



LOCAL ACCIDENTS

Torpoint News, July 19th 1897

John Bryan left the Manure Works, following a night shift. He went for a swim in the river and James Leach threw a stone at him, which cut one of his eyeballs. He was taken to Doctor Vinter, who sent him on to the Royal Albert Hospital in Devonport, where the injured eye was removed.

Another Drowning, August 23rd 1897

Torpoint was thrown in a state of great consternation and excitement on Saturday night when it became known that another case of drowning had occurred. (*Only a month after James Ellis drowned while saving three lads*). Two men, Bombadier Clark and Gunner Reed, left Torpoint Quay at 10 o'clock in a dinghy. Shortly after leaving the quayside the boat capsized, throwing them both into the water. The police had a launch nearby and went to help the men. They found Clark clinging to the keel of the boat and he told the police "not to mind him, but look out for his mate". Clark lost consciousness and the police had to resort to artificial means of respiration. Doctors were called to the scene and Clark was transferred to the Ferry Hotel where he was restored to consciousness.

Aug.24th - Bombadier Clark, now lying at the Ferry Hotel, although very weak, is progressing as favourably as can be expected. He explained how Reed's hat had blown off, and he had made a sudden grab for it, which had resulted in the boat capsizing. The doctors had insisted upon absolute quiet and would not allow him to be questioned further. Dragging operation had begun in the river but no body has been recovered so far.

Aug.27th - Bombadier Clark has so far recovered that he will be able to leave the Ferry Hotel today for the Military Hospital, Stoke. He has received the greatest care and attention from Mrs. Rickard.

Serious Accident at Carbeal, September 17th 1897

Richard Bradford, an edlerly man in the employ of Reynolds Bros., contractors, met with a rather serious accident on Wednesday evening. He was in the shippen at Carbeal when a fowl frightened the cow he was milking. The animal, usually a very quiet one, knocked Bradford off his stool and before he could rise it commenced trampling upon him with the result that it broke one of his ribs and inflicted other injuries.

Accident in Fore Street, October 4th 1897

At Torpoint on Saturday afternoon Mrs.Dawe, an old woman of Saltash was knocked down by a cyclist at the top of Fore Street. There were a lot of people about and the man rang his bell, which Mrs Dawe did not appear to hear, for she started to cross the road and on seeing him appeared not to know what to do. He did his best to avoid running into her, but failed. She was picked up, sat on a chair, and as she appeared to be suffering great pain Dr. Vinter was sent for. On examination he found her thigh was broken. Being a heavy woman, with great difficulty she was lifted into a wagonette and conveyed to the St. Germans Union Workhouse Infirmary at Torpoint. The man who knocked her down did not stay to see if the poor woman was seriously hurt but rode away and crossed the ferry in a boat.

from newspaper report by Mr.Warne

Serious Accident at Torpoint, 28th July 1898

Bertha Hill, aged 7, and Florence Whittle, aged 9, were at Torpoint yesterday morning when the brother of Florence Whittle picked up a cartridge and gave it to his sister to play with. The children, no knowing what it was, obliged. At last Bertha Hill fetched a hammer and placing the cartridge on a stone, struck it two or three times, until it exploded. She, being the nearest, received the full force of the explosion, being badly burned and cut about the the face, eyes and body. Florence Whittle was injured to the face.

Doctors Samuel and Vinter were soon in attendance and seeing the serious nature of the injuries of the little girl Hill, ordered her removal to the Royal Albert Hospital.

From newspaper
report

Torpoint Notes, 20th June (no year stated)

To cyclists, the road from Torpoint to Polbathic and Liskeard seems a favourite one. With its level track and short hills it offers tempting opportunity for scorching and many accidents occur, the record of which never gets into print. But it is in Torpoint where the evil of reckless riding is most felt. The racing to catch the ferry leads to many narrow escapes from bad spills, and the running down of people crossing Fore Street, where there is a sharp turn to the ferry.

The other evening, an old waterman named Robert Wallbridge was knocked down by a cyclist and badly shaken. Wallbridge was walking close to the pavement and the cyclist it is said did not ring his bell, nor did he enquire whether the man was hurt or not. There could not have been less than fifty cyclists who come down to catch the last ferry and this is the usual thing on Wednesdays and Saturdays. It seems a great pity that they cannot time themselves better and avoid racing.

from Jack Kingston's Book no.1