## ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July 1875

**FOUND DEAD.-** On Sunday, the body of a man, name unknown, was found floating in the water near the pier, and at once conveyed to the dead house, at the cemetery, and on Monday evening, the coroner, E. F. BLAKE, Esq., held an inquest upon it at the Gem Inn, Hill-street. After the jury (of which Mr. James SMITH was the foreman) had viewed the body, the following evidence was taken:

William VICARY, a mariner, living at Preston Place, deposed: About 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon, I was on board the Quarantine ship Menelaus, when a man directed my attention to something in the water floating about 20 yards from the ship's stern. I got the glass and saw it was a corpse. I reported it to the officer, and we got ready, manned the boat, and went to it. We found it to be the body of the man, which has now been viewed by the jury. The body was floating with the tide from the westward. I should think it might possibly have been in the water a month, as it was very decomposed. The features were gone. It had on a cloth jacket and trousers, the latter striped. I could not see the feet as we towed the body. There was nothing by which we could judge whether the man was a seafaring man or not; or what was his age. I should think he was not more than 5ft. 4in. - a short man. We took him in tow, and we gave him in charge of the Police constable at the head of the pier. I have heard of no one missing who would answer this description. I was told of a man named ENGLAND, lodging in Preston Place being missing for three weeks.- A Jury man: This man has been under water more than three months.

P.C. HOLLOWAY deposed: On Sunday I received information that there was a body at the end of Ryde Pier. On going there I found that there was part of a body, for it was minus its feet (one gone from the ankle, the other from the knee), and both hands had gone from the elbow. I found that he had a very good double-breasted coat on, and I believe a dark cloth and very good waistcoat. In the waistcoat pocket I found the quizzing glass (produced) and door key. There was nothing more except a piece of pencil. It seemed that he had a woollen shirt on, but that was so decomposed I could not examine it. There was nothing left of the face but the bare skull. His trousers were a small plaid pattern without pocket. There had been no one missing. Bills were issued a short time since for a man missing, but a telegram had since been received that he had gone to America.

A verdict was returned (by the Coroner's direction) of "Found Dead."

[On Wednesday several persons, having read in the county papers an account of the inquest, attended from Portsmouth, and the key, eye glass, &c., which were found on deceased were identified as the property of **John THACKERAY**, engine fitter, of 42, King-street, Portsea, and the clothes worn seemed to correspond with those THACKERAY had on when he was missed. The things were identified by THACKERAY's wife and her father and two brothers, and the key was stated to be one of THACKERAY's own making. THACKERAY it appears had been missed ever since the 5th January last, and nothing had been heard of him. He was slightly deranged in his intellect, but not so much so as to need his being placed under restraint. It is supposed that he committed suicide. He was 45 years of age, and leaves his wife with three children.]

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Researched & typed by Ann Barrett Kate MacDonell