

MARRIAGE: 27th Dec 1871 at St. John's Church, Newport, IW.
Hiram JENKINS. 31 Bachelor. (father: William JENKINS)
& Jane Abigail DUNN. 21. Spinster. (father: John DUNN)

1878 WHITE's DIRECTORY of Hampshire & Isle of Wight - page 478
JENKINS H., T. & H. builders and contractors, Star-street, Ryde, IW.
JENKINS Hiram, (H., T. & H.) h. Surrey-street, Ryde, IW.
JENKINS Henry (H., T. & H.) h. 10 John-street, Ryde, IW.
JENKINS Thomas (H., T. & H.) h. Chicago Cott. Arthur-street, Ryde, IW.

1881 CENSUS: RG11/1179. folio 40. page 32.
Address: Shadbury Villa, Surrey-street, Ryde, IW.

Hiram JINKINS. Head. Mar. 40. Builder. Ryde, Hants.

Jane A. JINKINS. Wife. Mar. 30. Newport, Hants.
Percy G. JINKINS. Son. 3. Ryde, Hants.
Charlotte C. JINKINS. Dau. 3mths. Ryde, Hants.
John HART. Lodger. Unm. 23. Clerk. Cheltenham, Gloucs.

1891 CENSUS: RG12/891. folio 15. page 23.
Address: 16 Surrey-street, Ryde, IW.

Hiram JENKINS. Head. M. 50. Builder & Contractor. Ryde, IW.

Jane A. JENKINS. Wife. M. 44. Newport, IW.
Percy JENKINS. Son. 12. Scholar. Ryde, IW.
Charlotte E. JENKINS. Dau. 10. Scholar. Ryde, IW.

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 8th July 1893 Page 5

THE DEATH OF MR. HIRAM JENKINS

Much sensation has been created in the town by the death of Mr. Hiram JENKINS, the well-known builder of Ryde, through an accident. It seems the deceased went, with other members of local temperance societies, to the Crystal Palace on Tuesday last, returning by the late train and boat which arrived at Ryde Pier about 1 o'clock on Wednesday morning. On arriving at Ryde, Mr. JENKINS walked off the boat with his son and daughter, and then appears to have discovered that his wife was not with him, and ran back to the boat to fetch her. Whether he thought there were two gangways is of course conjectural, but at all events he seems to have squeezed past the proper gangway, and the stanchion, or iron post, near it, and to have walked straight into the water, striking his head against the steamer in his fall, and receiving injuries which caused his death in a few hours.

A remarkable feature of the inquest (which will be found reported elsewhere) is the startling discrepancies in the evidence, one witness positively asserting that he saw the deceased, while placing his foot on the gangway upon the steamer, either slip or trip, and fall "all of a heap", between the railing and the gangway into the water. This was as positively contradicted by all the other witnesses, furnishing another illustration of how cautiously evidence (even when a witness honestly believes he is speaking the truth) should be received. There cannot be the shadow of a doubt the witness was completely mistaken.

The question of negligence was very carefully gone into by the jury. When the steamer arrives at the Pier it is of course necessary to remove one of the chains, which run from the iron

posts or stanchions to allow room for the gangway to be placed from the Pier to the steamer, and (as the station-master explained) this space must be wider than the gangway in order to allow movement for the boat. In this case deceased seems to have forced himself through this small space between the gangway and stanchion, without anyone being near to warn him that he was making a mistake. Had Mr. JENKINS been a stranger, we could understand his mistaking the level Pier for the inclined gangway, but as he was frequently in the habit of travelling it is singular he should have done so. We suppose, however, we must make allowances for the late hour and dark, rainy night, which seem to have bewildered the other witnesses. The jury have very properly recommended that a man should be kept at the foot of the gangway late at night to warn people to "move on," and also to provide extra light. This, no doubt, they will do.

The death of Mr. JENKINS has cast quite a gloom over the Nonconformist and temperance circles of the town, amongst whom he was very well known and much respected. He took an active part in working Congregational village stations, especially Weeks', where he was engaged every Sunday amongst the children, in whom he took a deep interest.

As a builder the deceased had engaged in several important contracts, the last being the large reservoir at Ashey for the Corporation. In carrying out that work he had to face many difficulties, but they were all successfully surmounted, and when the ceremony of opening the reservoir took place Mr. JENKINS was warmly congratulated upon the excellent manner in which he had carried out the work.

We can only express our sympathy, which we believe is universally shared, with the bereaved family. It is one of those melancholy coincidences which interest the superstitious that the steamer which carried the excursionists on the occasion was another Victoria.- The funeral will take place this (Saturday) afternoon.

Mrs. JENKINS is very grateful to all those kind friends who have called or written to sympathise with her in her bereavement, and takes this method of thanking them.
