

Arthur Williams

Portsmouth Evening News - 5 June 1908

CRUSHED TO DEATH.

CHILDREN AND TRACTION ENGINE TRUCKS.

On Thursday evening the Acting Deputy Coroner for the Island, (Mr. James Eldridge) held an inquest at the Council school, Carisbrooke, on the body of Arthur Williams, aged six years, son of Alfred Williams, bricklayer, of Gunville-lane, Carisbrooke, who was crushed beneath a traction engine on the previous Tuesday evening.

Deceased's father said about 6.45 he was called from his garden and found deceased lying in the road, practically dead, with his head injured. He had continually warned his children not to go near the traction engine and trucks.

Alfred Williams, deceased's brother, said deceased and other boys ran from a field when the traction engine and two empty trucks were passing, and got on the iron coupling between the trucks. Deceased seemed to lose his hold and fall off, and the wheels passed over him. Just before the accident witness called deceased to come away, and deceased got off the bar, but got up again.

Harry Jolliffe, another lad, gave similar evidence.

Driver Abbott and Steersman Hiscock, who were on the engine, said they shouted to the boys to go away, and they went. They did not see anything more till the accident happened. They did their best to keep children away.

Wallace Till, labourer, of Gunville, who at Carisbrooke that evening took the place of the third man on guard on the trucks, said he was sitting on the front of the first truck, but did not see the boys getting on the coupling or trucks. He did not know he was there to keep a look-out on the boys, he was not told. He merely got up to have a ride.

Dr, Underhill said that death was due to a fractured skull, the head having been crushed.

The Coroner remarked on the unsatisfactory character of the evidence of Till, who evidently did not realise the responsibility he undertook in getting on the truck. The Coroner also expressed the hope that it would be a warning to children not to indulge in such perilous play. He urged the importance of a competent man on the look-out on the trucks.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and endorsed the Coroner's statement as to the importance of having a competent man on the look-out on the trucks.

Transcription by Tony Barton for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2018

<https://www.foncc.org.uk>