the Castle Hotel, Carisbrooke, on the body of George William Jones, aged 36, described as an ostler, of Carisbrooke, who met with a fatal accident on the previous Thursday afternoon, under circumstances set forth below. Mr. Charles John Peck was chosen foreman of the jury, who after being sworn proceeded to view the body and the scene of the accident.

George Hayles, a labourer of Gunville, said that he was with deceased and others in thrashing. They were making a rick of straw close by. The rick was finished, practically, when the accident happened. Witness was on the top of 31-round ladder putting up the last pitch on the rick, when the top of the rick suddenly gave way, falling towards him and knocking the ladder over. Witness fell with the ladder and was buried in the straw, but was not hurt. When the straw was cleared off from him he saw deceased lying about a yard away from the ladder. The farmer (Mr. Lock) came on the spot just at that time and went to deceased, who was unconscious. Witness could not see any injury to deceased, who remained lying on the ground till the doctor arrived, about half an hour after. Nothing was given to deceased during that time. He could not form any opinion as to what caused the rick to go over. Mr. Lowe, of Gunville, made the rick, and it appeared to have been made all right.

By the Foreman: He was quite sure that the top of the rick was upright.

By the Coroner: He did not see any danger till the accident happened. There was no wind to blow the rick over, but the straw was dry and slippery: he did not know of any other reason.

James Edward Lock, occupier of Priory Farm, said that on the previous Thursday he was having some wheat thrashed. Witness was with the workmen till nearly 5 o'clock - about five minutes before the accident happened. The straw rick was nearly completed when he left. Witness heard a crash, which was caused by the fall of the ladder, and he returned to the spot immediately. He found a part of the rick had fallen over - the top of the rick from the eaves. The deceased was lying on the ground free of straw and ladder - about three feet from the ladder. Deceased was not conscious - he was perfectly still. A doctor was sent for immediately. Deceased commenced breathing before the doctor came, but never spoke. He saw a wound on the left side of the deceased's head.

Q. Can you form any opinion as to what caused the straw to fall? - It was very clean and remarkably dry.

Dr. Hutton Castle said he was sent for on Thursday afternoon, and on going to Priory Farm found deceased lying in the rick yard. He examined deceased, who was unconscious, and found on the left side of his head an incised wound between 4 in. and 5 in. long going down towards the skull. The wound itself was not serious, but it was the force of the blow which caused the mischief. Blood and froth were coming from deceased's mouth, which made it most likely that there was fracture of the base of the skull. He never had much hope of deceased's recovery. Fracture of the skull was probably the cause of death - that and the shock. Everything had been done for deceased that could be done before witness arrived. They had very cleverly prevented deceased from choking. Mr. Lock and Mr. Way, of the ambulance class, had done everything that could be done for deceased and had done it well - he was very pleased to see the way things had been done.

The Coroner said as far as he could judge that unfortunate and very sad accident was not the fault of any one. It might seem strange that part of the rick should have fallen over, but he attached value to the explanation that the straw was very dry and slippery. There was no doubt that the deceased accidentally sustained fatal injuries through being struck by the falling ladder, and he thought no blame was attributed to any one.

The jury agreed, and returned a verdict accordingly, expressing sympathy with the relatives of deceased, who was stated to be the mainstay of his widowed mother's home.

THE FUNERAL

- of deceased took place on Tuesday afternoon at the Carisbrooke Cemetery, the Rev. A. H. C. Edlin officiating. In addition to the family mourners and personal friends, those present included Bro. C. Eldridge, chief ranger, and other representatives of Court Island Foresters, of which deceased was a member, and Mr. James E. Lock, occupier of Priory Farm, where the accident occurred. The coffin was covered with beautiful floral tributes from relatives and sympathising friends.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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