

1861 CENSUS: RG9/657. folio 99. page 20.
Address: 7 St. Mary's Passage, Ryde, Newchurch, IW.

Uriah BIGGS. Head. Mar. 45. Dealer General. Portsea, Hants.
Ann BIGGS. Wife. Mar. 49. Ryde, Hants.
Edward BIGGS. Son. Un. 23. Labourer. Ryde, Hants.
Eli BIGGS. Son. 12. Ryde, Hants.

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An Accident In The New Parish Church

An accident of a serious nature occurred on Friday evening in the Ryde Parish Church, which is now in course of erection. Several youths and young men had been to a class in which they are passing a course of examinations prior to the confirmation by the Bishop, and as they were returning home, they were induced, from curiosity or other motives, to inspect the base of the new tower, though it was about nine o'clock in the evening. While they were playing about the building they heard a low moaning noise in the direction of the tower, and they discovered that one of their number, a young man about 23 years old, named **Eli BIGGS**, was missing. They were afraid to take any steps towards the recovery of their companion themselves, but they hastened to the police station, told their tale, and took back with them P.C. HINCKS. It was then found that the unfortunate young man had fallen from some part of the tower to the bottom, a distance of about twelve or thirteen feet, and he lay within this enclosed pit perfectly senseless. By means of ladders or ropes, HINCKS, with the assistance of the youths, eventually succeeded in bringing the man to the surface, and Dr. TURNER was speedily sent for. He advised the young man's removal to the Infirmary, whither he was forthwith conveyed. It was then found that BIGGS was suffering principally in the head, and he remained insensible for several days afterwards. We sincerely hope he will speedily recover.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 30th March 1871

Death notice:-

BIGGS .. On the 24th inst., at the Infirmary, **Eli BIGGS**, aged 23 years.

FATAL RESULT OF THE ACCIDENT AT THE PARISH CHURCH

Our readers will, probably remember that a few weeks ago, we were called upon to record a sad accident which occurred to a young man, named **Eli BIGGS**, who, under mysterious circumstances fell into a hole about 12 feet deep, formed by building the tower of the new Parish Church of Ryde. He had been to a class that evening for preparation as a candidate for confirmation, and on his way home, in company with several other catechumens, and shortly afterwards was found in an insensible condition. He was removed to the Infirmary, and we are sorry to have to record that, after lingering in great pain for several weeks, he expired on Friday afternoon last. His remains were interred at the Cemetery on Tuesday, and great respect was shown towards the deceased by his friends.

Ann Barrett
Lydia Jackson
Marilyn Newsham