

Charlotte Elliot

1861 census, 4 Brigstoke Terrace, Ryde, Isle of Wight

<i>Charlotte Elliot</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>Fundholder</i>	<i>Russia, British Subject</i>
Sarah Harrison	Servant	42	Lady's maid	Hexham
Catherine Harnett	Servant	30	Cook	Essex
Elizabeth Uphill	Servant	30	Housemaid	Somerset
Fanny Clary	Servant	19	Kitchen maid	Stoner
Edward H Husey	Servant	42	Butler	London
Edward Anton	Servant	17	Page	Yorkshire
Countess of Clare	Visitor	68	Fundholder	London
Mary Zangolli	Visitor's Servant	61	Lady's maid	Cheshunt, Hampshire
Mary S Davis	Visitor's Servant	53	Lady's maid	London

Isle of Wight Observer 9 November 1861

SUDDEN DEATH OF MISS ELLIOT, OF RYDE.

"Charity vaunteth not itself." Never was the truth of this maxim more clearly verified than by the life of the above estimable lady; but, unfortunately for the sake of holding up her example to imitation, she left a request that, whenever she should pass from this earthly scene, her departure should be silently observed. Unquestionably, her deeds stand in no need of vaunting, inasmuch as they are embalmed in the heart of hearts of thousands of the poor; and, so long as gratitude forms a part of human nature, naught but the grave can close the remembrance thereof. A strong desire to comply with that request painfully struggles with our sense of duty; and, although our immortal Bard sings " 'Tis good to be sad and silent," we would rather that silence had been imposed upon us when a less virtuous character had to be passed under review. Had we, however, have been totally silent on this mournful occasion, we are confident that its cause would have been inexplicable to our readers; whilst we should be open to the charge of showing such readiness in exposing public vice, and a tardiness in acknowledging private virtue. We are confident that the departed lady herself would have trembled had she at all have realised the extent to which she was idolised by all classes and conditions of men; to say more, will be perhaps to violate a request which we hold almost in pious regard; but to say less, would be to violate every consideration of what we consider to be her due. But how can we curb the desire to speak? On the day of her death, this beloved lady proceeded (as was her wont) to morning devotions at St. Marie's, contrary to the earnestly-expressed dissuasions of her attendants to desist on account of the heavy rain and storm then raging. As she knelt "before St. Marie's shrine" she felt faint; which, being seen by her fellow-worshippers, caused her to be removed to the Rev. Mr. Telford's house which adjoins the church. Her medical adviser was instantly sent for, and quickly arrived; but, alas! human aid availed not, - so she sank in peace. Then the knell rang out, and spread the sad news far and wide; and who can tell how many poor and needy hearts with sickness under this fresh and bitter calamity. A grief, as unanimous as it was extraordinary, overspread the town, and grouped men and women together; and in dwelling upon the bereavement, each one seemed to outvie his neighbour in expressions of unbounded respect and deep sympathy. For, hear it, ye that are "unjust stewards" of Heaven's trust, that the suffrages which mark the affections of the People

cannot be bought - they must be deserved, or they will never be obtained. If a Spring of Charity of native not of forced growth perennially welled up within, distributing itself, like the dew of Heaven, wherever there was need; if the possession of a genial spirit, developing itself in a constant flow of cheerfulness, be calculated to smooth the way of a suffering wayfarer; if a feeling of obligation seemed to be felt by the giver if the gift was accepted, and if an absence of pride enhanced the value of the gift; and if a scrupulous observance of not letting the right hand know what the left doeth; if, we say, such things make up a passport to human esteem, amid is entitled to lasting regard, then must the palm be given to the memory of this lady. The mournful intelligence, too, was telegraphed to distant relatives and friends; but who can feel the force of the occurrence so poignantly as those amongst whom she lived 30 years? An inquest being unnecessary, her remains were removed at nightfall to her late residence at Brigstocke Terrace; and numbers of people then testified their desire to pay their respects by following the body. As in life, so in death, her countenance is placid, and it does not appear as if wrapped up in the long sleep. *Requiescat in pace.*

The remains of Miss Elliot will be interred in the cemetery at Carisbrooke on Wednesday next.

Isle of Wight Observer - 16 November 1861

BURIAL OF THE LATE MISS ELLIOT.

When St. Marie's church at Ryde was built, vaults were formed underneath to hold, at a future day, the remains of its Foundress and of her friend Miss Elliot. Against such a violation of sanitary law and common decency - a violation at one time thought to be "grand," and which there is now in certain quarters an inkling to maintain - Miss Elliot most determinedly set her face, and most rationally exclaimed: let the sun, and the moon, and the stars shine, let the wild birds sing, and let the wild flowers grow, over my grave; after death, put my body into the earth; let it not pollute the air of the living. So a few months only before that event, she selected the beautiful extramural site, where she now takes her long sleep, in the cemetery at Carisbrooke. She possessed other notions equally rational about the dead; she would not give alms in aid of that false pride manifested by decking off the person, hypocritically calling "mourning," and having "respectable funerals." Her maxim was, "I help the living; let those without money to squander bury their dead after the fashion of the Saints and Apostles of old: I desire nothing more." If, therefore, more was rendered, it was rendered to that arch-tyrant, Custom; not to her wishes. According to the Roman Catholic rites and usages, her body was conveyed on men's shoulders, at half-past seven in the evening, amidst the sorrowful sympathy of a vast crowd, from her late residence at Brigstocke Terrace, to St Marie's church, which was solemnly draped with black, and a splendid catafalque was prepared for its reception immediately in front of the High Altar. The body was met at the door of the church by the Right Rev. Dr. Grant, Bishop of Southwark, the Rev. Dr. Doyle, of St. George's, Southwark, the Rev. John Telford, of Marie's, Ryde, the Rev. H. Phillips, of Portsea, the Rev. J. Silveria, of Ryde, and the Rev. Joseph Bower, of Cowes; with the choir in surplices, who chanted the Psalms in an impressive manner. The preliminary funeral service terminated soon after nine o'clock; after

which, an old Catholic custom was observed by giving a dole of money and bread to poor widows and others, the number corresponding with that of the age of the deceased, in this case 75. Upwards of 30 of the recipients were widows; and the dole was a gallon loaf and a shilling to each. More than the required number applied for the alms; of course they were not sent empty away. The body remained in the church during the night of Tuesday, and was sincerely mourned without intermission by those whom she had befriended; is it, then, surprising that in a rude age canonisation followed such deeds as hers? On Wednesday morning, many masses for the dead were offered by the different priests, the services commencing at an early hour; and the solemn Requiem Mass was chanted by the choir, with organ accompaniments. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, the body was removed to the hearse and conveyed to the cemetery at Carisbrooke, followed by three mourning coaches and two private carriages, containing the officiating bishop and priests, and the mourners and friends of the deceased; amongst whom were the Countess of Clare, Miss Anstruther, Mr. Elliot (a cousin), Mr. Randolph, Mr. Robinson, Mr. T. M. Leacock, &c. Notwithstanding that it rained in torrents, the streets and the highway to Newport for a considerable distance, were lined with sorrowful people; and the shops all over the town were either entirely or partially closed, thus testifying that the worth of the departed was not forgotten or unappreciated. Arrived at the grave, the appointed service was impressively read by the Catholic Bishop of Southwark, assisted by the several priests, amidst the howling of the wind and the drenching of the rain. Thus ended the career of one whose deeds tended to redeem and to render tolerable the selfishness of human nature, and to disarm the shafts of the cynic; one who, whilst she held fast to her adopted faith (whether it be right or wrong, let bigots decide), neither called in question the sincerity nor the truth of the faith of others; in short, one whose example was so bright and so good that we cannot do better than to wind up by saying to all that have the means so to do "Go thou and do likewise."

The whole of the funeral arrangements were entrusted to Mr. John E. Scott, of Ryde, and all the complicated and (to this locality) unusual particulars were satisfactorily performed. On account of the long distance - eight miles - that the procession had to go, the hearse and all the mourning coaches were provided with fours-in-hand.

Transcription by Kate MacDonell for the Friends of Newport and Carisbrooke Cemeteries,
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Also reported in the Isle of Wight Observer, 16 November, was the death of Mr. John Lovett, of Reading who died through an accident whilst preparing the Catholic Church for the funeral of Miss Elliot. Details of his death, inquest etc are transcribed at https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/research/mj_lovett_311.pdf