ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 7th August 1875

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT ST. JOHN'S.- On Saturday last a dreadful carriage accident occurred at St. John's. A party from the Pier Hotel were driving up St. John's-hill in a wagonette, on their way to Sea View, and when opposite Mr. C. BRETT's house, the driver of the wagonette (Mr. F. RAND) saw one of PICKFORD's vans coming down the hill at a very rapid pace. He not only whistled and called very loudly to the man in the van, but drove his carriage right into the hedge. In spite of these precautions the van dashed violently into them, and struck the wheel of the carriage, smashing it to splinters. The force of the collision was so great that the driver of the van, a man named WARDER, was thrown violently from his seat on to the horse's neck, and one of the projections at the top of the horse's collar inflicted a frightful wound near the abdomen, from which the bowels protruded. RAND was pitched into the road-fortunately without sustaining much injury, and the other occupants of the wagonette escaped with nothing worse than a severe shaking. Assistance was sent from Mr. C. BRETT's house, and a carriage happening to pass, WARDER was removed to the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary. In spite of the care and attention he received, he kept gradually sinking till Thursday night, when he died. we have heard so many statements made regarding this unfortunate affair that we hardly know who to believe. Some say that WARDER was drunk; others that two of PICKFORD's vans started at the time from Ventnor racing. At the toll gate at St. John's, we hear the other man agreed to go back through Oakfield, and WARDER down St. John's, to see who reached home first. WARDER, who has a wife and children, was formerly a porter at the railway station.

Researched & typed by Ann Barrett Kate MacDonell