

George Henry Bowen

1861 census, Carisbrooke Street, Carisbrooke [*modern Carisbrooke High Street*]

George Bowen	47	Head	Gardener	Calbourne, Hampshire
Ann Bowen	37	Wife		Shalfleet, Hampshire
George Harry Bowen	5	Son	Scholar	Carisbrooke, Hampshire
Elizabeth M Bowen	3	Daughter	Scholar	Carisbrooke, Hampshire
William Thos Bowen	8 mth	Son		Carisbrooke, Hampshire
Ellen Quirk	30	Visitor	widow, no occupation	Shalfleet, Hampshire
Mary Ellen Quirk	1	Visitor's daughter		Carisbrooke, Hampshire

Hampshire Telegraph – 7 November, 1868

ISLE OF WIGHT

NEWPORT

FATAL ACCIDENT. - An inquest was held on Wednesday last, at the Red Lion Inn, Carisbrooke, by F. E. Blake, Esq., on the body of George Henry Bowen, aged 13. – Silas Payne said: I am 17 years of age, and a carter in the employ of Mr. Alexander, and was in charge of a horse and cart laden with marl. I know the horse is quiet, as I have driven him for more than three years. On the afternoon of last Thursday, in coming down Castle-road, just below Belle-vue cottage, I was by the side of my horse going at a walking pace, when I saw the deceased by the side of the road calling out to someone through the hedge, and he was just ahead of the horse on the other side to which I was, my horse being in the middle of the road. The deceased immediately came forward about two and a-half paces, seized the loose rein about the horse's middle, pulled it, and then struck the horse on the chest. I called out "get away," but he still pulled the reins, and drew the horse towards the hedge. The wheel then caught his foot, when he screamed, and directly after fell, and the wheel went over his legs and rested on his body. I instantly checked the horse, but could not back the cart, because it was close to the bank. The deceased did not let go his hold of the rein when he fell. It was more than five minutes before the deceased's body was taken from under the wheel, and he was then found to be dead. The deceased carried a basket on his left arm, and the whole affair was done in a moment. - Henry Flinten, grocer and baker, of Carisbrooke, deposed to the deceased being his apprentice, and said that he sent him out to deliver bread about 20 minutes to three on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased was disposed to tease dogs by striking them with a stick. He (witness) had warned him not to do so. – Emma Sherwood deposed to having seen the horse and cart approaching the deceased, who was standing by the roadside. After walking about thirty paces she heard a scream, and, on looking back, saw deceased under the wheel. – Charles Downer said: I was working in Mr. J. Spickernell's field, close to the road, when I heard a boy scream and the carter call out for assistance. I then ran down the field a little way, and jumped over the hedge into the road, where I saw a cart loaded with marl, and the deceased lying under the wheel. The carter was trying to back the cart, but being unable to do so he tipped it up. I ran to the pit which was near for assistance, when the workmen hurried to the spot, and lifted the wheel off the body. When I first came up I saw the deceased lift his arm. – Mr. Redstone, postman, gave corroborative testimony, and said he drew the body of the deceased out while they lifted the cart, but life was extinct. He also stated that the deceased was in the habit of teasing his (Mr. Redstone's) own horse, and he had frequently told him to desist, and that if he did not an accident might befall him. – G. H. Roque Dabbs, M.D., said: I was sent for at twenty minutes past three on Tuesday afternoon, and on arriving at the spot I found the deceased lying on a tail board, underneath the hedge, covered by a coat and quite dead. After he was taken to his home I carefully examined the body, and found an

extensive abrasion in the inner side of the right knee and a lesser one outside the same knee, the middle third of right thigh broken clean through, with complete displacement of fragments. A belt of redness was around the chest, as if some heavy body had gone over it. The upper two cervical vertebrae were fractured, thereby causing instant death. Death ensued from the head being pressed against the bank, while the wheel made the chest a moving body, and thus fracture followed as a necessary consequence from pressure of the fractured cervical vertebrae on the spinal marrow. – Verdict, “Accidental death.”

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