

## George Cooper

Hampshire Telegraph - 14 June 1871

### NEWPORT.

**CORONER'S INQUEST.** - F. Blake, Esq., held an inquest at the Lamb Inn, Newport, on the evening of Friday last, on the body of George Cooper, aged 30. - Charles Salter said: Yesterday, about three p.m., while I was in a field at Watergate loading vetches, George Cooper came in with his horse and cart for the same purpose; and after I had assisted him to load, we left the field at the same time, the deceased preceding me. We walked our horses until we got to Shide-cross, when the deceased, who drove a light van and pony, got on the top of the vetches and drove off at a trot, and I soon lost sight of him. On reaching St. John's toll-gate, I saw that the van had been upset; and on hastening to the spot, I found him lying insensible on the pavement, with large wounds on his head. - Mark Westmore said: I reside at Rose-hill-cottage, near St. John's Church; and at about a quarter past three o'clock, as I was in my garden, on Thursday afternoon, I saw the deceased driving rapidly down the road which leads to St. John's-terrace. He was sitting on the top of the vetches, and seeing he had lost all power over the pony, and considering the speed at which it was going, I apprehended danger and ran out of my gate, and then saw the van turned over, and the horse lying on the road, just 250 feet from my gate. I hastened to the spot and found the deceased lying within a foot of the flint wall which runs along the front of St. John's-terrace. He was quite insensible; he never spoke, and scarcely breathed. I do not think the pony ran away, but that in coming rapidly down the hill it was forced on by the impetus of the van, and as the deceased was sitting on the vetches, and was withered in his left arm, he was unable to restrain the animal.- Mr. W. Everett gave similar evidence. - Police-constable Jacobs said: I was at the scene of the accident immediately after it happened, and found the deceased lying on the top of the vetches, with three great wounds on the top of his head. The horse was not injured, and the harness was entire, but one of the shafts was broken. The deceased was a sober and steady man, and has left a wife and one child. The pony was quiet at work. - Dr. Wilkins said: I found the deceased lying on the vetches in front of St. John's Church. I immediately removed some of the hair and blood, put my fingers into the wounds on the top of the head, and found he had received a compound fracture of the skull, and that the bone was pressing on the brain. There were three large wounds on the top of the head, and another on the front, all of which were caused by striking with great force against the jagged wall. The deceased was conveyed to his home, and attended by myself and Drs. Tuttiett and Fraiser. I was obliged to make a circular opening in the outer skull for the purpose of extracting the broken pieces of the inner skull which pressed upon the brain. The deceased died this morning at nine o'clock of concussion and compression of the brain. Verdict: - Accidental death.

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