

## William Crews Dudley

### 1901 census, 46 High Street, Newport

<b>William C Dudley</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>Watchmaker &amp; Jeweller</b>	<b>Newport, IW</b>
Fanny Dudley	Wife	53		Newport, IW
Kate Brading	Servant	15	Housemaid	Newport, IW

### Isle of Wight County Press – 25 September 1909

#### NEWPORT

**DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM DUDLEY.**----Very regretfully we have to record to-day the death of Mr. William Crews Dudley, a well-known and highly-esteemed citizen of Newport, which took place very suddenly at Ryde on Thursday afternoon last, the news of his departure coming quite as a shock to his many friends. Of fine physique, he seemed the embodiment of robust health until quite recently, when signs of declining strength, due to some internal trouble, became painfully evident, and on the advice of his medical attendant he was on Thursday removed to a nursing home at Ryde with the object of undergoing an operation, Mrs. Dudley accompanying him. Soon after his arrival at Ryde he collapsed and quite peacefully passed away. Years ago the late Mr. Dudley was one of the most prominent figures in local musical circles. Possessing a bass voice of splendid quality and power, he was never happier than when employing it in behalf of worthy objects, and he was always listened to with the deepest pleasure. In the days of the old Newport Choral Society, on several occasions he sustained the principal bass part in great oratorio works, associated with him as tenor soloist being his friend Mr. Roche, and it was the proud boast of Newport people at that time that there was no town which could show two finer amateur vocalists than William Dudley and Robert Roche. They will be remembered as leading members first of St. John's Church choir and afterwards of Carisbrooke Church choir, both of which achieved a high musical reputation at the time of which we are writing. The late Mr. Dudley was locally notable in two other directions. Road and river had great attractions for him. He was a famous walker, thinking nothing of a 20-mile tramp, he was a great oarsman in his prime, and he could handle a sailing-boat with the skill of a Cowes skipper. He told the writer once that he had been taken for a sea captain, and the idea delighted him immensely. Although the deceased held strong convictions, to which he was always prepared to give "voting" effect when the call came, he took no active part in politics or in public life. He was on several occasions invited to stand as a candidate for the Corporation of Newport, but he always declined the proffered honour. In private and business life his sterling qualities were admiringly recognised by all who came into contact with him. He will be much missed, and Mrs. Dudley and her sons, with the other family mourners, may be assured that in their bereavement they have the deepest sympathy of the whole community.

## Isle of Wight County Press --- 2 October 1909

### NEWPORT

**FUNERAL OF MR. W. C. DUDLEY.**---The funeral of Mr. William Crews Dudley, whose death we recorded last week, took place at Carisbrooke Cemetery on Monday morning in the presence of a large gathering of relatives and friends. The Rev. A. H. C. Edlin (chaplain to the Forces at Parkhurst) officiated. The family mourners were Messrs. Frederick W. and Charles C. Dudley (sons), Messrs. George Kentfield, T. Lawes, and J. T. Read (brothers-in-law), Miss Beasle Dixon (cousin), Mr. Frank King, and Mr. Walter Odell. Others paying the last tribute of respect included Messrs. A. Wood, T. Lee, G. A. Brannon, H. Blake, H. T. Read, A. Millidge, W. J. Watts, R. Fisk, A. Mearman, J. H. Heal, W. Gubbins, J. Way, E. F. Wray, J. K. Alderslade, C. H. Cave, W. T. Bright, B. Whitcombe, Robert Lock, S. Pring, and A. J. Baker, Dr. S. V. H. Underhill (medical attendant), Messrs. S. C. Wadham, H. Cushing, and B. Whitcomb (representing the Newport Philharmonic Society), and Mrs. R. G. Hopkins (representing the old Choral Society quartette, of which the deceased was the bass member). The grave was lined with evergreens, and the body was enclosed in a shell within a polished elm coffin bearing the inscription : "William Crews Dudley, died September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1909, aged 64 years." There were a number of touchingly inscribed floral tributes.

Messrs. H. And F. Damp had charge of the funeral arrangements. Among those unavoidably prevented from attending were the Mayor (Mr. Charles Webb), the Rev. W. H. Nutter (vicar of St. Paul's, Barton), Major Henry J. Way (president Newport Philharmonic Society), and Messrs. C. Fred Fox (Winchester), Frank Weeks, E. J. Airs, and E. W. Way.---At the first practice of the Philharmonic Society on Tuesday a vote of condolence with the widow, sons, and other relatives of the late Mr. W. C. Dudley was proposed by Mr. A. G. Harrison, one of the vice-presidents (in the absence of the president, Major H. J. Way, through indisposition), who spoke of the late Mr. Dudley's very great interest in the old Choral Society and the Philharmonic Society for the long period of 30 years, during which he had been one of the most prominent members.

## Isle of Wight County Press – 2 October 1909

### RANDOM JOTTINGS

The late Mr. William Dudley, of Newport, whose death is so deeply mourned by a host of friends, was in many respects a notable native of the ancient borough, although never figuring prominently in what is called public life. You have already spoken of his distinguishing characteristics, and there is no need to repeat what has been so well and sympathetically said. In his day there was no one more completely "at home" on the concert platform, and he was equally "at home" on the road and on the river. There was

always a suggestiveness of the sea about him, and, with his commanding build and ruddy Saxon type, he would have made an ideal Viking. I remember him, years ago, taking the bass solo part in *The Creation*, and in the whole rendering of the work on that occasion there was nothing finer, as it seemed to me, than Mr. Dudley's impressive interpretation of "Rolling in Foaming Billows." Yes; the singer was "at home" there ! It was on one of the calmest of autumn mornings that he was laid to rest in the beautiful cemetery at Carisbrooke, and as I stood by his grave and caught gleaming glimpses of the sea in the distance, there came to mind the title of one of the last songs I heard William Dudley sing, with its touchingly-significant closing passage : "Anchored." "Safe in his Father's Home."

STYLUS.

*['Stylus' was the pen-name of Thomas Lee, the first editor of the IW County Press]*

*Transcription by Jeremy Hallam for the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries © 2022*  
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