

## **William John Bailey**

**Isle of Wight County Press - 10th December 1938**

### **DEATH OF MR. W. J. BAILEY, OF NEWPORT.**

#### **GRANDSON OF FAMOUS METHODIST PIONEER.**

We much regret to record the death, at his residence, Wycliffe, St. John's-road, Newport, on Monday, in his 81st year, of Mr. William John Bailey, who had been in practice as a solicitor in Quay-street, Newport, for over half a century. He was organist of the Quay-street Methodist Church for 35 years and a member of a family prominently associated with the foundation of Nonconformity in the Island.

Mr. Bailey was the son of Mr. William John Bailey, a former steward of the White-Popham Estate at Shanklin, and a grandson of the Rev. William Metherell Bailey ("Billy Bailey") who came to the Island from Cornwall in 1823 as the first male minister of the Bible Christian Church to labour in the Wight, and who in face of intense persecution succeeded in establishing many little societies of Bible Christians in the towns and villages, which gradually developed into the strong church incorporated in the union of Methodist denominations a few years ago. Mr. Bailey inherited much of the sturdy independence of his famous grandfather and he carried on the family tradition of devotion to Methodism by taking a leading part in the ministry of song at the Newport Bible Christian and United Methodist Churches in Quay-street, where he was the accomplished organist for 35 years. It was mainly through his efforts that the fine organ was secured for the church, and on his retirement in May, 1904, he was presented with an illuminated address "for services so ably, generously, and unstintingly rendered."

Mr. Bailey was articled to Mr. J. A. Mew, of Lugley-street, Newport, and commenced practising on his own account in 1884. He was legal adviser to the White-Popham Estate, succeeded his father in the stewardship, and had maintained his professional association with the estate ever since. He was also a trustee of the Fenning Estate, Cowes, and for many years had been the able secretary of the Newport Charities (Mann's, Worsley Alms-houses, and the Grammar School Trust). He was educated at Portland House Academy and Shebbear College, and was one of the oldest members of the I.W. Law Society. He carried on his practice alone until a few years ago, when Mr. G. C. Adams became his partner. His wife (formerly Miss Wray) died in August, 1935, at the age of 79, after they had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in October of the previous year, and there are five members of the family mourning his passing, four daughters and one son (Mr. W. J. Bailey), who has assisted his father in his practice. Mr. Bailey was seriously ill for only about a week, but he had never really recovered from the death of his wife three years ago. He had seldom left his house since that bereavement, although he was still able to conduct professional business at home. Mr. Bailey was a man who never sought publicity, but all who knew him admired his outstanding integrity, devotion to duty, and kindness of heart.

#### **The Funeral**

took place yesterday (Friday), the service in the Quay-street Methodist Church, Newport, being conducted by the Rev. F. W. Hamon (superintendent), Mr. W. G. Bartlett, at the organ, accompanied the singing of the hymns "Rock of ages" and "Abide with me." The Rev. H. W. Hamon paid a feeling tribute to Mr. Bailey's many admirable qualities and referred

with gratitude to his keen and active interest in that church. The family mourners were Mr. W. J. Bailey (son), Mrs. A. H. Fort, Mrs. G. H. Shellgrove, Miss F. M. Bailey, and Mrs. Leslie Scott-Evans (daughters), Mr. H. Bailey (brother), Miss A. Bailey (sister), Mrs. W. J. Bailey (daughter-in-law), Mr. A. H. Fort and Mr. G. H. Snellgrove (sons-in-law), Mr. W. J. H. Snellgrove (grandson), Mrs. E. F. Wray (sister-in-law); Messrs. W. Gurney, F. J. Wray, T.C., W. H. Shoebridge, and W. Wray (nephews), Miss D. Wray (niece), Mr. C. Scott-Evans, Dr. J. B. McKay, and Messrs. R.G. Parkman, A. Stevens, and G. C. Adams.

Others attending included Ald. F. H. Whitcher, J.P., (chairman), Ald. A. B. Harvey, J.P., and Messrs. G. T. Gubbins, W. L. Bright, and J. H. Black (trustees of Newport Grammar School), the Rev. L. J. D. Wheatley, B.Sc, (headmaster of the school). Messrs. A. Fennings, V. Beaven, and A. S. Ford (joint managers of Messrs. Alfred Fennings), Messrs. R. J. Eldridge (Messrs. James Eldridge and Son, also representing the Newport Literary Society), W. C. Black, T. Ross Pratt, H. Eldridge Stratton, H. R. Palmer and R. W. Harman (Messrs Roach Pittis and Co., and president and hon. secretary respectively, representing the I.W. Law Society), F. C. Gurney-Champion, F. W. H. Cool (Messrs. Gunner, Wilson and Jerome), G. F. Tomlinson (Messrs. Lamport Bassett and Hiscock), A. G. Harrison, F. Elderfield, F. J. Bailey, H. E. Blundell, J. H. Knighton, W. H. Sheath, E. J. H. Quarrier, E. J. Kemp, J. D. Truscott, P. J. Croucher, C. W. Allen, W. J. Rugg, E. R. Dore, C.C., H. E. Allen, of Sandown, H. J. Heal, W. H. Downer, T.C. (a trustee and Sunday-school superintendent of the Quay-street Church), W. J. Lower, A. H. Dockrill, H. C. Blishen, F. R. Croucher (trust secretary of the Quay-street Church), J. W. Long, G. A. Purkis, H. W. Lincoln, F. Heal, and E. G. Barnes, Ald. J. C. Millgate, J.P., Mr. and Mrs. W. Spanner, Miss Etheridge, Mrs. P. Scott, Mrs. Starke, of Cowes, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cooper, Mrs. Downer, Miss Rugg, Mrs. E. Morris, and the Misses Morris.

The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

Those unable to attend included Mr. L. Scott-Evens (son-in law), who is abroad, Capt. J. Shoebridge, Major H. C. C. Batten, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Adams, and Messrs. L. Jordan, J.P., A. G. Bird, and F. Brian Pelly, A.F.C. (a trustee of Fennings).

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