

## **Tom Buckler**

**ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 18 March 1961**

### **DEATH OF PROMINENT ISLAND ODD FELLOW**

#### **MR. T. BUCKLER, OF NEWPORT**

Newport has lost a highly esteemed citizen, and Island Odd Fellowship one of its most prominent members, by the death on Tuesday of Mr. Tom Buckler, aged 81, of 26 Union Street. He died 11 days after entering the Royal I.W. County Hospital for an emergency operation. A lifelong member of St. John's Church, and an officer of the I.W. Trustee Savings Bank for many years, Mr Buckler's interests were wide and varied, but his special pride was in the order in which he had a long, active and distinguished career.

Mr. Buckler was the son of Ald. Thomas Shipton Buckler, and after his father's death he carried on the family business of painting and decorating. During the first world war he saw active service in France. His long association with the I.W. Trustee Savings Bank began with an appointment to the honorary management, which he held for a number of years. Later, in February, 1934, he was appointed assistant secretary of the bank, retiring in November, 1957.

A great reader, Mr. Buckler many years ago missed the appointment as county librarian by only one vote. At one time he was a member of the Town Council, the former Newport Literary Society on which he also served on the committee, the Albany Lodge of Freemasons, and the Insurance Committee under the old National Insurance Act. In his early days he was a keen member of St. John's Bible Class and the athletic club associated with that church.

#### **MERITORIOUS SERVICES**

Mr. Buckler became a member of the Earl Yarborough Lodge of Odd Fellows in 1897, at the age of 18. After service in the various offices, he eventually reached the chair of the Noble Grand. During the years of the diamond jubilee and centenary celebrations of his lodge, he again acted as N.G. He played a large part in the promotion of the ritual of the lodge to the high standard for which it has long been noted. For his services in that connection he received a merit jewel in 1938. He was also a trustee.

Mr. Buckler attended his first district meeting in 1904 and here again had a long and honourable record of service, including many years on the district committee of management and as a district trustee. He attended the Brighton A.M.C. in 1911, and again in the same town in 1933, where he took his P.P.G.M.'s degree.

Mr. Buckler was twice married. His first wife, née Miss Jessie Smith, died in 1953. In December 1956 he married Mrs. Florence Upton, of Folkestone, who survives him. The last surviving member of his own family is his sister, Mrs. Emily Brudenell, of Carisbrooke. Apart from his interests in Odd Fellowship, his main diversion in retirement was reading - until eyesight began to fail about six months ago.

The funeral takes place at St. John's Church at 1p.m. today.

**ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY PRESS - 25 March 1961**

**THE LATE MR. T. BUCKLER, OF NEWPORT**

The funeral took place on Saturday of Mr. Tom Buckler, of 26 Union Street, Newport, whose death was reported last week. The service was held at St. John's Church, Newport, of which Mr. Buckler had been a life-long member, the vicar (the Rev. S.F. Cooper) officiating. Mr. Buckler had a long, active distinguished career in Odd Fellowship, and several Island lodges were represented. The hymns were "Abide with me" and "Sunset and evening star" (Mr. Buckler's favourite).

In a tribute, the vicar compared Mr. Buckler with Job, "a perfect and upright man." He showed the patience of Job even during his last days, when he suffered tremendously. He was a philosopher and a humble man. He had served the Island in so many capacities and, despite his advancing years, retained his interests to the last. He was a devout Christian a very useful member of the Parochial Church Council - putting in the right word at the right time. The vicar added "I shall never hear the words 'Blessed are the pure in heart' without thinking of Mr. Buckler."

The family mourners were Mrs. Florence Buckler (widow), Mrs. E. Brudenell (sister), Mr. and Mrs. A.B. Gould (nephew and niece), Mr. and Mrs. P.D. Cooke (son-in-law and step-daughter), Mrs. E. Gould, Mrs. Middleton, and Mr. and Mrs. H. Newbery. The Provincial Grandmaster of the I.W. District of Odd Fellows (Bro. R.S. Chandler) was present and other lodges represented were J.B. Alderslade Lodge of Past Grands, Tennyson, Simeon, Earl Yarborough, Culver, Loyal Northwood, Whippingham, East Medina, and Lady Adela Cochrane. The St. John's Men's Bible Class were also represented.

The interment was at Carisbrooke Cemetery in the grave of Mr. Buckler's first wife. Messrs O.C. Hamilton and Son made the arrangements

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