

James Wentworth Elger

Isle of Wight County Press - 14 April 1894

DEATH OF THE REV. J. W. ELGER.

We regret to have to record the death of the Rev. J. Wentworth Elger, B.A., chaplain of the Isle of Wight Workhouse, which took place on Tuesday evening last, at the age of 73. The deceased clergyman, who was of a very gentle and retiring nature, had held the chaplaincy of the Workhouse for upwards of 40 years, and as in the course of his long career here he had occasionally done duty for other clergymen, he was well-known in most parts of the Island. Those who have heard him read the lessons at a church service are not likely to forget it. He had a very sonorous voice, and he was beyond doubt one of the best readers amongst the clergy of the Isle of Wight. He had been in failing health for some considerable time past, and he performed his last service in the chapel at the Workhouse on Easter Sunday, though he was able on one or two days afterwards to visit the House. He retained a composed consciousness to the last, and passed peacefully away. His wife survives him, and sincere sympathy is felt for her and for the other members of the bereaved family. It will be seen by our report in another column that at the meeting of the Guardians on Thursday feeling reference was made to the death of the Chaplain and a vote of condolence with the family was passed. The funeral of the deceased takes place this (Saturday) afternoon, at 3.30, at Carisbrooke cemetery.

Isle of Wight County Press - 21 April 1894

THE LATE REV. J. Wentworth ELGER.

The funeral of the late Rev. J. Wentworth Elger took place amidst tokens of most sincere regret last Saturday afternoon, when the deceased was laid to rest in the beautiful Cemetery of Carisbrooke, in the presence of a large gathering of sympathising friends. The first part of the service was befittingly conducted in the chapel where for 40 years the deceased had ministered to the inmates of our Island Workhouse, the clergy officiating being the Rev. Clement Smith, vicar of Newport, and the Rev. A. W. Milroy, vicar of Carisbrooke. The coffin, covered with beautiful wreaths, was carried from the chaplain's house to the chapel on the same bier that had served the same purpose for the inmates during deceased's ministration. Special hymns were sung by the school children, in which the old folk, both men and women, sadly joined, and the "Dead march" in *Saul* was afterwards played by Miss Coleman, the school mistress. The coffin having been placed in an open hearse, the funeral procession, consisting of several carriages, containing the relatives (the chief mourners being two daughters and a son), friends, and officials, followed by the Workhouse children, many of the women inmates, and Warders of the Convict Prison, started at about 3 o'clock for Carisbrooke, passing through Newport. The greatest respect was shown *en route*, especially on Hunny-hill and the Mall, where in many instances blinds were drawn and shops partially closed. At the Cemetery itself, many of the Island clergy well known to the deceased had assembled, and here the last portion of the service was performed by the Vicar of Carisbrooke. Amongst those present, in addition to those already mentioned were the Revs. H. R. Venn, vicar of Newtown, T. B. Macnamara, rector of Kingston, H. Lewis, Vicar of St. John's, Carisbrooke, J. B. Wheeler, chaplain H.M. Convict Prison, Parkhurst, F. Rogers, curate of Carisbrooke, &c., Col. Partridge, Governor of Parkhurst Prison, Dr. Allan Waterworth, medical officer of the Workhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong, master and matron, Miss Coleman, Mr. Dyer, Mr. H. W. Horan, and many other

of the officials, also Mr. Beauclere Bennett Beckingsale, Mr. Innis Wilkins, Mr. Edmund Peel, and others. The Rev. J. Bailey, rector of Holy Trinity, West Cowes and rural dean, and the Rev. W. H. Nutter, vicar of St. Paul's, Barton, wrote expressing sincere sympathy and regretting their inability to attend. Amongst the many floral tokens, perhaps the most touching were the wreaths sent by the old women inmates of the infirmary, the nurses, and the children. At the services in the Workhouse chapel on Sunday, funeral sermons were preached in the morning by the Vicar of Newport and in the afternoon by the Vicar of Carisbrooke, touching references being made to the memory of the deceased, whilst at St. John's, where he had recently taken duty, some very affectionate remarks were made by the Vicar, at the conclusion of the evening service.

The deceased, after graduating at Cambridge, was ordained by the Bishop of Lichfield in 1845, his first curacy being at Coseley in Staffordshire.

Mrs. Elger and family desire to return most sincere thanks to the numerous friends who have shown such kind sympathy during their recent sad bereavement.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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