

MARRIAGE: 7th September 1830 at St. Giles Church, Reading (by Banns)

George RIVERS & Rebecca TOE

Witnesses: Blackall SIMONDS, Emma Jane SIMONDS, Hannah BUTTERFIELD

1851 CENSUS: HO107/1674. Folio 41. Page 42.

Address: Tower House, Winchester, Hants.

Blackall SIMONDS. Head. Mar. 66. Retired Brewer Land House & Tithe Fund, Reading, Berks.

Emma Jane SIMONDS. Wife. Mar. 54. Reading, Berks.

Lucy Ann PETTY Serv. Un. 38. Lady's Maid. High Ham, Somerset.

George RIVERS. Serv. Mar. 55. Coachman. Swallowfield, Berks.

Emma RIVERS. Serv. Un. 19. Housemaid. Reading, Berks.

George RIVERS. Serv. Un. 13. Page. Caversham, Oxfordshire.

Eliza POULSOM. Serv. Un. 31. Cook. Aberdeen, Scotland.

1861 CENSUS: RG9/658. Folio 12. Page 20.

Address: Caversham Cottage, Dover-street, Ryde, Newchurch, IW.

George RIVERS. Head. Mar. 67. Coachman Domestic Servant. Berks. "unknown"

Rebecca RIVERS. Wife. Mar. 57. Hungerford, Wilts.

Charles RIVERS. Son. Un. 16. Cabinet Maker. Wolverton Park, Hants.

James RIVERS. Son. Un. 15. Solicitor's Genl. Clerk. Wolverton Park, Hants.

ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Sat 18th February 1865

CORONER'S INQUEST

An inquest was held on Wednesday at the Star inn, before Frederick BLAKE, esq., coroner for the Island, on the body of body of George RIVERS, a much-respected inhabitant of Ryde, who died suddenly on Tuesday.

Thomas SAMMES sworn.--I am butler to Mr. Blackall SIMONDS, of Caversham House, Ryde. The deceased, George RIVERS, was my father-in-law. He was coachman to Mr. SIMONDS, and had been in his service 47 years. He was 70 years of age, and lived in a dwelling-house attached to the stables. His wife was the only person who lived in the house with him. For the last twelvemonths he has been subject to severe pains in the chest. They were very severe while they lasted, but did not last long. He had them often at night and morning. I saw him last Monday night at 9 o'clock. He was at his house, and was very cheerful and did not complain of any pain. I went to his house about half past 7 yesterday morning. I did not see him, but I saw his wife, who told me that he had had two slight attacks, but had had a better night than usual. At half past 8 o'clock Mrs. RIVERS ran into Caversham House crying and holding up her hands. I rushed out, and went to deceased's back kitchen, where he breakfasts. He was not there, and on looking out I saw him lying on his face on the paved floor just outside the water closet. I went to him, and raised him up. He was bleeding from a wound in his forehead, and there was blood on the pavement. One eye was quite closed, and he did not move, speak, or breathe. The body was quite warm. From what his wife told me he could not have left the kitchen more than three minutes. His trowsers were unbuttoned and partly down. My impression is, that he must have been in the act of sitting down when he fell forward. His head was about six feet from the seat when I found him. His hands were spread forwards.

George HALL sworn.---I am gardener to Mr. SIMONDS. I have known deceased for nine years. I always found him a very cheerful man, and he never complained of illness till the last two years. I have heard him frequently complain of violent pains in his chest. He told me on Saturday last that he thought he should be found dead some morning on account of the pains he suffered in his chest. Last Monday night, about 9 o'clock, I saw deceased walking about in the stable yard. I asked him how he was, and he

said he was all right again, and he seemed quite cheerful. That was the last time I saw him alive. It was always in the morning when he complained of pain.

Charles D'Oyley John LOWDER, esq., sworn.---I am a doctor of medicine, practising at Ryde. I have known deceased professionally for some years, but for the last year and a half he paid me a visit occasionally on account of his complaint. He complained of symptoms which I referred to heart affection—a complaint we call angina pectoris. I have always had an impression that he would die suddenly. I saw him the morning before his death. He called on me for some medicine. He had had three or four attacks early in the morning. They usually roused him from sleep and were of very short duration. They had passed away when he called on me at 9 o'clock. I was called on to see him yesterday after he had fallen down, and I saw him soon after 9 o'clock. He was then lying on the bed and was perfectly dead. I saw a severe wound on the middle of the forehead. It was such a wound as would be caused by his falling on his face on a stone floor. There were one or two severe bruises on the face, the result of the same fall. I should think the wounds would not be sufficient to cause death. I think it most probable that in consequence of some sudden spasm of the heart the brain became unconscious, and that he fell in consequence; but I do not think the fall either caused or accelerated his death. I have no doubt that he died from natural causes. He was a temperate man.

The Coroner then briefly summed up, and the jury, without hesitation, returned a verdict of "Died by the visitation of God."

Researched by
Ann Barrett