

Isle of Wight Times and Hampshire Gazette

Thursday 12th September 1889

It is our painful duty to record that a fatal boating accident occurred off the needles on Saturday afternoon, when Ryde man, named John GAWN, mate of the schooner 'Corrinne', owned by Mr C.H. GOSCHEN (Capt. G. PAGE of Cowes) was drowned. It appears that the yacht left Cowes Roads on Saturday morning and proceeded to the westward, being brought up in Totland Bay. The cutter put out from the yacht for a sail having on board Mr Henry GOSCHEN's young son and daughter, aged 14 and 9 years respectively, with four of the crew of the yacht. Unfortunately a sudden puff of wind seized the cutter and capsized her. GAWN who had charge of the children at once took them both in his arms and swam about with them for some twenty minutes. A man named PAGE – a brother of the Captain of the 'Corrinne' – was fishing near the spot at the time of the accident and seeing the man in the water he cut the painter to his boat and rowed off to his assistance. He reached the spot just in time to save the two children, whom GAWN still held in his arms, on being released of his charges the brave man fell back exhausted. He was taken to the lighthouse and restoratives applied, life being not quite extinct, but he expired shortly afterwards. Another yachtsman in the boat (LIND of Poole) was also drowned. The children were in an exhausted condition. The other men were saved by clinging to the oars. The body of GAWN was brought to Ryde on Monday evening, and the funeral will take place this Thursday afternoon, the Forresters following. GAWN left a wife, but no family; LIND leaves a wife and six children.