

1941
DEATH OF MR. HARRY WILLIAMS

Darby & Joan Partnership Broken

A very happy Darby and Joan partnership was suddenly severed on Whit Monday by the death of Mr. Harry WILLIAMS of 8, Church Lane, Ryde. Mr. WILLIAMS was taken suddenly ill and passed away shortly afterwards in the cottage which had been his home for 50 years.

Last November Mr. and Mrs. WILLIAMS celebrated their diamond wedding. They were married at the Wesleyan Church on November 2nd, 1880, and during the early part of their married life lived at the old Brigstocke Mews, at the lower end of Church Lane, and so the whole of their married life of 61 years has been spent in the same locality.

The late Mr. WILLIAMS was a very well known and respected worthy and had the distinction of being the oldest licensed carriage driver in Ryde. Born at Dudley House, John Street where his father kept a posting yard, Mr. WILLIAMS, one of a family of eight, possessed his own horse and chaise at the age of 18. He drove a carriage and pair in the days when a tour of the Island lasted three days. Excursions were from London each week end. The first stage of the Island tour was reached at Blackgang where the night was spent. The second was at Alum Bay on the Sunday and return journey to Ryde was made on Monday. Mr. WILLIAMS once had the honour of driving H.R.H. Princess Beatrice and Prince Henry of Battenberg from Ryde to Seaview in a landau. He could recall when the present railway line to Ventnor reached only as far as St. John's Station and horse-drawn trams plied up and down the Pier. In those days, local police wore top hats.

Of a most affable and genial nature he made many friends among the travelling public of his day. In addition to his widow, for whom deep sympathy is felt, he leaves five sons and two daughters out of a family of nine, 16 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

The circumstances of Mr. WILLIAM's sudden death were reported to the Coroner, who ordered a post mortem, as a result of which he decided not to hold an inquest.

*Source: Newspaper – name and date unknown
A copy from the Roy Brinton collection*