

Death of Mr. Charles James. - On Tuesday last there passed away an old and well-known inhabitant of the town, and one too who was something of an original -Mr Charles James, better known as " Ginger " James. We should not have ventured to record the second name had it not been so well known, and answered to by Mr James himself. We have no doubt that the name was given, not because of any tendency to a complexion similar to that which gained for an English king the name of Rufus, but simply because Mr James was a very plucky individual, and ginger and pluck used formerly to be synonymous terms in the Isle of Wight people's vocabulary. Certain it is that James had the thews of a Titan, and a very few men would have ventured to attack him. We remember once, at a celebrated election, some persons committed the mistake of bringing over to Ryde a Portsmouth pugilist and some of that ilk to overawe the natives. This was keenly resented by the Rydeites, but especially by the person now defunct A crowd soon assembled in Lind-street, round the Portsmouth "Lambs," as they were called James was the ring-leader, and, selecting the Portsmouth bruiser "to his own cheek," as he expressed it, he soon made him see more suns and stars than were ever made in the heavens. It was wonderful how soon the discomfitted denizens of the Portsmouth slums flitted from the town. A number of stories (doubtless some of them apochryphal) of James's prowess exist. Not many inhabitants were better known. He was a frequenter of most of the auction rooms where his witty comments often created a laugh. His stores in High-street contained an heterogeneous collection, and, for that reason, we presume, he called them "Noah's Ark." For business, the deceased had a native talent, and seemed to be able to tell the value of an article at a glance. In buying timber he was very clever, and seemed able to tell, without measuring, but just at a glance, how much a tree would cut up, and only about a fortnight ago he was out buying timber, and as funny as usual. He often made a great deal of money by his speculations, but we are bound to state that he did not always retain it by prudence and forethought.

Researched and typed by Peter Morrall