

Henry James

1891 census – 31 Sea Street, Newport

<i>Harry James</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Mariner</i>	<i>Newport, Hampshire, Isle of Wight</i>
Amelia A James	Wife	28		Newport, Hampshire, Isle of Wight
Harry W G James	Son	7	Scholar	Newport, Hampshire, Isle of Wight
Annie E James	Daughter	5	Scholar	Newport, Hampshire, Isle of Wight
Isabella James	Daughter	3		Newport, Hampshire, Isle of Wight
Elsa L James	Daughter	4 months		Newport, Hampshire, Isle of Wight

Isle of Wight County Press

Saturday 22nd Nov 1895

DROWNING OF A NEWPORT MAN AT COWES.

Early on Monday morning Henry James, of Newport, took a lighter along the river to the railway jetty at Shamblers, there intending to moor it. James left the lighter, with the mooring rope, in a boat, but was heard by his companion to fall overboard. He called out to James but received no reply, and it being dark and very foggy at the time he could not see the poor fellow, although he could not have been far away. He had drowned, and although the river in the locality has been dragged, the body has not yet been recovered. One man on Thursday, we are informed, resorted to the strange expedient of floating a new loaf, in which some quicksilver had been placed, while the tide was at its lowest point, it being understood that the loaf would stop over the spot where the body lay. We hear that the unfortunate man's wife and several children are in almost destitute circumstances, and a subscription list has been started in their behalf by Mr. W. Ledicott, of Newport.

Isle of Wight County Press

Saturday 30th Nov 1895

The fund, being raised by Mr. Ledicott in aid of the widow and family of the unfortunate man Harry James, who was recently drowned at Shamblers Wharf, has been headed by his worship the Mayor, Mr. F.T. Mew, C.C., with a subscription of a guinea, and Sir Richard Webster, M.P., has contributed a sovereign. Mr. Ledicott informs us that the total amount received up to present is about £25. The balance, after procuring immediate necessities for the widow and family, will be placed in the hands of Mr. W. Pearce, the borough treasurer, who has kindly undertaken the charge of the money and will allow a payment equivalent to 10s. a week as long as the money which may be received will last. The fund is still open for further subscriptions.

The Evening News

10th Dec 1895

A LIGHTERMAN DROWNED AT COWES.

It will be remembered that on the 18th ult, a Newport man, named Harry James, was drowned off the railway jetty at Shamblers, Cowes, and that unsuccessful efforts were made to recover the body. Last Saturday morning Edward Millmore, of East Cowes, was on the shore, when he came upon a

corpse lying on the beach. It had been left there by the tide, and proved to be that of the missing man James. The Coroner was communicated with, and an inquest was held on Monday morning at the Castle Inn, East Cowes. - Edward Harley, of Holyrood-street, Newport, stated that between two and half-past on the morning of the 18th ult. James had left Newport in the lighter to go to a timber ship at the jetty. Arrived there, they let go the anchor, and then the deceased got into a boat to run a rope off to get the barge alongside the ship. Deceased got on to another lighter, and went along it to make the boat fast. Witness warned him to mind he did not fall overboard, and almost immediately heard a splash. Nothing was seen of deceased after that until his dead body was found. It was dark at the time of the accident, and the weather was thick. Deceased could not swim. - The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Isle of Wight County Press

Saturday 14th Dec 1895

The “James” Fund. - Mr. W. Ledicott Writes: “It was my intention to have closed the subscription list at the end of the week, but as several gentlemen called on me and asked me to keep the list open till Christmas. I have decided to do so. The body has been found and the funeral has taken place, and all claims thereon discharged. List of subscribers can be seen at my shop door, and all accounts can be seen and examined by any subscribers at any time. I have a small subscription list open of 3d. or 6d. each to enable me to buy the six children some toys at Christmas. Will parents kindly remember the six fatherless children of Harry James when they buy toys for their own little ones? I wish to thank the subscribers very much for the kind way in which they rallied round me in my endeavour to help the unfortunate family. To the working men of Newport I return my thanks, for out of 472 subscribers over 300 were working men, not forgetting the widow’s mite of one penny.”

Transcribed by Roger O’Nions for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries 2018/2021

Footnote:

Further research has established that Henry James' widow, Amelia Ann, married again to Henry Odell (20 years her senior) 5 February 1898 at St Thomas Church Newport. She died in 1947 and is buried with her 2nd husband in Newport Cemetery.