

MARRIAGE: 13th Oct 1887 at St. Andrews Church, Chale, IW.  
**Fred DRAPER**. 26. Bachelor. (father: John DRAPER)  
& Emily HISCOCK. 22. Spinster. (father: George HISCOCK).

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1901 CENSUS: RG13/1025. folios 46/47 pages 29/30.  
Address: Caversham Lodge, Dover-street, Ryde, IW.

**Fred DRAPER. Head. M. 39. Coachman (Domestic). Chale, IW.**  
Emily DRAPER. Wife. M. 35. Freshwater, IW.  
Edith DRAPER. Dau. 12. Ryde, IW.  
Wallace DRAPER. Son. 9. Ryde, IW.  
Frederick DRAPER. Son. 7. Ryde, IW.

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1910 KELLY's DIRECTORY of Isle of Wight - pages 283 & 299  
**DRAPER** Frederick, 15 Surrey-street, Ryde, IW.

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ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1921 page 2

### **MOTOR CAR ACCIDENT Ryde Man Death**

A very serious accident which resulted fatally, occurred on Wednesday evening, in St. John's-road, by which a resident well-known in that neighbourhood was accidentally run over by a motor car whilst cycling, and received shocking injury. It appears that Mr. **Fred DRAPER**, an elderly man, of 15 Surrey-street, and was chauffeur to Dr. WADHAM, George-street, was riding his cycle from the direction of his home into St. John's-road, about 6.30 p.m. when he came into a collision with a motor car driven by Mr. Francis KEARNS of Milward-road. Mr. DRAPER was knocked off his machine and received severe injury to the head, and compound fracture of the left leg. Several being under the impression he was killed outright, but when he was extricated from under the car he was just able to say "Oh my leg" and then lapsed into unconsciousness. He was placed into the car and taken to the County Hospital, but small hope was entertained of his recovery from the outset and he lingered in an unconscious state till about noon on Friday, when he succumbed to his injuries and shock. Deceased was a married man with a family and much respected. He had a few days previous to the calamity signed the "Daily Express" accident insurance coupon, registration for which reached his home the day after the occurrence so his widow will be well provided for.

The Coroner has been notified of the facts and the inquest will probably be held on Monday.

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ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 1921 ?

### **MOTOR CAR ACCIDENT The Inquest Driver of Car Exonerated**

The inquest on the body of **Fred DRAPER**, was held at the Hospital, on Saturday, at noon, before the Deputy-Coroner (W.H.P. THIRKELL, Esq.,) and a jury of which Mr. B GAGE was foreman. Mr. C.F. HISCOCK appeared on behalf of the widow, and Mr. DREW (Portsmouth), for

Mr. KEARNS, the driver of the car. Dr. WADHAM and the Chief Constable were also present.

Wallace Gordon DRAPER, 7, Albert-street, motor driver, identified the body as that of his father who was 59 years of age, and in the employ of Dr. WADHAM as chauffeur, a position he had held for 29 years. He last saw him alive on the previous Sunday when he was in good health. In reply to Mr. HISCOCK, witness said his father had good hearing and eyesight, and had been a cyclist for about 20 years.

Joseph H. KING "St. Stephen's," St. John's-road, grocer's assistant, said he was walking up St. John's-road, on Wednesday evening, and was near Surrey-street, at about 6.10. He was in the middle of the road when a car passed him, he could not say whether on the right or left, and he got on the pavement on the Riboleau-street side. He heard a horn sounded and should judge it was going at 10 miles an hour. Witness now knew it was KEARN'S car. He did not see deceased until he saw him on the ground so he did not know how it happened, but he heard a smash and was then about 20ft away. On going to the spot he saw DRAPER 2 ft away from the offside of the front wheel of the car the whole of his body being underneath. He helped to lift the side of the car whilst another man drew the body out. He did not notice the bicycle. Witness also assisted to place deceased in the car to take him to hospital and noticed he was injured about the head, and that his leg was broken.

By Mr. B. HISCOCK: He was about a 100 yards from Surrey-street, when he heard the sound of a horn and when the car passed he was 20 yards or 30 yards further up, the car going in the same direction. He heard no other warning of any kind. It was a large car, and had reached Riboleau-street when he got there, and pulled upon its right hand side. He must have been mistaken in saying he ran 20ft, it was more than that.

Albert F. BRICKELL, "Brightside," St. John's-road, an apprentice to the leather trade. Stated he was also in St. John's-road, about 6.10 on Wednesday evening, going down the road on the left side. He was at the west corner of Riboleau-street, when he noticed a bicycle ridden by deceased coming down Surrey-street, and appeared to him that he was going to cross St. John's-road, and go through Riboleau-street. witness did not hear any horn but saw a motor car coming up the road when it was just below Surrey-street, and it was travelling at a moderate pace on the left side. As the bicycle came out of Surrey-street, the car swerved over to the right in order to avoid it. Deceased on free wheel appeared to turn up St. John's-road to prevent an accident, but he could not judge the pace. He saw the front part of the car strike the bicycle on the hind wheel the effect of which was to throw DRAPER right in front of the motor then remained stationary deceased being underneath.

By Mr. DREW: He did not hear the sound of a bell. Deceased was riding on the left of Surrey-street. he only noticed the motor car just at the time of the impact.

Mr. HISCOCK: Then you couldn't tell the speed.

The Coroner: He must have seen it 27ft away.

Mr. HISCOCK: You crossed Riboleau-street, and the accident happened on the right-hand side ? Yes. Deceased's bicycle was pointing up St. John's-road when the accident happened and was struck behind. The car stopped against the drain of Riboleau-street.

Albert Howard BUTLER, "Rosemead," Carlton-road, High Park, blacksmith's mate, remembered the time of the accident and was walking up St. John's-road, on the Surrey-street side when a car passed him. He did not hear a horn sounded, and it was travelling at a moderate speed. He did not notice deceased on his bicycle until the car struck it, apparently in the middle, with the result that DRAPER was thrown off. The off front wheel of car passed over the leg and arm of the man, drawing him underneath and the bicycle was dragged along. The car was immediately stopped, so quickly that the man's body was left under it. He helped to raise it.

By Mr. HISCOCK: The first thing he heard was the brakes being applied and it went 5 yards or 6 yards. He should say moderate speed was 10 or 12 miles an hour.

Mrs. Alice TUTTON, Elm-Villa, Abingdon-road, stated that she was coming down Riboleau-street, approaching St. John's-road, on the evening in question and saw deceased approaching on his bicycle from Surrey-street. He took an ordinary big sweep coming into St.

John's-road, and the motor car was behind. As regards the speed of the motor it was not so fast as some of them came along. She heard no horn but there was a smash in a second or so and she knew no more.

Francis KEARNS, licensed motor driver, "Harlstone," Milward-road, having been cautioned said on Wednesday evening about 6.15 p.m. he was driving his car, a Talbot, 25 h.p., in St. John's-road, and when opposite Surrey-street, a bicycle was ridden by deceased came across from there and suddenly appeared in front of him. He could not see into Surrey-street, owing to the shrubbery at the corner. The bicycle struck his car on the near side front spring and glided across the radiator. He at once applied his brakes, and the car passed over him moving only from 3ft to 4ft from the time of the collision. Deceased's body was under the car when it came to a standstill. He was sure he was not travelling faster than 8 to 10 miles an hour. Witness helped to lift the car, deceased lying under the dynamo or lift board. He was travelling on his left (the proper) side, and swerved over to the right about 10ft. when he saw the bicycle coming.

In reply to Mr. DREW, witness said the car was slanting across the road, the bonnet end being at Riboleau-street, and the hind wheel being about 10ft from Surrey-street corner. He sounded his horn at the Upper Grade School and the spot. It was a loud horn, one of the loudest in the town. Coming up the hill he dropped down from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> gear. Whether the car passed over deceased or the low lying parts struck him he could not say as his mind was concentrated on the brakes and it stopped between 3ft. or 4ft.

By Mr. HISCOCK: He had been driving the car in question four months and was coming from Seaview, home. It was an open car and a young lady was in it. Don't you think if you were going slower there would have been an opportunity of avoiding the accident? – I do not. He was in 10 or 15 yards when he sounded his horn for the Surrey-street corner.

The jury intimated they had no desire to put any questions to the witness.

D.G.R. FALCON, house-surgeon at the County Hospital, deposed that deceased was admitted on Wednesday evening about 6.30. suffering from a compound fracture of the left leg and fracture of the base of the skull as would arise from the accident referred to. He noticed no injury to his arm. The leg might be broken by the wheel of the car passing over it and he should say the fracture of the skull was due to the fall. Deceased was unconscious and remained so until his death which took place at noon on Friday. The primary cause of death was fracture of the base of the skull, and of the left leg and shock. It was a hopeless case from the first.

The Coroner, in reviewing the facts, told the jury he was very thankful for their assistance and said if they were to believe the car was going up St. John's-road, at only 10 miles an hour it was for them to say whether the driver was in any way to blame. he thought the latter went a little too far when he stated the bicycle ran into him. It did not make any material difference, but they were rather disposed to think that the radiator of the car struck the cyclist's hind wheel and threw the rider off. The fact that KEARNS was able to pull up in the way that he did showed that the speed was not very great, and that he had his car well under control. If he had travelled some distance before he did so one would be suspicious whether he was not driving dangerously, and the evidence was explanatory that he could not see up Surrey-street. they knew that anyone free wheeling down Surrey-street, would travel very fast and not give much chance to a motor car coming up the hill, and it was quite possible he intended to go right across St. John's-road.

The jury deliberated in private for a few minutes, and the foreman then stated their verdict was, that deceased came by his death accidentally, and there was no blame attached to the driver of the car.

Mr. DREW on behalf of those he represented wished to express sincere regret for such an unfortunate accident and disastrous result, and to convey their sympathy with those who were left behind.

The jury concurred in this expression and the Coroner also wished to join in it, remarked to deceased's son that he would agree with the jury that there was very little chance of avoiding the accident, and was not one of those cases of reckless driving of which they heard so much about. In a

small town like Ryde, there was no occasion for the rushing about of motor cars in the way they sometimes witnessed. No sooner a man got a car than he must show his cleverness by making a pace of 30 miles an hour. It was quite unnecessary, and they were glad to know it did not happen in the present case, and Mr. KEARNS was nothing to do with those remarks.

#### THE FUNERAL

The greatest sympathy was shown at the funeral of the deceased which took place at the Cemetery on Monday, the Rev. F. HUSBAND (United Methodist), officiating. The mourners comprised Mrs. Emily DRAPER (widow), Messrs. W.G. DRAPER and F. DRAPER (sons), Mrs. E.E. DULSON (daughter), Mr. E.H. DULSON (son-in-law), Mrs. N.E. DRAPER (daughter-in-law), Messrs. H. DRAPER (2) and L. DRAPER (brothers), Mrs. H. DRAPER (sister-in-law), Mr. F. WRIGHT (brother-in-law), Frank DRAPER (nephew), Mrs. L. RUSSELL (niece), Mrs. M. RAYNER (niece), and Dr. and Mrs. WADHAM. There were a great many friends at the Cemetery.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Mr. Edwin TAYLOR. The wreaths included the following: "From those he loved best" from Wife and Children; Dr. and Mrs. WADHAM "In memory of a faithful servant"; Geoffrey and Joan WADHAM; Mr. and Mrs. BUSHELL and family; Mr. and Mrs. E. TAYLOR; Mr. and Mrs. FOUNTAINE and family, M.E. FARRELL and G. DRIVER, Old Friends; Mrs. JACKSON, Nellie and Sis; Mrs. FARRELL and family; With deepest respect from the Licensed Drivers and friends of Ryde; From his loving sisters; Ellen Niece and Lucy; Mrs. JOY and family; Mr. Ralph C. LININGTON; Mr. H.D. and Miss WILLIAMS; From all at Chale; Frank and Nellie; Alice and Frank; A. TEASDALE; Mrs. GUY and Mrs. HENDY.

To Dr. Matron, sisters, and Nurses, who attended on the late Mr. Fred DRAPER during his last moments, the dear wife and children wish to express their deepest thanks for their kind attention, also all friends for flowers and for sharing in sympathy with them in the deep sorrow.

(Also in the IW Times Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> August 1921 page 2)

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Researched & typed by  
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