ISLE OF WIGHT OBSERVER Saturday 21st June 1877

CORONER'S INQUEST.- F. BLAKE, Esq, coroner, and a Jury, of whom Mr. LONG, sen., was foreman, held an inquest on Saturday at the Gem Inn, Hill-street, on the body of **Harry RUSTELL**, which was lying in the mortuary at the Infirmary.

Henry QUINN, a seaman aboard *H.M.S. Duke of Wellington*, Portsmouth Harbour, deposed that the body was that of Harry RUSTELL. The features were gone, but he identified it as that of Harry RUSTELL, whom he knew well, by a pipe, knife, &c., found on it. From his evidence it appeared that when *H.M.S. Urgent* was lying at Spithead, about a month ago, he saw six men row the Captain to the point, in a galley. On returning, rowing steadily, a sudden squall capsized the boat, throwing all the men in the water when just outside the Harbour. Two men were drowned, and official reports from the *Urgent* to the Duke of Wellington, flagship, stating that RUSTELL was one of them. Shore boats put off to the assistance of the men, and everything possible was done to save them. The sea was very rough at the time - wind and tide being against each other; and witness said it was not an uncommon thing for boats to be capsized at this spot. Deceased, whom he saw the day before, could not swim. The *Urgent* had gone to Jamaica.

Henry WHEELER, fisherman, Arthur-street, Ryde, deposed to finding the body floating off Ryde, on the previous day.

Verdict "Accidentally Drowned."

Researched & typed by Ann Barrett Kate MacDonell