



The headstone in Dunedin's Southern Cemetery is hard to read. The letters showed Karl Ernest Blan?? died in a fall from a horse. I thought there could be a story here, and a search of the DCC cemeteries search website under 'Blan**' elicited that he was buried as Charles Ernest Blanck.

A PapersPast website search under his full names only brought up a death notice as Karl Ernest Blanck, and no story. So a further search under 'Blanck' brought up the full story where he was recorded by the reporter as Mr. C.E. Blanck.

The *Otago Witness* recoded the tragic death as follows:

A sad accident happened on Tuesday night, 25 January 1881, which resulted fatally to Mr C. E. Blanck, who carried on business in Bond street, Dunedin, as a dealer in oils, glass, &c., and who resided at Ravensbourne. He was in the habit of riding on horseback up to business in the city every morning, leaving his horse in the stables of Krull's Hotel, and returning at night. He had arranged on Tuesday night to go home with Mr Blackie, who was also riding, but that gentleman was detained, and Mr **Blanck** consequently started alone. He left Krull's Hotel at about midnight. Mr Blackie going homewards an hour or so later heard the neighing of a horse, and found that this was Mr **Blanck's**

horse, standing by the side of the road with the saddle underneath him. Mr Blackie went on to Ravensbourne, and learning there from Mrs **Blanck** that her husband had not come home, he returned as far as Krull's, and afterwards, with Mr Krull, made a search along the road. They could find no trace of Mr **Blanck**, but Mr Krull, as he was going back, perceived a body lying in the water, the road at the Point closely skirting the harbour. This was found to be the dead body of Mr **Blanck**. It was taken out, and it was then seen that there was a nasty cut some two inches long on the top of the head. Mr **Blanck** was not a good rider, and the horse he was riding was not regarded as thoroughly quiet. Near where the deceased must have fallen off, a log lies by the road side, and it is presumed that the horse must have shied and thrown him. Deceased leaves a wife and two children. It may be added that Mr **Blanck** was insured in the New Zealand Accident Insurance Company for 500 pounds, and his death causes the first total loss the Company has sustained.

He was aged 36 years, was a native of Germany, and had been in New Zealand for 8 years. He is buried in Dunedin's Southern Cemetery, where the headstone records his German name as Karl.