

Henry Reginald Constable

**Isle of Wight County Press
20 July 1940**

**NEWPORT BOY'S TRAGIC END.
FATAL KICK FROM HORSE.**

The Deputy Coroner (Francis A. Joyce, Esq.) held an inquiry at the Guildhall, Newport, on Tuesday, into a particularly sad fatality which occurred in a field at Bartons Village on Sunday afternoon, when a 12-year-old boy, Henry Reginald Constable, of Little Ridges Dairy, Royal Exchange, was instantly killed by a kick from a horse, of which he was very fond.

Frank Henry Constable, ganger to the Corporation, father of the boy, said that the deceased was very fond of animals, and was particularly fond of the horse which inflicted the fatal injury. He often used to go into the field and stroke it, and sometimes took it from the field to its owner, Mr. Jolliffe, of Pear Tree Farm. The horse had always previously been particularly friendly towards the boy.

Donald Leslie Holbrook, 13 years of age, of 60 Whitepit-lane, the deceased's cousin, said that he and Constable went into the field, as they had often done before, and Harry stroked the horse on the flank. It seemed perfectly quiet, but then suddenly edged round and kicked out with both its hind legs. One hoof struck the deceased on the jaw, and he fell and did not move again. Witness whistled to deceased's brother, who was in the garden nearby, and he came. The horse had always been perfectly quiet on other occasions when they had gone into the field.

William Henry James Constable, deceased's elder brother, who was called by the previous witness, said he found the deceased lying on his back, apparently dead. The doctor soon arrived and confirmed his opinion. His little brother was very fond of all animals, and would not keep away from them. He saw nothing prior to the accident to suggest that the horse had been irritated, although flies might have been troubling it.

James Henry Jolliffe, of Pear Tree Farm, the owner of the horse, said it was about 16 years old and very quiet. The deceased boy was very fond of it, and had occasionally led it in from the field. He had never known the horse to be disagreeable or to attack anyone. He was in the field half an hour before the fatality occurred, and the horse was then standing with the cows, and one cow by swishing its tail was keeping the flies away from the horse's nose. The horse was of a ticklish nature.

Inspector Willmott: It might have been that the boy unconsciously touched it in a tender spot?

Mr. Jolliffe: There is no doubt that is what it was.

Dr. J. J. Dowdall said the boy was quite dead when he arrived. He found a small contused wound on the angle of his jaw, and later examination disclosed dislocation of the axis

vertebrae, which caused compression on the spinal cord. That was the cause of death which would have been immediate and similar to death by hanging.

The Coroner said it was a most unfortunate accident, for which no one was to blame. He returned a verdict of accidental death, and expressed sympathy with the parents.

A further misfortune befell the family after the fatality. As the deceased's 17-year-old sister was cycling for the doctor she fell from her machine and fractured her arm.

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Funeral of Victim of Horse-kicking Fatality.- The funeral of Harry Constable, the 12-year-old boy whose death as the result of being kicked by a horse in a field at Bartons Village is reported in another column, took place on Thursday, a service being held at the Unitarian Church, and the interment at St. Paul's Cemetery. The Rev. Gordon Cooper officiated. Mr. G. Norman (late head master), Mr. E. G. Morris (head master of Barton School), Mr. J. Collins (head master of Carisbrooke School), members of the teaching staff at Barton, and some of the pupils were among the large attendance of sympathisers.

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

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