

1891 CENSUS: RG12/890. folio 95. page 28.

Abode: 12 South-street, Ryde, IW.

William DIBBENS. Head. M. 43. Carman. Brading, IW.

Mary DIBBENS. Wife. M. 43. Simley, Wiltshire.

John DIBBENS. Son. 15. Errand Boy. Brading, IW.

James DIBBENS. Son. 15. Errand Boy. Brading, IW.

Frank DIBBENS. Son. 13. errand Boy. Brading, IW.

Elizabeth DIBBENS. Dau. 9. Scholar. Brading, IW.

Katey DIBBENS. Dau. 5. Scholar. St. Helens, IW.

ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES Thursday 3rd September, 1936, page 5.

OBITUARY MR. J. DIBBENS

The funeral took place at Ryde Parish Church, on Saturday, of Mr. **John DIBBENS**, of Alfred-street, Ryde, who, as recorded in another column, was drowned while bathing off the Esplanade, on Thursday.

The Rev. S. J. FORSE (curate), officiated.

The chief mourners were Mr. DIBBENS widow and their two young sons, Mr. and Mrs. J. DIBBENS (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. FRAMPTON (father and mother-in-law), and Mr. and Mrs. FRAMPTON (brother and sister-in-law).

Amongst the wreaths was one from an old shipmate of H.M.S. Colombo.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS Saturday Sept 5th 1936.

BATHING TRAGEDY AT RYDE FATHER DROWNED IN SIGHT OF HIS SON

The sad circumstances in which a naval pensioner was drowned within sight of his son were related to the Deputy Coroner (Francis A. JOYCE, Esq.) on Saturday at Ryde, when he held an inquiry into the death of **John DIBBENS**, aged 60, of 60 Albert-street, Ryde, whose body was recovered from the sea on Thursday a few hours after he went into the water to bathe. Inspector H. ROGERS represented the police.

John Roy DIBBENS, a boy belonging to H.M.S. St. Vincent, said his father was in charge of sea floats on Sandy slipway. While on leave during the last fortnight he had helped his father. On Thursday week he went to the slipway with his father at about 2 o'clock. Deceased, who was rather under the influence of drink, said he was going for a swim. He did not see him enter the water, but when his father was about 40 yds. out, he saw him walk in the direction of the forts for about 200yds., and then swim towards Puckpool. After swimming some distance his father stood up in the water which was only up to his waist. He could not say whether deceased dived or fell, but he saw him fling up his arms. When he looked for him to come up he could not see him. He told Mrs. BUTCHERS and then tried to wade out to his father, but Mrs. BUTCHERS called him back and herself informed the police. His father was a good swimmer, but he did not believe he had gone bathing since he came out of the Navy about 15 years ago.

Mrs. Gwendoline BUTCHERS, of 1 Cornwall-street, Ryde, said she assisted her husband at the bathing huts on Sandy slipway. On Thursday deceased came to the office telling her he was having his wife down as the boy was returning to the St. Vincent, and that he was going to have his first swim after 25 years. He left her and that was the last she saw of him. He had had some drink—more than

she had ever seen him under the influence of before. At 2.50 deceased's boy came and told her what he had seen. She used a telescope and looked towards the spot, but could see nothing. The boy wanted to wade out, but as there was an easterly wind blowing and the sea choppy she called him back and called to a Mr. PHILLIPS. The tide was a considerable way out at the time.

Edward Henry RICHARDS, an errand boy, of 16 Wray-street, Ryde, said he was out in a dinghy at about 5 o'clock, rowing to the east of the Ryde Pier, when he saw a body floating. He went to it and as the head remained under water he rowed ashore to get help. He asked some railwaymen to help him, but they would not come, so a visitor went back with him, and they towed the body to the slipway. The boy said that while towing the body, the head struck a pier pile and on getting the body on the slipway he saw blood on the side of deceased's face.

The Coroner: Did those men you asked for help say why they wouldn't come?—They told me to go and make sure.—The Coroner: Not very helpful was it. Who were the men?—Railwaymen.—The Coroner: Was it time for them to go home from their work?—They were working near the wall.

P.C. MARTIN stated that at 3.30 he received a report that deceased was missing and made enquiries along the beach without result and came to the conclusion that deceased must have drowned. Later he saw the body at St. Thomas's slipway. Blood was trickling from the right ear from what he thought was a superficial wound. When the body was brought ashore artificial respiration was tried, but deceased was dead.

Dr. L. P. FIRMAN-EDWARDS said that he made a post mortem examination. Deceased was well nourished and muscular. He found evidence of blood having come from the right ear, an unusual occurrence after death, but after hearing the explanation of the boy who towed the body ashore, he thought it possible that the wound was caused by the side of the dead coming into contact with a pier pile. Deceased's lungs were full of a frothy fluid, sufficient to cause death by drowning. Deceased had aortic trouble, which might have brought about a collapse in the water.

The Coroner said deceased was apparently not in the condition of health in which he ought to have been, and the effect of the water on the heart's action very possibly caused a partial collapse sufficient to drown him. He thought the injury was possibly sustained in being brought ashore. He returned a verdict that deceased was accidentally drowned by falling into the water, probably due to aortic disease of the heart.