

## Silas Caws

Hampshire Advertiser 1 November 1882

**DEATH OF AN OLD YACHT MASTER.**—By the death of Mr. Silas Caws, at the ripe age of seventy, at Seaview, we have lost one of the old school of yacht masters, such as were selected out of the pilot service. Mr. Caws was a remarkably intelligent, well-informed man, and highly respected in his native village. He was apprenticed to Mr. George Greenham, and served his time in one or the other of the East-end pilot boats Jane or Alarm. The Alarm was a very smart cutter, and Mr. Weld's 193-ton cutter of that name used to be called the "big Alarm" to distinguish her from Mr. Greenham's smart and yacht-like craft. Georgie Greenham was probably twenty years senior to Silas Caws, and was as noted as John Nicholls for cleverness in handling a racing craft. His last vessel was the *Pantomime*, when owned by Col. Markham, and he won a great number of prizes with her, including a Queen's Cup at Cowes. Between the years 1820 and 1856 the merits of the Isle of Wight pilot boats for speed and weatherliness were frequently put to the test, and there was such keen rivalry between the boats belonging both to Seaview and Byle, that they formed a fine school for fore and aft sailing. The Alarm was generally considered the crack boat, and had perhaps the smartest crew; but the Ryde boats *Daring*, *Mary*, *Ann* and *Eliza*, *Contest*, *Lady Jane*, and *Ranger*, whose crews bore the names of *Austin*, *Buxey*, *Wern*, *Sweetman*, *Steward Wills*, and *Harvey*, were handled quite as keenly as those of Seaview. In 1851 Mr. Caws was selected as pilot for the *Sverige* in her match with the American yacht, and possibly, if his advice had been followed, the Swede would have won. In 1853 he took charge of Lord Fitzwilliam's yacht *Gipsy Queen* (just purchased from Sir Henry Hoghton), and remained in that nobleman's service until within the last three or four years. In 1876 Lord Fitzwilliam bought the steam yacht *Kathleen* of Mr. Penn, and in her Silas Caws spent his last yachting days afloat. But, although Mr. Caws was in the service of Lord Fitzwilliam, he was very frequently found on board a racing yacht, and was many times pilot of the famous *Fiona* cutter. Ashore he took a very leading part in promoting the welfare of the inhabitants of his native village and the surrounding parish, and, when a local board was established for St. Helen's, was one of its first members.—*The Field*.

[https://www.bartiesworld.co.uk/caws/seaview\\_cuttings.php](https://www.bartiesworld.co.uk/caws/seaview_cuttings.php)