

## Frederick William Wheeler

### 1901 Census, Victoria Road, Barton, Newport

Fred Wheeler	Head	24	General Labourer	Coppins Bridge, Isle of Wight
Lydia Wheeler	Wife	25		Porchfield, Isle of Wight
Hilda Emily Jane Wheeler		4		Newport, Isle of Wight
<b>Frederick William Wheeler</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>Newport, Isle of Wight</b>

### Isle of Wight Observer – 12 June 1909

#### BOY'S SAD DEATH AT NEWPORT.

An inquiry was held at the Barton Mission Room at Newport, on Monday, by Mr. F. A. Joyce, into the circumstances attending the death of Frederick William Wheeler, labourer, of Brompton Cottage, Cross Lane, Newport, who died on the previous Saturday from injuries sustained whilst at play.

The mother of deceased said he went out to play with a schoolfellow named Palmer on the 1st inst, and returned about two hours later bleeding from the corner of his left eye. Deceased told her that he was returning home just in front of Palmer, who was carrying a long hazel stick, over which they had been jumping, when he suddenly looked round and the end of the stick went into the corner of his eye. Deceased did not appear seriously hurt, and she bathed the small punctured wound, which was bleeding, and put him to bed. Next day the boy seemed fairly well, except for a slight feeling of sickness and some pain in his head. On the evening of the 2nd inst, the father went to Dr. Foster, who, on arrival, found that the deceased was in a hopeless condition. Deceased rapidly became unconscious, and died on Saturday afternoon. Deceased never complained that the boy Palmer poked the stick into his eye or did anything intentionally.

Dr. Foster said that a post-mortem examination revealed the fact that the stick penetrated the side of the orbit at the inner angle of the frontal sinus, and fractured the inner table of the skull, the bone being very thin at that point, and a clot of blood formed in the cavity, and the whole brain was congested. Nothing whatever could have been done for deceased.

Frederick Palmer, deceased's playmate, said they had been jumping over the stick and on returning home he chased the deceased and other boys. When he had nearly overtaken the deceased he threw the stick in the direction in which deceased was proceeding, and deceased suddenly turned his head round, and the stick caught him in the eye. He did not intend to hit deceased in the eye, but was only playing. Deceased had his back to him when the stick was thrown.

The Coroner said deceased's statement agreed with that of Palmer, and no blame could be attached to Palmer. It was purely an accident. Had the stick struck deceased in the back it could not have hurt him.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," exonerating Palmer from blame and expressed sympathy with the parents, to whom they gave their fees as jurors.