

**Edward Wills**

**Isle of Wight County Press  
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**NEWPORT STREET ACCIDENT.**

**OCTOGENARIAN FATALLY INJURED.**

A slight accident, which unhappily terminated fatally, was the subject of an inquiry at Ryde on Thursday by the Assistant Deputy Coroner (Dr. H. Y. Mansfield, J.P.). The deceased was Edward Wills, aged 86, a retired tailor, of 77 High-street, Newport, who died at the County Hospital on Tuesday from injuries received owing to his being knocked down by a cyclist a short while before. The Coroner had the assistance of a jury, of whom Mr. E. F. Brown, who acted owing to the late arrival of a juryman, was the foreman. Inspector H. Rogers and P.S. Denness, of Newport, represented the police.

Edward William Wills, a baker, of 5 Cross-street, Newport, said deceased was his father, who lived alone, and had not done any work for four years. He had enjoyed good health, but his hearing and eyesight were affected.

Mrs. Mary Giles, of 2 Westminster Place, Newport, deposed that just before noon on Tuesday she was walking down Nodehill in the direction of St. James's-square, and when near Bowling Green-lane she saw an elderly man on the opposite pavement, holding an umbrella over his head. It was raining hard at the time. She was under the impression that he was waiting to cross the road. He stood on the pavement until a motor-car had passed, and then hesitated before stepping into the road. As he did so she saw a cyclist coming from the direction of St. James's-square. He was on his correct side, and not going fast. He tried to avoid deceased, but touched him, and he fell to the ground, striking his head. The cyclist did not fall from his machine, but had one foot touching the ground.

Walter Nicholson, boot and shoe repairer, of 85 Nodehill, said he was looking through the glass door of his shop, and saw deceased fall and strike his head on the ground. The cyclist was not going fast and had one foot on the ground.

William George Jackman, aged 16, of 13 Trafalgar-road, Newport, a lad in the employ of Mr. R. R. Mew, of Fairlee Farm, said he was riding his cycle up Nodehill, following about two cars lengths behind a car, at a speed of about five miles an hour. He saw deceased standing on the near side pavement, holding an umbrella over his head. When within about four yards of witness deceased stepped into the road in front of him. Witness sounded his hooter and applied his brakes. Deceased stopped, and witness just caught him with his shoulder, having practically stopped at the time. His bicycle was not damaged and did not touch the deceased, who fell to the ground as a result of being knocked by witness.

Dr. Phoebe Napier-Harvey, senior house surgeon at the County Hospital, said deceased was admitted in an unconscious condition. He had a large cut on the back of his head, and was bleeding from the ears. He died in less than two hours without regaining consciousness, the cause of death being a fracture of the base of the skull.

The Coroner said it appeared that deceased's hearing and eyesight were affected, and the impact, although not great, was just sufficient to cause him to fall backwards.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and expressed the opinion that there was no negligence whatever on the part of the cyclist, a view with which the Coroner concurred.

The deceased was a native of Newport, and for many years was in business as a tailor in Pyle-street, but had lately been living in retirement. He leaves a widow, three sons, and four daughters. The funeral will take place this (Saturday) afternoon at Carisbrooke Church.

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