

Charles Horatio Bodeker

Two following newspaper reports about the court case brought by Emma Bodeker on behalf of her son, Charles Horatio Bodeker, who was injured in the explosion at the gunpowder works in 1878.

Also included the death details for Charles Horatio Bodeker and his wife Sarah Ann nee Coombs at the end.

Daily News (London) 14 July 1880, p. 2, col. 6

LAW NOTICES - This Day QUEEN'S BENCH DIVISION, WESTMINSTER

Special juries: Bodeker v. Cotton Powder Company

Kent & Sussex Courier 16 July 1880, p. 6, col. 4

FAVERSHAM

BODEKER V. THE COTTON POWDER COMPANY (LIMITED) –

In the Court of Queen's Bench on Wednesday, before the Lord Chief Justice and a Special Jury, an action was brought by Charles Horater [sic] Bodeker (an infant), through his mother and next friend, to recover damages for injuries arising out of the explosion which took place at the defendants' works at Faversham, Kent, on Feb. 12th, 1878. The defendants denied their liability. - Mr. Gorst, Q.C. and Mr. Glyn were Counsel for the plaintiff; Mr. McIntyre, Q.C., and Mr. Finlay were for the defendants. - It was the duty of the plaintiff, an intelligent lad, 13 years of age, to carry the tubes used in the manufacture of the detonators to the table at which they were filled with the explosive substance, and on the day in question he was so employed when an explosion took place resulting in the total loss of his sight, it is feared permanently, while his right hand was shattered and blown off, and he also received other injuries, so that he has ever since been totally incapacitated from work. His appearance in the witness box excited general sympathy, and he gave his evidence in a most straightforward and satisfactory manner. When the case had proceeded some way Mr. Gorst said the Court would not be further troubled with it, as his learned friend, Mr. McIntyre, without admitting the liability of the defendants, had made him an offer which he need not publicly state, but which he thought it right to accept. - The Lord Chief Justice: I only hope it is a very liberal one. If I had to fix the amount it would be a very large figure indeed. - Mr. McIntyre wished to state that for ten months after the accident occurred the Company had continued to pay the plaintiff his wages, and if the boy were able to work again they would immediately take him on. He said this without admitting the legal liability of the defendants. – The Lord Chief Justice: As far as I see at present their legal liability is perfectly clear. - Mr. McIntyre: Your Lordship has only heard one side - A Juror was then by consent withdrawn on the terms agreed upon between the learned counsel, but which did not transpire in Court.

Charles Horatio Bodeker died 5 May 1949 at Moat house, Uplees, Kent and was buried at St. Peter's Church, Oare on 6 May 1949.

Sarah Ann Bodeker (nee Coombs) died 19 Jan 1943 at 3 Moat House, Uplees and was buried the same day at St. Peter's Church, Oare.