

## SHOCKING ACCIDENT MAN'S FALL ON SPIKED RAILINGS

A sad and shocking accident occurred at Westridge Cross on Wednesday afternoon when a bricklayer named **George Henry HOLBROOK**, of William-street, Swanmore, who was assisting to unload bricks from a sentinel wagon by means of planks fell on to a spiked railing and died from his injuries at the County Hospital. The accident was the subject of an inquest at the hospital on Friday by the Deputy Coroner (W.H. THIRKELL Esq).

Emily Frances CLUETT, wife of Fredk James CLUETT, plumber, 36 St. John's-road, identified the body as that of her father who was 67 years of age.

Wm. WYATT, labourer, 2\* Bank Gardens, in the employ of Mr. F. HOLLAND, Builder, Elmfield, stated that on Wednesday afternoon the 6<sup>th</sup>, he was engaged with deceased and others unloading bricks from a steam wagon at Westridge Cross. They were being unloaded on to a piece of building land around which was a fence of spiked railings of 3ft 9in height. The wagon was close to the railings and two planks side by side were placed one end of the side of the vehicle and the other projecting about 2ft over the railing and resting there. The driver and his mate remained on the wagon and threw the bricks to a man named LOCK who was on the plank by the side of the lorry whilst deceased stood at the other end on the railing. The latter received them and threw them to witness who was on the ground just under the plank. They had nearly finished unloading when the driver left his mate to complete it and went on to the driving box. The lorry moved and he shouted to the driver as it caused the planks to swerve, and the movement caused deceased to lose his balance and he fell sideways in trying to save himself one or more spikes penetrated his leg. The lorry stopped at once when they shouted. Deceased was stuck on the top of the railings and his leg was bleeding very much. They tied up the limb and did what they could for him and a motor car happening to be passing deceased was placed in it and witness accompanied him to the hospital. The planks never left the railings, the lorry having only moved an inch or two. The planks were 2 or 3 inches thick and witness was of opinion it was entirely the movement of the lorry that caused the man to lose his balance. Deceased was conscious the whole way to the hospital but when they commenced to move him, he fainted.

Frank LOCK, Haylands, labourer, stated he was also in the employ of Mr. HOLLAND and was engaged with the last witness and the others in unloading. He corroborated the previous witness as to the lorry moving which it did with a jerk. He saw deceased fall on the railings from the other end of the plank.

Bertie WHYATT, labourer, Oakfield, also in the employ of Mr. HOLLAND, and who was helping in the unloading of the bricks said he saw the deceased fall and trying all he knew to clear the railings. Mr. HOLLAND in the morning had caused some rubble to be placed on the road to make it fit for the work of the wagon.

Alfred Geo. POOLE, driver's mate on the engine and wagon known as a sentinel, said they used two planks which together were not more than 12 inches wide. He noticed deceased standing on the planks at the end near the railings and witness was at the back of the lorry handing the bricks to someone else in the vehicle. The driver was also helping until they had nearly finished and he then went to attend to the engine. He saw deceased fall but did not notice any movement of the engine or see that the planks had shifted. In his opinion the spikes ought to have been knocked off.

Wm. Alfred EARLEY of Carisbrooke, driver of the wagon, next gave evidence stating he was working with the last witness on the truck and when they had nearly unloaded and getting ready to start away again, he went to the engine to stoke up. He shifted no levers what ever, and there was a block at the front wheel so it could not have moved forward and witness was quite sure the engine never moved at all. He heard a shout and thought it was meant to stoke up the fire and he saw nothing what happened to deceased. The block in front of the engine was moved by his mate before they came away.

Ernest Oliver KIRK, The Strand, Ryde, said the house at Westridge Cross where the bricks were being delivered was being built for him by Mr. HOLLAND, and he arrived just before the accident. He saw deceased on the end of the planks near the railings. He saw the driver get off the lorry and go towards the engine. The lorry almost immediately jerked forward, he was sure of that, and he thought it came from the engine itself.

Miss Elsie MARTIN, House Surgeon at the County Hospital, said that the deceased was bleeding from two wounds in the right leg and was mostly in a state of collapse until his death about 8.10 the same

night. They stopped the bleeding. Death being due to shock and collapse following haemorrhage.

The Deputy Coroner in recording a verdict of Accidental Death, said he was inclined to concur with the evidence of the independent witness that something was done with the engine that caused the plank to move and resulted in the unfortunate accident. He did not however, consider that there was any blame attached to anybody, and he expressed sincere sympathy with the relatives of the deceased.

-----

\* *Cannot read the other number*

Researched by  
Ann Barrett