

1901 CENSUS: RG13/1023. folio 45. page 1
Address: 1 Pigley Lane, Asheby, IW.

George SPRAGG. Head. M. 56. General Labourer in Market Garden. Ryde, IW.
Sarah SPRAGG. Wife. M. 54, Camden Town, London.
George W. SPRAGG. Son. S. 20. General Labourer in Market Garden. Asheby, IW.
James SPRAGG. Son. 13. Baker's Assistant. Asheby, IW.
Walter SPRAGG. Son. 9. Asheby, IW.

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 26th November 1910 page 1

Death Notice:-

SPRAGG: On November 19th, at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, Ryde, **James Ellis**, son of George SPRAGG, of Smallbrook Lane, aged 23.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 24th November 1910 page 5

FATAL CYCLING ACCIDENT

On Tuesday morning Mr. J. ELDRIDGE, on behalf of the Acting Coroner, held an inquest at the I.W. Royal County Hospital, touching the death of **James Ellis SPRAGG**, aged 23, who was fatally injured while cycling from Newport to Ryde on Saturday. Mr. A. MARLOW was chosen foreman of the jury.

George SPRAGG, gardener, Smallbrook Lane, Asheby-Road, said the deceased was his son. He was a baker by trade, but for the past month had had no employment. He last saw him alive at 9 o'clock Saturday morning. He came into Ryde where he heard of a situation in Newport. He hired a bicycle from Mr. BATTERSBY to go to Newport. He was quite well at the time. Deceased was a total abstainer. He was used to cycling and a year or two ago had one of his own.

Wilfred EDMUNDS, a young farm labourer, living at Rowlands Cottage, Haven-street, said on Saturday just before 12 o'clock he was cycling from Newchurch to Rowlands. As he was crossing the main road from Newport to Ryde he saw deceased lying in the road on his left side. He was unconscious but breathing. Witness noticed that his head had been cut about and there was a good deal of blood in the road. The bicycle was between his legs. It was in the same condition as now. The first mudguard was almost torn off and the rear mudguard buckled up. He got on his machine and went for assistance. On his return the deceased was on a trolley in charge of a man named ATTRILL. Deceased was at the bottom of hill leading from Mersley Down. It was a long hill but not dangerous with careful riding.

By a Juror (Mr. C. WOODS); the accident occurred just before the bend in the road.

By Chief Constable GREENSTREET: It was a back pedalling brake on the machine. If the deceased was coming down the hill very fast and put the brake on suddenly it might cause the rider and machine to turn a somersault.

A Juror (Mr. T. BUTCHER) expressed the opinion from the appearance of the machine that deceased had a side slip.

The Deputy-Coroner pointed out that the bicycle had a powerful front wheel rim brake.

Arthur ATTRILL, carter in the employ of Mr. C. LANGDON, builder, Ryde, said he was on his way to Knighton Waterworks on Saturday when the last witness told him a young man had met with an accident. He went to the spot and found deceased lying with his head and the front of the bicycle pointing up the hill. The deceased did not look as if he had struck anything. Deceased was quite clear of the bank. He got the machine away of the deceased and placed him on his back. He

was breathing but died shortly afterwards. He placed the body on the trolley and brought it to Ryde. The road was in very good condition. It was a dangerous spot owing to a curve in the road.

Robert BATTERSBY, cycle agent, Hill-Street, Ryde, said deceased hired the bicycle about 10 o'clock to go to Newport. The machine was out the previous day for seven hours. Deceased had frequently ridden this particular bicycle. It was in perfect condition. He let out no machine without two brakes.

By Supt. GALLAWAY: If the deceased had had a slip without putting on the brake he would have gone into the hedge.

Mr. Spencer CHURCHILL, house surgeon at the Hospital, said deceased was dead on being brought to the Institution. He noticed a bad cut across the nose. He had made a post mortem examination and found a fracture of the nose, considerable lacerations of mucus membranes owing to a dental plate being forced into the inside of the lower lip. The knuckles were grazed. There was no fracture of the skull but there were signs of old standing meningitis on the brain. It was possible that the deceased might have had a fit and lost consciousness. There was no evidence of the neck being broken. He should say death was due to severe concussion.

The Deputy-Coroner said he thought the evidence showed that the sad occurrence was the result of an accident. He was sure they all felt sympathy with the deceased's father.

The Jury returned a verdict of "Accidental Death."

Researched & typed by
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