

Fatal Accident at Folkestone – Part 1

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“FATAL ACCIDENT AT FOLKESTONE.

Yesterday afternoon a small party of excursionists went out in a small pleasure boat from the beach behind the Custom-house at Folkestone, the owner of the boat - an industrious man named Kemp - taking the oars. A child belonging to one of the party was afraid of the water and remained behind on the beach. Some time afterwards, about 3 o'clock, the lugger No. 6. of Folkestone, Dawson master, was proceeding to Dover, and at about a mile eastward of Folkestone, and a mile and a half off the land, they observed a boat bottom upward, with a man clinging to the keel, and bore down immediately to render assistance, but failed to come close alongside, and as another tack would take some time and the man might meanwhile become exhausted, one of the party in the lugger was about to jump overboard, but was restrained by his companions lest, by a struggle in the water, both he and the man already in jeopardy should be lost. A rope thrown to the boat was not caught by the man, and then the crew of the lugger hailed a brigantine that was passing, which, after some delay, sent a boat, which took off the man and conveyed him ashore to Folkestone Harbour, senseless, but breathing. Dr. Fitzgerald and Messrs. Eastes and Bowles, surgeons, were immediately in attendance, and used the best means for his recovery. When our parcel left he was doing well, but a fatal reaction was possible. The man saved is Mr. Robert Scott, about 25 years of age, unmarried, of No. 2, Rockcliffe-street, Islington, who says he had been an hour on the bottom of the boat. The persons lost are Mr. James Bowyer and his sweetheart, Miss Lawrence, both of London; Mr. Huntley, a fly-driver of Folkestone; and John Kemp, the boatman. It was Huntley's child who was left on the beach, and the widow is near her confinement. The boatman leaves a widow and four children.”